



From the Editor

ProQuest recognized as technology innovator.

Innovation is the cornerstone for growth at ProQuest and Dialog; so, we are very pleased Proquest recently was recognized by *InformationWeek* with a ranking of 27th in the 2009 *InformationWeek* 500. *InformationWeek* is a premier source of news and analysis of leading-edge products and vendors in the business IT industry. For the past 21 years, *InformationWeek* 500 has celebrated those with the "vision and guts to keep innovating" with its annual listing of the nation's most innovative users of business technology. These top companies stand out for continuously exploring new ideas that drive business results.

InformationWeek 500 is considered to be unique among industry rankings for its spotlight on the power of innovation in information technology. ProQuest Chief Information Officer Bipin Patel acknowledged the ranking, saying it's an honor to be named to the prestigious roster of information technology innovators. He added that ProQuest customers and employees have long considered the company a leader in end-user-driven information technology innovations, and that it's gratifying to have those opinions confirmed by a respected team of industry analysts.

ProQuest was recognized by *InformationWeek* for its establishment of a research and development team, which continually monitors new technologies and tests their applicability for researchers, librarians and end-users. ProQuest's innovation efforts are focused on investigating new ways in which its products can improve the quality of research, both in experience and in the breakthroughs it generates. In the coming months, we will be providing more information about how this innovation will be made available in the form of new capabilities for Dialog and DataStar customers.

October in focus

Our October issue takes a keen focus on one of Dialog's most comprehensive database collections — intellectual property. We'll look more closely at patent and trademark files, as well as training. Learn how Dialog and ProQuest complement each other when searching for prior art, review changes to the trademark files following the massive reload project and, of course, Ron Kaminecki's reflective, informative and entertaining column. And be sure to review and register for the new classes covering intellectual property applications and use of Innography for patent analysis in North America and EMEA. All of this and more lie ahead in this issue.

Save the Date: 2009 Dialog Forums — North America

Throughout 2009 Dialog has made significant progress in the development of our next-generation product, and we look forward to sharing our vision for the future with you at one of the Dialog Forums coming up this Fall in North America. These targeted, half-day customer events will include an overview of our product strategy, a review of the new user interface and an informative cost justification training session, as well as the opportunity for you to share your feedback while networking with colleagues.

If you plan to attend the [Dialog Forum](#) in your area, we encourage you to register now so we can keep you updated on the event details as they become available. More information, including agenda and venue details, will be communicated and posted online as logistics are finalized.

- Boston, MA — October 28
- Los Angeles, CA — November 2
- San Francisco, CA — November 3
- Chicago, IL — November 5
- Minneapolis, MN — November 6

NEW Access the highest quality resources on Chinese companies with Mergent China Private Company Database

In our [June](#) issue we emphasized the importance of understanding China as its economy continues to explode. National and international companies worldwide are investing in research and development and manufacturing facilities in China, and it is vital for business and industry globally to keep abreast of all-things China. With the new **Mergent China Private Company Database** ([File 558](#) / [MERG](#)) on Dialog and DataStar, you now can find information on more

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Smart Searching

DIALINDEX®: Finding the right database

Use DIALINDEX to choose the best databases and to fine-tune your search strategy. Begin your search in [DIALINDEX® \(File 411\)](#) to identify the best databases for your search.

Although you can BEGIN and search up to 60 databases, DIALINDEX is an "index of indexes" and allows you to scan several hundred databases simultaneously to determine how many hits will be retrieved by a particular search term. File 411 "Supercategories" are very large groupings of files; for example, ALLBUSINESS scans 360 files, ALLNEWS 150 files and ALLSCIENCE 306 files. Consult the File 411 [Bluesheet](#) and view our [At a Glance "Using DIALINDEX®, a Database Finding Tool"](#) on-demand, recorded, short module for more tips on using this powerful finder file.

than 350,000 private and state-owned companies from the People's Republic of China (not included are Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau). This valuable database, updated quarterly, brings the business community of China to your fingertips.

All records contain directory information about the company including:

- company name
- address
- business activities
- trade names
- executives' names
- legal status
- year of foundation
- and more.

More than 250,000 of the profiles also include up to three years of financial data—income statements (profit & loss accounts), balance sheets and cash-flow statements.

