GPI – pocket guide

GPI content and updates

You can use GPI to carry out detailed searches of the EPO’s worldwide bibliographic and legal event data collections (DOCDB and INPADOC, also used in Espacenet and PATSTAT) and download or visualise the results for statistical analysis. GPI is updated every Friday at 12:00 CET. It includes, for example, DE, EP, FR and GB documents published in the same week, as well as CN, US and WO documents published in the previous week. Around 500 000 new patent documents are added every month.

Search with numbers

Use NUM “all kinds of numbers” to retrieve publications with numbers that are publication, application, priority or cited patent numbers:

NUM = “A 000 041” or 10/174977

Note: Use PUN “publication number”, APN “application number”, PRN “priority number” and CPAT “cited patent” rather than NUM for more precise searches.

Search with countries, dates and grant filter ISG

Use APC “application country” and APD “application filing date” to retrieve publications of EP, CA and CN applications filed on or after 1 January 2019:

APC = EP or CA or CN and APD >= 2019

Use ISG “is granted?”, PUC “publication country” and PUD “publication date” to retrieve granted patents published by EP, CA and CN patent authorities in Q4/2019:

ISG = yes and PUC = EP or CA or CN and PUD [201910, 201912]

Note: Valid date formats are 20191231, 201912 and 2019, with or without separators (“/”, “-”, “.”) between the year, month and day.

Search with citations

Use CPSR “patent citation (search report)”, CAPP “cited applicant” and CCAT “citation category”, to retrieve publications with a search report including a cited DE patent document of the applicant Siemens and in the category X or Y:

CPSR = DE with CAPP = SIEMENS with CAPP = X or Y

Note: The WITH operator ensures that searched terms are in one single citation, whereas AND may retrieve documents with one searched term in one citation and another searched term not in the same citation.
Search with names

Use APP “applicant/proprietor”, EVOW “owner mentioned in the legal event record” and PUD “publication date” to retrieve documents for applicants, proprietors or new owners of interest and published in 2020:

\[
\text{APP or EVOW} = "\text{UNIV OXFORD}" \text{ or } "\text{UNIV TORONTO}" \text{ or } "\text{UNIV DALIAN TECH}" \text{ or topics not in English and PUD} = 2020
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Note:
- Names are indexed by individual words and expressions. Expressions such as "UNIV OXFORD" must be delimited with double quotes. Individual words do not need double quotes. The same rules apply to inventor names (INV).
- Whatever the criterion used in a query, wildcards cannot be placed in expressions delimited with double quotes. For example, APP = "DELTA ELECTRONIC?" does not return the expected result (documents where the applicant is "DELTA ELECTRONIC" or "DELTA ELECTRONICS"). Example of correct query: APP = DELTA +1w ELECTRONIC

Search with classifications

Use IPC, CPC, JPFI “Japanese FI” and APP “applicant/proprietor” to retrieve publications in the field of digital computing or data processing equipment or methods specially adapted for specific functions but not in the field of data acquisition and logging, for applicants or proprietors of interest:

\[
\text{IPC or CPC or JPFI} = G06F17 \text{ andnot } G06F17/40 \text{ and APP} = "\text{UNIV CALIFORNIA}" \text{ or } "\text{UNIV MADRID POLITECNICA}" \text{ or } "\text{UNIV TOKYO}" \text{ or 東京大学}
\]

Note:
- Accepted classification symbol formats include G06, G06F, G06F17, G06F0017, G06F001740, G06F17/40 and "G06F 17/40". Searches at section level require right truncation (for example IPC = G*). Searches at class, subclass or group level (for example, G06, G06F, G06F17) automatically use right truncation.
- It is advisable to check the validity of classification symbols used in queries carefully. For example, CPC A01N63/04 is no longer valid in version 2020.01 of the CPC scheme, so as of January 2020, queries including A01N63/04 should be amended.

