

June 2009



Celebrate 100 years of SLA with Dialog and ProQuest



Join with us to celebrate 100 years of SLA! As major sponsors of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) for 2009, Dialog and ProQuest offer many opportunities for networking, training and learning more about Dialog and DataStar. Check your program for event times and locations at the SLA 2009 Annual Conference in Washington, DC, June 14 – 17, 2009.

Tweet with us at SLA 2009

In conjunction with the SLA IT Division, Dialog and ProQuest are proud to collaborate to give you the latest updates during SLA 2009. While visiting the INFO-EXPO, stop by the Dialog/ProQuest booth (#620) and follow the IT Division Twitter backchannel live on screen — as it happens!

"Tweets" (a.k.a. Twitter postings) will be provided by IT Division members and conference attendees participating in the events at SLA. See what questions, comments and additional insights program attendees have in real time while they are attending conference sessions. It's a different way to keep abreast, stay current and remain engaged — perfect for any information professional and a first for the SLA conference! And, it's a new way to stay connected virtually if you can't attend the conference.

Will you be tweeting at the conference? Use the **#slait** hashtag for everything IT Division and the **#sla2009** hashtag for everything conference-wide. The Dialog/ProQuest in-booth Twitter screen also will show the backchannels for the **@sla2009** and **@proquest** profiles.

Dialog and ProQuest-sponsored SLA conference events

Be sure to attend one or all of the Dialog-ProQuest SLA activities:

Dialog General Manager Suzanne BeDell presents SLA's Professional Award at the Opening General Session and Awards ceremony, sponsored by Dialog

Champagne reception honoring the Roger K. Summit Scholarship recipient on Sunday afternoon

Dialog InfoStars Award Reception to honor this year's InfoStars' awardees

Hot Topic, sponsored by ProQuest and Serials Solutions, "Reaching Next-Gen Users with Unified Discovery Services"

Closing General Session at which Suzanne BeDell will introduce keynote panel moderator Judy Woodruff.

Drop by the Dialog-ProQuest booth (#620). We look forward to seeing you!

News, Web and Video — all in one with Dialog NewsRoom Plus!

Dialog NewsRoom Plus, an intuitive, Web-based product designed for everyone in the enterprise who requires a comprehensive, authoritative source for current or archival news, launched last month. This Dialog product offers global news publications, 35 million hours of video and 20 billion Web documents. Use Easy Search or Advanced Search, save your searches, set up Alerts, and retrieve your results in the format that best fits your needs. Our unlimited usage model ensures all licensed users can search as much and as often as needed for one fixed, competitive price.

Two versions of Dialog NewsRoom Plus are available to meet different content needs:

Dialog NewsRoom Plus 120, offering an archive of 120 days, is best for current awareness with approximately 5,000 respected sources currently updating.

Dialog NewsRoom Plus, offering Dialog's aggregated archive of news with approximately 12,000 titles, is best when an organization needs unlimited access to current content *plus* the ability to search premium and trusted sources from the year 2000.

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Smart searching

Using Dialog special features

Dialog's powerful commands let you rank results, sort data and remove duplicates.

Resource intensive commands, like RANK, SORT or RD, use more system resources and DialUnits, but they can also take more connect time because they take longer to manipulate sets of records.

Take advantage of these features cost-effectively by practicing these steps before using special Dialog commands:

Reduce the size of sets by applying limits, e.g., /YYYY, /ENG

Use index codes, where available, e.g., CC= for classification codes

Apply proper proximity connectors, e.g. (#N), (#W)

Use limited truncation, e.g. program? ?

Announcements

July Free Files of the Month

Throughout July, Dialog will offer two free files: **CLAIMS[®]/U.S. Patents (File 340)** and **CLAIMS[®]/Current Patent Legal Status (File 123)**. File 340 has just been reloaded, and new post-issuance legal status information has been added to File 123. See the CLAIMS article under Intellectual Property Content Updates. See an [overview of CLAIMS](#) to learn more about these

A reviewer for *VIP Report* who previewed the beta version of the NewsRoom Plus interface had this to say: "*The Dialog NewsRoom Plus beta interface is neat, clear and simple to use, a possible real benefit and attraction to the target audience of novice to intermediate users. The NewsRoom Plus Easy Search interface appears to be a real end-user 'news search' solution from this substantial information provider.*" (*VIP Report, Big Three Survey, Nov 2008*)

Review an [Overview](#) of NewsRoom Plus and check out the [Quick Guide](#) that illustrates features of this new Dialog tool. For more about Dialog NewsRoom Plus, contact your account manager or call the [Knowledge Center](#).