The database provides unique insight on the most sought-after Chinese private companies, enabling precision research through its comprehensive company and financial data. To ensure the accuracy and completeness of the data, information is further reviewed and enhanced by Mergent content specialists.

For more information, refer to the Bluesheet and Datasheet and to the BASE database on DataStar — search as BASE-MERG.

Research with lasting value: What retrospective content can do for you

Older research once only available in print now is being digitized and re-indexed with modern search terms, giving researchers more comprehensive, worldwide coverage in the sciences and other subjects. Dialog is at the forefront of this trend by supplying information going back many decades so you can view landmark studies and discover hidden connections.

Why use archived information?

Important studies previously not available electronically are now readily accessible online. You can find articles on a variety of issues that were important in the development of internal medicine, health policy and economics, infectious diseases, cardiology, rheumatology and more.

Use archived files to conduct deeper, more complete research:

- Follow the history or methodology of an idea
- Locate current research based on earlier patents, reports, published works or scientific findings
- Uncover similar or related records that have no obvious direct connections
- Track the research activities of colleagues, competitors and potential collaborators
- Gain more confidence that your invention is novel.

Retrospective database highlights

Whether your field of interest is biomedicine, engineering, zoology, geology or another, valuable retrospective information can help you increase your volume of relevant information, enhance the connections made possible and discover long-term trends and patterns in your field.

Biomedicine. A number of biomedical databases provide past information on medical breakthroughs and research conducted on humans and non-humans. For example, side effects and toxicities reported in the past can lead to better drugs in the future, such as is now the case with repurposing the drug Thalidomide. Cancelled drug development projects in the past may have enormous potential today because of increased technology. Identifying the trail of scientific thinking also helps to connect theories to new drugs. Dialog and DataStar databases —EMBASE® Classic ([File 772 / EM73](#)) back to 1947, BIOSIS Previews® ([File 5 / BIZZ](#)) from 1926 forward and Zoological Record Online® ([File 185](#)) from 1864—may have just the information you need for a new discovery.

Engineering. For technical and scientific literature from physics to types of engineering, electronics, or computing information technology, you can find significant information in Inspec® ([File 2 / INZZ](#)) from 1898 forward, in Ei Compendex® ([File 8](#)) back to 1884 and in GeoRef ([File 89 / GEOF](#)) from the 1700s forward. For example, archive records in Inspec contain extended abstracts, sometimes several pages long, as well as tables, diagrams and graphics to support scientific arguments.

Newspapers, newswires and business information. As the saying goes, history repeats itself. And newspapers are a voluminous resource for the world's history. Dialog continues to archive its news sources with such files as Gale Group Newspaper Index ([File 111](#)) from 1977, New York Times Abstracts ([File 474](#)) from 1969 and a number of others. PR NewsWire ([File](#)

Learn about ProQuest



Medical Evidence Matters: Easier, faster, evidence-based decisions

Learn about treatments available for particular conditions. Compare and contrast the outcomes from clinical trials and the effectiveness of demonstrated therapies. Discover other factors (e.g., patient's age, sex, other treatments) that might impact the effectiveness of therapies. With access to ProQuest Medical Evidence Matters (MEM), you can do it all.

MEM draws information from hundreds of peer-reviewed journals to help users choose the best therapy options for patients with confirmed diagnoses. It is the only tool that can help find and synthesize — quickly — the relevant published and peer-reviewed evidence to answer researchers' individual patient-oriented questions. It covers 10 subject areas including cardiology, endocrine and metabolic disorders, neurology, oncology, respiratory disorders and others.

Results are organized into summary graphs and tables, so you can assess evidence for the effectiveness of the range of therapy options for individual patients.

Add ProQuest Medical Evidence Matters to your search tools:

- To identify research that is specifically relevant to your patients — based on the nature of their condition

- To assess the level of evidence of all records included

- To easily assess the type and quality of clinical trials

- To quickly review the original data from relevant research.

Announcements

November Free File of the Month

Foodline®: SCIENCE ([File 53](#)), a unique database containing abstracts

813 from 1987 and UPI News (**File 861**) from 1996 also have current files so you can search them together for topics like the economy to receive a reality check on how economic downturns repeat themselves. Dialog Global Reporter from 1997 (**File 20 / REPO**) also allows you to search a broad range of subjects in the past and present while business files like PROMT® (**File 160,16**) from 1972 forward provide a comprehensive view of a topic. Check your Bluesheets for details about access to both archival and current stories.

