

LAW OFFICES OF TRACY P. JONG

# Global Patent Searches



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### What is the difference between my own patent search and one your office would perform?

In most cases, a self-search is limited to a free search of the United States Patent Office databases through the Patent Office website, freepatentsonline.com, Google Patents or another similar search engine platform. Other times it involves a search of the internet via Google, MSN, AltaVista or another search engine.

A search on these free databases is limited to text of documents after 1974 (our searches on paid databases allow text searches back to 1836).

A search performed by our office includes a search of 22 “full text” (includes the entire patent) authorities around the world: Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, former East Germany, Germany, Denmark, European Patent Office, Spain, Finland, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, USA, and the World Intellectual Property Organization. Additionally, it includes 96 abstract and bibliographic collections for searching scientific and trade journals and extracted information from non-English patent authorities. Other advantages include some advanced searching tools in the paid search engines, analytic tools and translation capabilities of foreign language documents.

In most cases, a self-search is performed by searching “key words” in the patent databases. Our professionals are trained in advanced searching techniques that enable us to search specific patent classifications that apply to an invention. We are able to assess potential patentability issues for a given invention and related arts that may be considered by the Patent Office. We also are skilled in identifying appropriate patent nomenclature to perform more precise searches. For example, a screw may be called a “mechanical fastener” or a chair leg may be called a “supporting member.”

In many cases, a professional search will yield a broader search result. This may benefit you in the decision making process as to whether to seek patent protection, what competitors you may unknowingly have, or in crafting a patent application with a greater likelihood of being issued as a patent.

Patent searches are provided by experienced and trained lawyers, patent agents, scientists, and engineers specially trained in performing patent searches. They personally analyze the technology at issue, read the patent references, and conclude what patents or published appli-

### Patent Abstracts of Japan

Japanese unexamined patent applications in English for both Japanese and non-Japanese priorities from JAPIO, combined with Japanese data provided by INPADOC. At present, representative first pages are available for viewing online.

**Provider:** JAPIO, Japan Patent Information Organization (Tokyo, Japan)

Coverage	Data	Countries
October 1976-present	Bibliographic text, representative image	Japan

### Switzerland Patents

Images for more than 17,000 Swiss patents. For over 250,000 Swiss patents, bibliographic information from 1969 to present is searchable via our INPADOC collection.

**Provider:** Swiss Patent Office (Berne, Switzerland)

Coverage	Data	Countries
1990-01-15-present	Images	Switzerland

### WIPO PCT Publications

The "Patent Cooperation Treaty" publications are abstracts, full document images, and full text from over a hundred member countries,

**Providers:** Bibliographic data and images from World Intellectual Property Organization (Geneva, Switzerland). Full text data from Univentio Information Services BV (The Netherlands).

Coverage	Data	Countries
1978-present	Bibliographic text, full text	175+
1978-present	Full images	175+

**Provider:** German Patent and Trademark Office (Munich, Germany)

Coverage	Data	Countries
1987-present	Full text	Germany
1968-present	Biblio, first claim, full images	Germany

#### Granted German Patents

This German collection contains German granted patents and utility models published by the German Patent and Trademark Office combined with German data provided by INPADOC. This German Granted collection has biblio, first claims, and full document images of German granted patents and utility models issued from 1968 to present, and full text from 1987 to present. It also includes some biblio and image coverage from 1967.

**Provider:** German Patent and Trademark Office (Munich, Germany)

Coverage	Data	Countries
1987-present	Full text	Germany
1968-present	Biblio, first claim, full images	Germany

#### INPADOC Family and Legal Status Description:

INPADOC is one of the most comprehensive patent collections in the world. It contains patent family documents from 71 world patent signatories and legal status information from 42 patent offices.

**Provider:** European Patent Office (Vienna, Austria)

Coverage	Data	Countries
1968-present	Bibliographic text, full images for most	71 world patent signatories

cations are most relevant to your invention.

#### Patentability Searches/Prior Art Search

A patentability or a prior art search for an invention provides an inventor with an overview of existing technology that seems relevant (similar or related to the invention). A patent search often provides a potential patent classification and a list of US and/or global patent references to assist the inventor and patent attorney in assessing the potential patentability of the invention in the United States.

Patentability searches typically include U.S. and/or global patents and published patent applications, and in some cases, non-patent literature. Typical costs for a patent search for a simple mechanical device is \$400-\$700, depending on the number of references identified and studied in the search. For example, "Populated Fields" with a vast amount of prior art may require more extensive work (these searches generally consume 4-8 hours). The search is performed based on specific aspects of a product/technology that are in potential claims or are believed novel by the inventor. The claims of relevant patents (identified in the search) are studied in light of the specific aspects of the product/technology.

#### State of the Art Search/Landscape Search

State of the art searches reveal patents in a particular field, providing useful data for a company considering entry into a particular new product line or technology area. This information may also be useful in product and process design. The search reveals published papers, studies, non-patent literature in patents and published patent applications in a particular technology area.

#### Technology Environment Analysis (Competitive Intelligence)

Do you need to know where your competitor is headed? We can identify your competitor's patent portfolios relative to activity in the marketplace for a particular technology area.

#### Patent Validity Search

Does your company hope to practice a technology without infringing a competitor's patent or paying royalties? A patent validity search attempts to uncover patents or other published prior art that may render a

patent partially or completely invalid to invalidate an in-force patent

### Representative Databases

A search is conducted on Lexis Nexis patent databases and various Reed Elsevier databases. For Non-patent literature, we may also conduct a secondary search on Google and Yahoo. We may search online product catalogues.

#### United States Patents Applications:

The US Patents Application collection contains complete text and images of all patent applications published by the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). This collection has bibliographic text, full text and images of published US patent applications from March 2001 to present.

**Provider:** US Patent and Trademark Office

Coverage	Data	Countries
March 2001-present	Bibliographic text, full text, full images	United States

#### Granted United States Patents

Complete text and images of all patents issued by the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) since 1974, and bibliographic text and some images since 1971. This collection also includes full images for Back file patents dated 1790-1971.

**Provider:** US Patent and Trademark Office

Coverage	Data	Countries
1836-present	Bibliographic text, full text, full images	United States
1790-1836	Full images	United States

### European Patent Applications

This collection contains European patent applications published by the European Patent Office. This collection has bibliographic text and full document images of applications for European patents issued from 1979 to present, and full text from 1987 to present.

**Provider:** European Patent Office

Coverage	Data	Countries
Dec. 1978-present	Bibliographic text, full images	22
1987-present	Full text	22

#### Granted European Patents

This collection contains European patents published by the European Patent Office. This collection has bibliographic text and full document images of patents for European patents issued from 1980 to present and full text from 1991 to present.

**Provider:** European Patent Office

Coverage	Data	Countries
1980-present	Bibliographic text, full images	22
1991-present	Full text	22

### German Patent Applications

The German Applications collection contains German patent applications published by the German Patent and Trademark Office combined with German data provided by INPADOC. This German Applications collection has biblio, first claims, and full document images of German patent applications issued from 1968 to present, and full text from 1987 to present.