Dialog & ProQuest: What a year it's been!

In July 2008 Dialog joined the ProQuest family. At that time all of us at Dialog were excited about the new opportunities. As we approach our one-year anniversary together, we look back over the past year to accomplishments, new directions and expectations for the future.

New initiatives

In the last year Dialog and DataStar put into place many new initiatives across all sections of the company. Here are just a handful of highlights.

To make sure you know what's going on at Dialog, the reinstated monthly *Chronolog* describes new features like the Free File of the Month, new content, products and training opportunities, search techniques and analysis of content areas by subject specialists.

Dialog also led the way with a pricing freeze in March to address the current economic situation and continues to provide smart searching ideas each month. Other pricing initiatives, including transactional pricing for CSA files and fixed-pricing plans like Dialog Choice, enable you to get Dialog and DataStar sources at a price that meets your needs.

Dialog eLinks: Open URL 1.0 enables you to link to the fulltext of sources you subscribe to in approximately 100 Dialog and DataStar databases.

NewsRoom Plus, Dialog's most recent business and news product, provides thousands of global sources, video and Web offerings all from the same search. Its easy-to-use interface enables the novice to quickly retrieve results, and an advanced search mode provides experienced searchers with tools to refine searches.

ProQuest's rich variety of authoritative, full-text resources complement content on Dialog and DataStar. Now you can purchase ProQuest products that are most complementary to Dialog information products through your Dialog sales contacts.

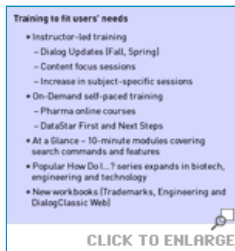
New and enhanced content

Whether it is *The Lancet*® on Dialog and DataStar, expanded access to CSA databases on Dialog, hundreds of new journal sources flowing into ABI/INFORM®, patents from Taiwan or trademarks from China, vital content additions have increased the breadth and depth of content on Dialog and DataStar. Click the image for details that describe new content and enhancements to databases to improve cross-file searching, supply additional indexing and update online thesauri.



Training to fit all users' needs

Training has always been an integral part of Dialog's commitment to you, our customers. This year an added goal has been to provide a variety of training venues, topics and formats. For example, sessions include instructor-led content focus sessions, product training and subject courses on biomedical, intellectual property, engineering and business topics. We also added many self-paced modules for you to take in your own time. See the listing here.



To assist you in selecting content for your searches, new Database Content Overviews for each Free File of the Month highlight strengths of each database. *Focus on Content* guides describe databases in different subject areas like Engineering, Aerospace and more. And, quick comparison sheets compare and contrast databases like *Derwent*

important databases on Dialog. **Note:** You can search up to \$100 (connect time or DialUnits) in either or both files for free. Output and Alerts costs are not included.

Dialog London office changes locations

Effective June 22, 2009, the Dialog office in London will relocate to:

Dialog LLC
St. Andrews House
18-20 St. Andrew Street
London
EC4A 3AG

PsycINFO® ([File 11/PSYC](#)) will stop updating in June in preparation for the annual reload of the database. The last scheduled update will be delivered on June 2. Updating will recommence later in the summer after the reload data is supplied and loaded.

The **Chronolog** ([File 410](#)) is updating again on Dialog. The file updates quarterly and is now up to date to March 2009 (Q12009). The newest updates include the *Chronolog* and *Training Updates* newsletters.

Training

Training Schedule

Training classes on Dialog are held around the world. New classes are always being added, so for the most current schedule and for registration information for all locations, check the Dialog [Web site](#). Besides new product training classes, sign up for new subject-specific sessions such as: "Patent Basics: Deciphering Patent Families in *Derwent World Patents Index* ([File 351](#)) and *INPADOC* ([File 345](#))." The class will be held Tuesday, June 16.