Intellectual property. U.S. Patents Fulltext (**File 652**) and CLAIMS®/U.S. Patents (**File 340**) enable searching for prior art back to 1971 and 1950, respectively. With Dialog's extensive collection of TRADEMARKSCAN® files, it is easy to find trademarks from the late 1800s and early 1900s in trademark files for Finland (**File 679**), Germany (**File 672**), Ireland (**File 683**), the United Kingdom (**File 126**), the United States (**File 226**) and other countries.

On Dialog and DataStar the expanded back-file archives make it possible to view decades of significant breakthroughs along with the newest studies, using the same search terms and methodology all in one search. The most fruitful basis for the discovery of a new drug is to start with an old drug, and technology of the past may be the innovation of the future.

Free File of the Month

Anyone can find good data on large, public companies. It's the small, private companies that present a greater challenge. For those smaller companies, **American Business Directory (File 531)** is a good place to start. The American Business Directory excels in three areas: coverage, accuracy and current information.

File 531 covers more than 13 million U.S. public and private companies, small businesses, government agencies, schools and professionals, compiled from more than 5,000 public sources

infoUSA uses all U.S. Postal Service postal standardization and special software to improve accuracy and consistency

infoUSA compiles and phone-verifies records on a daily basis, making more than 24 million phone calls on an annual basis to ensure the database is as current as possible.

Quality is a key differentiating factor for File 531. Before reaching the customer, the information collected by *infoUSA* must first pass quality checks. The customized compilation process alone contains over 2,000 information validation checks. These checks are then supplemented by computer data cleansing processes such as duplicate removal and address standardization. Because specific indexing is added to each article, File 531 is especially useful to find targeted information, for example, a selective collection of companies based on specific criteria such as companies in a particular industry in a specific state.

Review the **Overview** of American Business Directory to learn more about this comprehensive company database. **Register** for a free class highlighting American Business Directory on October 7 and 8. Throughout October, you can explore this file up to \$100 (either DialUnits or connect time) for free. Output and Alerts charges are not included. Take this opportunity to try File 531 for free throughout October.

Business & News Content Updates

Dialog NewsRoom content notes

New titles for health care and nursing

Dialog NewsRoom has enhanced its coverage of health care and nursing with the following titles: *Applied Radiology, Clinical Medicine, Ear, Nose & Throat Journal, Journal of Nursing Law and Journal of Pediatric Neurology.*

Annual rollover: New database groupings

The annual reload to Dialog NewsRoom was completed September 1, 2009. A new database (**File 997**) was added due to the size of the archive. Enter HELP NEWSROOM online to see the new file numbers and dates of coverage. There is no change in dates of coverage for **Files 990** and **989**.

The Record (File 743) removed; content available in Dialog NewsRoom

The stand-alone newspaper file (**New Jersey The Record**, (File 743) was removed from Dialog effective October 1, 2009. Records for the *New Jersey Record* will continue to update in Dialog NewsRoom (**File 990**). You can find records in NewsRoom by journal name (e.g., enter S JN=NEW JERSEY RECORD?) or by journal code (e.g., enter S JC=ADFB).

SciTech Content Updates

Spotlight on RAPRA Polymer Library

RAPRA: Rubber and Plastics (File 323 / RAPR) has a new name: **RAPRA Polymer Library**. RAPRA is the world's largest informational database dedicated to plastics, rubber, polymeric

that not only summarize the key data but also spell out the commercial implications for the food industry, will be offered as the free file for November. Containing more than 780,000 records from 1972 to date, Foodline: SCIENCE covers all aspects of the major food and drink product sectors, including basic research, processing, microbiology, nutrition and health, pest control and pesticides, sensory evaluation, composition and analysis, food safety, shelf-life, product development and innovation, waste treatment, retailing, biotechnology, environmental issues, hygiene, packaging, quality assurance and crisis management.

Search up to \$100 (connect time or DialUnits) in the file for free in November. Output and Alerts costs are not included. See an **Overview** of File 53 to learn more about this food science database on Dialog.

Reminder: Database Changes Web page

To keep track of the detailed changes to Dialog and DataStar databases, review the **Database Changes Web page**. New entries are added regularly and past entries are continuously updated as changes occur.

