



PRIOR ART SEARCH: PATENT SEARCH

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Prior Art Search

Prior art can be defined as existing body of knowledge or information for invention. It helps to describe the invention whether it is “new” and “non-obvious”. It also determines and makes distinction between a prior art (what is already known) and invention (what is new). For the new and specific invention, the process of determining the patentability is an essential part of patent search type. The inventor should conduct a thorough prior art search before applying for patent. Prior art search can be done by identifying the keywords, examining search of databases, extensive Internet-based search and interpretation or analysis of search results. The examples of prior art are the product itself is already available for sale, commercial use of the invention, publication such as articles or journal printed or electronic, conference presentation and demonstration. Prior art search is crucial as to avoid duplication of R&D work, to improve an existing product or process, to identify specific new ideas and technical solutions, products or process, to identify alternative technology and its sources, to be aware of the latest specific technology development and to identify existing or prospective industrial property rights such as validity or ownership.

Patent Search

A patent search is a part of the prior art search of similar ideas in academic and technical literature. A patent search is the process of evaluating the issued patents and published patent application for invention when applying for a patent. A patent searcher can use the search tools, search queries, keywords and strategies when search the information needed. Types of patent search are state of the art search, novelty search, validity search, infringement search, clearance search, technology activity search and equivalent search. It is very important for patent searcher to choose the right search tools in order to fit the entire requirements related to searching. In addition, patent search helps to avoid from spending time and money on an invention that has already been invented, to help assess the patentability of an invention before investing in an expensive patent application process, to help determine the value or validity of a patent before purchasing, selling or licensing it as well as to find opportunities to improve on existing technology “gaps.”

Types of Patent Search Engines and Databases

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MYIPO) • World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) • Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) • European Patent Office (EPO) • The Industrial Property Digital Library • United States Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO) • IOI Lens • Google Patents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) • Australian Patent (AusPat) • The German Patent and Trade Mark Office • New Zealand Intellectual Property (IPONZ) • Korea Intellectual Property Rights Information Service (KIPRIS) • Free Patents Online (FPO) • Pangkalan Data Kekayaan Intelektual Indonesia • Thailand Intellectual Property Information Center (DIP)
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