Documentation

[INPADOC/Family and Legal Status and *Derwent World Patents Index*® Quick Comparison](#) – identify the appropriate file to search for each application.

"[The Five Most-Common Patent Searches](#)" handout — documentation providing step-by-step procedures for the five most-common patent searches.

Quantum²

World Patents Index® and INPADOC/Family and Legal Status for patents.

Training Updates, Dialog's quarterly training e-newsletter, describes new courses, materials and documentation. If you have not subscribed, [now's the time](#).

Dialog's commitment to your success

Together with ProQuest, Dialog is committed to making your search experience successful. Dialog General Manager Suzanne BeDell, with other Dialog and ProQuest executives, recently spoke to Barbara Quint about Dialog's new role as the corporate sales channel for ProQuest products. In the opening paragraph of the [article in Information Today](#), Barbara Quint states:

"In these tough times, it's comforting-heck! Exhilarating — to see a major traditional vendor stepping up operations, expanding market outreach, keeping past promises, and even making new ones. ProQuest has announced that it will start expanding its corporate marketing outreach through its [Dialog subsidiary](#), specifically emphasizing six products. But the announcement wasn't specific on whether this new effort would simply use Dialog's sales force to move new clients to ProQuest services or whether the data itself would move to Dialog and its existing corporate customer base. When posed this question, ProQuest executives promptly replied, "Both." In a development which many searchers, especially freelance searchers, will appreciate, the new outreach will also in time ensure pay-as-you-go pricing for all ProQuest products, not just the usual subscription pricing designed for ProQuest's traditional academic market."

With our tradition of excellence in customer service, a dedicated sales team, a knowledgeable training group and now, as the corporate channel at ProQuest, this year is just the beginning; watch for more innovation from Dialog, enriched by ProQuest, in the coming year.

The importance of understanding China

The heart of the global economy has moved East, and China is leading the way. Some statistics will show you why.

China's domestic economy continues to explode, with annual growth consistently above 20 percent per year.

China passed the United States in automobile production and has now also surpassed the United States in automobile consumption.

China has become Brazil's most important trading partner, disrupting a relationship between the United States and the Latin country that stretches back to the 1930s.

China intends to soon grant more patents than any other country and expects to entice most of the top pharmaceutical companies to conduct R&D within its borders.

In 2008, nearly 700,000 trademark applications were submitted in China, the seventh consecutive year China has ranked first in the world for number of applications.

China continues to develop its technological infrastructure. As national and international companies worldwide invest in research and development and manufacturing facilities in China and as its economy grows, it is important for business and industry globally to keep abreast of everything related to China. It is the world's third-largest economy. Dialog brings together a myriad of authoritative sources whether you are looking for China as a center of innovation, a leader in trademarks and patents, an important trading partner or a manufacturer of products from cement to automobiles. Here's just a sampling of the resources related to China on Dialog.

Business and industry news

If you need the most current updates or want to get a historical perspective, Dialog contains databases like Dialog NewsRoom ([File 990](#)) and Dialog Global Reporter ([File 20](#)) with newspapers, newswires and trade journals, covering all aspects of the business arena. Sources include *China News Digest* and *China Business Review* in File 990 and *China Post* in File 20. Cengage Gale provides Gale PROMT® ([File 16](#)), Gale Trade and Industry Database™ ([File 148](#)) and Business & Industry™ ([File 9](#)), which contain trade journals covering multiple industries and specialized journals, such as the fulltext of *China Telecom* and *China Chemical Reporter*. *Xinhua News* ([File 618](#)) provides fulltext reports from over 135 bureaus worldwide on political, economic and international issues affecting Asia and the Pacific Rim; the *South China Morning Post* ([File 726](#)) is published daily in Hong Kong.

Quantum² at SLA Annual Conference

The following Quantum² sessions will be available as CE courses during the SLA Annual Conference in June. Visit the [SLA conference Web site](#) to check time and place and register for these events.

Best Practices for Information Services:

Achieving Operational Excellence — provides a practical guide to the steps necessary in creating best practices.

Assessing Clients' Needs (Part 1): Map the Information Flow — walks you through mapping information flows from a strategic point of view to identify the ultimate users, identify products that best serve the organization and extend IRC services into the organization.