Periodical Abstracts Plus Text adds 400 new titles

Approximately 400 additional full-text titles have been added to **Periodical Abstracts PlusText**, (**File 484**), more closely aligning the Dialog database with the titles available from the online ProQuest product. In addition, the database is now updated daily instead of weekly, giving you earlier access to the enhanced content.

Titles, published in countries worldwide, cover a broad range of subjects including law, education, health care, nursing, the environment, engineering, business, science and more. Many journals date back to the 1990s, with some even into the 1980s. Some sample titles will give you a flavor for these new sources in File 484: *Harvard International Review, Canadian Journal*

composites and adhesives, and comprehensively covers the science, technology and business of polymers. International source material includes technical and news journals, conference proceedings, books and reports.

The database has nearly one million records dating from 1972 to the present, with many hundreds of new records added every two weeks. The content is produced by a specialist team of abstractors who have worked with RAPRA for more than 10 years. They extensively index the content with keywords that indicate both the nature of the article (e.g., short item, technical, market data) and the topic content (e.g., polyurethanes, TPEs, rubber). These keywords aid the search process, as do the trade names and company names added to the records.

Because RAPRA Polymer Library covers science, technology and business, the tool offers great value for departments across an organization: R&D can keep up with the latest developments on the chemistry and physics of polymers and find new ways to apply existing technology; Sales and Marketing can look at major market trends and keep an eye on the competition; Management can keep up with major industry news and Legal can carry out prior art searches.

New fields added to SciSearch and Social SciSearch

The following new fields have been added to **SciSearch®: a Cited Reference Science Database** ([File 34](#)) and **Social SciSearch®** ([File 7](#)).

Data Elements	Display Code	Indexing	Search
Author's Email Address	EL	None	None
Corporate Author's Email Address	EL	None	None
Funding Text	TX	Word	/TX
Funding Organization	SP	Word & Phrase	SP=
Grant Number	CN	Phrase & Squish	CN=

Search Tip: The "Squish rule" eliminates all non-alphanumeric characters (0-9,A-Z). SELECTing CN=N 05-1000008-8046 or CN=N0510000088046 will retrieve the same Dialog record.

Intellectual Property Content Updates

Trademark files enhanced!



A redesign and reload of 28 European and Asian trademark databases provided by Thomson Compumark has brought many new features to the trademark database collection. Triggered by the switch to XML source data formats, the changes have resulted in the addition of color images and improved image clarity, and records with images are much easier to find: simply include RT=IMAGE in your search. The sample color image for Guava appears here.

Another important feature is the introduction of the "English only" output formats (Formats 5 and 15) that display only English-language text fields for Goods/Services, Notes, Design Phrases and Lining/Color Claims (if present). Display of the Goods and Services field may include text from the English translation for non-English trademark files, or the original English description in multi-lingual files such as TRADEMARKSCAN® – Community Trademarks ([File 227](#)) and TRADEMARKSCAN® – International Register ([File 671](#)).

Search prefixes and display formats are standardized across all 28 trademark files. Separate Bluesheets are available for each file giving a flavor of the trademark information available in any given database. The REPORT feature can be used to display trademark data in table format. Or, you can use the trademark [template](#) in DialogLink® 5 to turn trademark records into professional-looking Microsoft® Word documents or Microsoft® Excel spreadsheets.

Remember — trademark files can be searched using the OneSearch category TMKS, covering all 32 trademark files including the 28 European and Asian files, as well as U.S. Federal, U.S. State, Canada and Mexico. The ASIATMKS category includes Australia, China, Japan and South Korea. The EUROTMS category contains 24 European country files, as well as Community trademarks and International Register marks. Many trademark files contain marks registered over 100 years ago. In addition, some renewed trademarks may be even older, making it easy to conduct broad novelty searches that span well over a century.

Indian patent coverage extended

Indian Granted Patents coverage in *Derwent World Patents Index® (DWPISM)* ([File 350](#), [351](#), [352](#)) is being extended by five years, back to January 2000. Added coverage of Indian patents

of Public Health, Nursing Forum, Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology, Environmental Health Perspectives, Manufacturing Engineering, Power Engineering, The China Business Review, to name some.

