

What is a patent?

A patent is a contract between the state and an inventor by which a temporary monopoly is granted in return for disclosing all details of the invention. For researchers, patents are an important source of scientific and technical information. Patents are often the earliest source of information on a new technology.

How do I determine if a patent on “topic x” exists?

To determine if a patent exists search the following databases:

- **Derwent Innovations Index** is one of the world's most comprehensive databases of patents information. Over 11 million basic inventions and 20 million patents are covered from over 40 patent-issuing authorities dating back to 1963. Derwent provides access to the fulltext of most patents. Document Delivery may be available to access patents not available in full text.
- **esp@cenet** is Europe's network of patent databases. esp@cenet provides access to the fulltext of the patents dating back to 1836. Using esp@cenet it is possible to search a worldwide database of published patents from over 80 countries and regions. esp@cenet can be accessed from the UQ Library Catalogue or is freely available on the Internet - <http://gb.espacenet.com/>.
- **Scifinder Scholar** contains information on patents and patent families in all areas of chemistry and chemical engineering from 50 patent issuing authorities. It is possible to search for patents using CAS registry numbers and chemical structures as well as keyword and inventor searches.
- Google Patents <http://www.google.com/patents> provides access to US patents from the **United States Patent and Trademark Office** <http://www.uspto.gov/> back to 1790. Full text searching is available for US patents after 1975 and for earlier patents – patent number and classification searching is available. Google Patents does not include international patents or patent applications. US Patent applications can be searched on the US Patent and Trademark Office site.

How do I access Derwent Innovations Index?

Derwent Innovations Index combines *Derwent World Patents Index* and *Patents Citation Index*. Derwent Innovations Index can be accessed from the UQ Library Catalogue.

Why use Derwent Innovations Index?

Derwent Innovations Index:

- Is the most comprehensive database of patents published since 1963.
- Translates into English the key aspects of non-English language patents.
- Includes patent family information which tracks the same invention through countries and any revisions.
- Makes searching more effective by adding meaningful titles to the patent.
- Provides detailed abstracts covering the novelty, claims, detailed description and technical focus.

- Includes extensive subject and chemical coding done by subject experts to make retrieval more focused.
- Includes the Derwent Chemistry Resource database which allows searching by chemical structures, synonyms, molecular formulae and weights, and other chemical attributes.
- Provides links to the fulltext of most patents and therefore the original title of the patent.
- Provides links to journal articles and patents that are related to the displayed patent.
- Enables email search alerts so that you can keep updated with patents in a specific field or patents that cite a patent of interest.
- Imports into EndNote – please note that you will need to edit the title of the patent back to the original title.

Tips on searching Derwent Innovations Index

- There are three ways to search Derwent: (1) Quick Search (the default), (2) General Search (recommended) and (3) Advanced. Click on the 'Help' icon on the top left navigation bar for full details on using search fields. Search results can be sorted by the latest date, inventor, patent assignee, or company etc.
- Remember that you are searching a Derwent enhanced title so if you are searching for a specific patent you may not be able to use the original title.
- Patent number searching has a specific format for example, to search for patent number WO 02/083181 on Derwent WO200283181 would be required. See the Help for more information.
- Derwent includes classification codes which can be used to enhance searches for a specific category of inventions. Search aids are available for most classification codes to the right of the search box or from Help

Derwent Chemistry Resource

Derwent Chemistry Resource can be used to search for chemical structures, synonyms, molecular formulae and weights, and other chemical attributes. You may need to install MDL Chime from <http://www.mdli.com/downloads>. MDL Chime is available on all library computers. Chime is a chemical structure visualisation plug-in. Other chemical structure drawing programs can also be used for example, ISIS/DRAW.

Additional patent information

World Patent Information	Online via <i>ScienceDirect</i>
Introduction to patents information	Phys Sci & Engin T210 .I57 2002
IP Australia	http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/
British Library Patents Information	http://www.bl.uk/collections/patents.html
UK Patent Office	http://www.patent.gov.uk/
Canadian Patent Office	http://patents1.ic.gc.ca/intro-e.html
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