Assessing Clients' Needs (Part 2):

Gather and Analyze the Data — offers all the details necessary for the information professional to conduct an information audit of his or her organization.

Note: [Assessing Clients' Needs Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) are available as a full-day CE course.

Search Techniques

Dialog Search Tip: Using the number of references field (NR=) in Inspec

Locating documents with lengthy bibliographies is a way of generating a free list of relevant material on a topic. In its recent reload, Inspec® ([File 2](#)), has provided a new index field that lets you quickly search the number of references (NR=). In this example, using File 4, the section of Inspec covering 1983–present, the researcher is interested in the development of the large Collider at CERN and would like documents with extensive bibliographies:

```
S LARGE () HADRON () COLLIDER/TI , ID
(2326 results)
S S1 AND NR=>40 (216 results)
```

You can further refine the search to authors who are scientists actually working at CERN in Switzerland:

```
S S1 and CS=CERN (23 results)
```

There is a link to the publisher site in the "Item identifier (DOI) field." In this case, the researcher found at least one record where the entire full-text article is available for free

One of Dialog's "hidden gems" (although we try to spread the word as much as we can) is the full-text content in World News Connection® ([File 985](#)). Titles, such as *Xinhua*, *Taipei Times Online*, *Bangkok Post Online* and *China—OSC Summary*, to name a few, offer translated and English-language news and information produced by local media sources in China about significant socioeconomic, political, scientific, technical and environmental issues and events. File 985 contains thousands of records on China tagged with region (RG=) and geographic name (GN=), including over 30,000 records from 2009.

Intellectual property

The volume of patents being published in China increases each year. Timely access to English language abstracts and/or translations of these patents is critically important to companies across all technology sectors and from all regions outside of China. *Derwent World Patents Index*® ([File 351](#)) and its companion file *DWPI First View*™ ([File 331](#)) offer broad coverage of China. Access to all claims in the *DWPI* record alongside the *DWPI* enhanced title and abstract enables the user to get a complete picture of the protection being sought through the patent application. All of the claims for Chinese Invention patents and Chinese Utility Models published from July 2008 can be searched and displayed in *DWPI*. *DWPI First View* is also the first patent database to provide weekly coverage of all English-translated Chinese Utility Model Registrations, an important source of prior art. Try *DWPI First View free* up to \$100 in DialUnits or connect time for yourself during the month of June. Beginning with update 200918, INPADOC ([File 345](#)) now includes legal status for Chinese patents. This unique Chinese information resource will eventually cover all Chinese patents and utility models issued from 1985 forward.

The new TRADEMARKSCAN® — China ([File 651](#)) contains applications and registrations filed with the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China from 1950 forward and includes more than four million trademarks as of September 2008. With Dialog's OneSearch ASIATMKS OneSearch® category, you can search Asian countries together.

Business intelligence and market research

Business China in EIU: Business Newsletters ([File 629](#)) and *China Hand* in EIU: Country Analysis ([File 627](#)) provide useful background for operating in China. You can track risks and forecasts about doing business in China in *Country Forecast China* in EIU: Country Risk and Forecasts ([File 628](#)) and find out about developments in areas such as business regulations, corporate strategies and financial markets in China in EIU: ViewsWire ([File 620](#)).

In addition, Freedonia Market Research/Freedonia Industry and Business Research Studies ([File 763](#)) contains the fulltext of studies and reports, including comprehensive analyses of industries and products in a variety of industrial sectors in China. You can obtain long-term economic trends for products from batteries to countertops to cement.

These examples just scratch the surface of the broad and deep authoritative resources on Dialog that keep you connected to what's happening in business, intellectual property, market research and country information in the world's most highly-populated country—China.

Free File of the Month

Free Files of the Month: Inspec and *Derwent World Patents Index First View*

Inspec ([File 2](#)), a leading source of scientific and technical literature for scientists in many disciplines including engineering, physics, computer science and astronomy, is one of the free files for June. The database contains over 10 million records and has an archive dating back to 1898. The file was reloaded in May 2009 and includes a number of enhancements. Check the [Bluesheet](#) for details about changes to the file.