A key new source of information is the law review journal from prestigious colleges such as Harvard, Indiana University, Washington and Lee and more. Take advantage now of this new full-text coverage in Periodical Abstracts PlusText.

Enhancements to display in Ulrich's Periodicals Directory

Ulrich's Periodicals Directory™ ([File 480](#)) has enhanced its record display. The Year First Published field can now be displayed using the PY tag; a new label Alternate Edition Status (ES) has been added as a display tag. Check the [Database Changes Web page](#) for details.

Peterson's databases reloaded

The annual reloads for **Peterson's College Database** ([File 214](#)) and for **Peterson's GradLine** ([File 273](#)) have both been completed. These files contain updated comprehensive information for 2009 on undergraduate and graduate institutions respectively. The primary coverage is for U.S. and Canadian institutions, but there is some coverage for institutions from other countries. The files contain detailed information on academic programs, entrance requirements, accreditation, academic aid, student population mix and many other relevant categories.

Training

Training Schedule

Check the [training schedule](#) for October classes worldwide, including the Intellectual Property classes featured in this issue. Highlights include *Derwent World Patents Index®*, scheduled for October 29 covering unique content and value-added indexing including Japanese F-Terms, IPCs and Derwent Class Codes. "Prior

further increases the value of *DWPI* as an essential resource for global prior art research and patentability searching, as well as competitive and technology trend analysis.

As part of its value-added services, during the processing of the content Derwent editorial teams correct the data that has been published by the Indian patent office in the *Official Gazette* and through their home page (e.g., duplicate patent numbers, missing priority numbers and dates), making *DWPI* the most accurate of any available source for Indian data.

Processing of the backfile is underway, beginning with the records published in November 2004. These records started appearing in *DWPI* update 200959. Data will be processed over the next three months, working back to records published in January 2000.

Coverage and availability

Records being loaded in the backfile are fully indexed to include Derwent Classes, manual coding, chemical indexing and enhanced polymer indexing, with chemical structures also covered in the *Derwent Chemistry Resource* ([File 355](#)).

This latest development of a five-year backfile of Indian granted patents further improves the coverage of this important authority in *DWPI* and continues to place *DWPI* as the leading provider of value-added global patent content with a particular strength in the coverage of Asian authorities.

Note: Application data in the Priority Field in *DWPI*

In response to customer feedback, the Priority field in *Derwent World Patents Index*[®] (*DWPI*[®]) ([Files 350, 351, 352](#)) is now populated with the application data. This change affects approximately three million mostly pre-1994 records. The *DWPI* priority field will now become more consistently populated, allowing more complete searching and analysis of the *DWPI* data.

A Proximal and a Distal Tip

By Ron Kaminecki, MS, CPL, JD, director, IP segment, US patent attorney



Ron Kaminecki

One day I was to meet a new Dialog representative in a hotel lobby so we could jointly visit customers. I was to help out his clients with some of their sticky patent problems, and he was to answer questions outside of the area of patents. We coordinated our schedules, and I got to the lobby a bit early, luckily finding a chair from which I could see all going on in the busy hotel.

As our meeting time approached, I saw a well-dressed person in a suit running around the lobby, obviously looking for someone. He would walk quickly from one side of the lobby to the other and ask someone something I couldn't hear. I soon determined this was my contact and he didn't know what I looked like. Talk about hiding in plain view.

Looking for patents can be similarly frustrating, especially looking for patent assignees. One anomaly deals with some assignees that use their names in different ways, especially those in which their company name may be translated in full and those that are translated piecemeal. For example, Mitsubishi Electric also goes by the name Mitsubishi Denki, and a proper search would include both forms. But how does one find out that "Denki" is Japanese for "Electric"? And of course, that brings up the problem of "what other names am I missing that could be used for other companies?"

An easy way to find such names is to investigate databases that have struggled with assignee names and given codes to different spellings. For example, if you EXPAND PA=FUJI HEAVY IND in *Derwent World Patents Index*[®] ([File 351](#)), you will see a code in parentheses next to the proper entries. In this case, the code is FUJH and can be searched using the CK=FUJH (CK= for Patent Assignee code). Upon EXPANDING CK=FUJH you will see that the same code is used for "Fuji Heavy Ind" and also for an assignee called "Fuji Jukogyo." Thus, in *Derwent WPI*, it is possible to use codes to find multiple spellings for the same assignee. These spellings could then be used in other databases that do not have assignee codes.

