

Webinar: Fundamentals of Using Patent Databases

Questions and answers

Is the search system case sensitive?

PATENTSCOPE search system is not case sensitive.

Please tell me the URL of a search data base

The URL of PATENTSCOPE is: <https://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/>

Is the database free?

PATENTSCOPE is a free online patent database.

Is there a limit to the number of keywords or phrases that can be used in PATENTSCOPE?

No, there is no limit. However, it is important to keep the query precise to get optimal results.

Can wildcards be used with inventor names?

Yes, just remember to use the wildcard operator.

How to simplify key words used differently in different countries? Ex. bonnet vs. hood

It is necessary to identify synonyms within and across different languages to obtain more complete results when using keywords. Patent classification allows you to overcome this issue since it is independent of terminology and language.

Is Google Patent a good source to start a search?

Google Patent, PATENTSCOPE, Espacenet, The Lens, and many others, are all free of charge patent search databases and great places to start.

Is there certificate for this webinar please?

No certificates are currently foreseen for participation in webinars

Thanks for this knowledge. Is it always reasonable to narrow the scope of our search?

When you "narrow" a search you have less documents to review. This is often necessary when you may find hundreds or even thousands of documents to review.

Who can use patent databases?

Anyone interested in all types of technology. From inventors, researchers, scientists to businessmen looking at technology and business trends. There are many free of charge databases such as WIPO PATENTSCOPE and there are commercial databases that are fee based.

Do you need a WIPO account to access the patent database?

You do not need a WIPO account to access PATENTSCOPE. However, if you do have a WIPO account and login, other useful functionalities are then available such as saving your search history, downloading search results and performing chemical searches.

Does the patent database contain all patent publications?

Each patent database has a specific document (publication) coverage, which you can check usually through the help pages of the database, to show you exactly which documents, i.e. national, regional or international, and the period of time (which years), are available in that database.

May I have the material presentation?

The presentation slides and recording of the webinar will be shared in a few days on the TISC website.

Do all patent database use Boolean operators?

Boolean operators are generally supported by all patent databases. However, it is always useful to check the help documentation for the patent database or the newly issued "WIPO INSPIRE" platform to determine which operators are supported by a patent database and how they are used.

How many countries are there in the PATENTSCOPE database?

There are nearly 60 national/regional offices whose data is available in the PATENTSCOPE Search System.

Can a published research work be patented?

An invention, to be patentable, should fulfil three criteria: it should be novel, inventive and industrially applicable. Once an invention or research work is published, it destroys novelty, but some countries allow for some limited time for an invention to be patented even if it was published.

What is the difference between the national and regional patent proceedings?

Regional patent systems allow you to file and/or obtain patent protection across multiple countries within that system through a single regional patent application. For example, by filing a European patent application under the European Patent Convention, you can simultaneously seek patent protection in multiple designated countries that are members of this Convention and, if the patent is granted and procedural requirements for specific countries are fulfilled, to obtain patent protection in these countries.

How would you decide whether a search query has been made specific enough? For example, would you read through 300 results or narrow it down some more?

Depends how much time you have. However, 300 documents sounds a lot to review and normally if you have only have a limited amount of time, you may try to narrow the results further by using other keywords using the AND operator.

Can we export the search results in a form of csv/table?

To export the results from PATENTSCOPE you will have to login using your WIPO account and you can download either 100 (detailed) results or 10,000 results in csv format.

What is the difference between patent families and publications

A publication can be any type of patent document. A patent family is a collection of patent documents that are related by at least one priority right, i.e. they have at least one common element that was present in the first filing.

Is the PATENTSCOPE language translator reliable when translating one language to another?

WIPO developed a tool WIPO TRANSLATE based on artificial intelligence to translate patent documents. More information can be found at: <https://www.wipo.int/wipo-translate/en/>

Is this method of patent search only applicable in PATENTSCOPE search?

Search strategies using operators are generally used in many different search systems.

Is there a way to identify if those operators (Boolean / proximity) are not supported by a patent database?

Please see for more information about patent databases from the WIPO resource: <https://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=249&plang=EN>. This type of information will also be available soon on the WIPO INSPIRE platform.

Will this video be made available for participants to review later?

Yes, all webinars are made available on TISC homepage on WIPO website www.wipo.int/tisc.

Can these videos in the TISC homepage be shared with students?

Yes, indeed they can be used for educational purpose and shared with students.

Thanks for that. I teach patent search in a university. I joined this webinar partly to learn how better to teach patent search. This webinar is an excellent material for teaching!

Thank you for your feedback and support!

In the RFID example, can the keyword "tag" be also used?

Adding additional terms with the AND operator or within phrases (e.g. "RFID tag") will further narrow our search, which may help limit "false positives" (documents that contain the term RFID but are not relevant to our interests) but may also exclude certain relevant results (documents that contain the term RFID but not the term tag). It is a question of balancing between eliminating false positives and avoiding excluding relevant results.

Is it possible to count patent families rather than the number of documents in a search?

It depends on the patent database. Certain patent databases allow you to group results by patent family (i.e. documents that relate to the same invention or a group of closely related

inventions). For example, PATENTSCOPE allows you to group patent families related through PCT applications.

Does the database search non-English language documents when the search strings are based on English words?

No. But please refer to PATENTSCOPE's Cross Lingual Information Retrieval (CLIR) tool which finds variants and synonyms of keywords and translates them to carry out a search in non-English language documents also. Patent classification (as we will learn in future webinars) also overcomes this problem and allows searches covering documents of different languages.

When doing a keyword search, which field should be prioritized for searching - title, abstract, description, claims?

Keywords found in the title, abstract or claims are likely to be more important in that document and hence it is likely to be a more relevant document.

How many operators can be included?

Which operators are supported depends on the patent database system you are using and can usually be checked by reviewing the help documentation for the patent database system. Operators are usually used to define whether a term is included or excluded from the search results (e.g. +term1 or -term1) or to define the relationship between terms (e.g. term1 AND term2).

Are the operators applicable for other patent databases?

All the operators shown are valid for PATENTSCOPE. However, other patent databases might have different syntax for the same operator.