Also free for June is *Derwent World Patents Index First View* ([File 331](#)). File 331 provides complementary information to *Derwent World Patents Index*® (*DWPI*) ([File 351](#)) and is designed to be searched in conjunction with *DWPI* for a comprehensive view of all published patents. New Basic patent records remain in File 331 until the editorial process is completed and all value-added data has been created by the *DWPI* editors. The new record is then added to File 351 and the corresponding record is removed from File 331. *DWPI First View* is ideal for setting up Alerts to help you monitor patent activity.

Review the [Overviews](#) of Inspec and *Derwent World Patents Index First View* to learn more about these databases. During the month of June, you

at the publisher site, and the site also includes a list of articles that cite this paper. Try out the Number of References field this month, when Inspec is the Free File of the Month. See details above about the Free File.

DataStar Search Tip: Qualifying your search statement

In DataStarWeb's Advanced Search, you can bypass the drop-down/pop-up menus to quickly qualify to fields manually, for example, enter **term.field**. (e.g., **asthma.de**), as your search statement. What's more, you can apply multiple field qualifiers, as in **asthma.ti.mj**, to search for asthma in the title (TI) OR as a major descriptor (MJ). With the field pop-up menus, you can qualify to only one field.

In a business-news search, use the pop-up menu in Dialog Global Reporter ([REPO](#)) to search for General Electric in the Company Name field (CO). DataStarWeb displays the results showing the syntax, so you learn for future reference the syntax is **general adj electric.co**. If you want to broaden your search to qualify not only to the Company Name, but also to the title OR the lead paragraph (LD), enter **general electric.ti.co.ld**.

At the same time, you can restrict your search to records added as recently as today, depending on the database. If you have already created a search set, simply enter the query number and in the box below the query box, enter the date that you want to be the update's starting point, or use the drop-down box and choose 1 week, 1 month, etc. Check the Datasheet for details on the file(s) you wish to search.

can explore these two files up to \$100 each (either DialUnits or connect time) for free. Output and Alerts charges are not included. Take advantage of this opportunity to try out File 2 and File 331 today.

Business & News Updates

D&B databases available for site licenses

The following D&B files are now available via flat-fee access for the first time ever on Dialog!

- 515 D&B – Dun's Electronic Business Directory®
- 516 D&B – Dun's Market Identifiers® (U.S.)
- 518 D&B – International Dun's Market Identifiers®
- 519 D&B – Dun's Financial Records Plus™
- 520 D&B – Canadian Dun's Market Identifiers®
- 521 D&B – European Dun's Market Identifiers®
- 522 D&B – Who Owns Whom
- 523 D&B – European Financial ReportsSM

Contact your account manager or the [Knowledge Center](#) for more information. D&B reports, such as BIR and Comprehensive, via links or the Gateway (File 598) are not included. Other restrictions apply.

Broaden your intellectual property search into non-patent files

By Ian Pearce, Training & Applications Consultant, Europe

You are likely familiar with the well-known patent databases on Dialog, such as *Derwent World Patents Index*, INPADOC/Family and Legal Status and the full-text patent files. But did you know that a number of additional databases on Dialog and DataStar also contain intellectual property information? In fact, intellectual property information can be found in four other categories of databases:

- Company and industry news
- Statistical information
- Market research
- Financial information

To make those categories useful to you, it's helpful to know the type of information they offer to the patent searcher, as well as the best strategy for searching them.

1. Company and Industry News

News, business, market research and financial databases on Dialog and DataStar can all supplement a traditional patent search with background information on topics such as licensing agreements and litigation cases, including court judgments and damages, details of potential threats to a company or market sector, statistical information and in-depth background articles on intellectual property strategies.

For company and industry news Dialog NewsRoom ([File 990](#)) and ABI/INFORM® ([File 15](#)) are good starting places. Dialog NewsRoom is a comprehensive, global news source of 12,000 sources from around the world. Covering leading national and local newspapers, business and scholastic journals, industry newsletters, corporate news releases, magazines and newswires, it is a rich source of intellectual property-related information. ABI/INFORM contains details on virtually every aspect of global business, including company histories, competitive intelligence and new product development information. And, in 2009 more than 300 additional titles are now included in fulltext in ABI/INFORM on Dialog and DataStar, doubling the number of articles in each update to provide greater industry depth. Top publications include, for example, *Medical Patent Business Week* and *Military & Aerospace Electronics*. Alternatively, search ABI/INFORM on the ProQuest platform to access even more titles and retrieve PDF documents and graphic material, including original charts, graphs and tables.