Taking this information into other databases, you can watch for multiple spellings. For example, searching the WIPO/PCT Fulltext database ([File 349](#)), you can EXPAND PA=FUJI HEAVY and notice that PA=FUJI JUKOGYO pops up afterward. Thus, you can now find multiple spellings in databases other than *Derwent WPI*. Indeed, in U.S. Patents Fulltext ([File 654](#)), there are only 38 hits on the Fuji Heavy Industries name, all in English and almost 2,000 with the name mainly in Japanese. Note, too, that some information providers, such as IFI CLAIMS ([File 340](#)), like to standardize assignees to one spelling in their databases, so the problem with the raw patent data from the patent applicants is rather cleaned up, with the bulk of the records for this assignee under "Fuji Jukogyo."

Getting back to the rep who didn't know who I was, we finally connected. Even though I was sitting in plain view, he didn't know that I was the person he was looking for. So, please don't ignore the aids that are available to help you, especially when they are in plain view. Plain view—a great place to hide.

Use ProQuest full-text content and indexing to identify novelty

Art Searching in Patent and Technology Literature on Dialog" (November 12) and "Finding Patent and Literature Citations in Patent Files on Dialog" (November 19) are sessions you won't want to miss. Check the [descriptions](#).

Patent experts Ron Kaminecki and Ian Pearce will present Innography[®] overviews as part of the North America and EMEA [Public Training Schedule](#). Register to learn how you can use this intellectual property business intelligence application to more easily manage, protect and leverage your patent portfolios.

New Documentation

Handy search aids

If you search biomedical databases, a new [Biomedical Files Quick Comparison chart](#) will help you identify differences and search techniques among these files: MEDLINE[®] ([File 154](#)), EMBASE[®] ([File 73](#)), BIOSIS Previews[®] ([File 5](#)) and SciSearch[®]: a Cited Reference Science Database ([File 34](#)).

Quantum²

Introducing Quantum² coaches



Quantum² coaches are dedicated to helping information professionals

communicate the value of their role in the organization and developing their leadership capabilities through Web and event workshops and other programs. Highlighted this month is Quantum² coach Gabrielle Derriks.

As a Training Consultant who speaks four languages with an MA in translation, Gabrielle Derriks has been an active Quantum² coach offering sessions in Germany, France, Holland and Belgium. In January 2007, she took on a new dual role in addition to her training responsibilities to promote and develop the Graduate Education Program in Europe. When she joined Dialog in 1997, she already had a long career in private education and the business world.

By Ian Pearce, training & applications consultant, Europe



Ian Pearce

There are many compelling reasons to search patents. Gathering competitive intelligence, evaluating emerging businesses, analyzing technological trends and identifying licensing opportunities are just some of the uses for patent information. One of the most common reasons for searching patent information, though, is to find out whether an invention is actually new (novel) or not before proceeding with further development of the invention and then potential filing at the patent offices where legal protection is desired. This concept of novelty is a key cornerstone of worldwide patent law, and if your invention is not novel, then it can't be patented.

Defining novelty in patent law

Novelty in patent law means invention must never have been made public in any way, anywhere, before the date on which you filed your own patent application at a patent office. Anything publicly available before your filing date is termed the "state of the art" or "prior art." So your idea *must not* form part of the state of the art to be novel and patentable. The key terms here for the patent searcher are "in any way, anywhere." The state of the art comprises anything publicly available in either written or oral form and can, therefore, comprise journal articles, conference proceedings, photographs, newspaper articles, books, pamphlets, etc., to name but a few possibilities...as well as patents.

Therefore, when determining novelty, a search of patent-only literature may not be enough. All other sources, collectively termed non-patent literature or NPL, also should be factored into the equation and considered. If you miss discovering whether your idea is novel at an early stage, you could waste unnecessary research and development monies, as well as legal costs when the patent office rejects your application or revokes it at a later date. And this does happen.

So how can ProQuest content complement a novelty search?

Dialog has a massive selection of non-patent literature including news, business information, market research, conference information and scientific journal abstracts and indexing, which all can be used in conjunction with patent databases when undertaking a novelty search. Additionally, ProQuest content can complement a Dialog search by helping you uncover hidden prior art available within a rich variety of additional authoritative, full-text resources, as well as from sources that have traditionally *not been captured elsewhere*.