Search with titles/abstracts and regular monitoring filter DFE

Use WORD “all title/abstract words in all languages” and DFE “date of first exchange” to retrieve publications relating to wind turbines and added to GPI for the first time in Q4/2019:

\[
\text{WORD} = \text{wind +2w turbine* or windturbine* or windkraftanlage* or éolienne* or aero +2w generator* or aerogenerator* or ветротурбин* or 풍력발전기* and DFE [201910, 201912]}
\]

Note:
- Using the proximity operator +2w will produce a more precise search than the AND operator. It means “wind” is up to a maximum of two words apart from “turbine”, in this order. Use “/” instead of “+” if the order does not matter. For example, use corrosion /2w protection* to retrieve documents containing “corrosion protection”, “corrosion-resistant protection”, “protection against corrosion” or similar variations.
- The asterisk * can be used for right, middle and left truncation of a term. For example, word = "chlor*carbon" to retrieve documents containing chlorohydrocarbon, dichlorocyclopropanecarbonyl, etc.
Search with simple family information

Use FMPUC “publication country code of the family member” and APP “applicant/proprietor” to retrieve families which include at least one US, one JP and one EP family member, for the parties of interest:

FMPUC = US and JP and EP and APP = Siemens

Use FMDFE “family member date of first exchange”, IPC and CPC to retrieve families including at least one family member available for the first time in GPI in March 2020 but not families where a member was already retrieved by a previous monthly monitoring, in the specified technical area:

FMDFE = 202003 andnot FMDFE [201910, 202002] and IPC or CPC = F01N3

Note: The above query was used for a monthly monitoring run in April 2020 (monitoring of March 2020). The monitoring activity started in November 2019 (monitoring of October 2019). In April 2020, the result list does not include families that were already retrieved between November 2019 and March 2020.

Search with legal events

Use EVCA “event category”, EVD “event date”, APP “applicant/proprietor” and EVOW “owner mentioned in the event record” to retrieve patent documents of IP rights where reviews (e.g. opposition, surrender) were requested and published in gazettes or bulletins in January 2020, for the parties of interest:

EVCA = L with EVD = 202001 and APP or EVOW = "JFE STEEL" or NEC

Note:

• The WITH operator ensures that searched terms are in one single legal event, whereas AND may retrieve documents with one searched term in one legal event and another searched term not in the same legal event.
• Event categories are groups of legal events of a similar nature. The EPO grouped approximately 3 000 national, regional and international legal events in 21 categories based on the categories of WIPO standard ST.27. For example, the category L “IP right review request” corresponds to approximately 150 detailed legal events.

Completeness assessment searches

As the content of patent documents may sometimes be incomplete, you can carry out completeness assessment searches to compare, for a given bibliographic data item, the number of complete documents with the number of incomplete documents.

Use APPC for a completeness assessment for “applicant country of residence”:

Documents with data: APPC = *
Documents without data: not (APPC = *)

Use IPC, PUC “publication country” and PUD “publication date” to carry out a completeness assessment for IPC for a given set of countries in a given date range:

Documents with IPC: PUC = FR or US or JP and PUD >= 2000 and IPC = *
Documents without IPC: PUC = FR or US or JP and PUD >= 2000 andnot IPC = *
Customise the display and download

You can add bibliographic and legal event data to your result lists via “Result list content” in the Preferences menu.

Document content can also be customised, for example to re-order document fields.

Download limits

The current download limits are:

- 10 000 result list rows, for example in CSV, XLSX or XML format.
- 1 500 documents (bibliographic and legal event data), for example in PDF format.

Statistics on search results

Statistics can be used, for example, to:

- Identify the most frequent classification symbols (IPC, CPC, Japanese FI or F-terms) corresponding to a preliminary search based only on title/abstract words and to improve the query with these symbols, or to identify the top 100 applicants/proprietors or inventors (“simple statistics” bar charts).
- Visualise the activity of the top 20 applicants/proprietors over time or in the top 20 IPC or CPC subclasses (“cross-reference” bubble charts).

Cross-reference chart (applicant activity over time for a selected technical area)