Suggested search strategies

A good strategy when searching the company and industry news databases is to search in the Descriptor, Title and Lead Paragraph for terms like *Licensing Agreement* or *Litigation and Intellectual Property* or *Patent* or *Copyright* or *Trademark* using appropriate proximity connectors such as (xN)

(within *x* words) on Dialog or *near* (within 5 words) on DataStar.

Alternative sources are Cengage Gale Trade & Industry™ ([File 148](#)), Cengage Gale PROMT® ([File 16](#)) and Business & Industry™ ([File 9](#)) databases. The first two can be searched with specialized indexing, including Event Names such as *Patents & Copyrights*, Descriptors, Product Names and Industry Names and the latter with indexing including Concept Terms such as *Intellectual Property*, Industry Terms and Marketing Terms.

2. Statistical information

If you need to find statistical information such as the top global drugs coming off patent in 2008, then try TableBase™ ([File 93](#)), a resource for statistical information on companies, products, brands, markets and countries where every record focuses on a table of facts and figures, plus the originating article, when available. Again, try using Concept Terms such as *Intellectual Property* and the Industry and Marketing Terms indexing appropriate to your search.

3. Market research

Market research reports on individual companies or sectors often contain SWOT analyses where you can find detailed information on patent alliances or licensing agreements between companies, as well as potential litigation threats.

Try searching DataMonitor ([File 761/DMON](#)) and Frost & Sullivan ([File 767/FSER](#)) using the same keywords as suggested for a company or industry news search together with the companies or technology sectors in which you are interested.

4. Financial information

Databases devoted to financial information can also surface nuggets of intellectual property competitive intelligence. For example, footnotes within the Disclosure Database® ([File 101](#)), derived from reports filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, may contain details of outstanding patent litigation or potential financial settlements that could have an adverse effect on financial statements.

TFSD Joint Ventures & Alliances ([File 554](#)) includes details of agreements where companies have combined resources to form a new business arrangement, for example, from the licensing of intellectual property. And finally Investext® PDF Fulltext ([File 745](#)), the database of company, industry and topical research reports written by analysts at leading investment banks and brokers, can contain detailed information, such as patent litigation threats to a company or market sectors.

So, the next time you undertake a patent search have a look at the wealth of intellectual property information that can be found in complementary non-patent databases — you never know what you might find.

Intellectual Property Content Updates

CLAIMS/U.S. Patents reloaded for continuity back to 1950

The annual CLAIMS reload updates each record in the file with a variety of information including:

- Modified U.S. and IPC Classification codes
- Enhanced titles
- Legal status information from File 123
- Record corrections.

The annual reload is applied to [Files 340, 341, and 942](#), since all three files are derived from the same database. The reload is split between non-changeable data (abstract, claims) that stays the same, and changeable data (bibliographic) that receives the appropriate changes.

The **CLAIMS®/U.S. PATENTS** database ([File 340](#)), produced by IFI Patent Intelligence, provides access to over 4.6 million U.S. patents issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) since 1950. This is the largest collection of U.S. patent references available in an online database. Published pre-grant applications (available from March 2001) and issued patents published for the same application number are now combined in a single merged record containing both granted patent data and published pre-grant patent application data. Watch for more on CLAIMS/U.S. Patents ([File 340](#)) and CLAIMS®/Current Patent Legal Status ([File 123](#)) as free files for the month of July.

A Proximal and a Distal Tip

By Ron Kaminecki, MS, CPL, JD, Director, IP Segment, US Patent Attorney



Ron Kaminecki

Being careful cutting searches or cutting celery

Last month's column covered cutting things ever finer by trusting titles in scholarly works but, in the case of patents, doing so by trusting the scientist's contribution to a patent found in the specification and not the title field. Since then I experienced the pain of cutting things too finely when I used a new and very sharp knife to cut some vegetables and ended up nicking my thumb. The knife was so sharp I felt no pain. I now have named that blade "Painless." However, cutting a search too finely could be just as painless if you pay attention to what comprises a patent — and unlike me in the kitchen, if you

watch what you are cutting!