What exactly can be useful?

ProQuest Central is a large, aggregated full-text database covering more than 11,000 titles with more than 8,000 of these available in fulltext. It can serve as a central resource for researchers at all levels with extensive coverage of over 160 subject areas, including health and medical, technology, business, news and world affairs.

ABI/INFORM on ProQuest is a leading, aggregated business and management journals database covering more than 4,000 titles with over 1,800 of these covered in fulltext ongoing. ABI/INFORM is useful for discovering competitive product information, business conditions, trends and strategies, and the ProQuest version of ABI/INFORM contains additional titles not currently on Dialog or DataStar, plus access to the original PDF charts and diagrams in some cases. ProQuest Central and ABI/INFORM can, therefore, be ideal as additional far-reaching resources for prior art searching of full-text, non-patent literature across a broad range of subject areas.

Dissertations and theses contain a wealth of scientific research that may never subsequently be published in peer-reviewed journals. However, under patent law all this information still counts as potential prior art. The ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database is the world's most comprehensive collection of full-text dissertations and theses providing access to more than 2.4 million dissertation and theses citations from 1861 with more than one million full-text documents available. Dissertations and Theses is, therefore, ideal as an additional resource for prior art searching of full-text scientific research.

Searching information contained within pictures, charts, diagrams, tables and graphs in scientific journal articles has always been problematic as traditional abstracting and indexing databases tend to focus on the title, abstract and fulltext, ignoring everything else. However, for a patent prior art search all this "missing" information could be very important simply because it has been published and is in the public domain. The ProQuest Illumina database can help uncover data hidden away within scientific articles because it provides deep indexing of "image" information providing access to content normally overlooked by traditional article-level and full-text databases. ProQuest Illumina therefore can help uncover hidden prior art information contained within pictures, charts, diagrams, tables and graphs in scientific journals.

A comprehensive patent prior art search should always include non-patent literature sources. ProQuest content can complement a patent prior art search on Dialog with (a) access to additional non-patent literature full-text sources and (b) access to hidden data within scientific journal images.

DataStar Content Updates

Search Techniques

Dialog Search Tip: Using American Business Directory indexing

In this search tip we want to produce a list of companies that deal with plastics raw materials in Chester County, Pa. In a matter of minutes, we can accomplish this using **American Business Directory (File 531)**. The secret is to EXPAND the primary SIC code 2821 for plastics materials, synthetic resins and nonvulcanizable elastomers and look for *infoUSA's* more specific two-digit extensions with descriptors (282101 — raw materials, powder, lqd, resin). This search retrieved six companies located in the specified county. Finally, we use the REPORT command to create a list containing the company names, cities and telephone numbers.

```
?EXPAND PC=2821
?SELECT E4
?SELECT S1 AND CX=CHESTER
      AND ST=PA
?REPORT S2/CO,CY,TE/1-6
```

DataStarClassic Search Tip: When was a database last updated?

In DataStarClassic™ a quick way to find out when the database you are searching last updated is to enter the command `..DB`. This command displays details of the database update frequency and the latest update date for the file you are currently searching. Using this command also gives you information on the total number of documents contained in the database, prices and functions available.

New: GeoRef: a new source of geological information on DataStar

GeoRef (GEOF), from the American Geological Institute (AGI), is now available on DataStar. The file dates from the 1700s and is updated weekly so you can search archived and the latest information in the same search. The material represents technical literature of lasting value, gathered from worldwide sources, often unavailable elsewhere. GeoRef covers technical literature on geology and geophysics worldwide, including environmental and economic engineering, energy sources and hydrology, to name a few. It contains full bibliographic citations, abstracts, and indexing from more than 3,500 journals, as well as books and book chapters, conference documents, government publications, theses, dissertations, reports, maps, and many other sources.

The GeoRef Vocabulary (**OVOC**) is available within GEOF and GEOP to enable you to find the most appropriate thesaurus terms quickly and easily. A separate In Process database (GEOP) contains records still in the process of being indexed so you are retrieving the most current information possible.

For a complete guide to GEOF and GEOP, search as BASE-GEOF in the BASE database.