



## HOW TO RESEARCH PATENTS ONLINE



You should perform your own patent searches on a regular basis to gain knowledge of newly patented ideas. Keyword searches regarding your type of product can lead you to fairly accurate results through an online patent database.

### ONLINE PATENT DATABASES

We encourage you to check out all of the online patent search databases listed below and find one that works best for you and your needs. It is imperative to do searches regularly, as new patents are issued every day.

#### **Google Patents** <http://www.google.com/patents>

The search ability is easy, quite quick and keyword searches are simple. You can view entire patents, in an image format by individual patent page. You can open and save an entire Adobe PDF document of individual patents.

#### **FreePatentsOnline.com** <http://www.freepatentsonline.com>

Search for keywords that are relevant to the functionality of your concept.

FreePatentsOnline is a free service, but you must sign up to view full Adobe PDFs of patents.

Be sure to select U.S. Patents and/or U.S. Patent Applications, and select results to be sorted in order of relevancy.

We search for patents “within the last 20 years” since those are still active; however you may be interested in searching all patents to find out the history on a specific type of product.

Also check their search tips/syntax page at <http://www.freepatentsonline.com/syntax.html> to bring back even more relevant results.

#### **U.S. Patent and Trademark Office** <https://www.uspto.gov/>

The official USPTO website hosts the official patent database, however their searches are not as user-friendly as both FreePatentsOnline and Google Patents. You may also have to pay for full-text versions/PDFs of patents on the USPTO site.