One method is to search just the claims of the patent. The claims section covers the "metes and bounds" of the patent and defines what the attorneys stand on in court when defending the property. Why would anyone search just the claims? Freedom to operate searches, in which the scope of the invention is determined, so that managers can feel free to practice in an area or stay out of it, depend upon searches of claims to elucidate the actual invention covered by the patent. If someone else claimed the invention, you cannot practice it, let alone attempt to file for a patent for the same thing.

For example, a search of a patent database for the word *carburetor* will find such in the title, abstract, specification and claims fields and yield many hits. To narrow the focus to just those patents in which a carburetor is claimed, an astute searcher would enter SELECT CARBURETOR/CM to search just the claims (let us ignore truncation for just a second). This would restrict the search to just the legal terminology in the claims field, but ignore the problems with searching just by legal descriptions of inventions — such a search would really focus the results to what is actually claimed in an invention rather than just mentioned.

Typically scientists write the specification of a patent and attorneys usually draft the claims. The specification tends to have examples and comparisons and results. While many inventions may be mentioned in this field, it is the claims field that actually focuses the invention as being distinguished from the prior art. So, all the words in the specification help identify the invention, but it is the words in the claims that identify the patented invention. Thus, a patent specification that mentions an invention, while still prior art, may not necessarily be what is claimed. So, while a patent may mention hundreds of possible inventions, the claims will identify only the patent invention. The claims can be used to (1) focus the search in the first place and (2) identify the claimed invention for purposes of freedom to operate.

Recipe for legalisms; take one part inventions and two parts lawyers...

Take this a step further by looking at the first few words of any claim in which the legalism COMPRISING (or COMPRISES) appears. This word is defined to mean "having at least the following qualities," while the words CONSISTS OF means "having exactly the following qualities." So, a patented recipe with say, 11 herbs and spices would be infringed by a cook using the same 11 herbs and spices plus one more, if the claim starts with "comprises," but not if the claim starts with "consists of." That is, the choice of the terms "comprises" or "consists of" found in the preamble dictate whether a cook infringes a patent by simply adding one more ingredient to a patented recipe. In case you are wondering, no, the famous 11 herbs and spices in a particular fried chicken recipe are not patented, but are a trade secret.

Using the sharpest blade in the drawer

Thus, to focus a search even finer, use the preamble word COMPRISES to your advantage. SELECT CARBURETOR(W)COMPRIS?/CM to find patents in which the noun *carburetor* is actually claimed and is articulated by being next to and in front of the word *comprising* (or *comprises*), which is done by using the (w) operator. Again, the (w) operator finds the two terms next to each other and in the same order. Thus, the retrieval will find *carburetor* as a noun and not as an adjective, as in, "I claim a carburetor *comprising* an inlet and a throttle..." rather than, "I claim a carburetor cleaning solution *comprising* a solvent..."

We've just reviewed a few ways to narrow a search, rather than depend upon patent titles. Isn't this a better approach to refining a patent search than by restricting by title? And, in case you are wondering, I do make a pretty mean chili, though it does involve a lot of steps. Feel free to write to me if you want a copy, but I warn you, it takes three days to make, plus possibly a few

bandages.

Learn about ProQuest

Abstract and index searching and fulltext all in one package with Dialog and ProQuest Pharma Collection

Does your organization need to identify key scientific findings in your own therapy and research areas?

Do you need to track what your competition is publishing?

Does your group need access to full-text scholarly research literature?

If you answered yes, to any or all of these questions, then ProQuest Pharma Collection, a subset of ProQuest Central, has what you need. Now available through Dialog channels, it is easier than ever to combine precision searching in abstracted and indexed literature from MEDLINE®, EMBASE®, BIOSIS Previews® and pharmaceutical databases on Dialog and DataStar with the ability to readily locate the fulltext of items via ProQuest Pharma Collection.

ProQuest Pharma Collection contains 2,200 scholarly full-text journals, including a number that go back to the late 1980s. More than 300 medical full-text journals provide the latest information across a wide range of specialized clinical fields with hundreds of biomedical, bioscience, psychology and science journals offering a huge breadth of references for researchers.

With ProQuest Pharma Collection sources you can:

Access the latest evidence for effective pharmacological and medical interventions

- Track the latest trends

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