Preliminary U.S. Patent Search

Step 1: Identify keywords that describe your invention.
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Step 2: Go to Google Patents https://patents.google.com and enter a keyword search

Note: Be sure that the display is set up to show the search terms and search fields on the left side of the screen.

Search: ______________________________________________________________________

Number of hits: __________________________________________

Optional: Click More ▼ to access additional search fields. Click on + Patent office and select US. Then click on + Filing status and select Grant. This will refine your search to only United States issued patents, no published patent applications, and no documents from other countries.

Revised Search: ______________________________________________________________________

Number of hits: __________________________________________

Step 3: Look through the patents to see if you have found good matches. Identify (and view) the one most relevant US patent. (Didn’t find anything relevant? Redo the search until you do.)

Relevant patent number/title: ______________________________________________________________________

The blue box at the top right of the screen has excellent navigation links. Click on Patent Citations to see a list of cited (older) patents. Click on Cited by to find citing (newer) patents.

# of patent citations: ______________  Are they relevant?  Y  N

# of Cited by patents: ______________  Are they relevant?  Y  N

# of Also published as references (If any): ______________________________________________________________________

# of non-patent citations (if any): ______________________________________________________________________

Any significant legal events? ______________________________________________________________________
Step 4: Review the Classification Information (just after the images). What is the first one listed?

Classification (CPC) / Description ______________________________________________________________

Are there other relevant CPCs, from your search or the references?    Y    N    If so, list them below:

Classification (CPC) / Description ______________________________________________________________

Classification (CPC) / Description ______________________________________________________________

Step 5: Return to the Search Results Screen. Click on the small ? next to the classification information to open the classification search screen in the Espacenet database.

    Note: if your CPC classification does not display, type it in the search box

    Note: classifications from earlier searches may appear in the gray box in the left column. Delete them.

Review the CPC classification information, and click in the box next to the most relevant CPC. This will update the information in the gray box. Click on the word /low to change it to /exact for more precise search results.

Click on the Find patents button. How many hits? ___________ Are they relevant?    Y    N

Step 6: Return to the CPC Search Screen. Click on the Copy to search form link. This will put the CPC into a fielded search, and allow you to add other information, such as keyword.

What additional information did you enter? __________________________________________________________________________________________

How many hits? ___________ Are they relevant?    Y    N

Step 7: NOTE ANY RELEVANT PATENT NUMBERS FOR FURTHER SEARCHING

- Change /exact back to /low to expand retrieval
- Do keyword searches in Espacenet to retrieve foreign patents

Return to google patents for further searching based on your results, such as:

- Redo keyword search and choose different CPC information
- Redo keyword search without filtering for US Granted Patents
- Enter new keyword search based on results
- Enter patent numbers identified in earlier steps and repeat necessary steps