



The Five Most Common Patent Searches on Dialog

PATENT FILES ON DIALOG

Worldwide Patent Files:

- [Derwent World Patents Index® \(File 351\)](#) – Patent data from 41+ patent authorities
- [Derwent WPI First ViewSM \(File 331\)](#) – Companion to File 351 with the most current data
- [INPADOC/Family and Legal Status \(File 345\)](#) – Patent data from 80+ patent authorities
- [IMS Patent Focus \(File 447\)](#) – Global patent position for 3,000+ commercially significant drugs
- [Patents Citation Index \(File 342\)](#) – Patents and literature citations from 10 patent authorities

Country-Specific Patent Files:

- [WIPO/PCT Patents Fulltext \(File 349\)](#) – Fulltext published international patent applications
- [European Patents Fulltext \(File 348\)](#) – Fulltext of publications and patents issued by the EPO
- [German Patents Fulltext \(File 324\)](#) – Fulltext of German publications and patents
- [JAPIO – Patent Abstracts of Japan \(File 347\)](#) – English abstracts of Japanese published applications
- [CLAIMS®/US Patents \(File 340\)](#) – Abstracts and claims of US publications and patents
- [CLAIMS®/Current Patent Legal Status \(File 123\)](#) – Legal status data for US patents
- [U.S. Patents Fulltext \(Files 654,652\)](#) – Fulltext of US publications and patents plus legal status data
- [LitAlert® \(File 670\)](#) – Notification of US patent or trademark litigation.

SEARCHING APPLICATION NUMBERS

Search patent filing numbers using the Application Number (AN=) prefix: The Application Number (AN=) prefix indexes any number assigned to an application for a patent, often referred to as a "filing" or "serial" number. Application number formats vary significantly from country to country, usually consisting of a filing year designation plus a serial number that may include one or more leading zeros. The priority application number is the first one filed worldwide for a specific technology, and its filing date is referred to as the priority filing date. Use /PR to limit your search to the priority application number or filing date.

Convert application numbers to standard Dialog format before searching: The standard Dialog format for Application Numbers is AN=CC YYYYNNNNNN (where CC represents the country code of filing). Although most patent files use a four-digit year format, some files still use a two-digit year format for years prior to 2000. Be sure to drop any leading zeros included in the serial number that follow the year designation.

SEARCHING PATENT OR PUBLICATION NUMBERS

Search patent and publication numbers using the Patent Number (PN=) prefix: The Patent Number (PN=) prefix indexes any number assigned to a patent application or related document when it is published, such as when it is "laid open" and published for the first time, granted, or reissued. Other examples of patent documents that are indexed with PN= include published notices of filing, search reports, or reissued patents. Publication numbers assigned by a patent office generally include a "kind code" indicating the level of publication of the document and in some cases the specific type of patent based on the patent law of that country. Use the commands HELP KIND 345 and HELP KIND 351 to obtain a list of kind codes used in INPADOC (File 345) and Derwent World Patents Index (File 351).

Convert publication numbers to standard Dialog format before searching: The standard Dialog format for patent/publication numbers is PN=CC NNNNNNNN if the number includes no year designation and PN=CC YYYYNNNNNN if the number includes a year designation. Although most patent files use a four-digit year format, some files still use a two-digit year format for years prior to 2000. Be sure to drop any leading zeros in the patent number but retain any zeros that follow the year designation.

Example AN= and PN= searches (application year designated in red):

<u>Stage of Patent Application</u>	<u>Original Number Format</u>	<u>Dialog Search Format</u>
Application Filed	AT 1386/ 89	S AN=AT 1989 1386
Patent Granted	AT 405657 B	S PN=AT 405657
Application Filed	EP 90 890175.4	S AN=EP 1990 890175
Application Published	EP 0402351 A2	S PN=EP 402351
Search Report Published	EP 0402351 A3	S PN=EP 402351
Patent Granted	EP 0402351 B1	S PN=EP 402351
Application Filed	JP 2007 -261679	S AN=JP 2007 261679
Application Published	JP 2009-92803 A	S PN=JP 2009092803
Patent Granted	JP 4256442 B1	S PN=JP 4256442
Application Filed	US 10 /727,326	S AN=US 2000 727326
Application Published	US 20020062846 A1	S PN=US 20020062846
Patent Granted	US 6,585,830	S PN=US 6585830
Patent Reissued	US RE 39,740	S PN=US RE39740
Int'l Application Filed	PCT JP 2007 /061515	S AN=WO 2007 JP61515
Int'l Application Published	WO 2008/000030 A1	S PN=WO 2008000030

SEARCHING INVENTOR NAMES

Search for patent inventor names using the Author/Inventor (AU=) prefix: The Author/Inventor (AU=) prefix indexes all individual inventor names listed on a patent application or publication. The standard Dialog format for inventor names in the patent files is AU=LASTNAME FIRSTNAME MI without a comma after the last name. Although most patent files include the inventor's full first name, in some files the first name is abbreviated, so the best practice is to search on both the inventor's full first name and its abbreviated version using the EXPAND command to view AU= index. For example, to search inventor name "Clare Katherine Egleton," EXPAND AU=EAGLETON C and look for variations such as:

- AU=EAGLETON C <= **May be relevant, but may retrieve some "false" hits.**
- AU=EAGLETON C K <= **Abbreviated first name and middle initial.**
- AU=EAGLETON CLAIRE <= **Probable misspelling.**
- AU=EAGLETON CLARE
- AU=EAGLETON CLARE K
- AU=EAGLETON CLARE KATHERINE

Be sure to SELECT all relevant entries from the EXPAND list.

SEARCHING ASSIGNEE/OWNER OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE NAMES

Search for patent owner names using the Patent Assignee (PA=) and Post Issue/Reassignment Assignee (RA=) prefixes: The Patent Assignee (PA=) prefix indexes the legal owner ("assignee") of a patent at the time it is granted, usually a business entity but sometimes the original inventor. However, assignee names are often not available on published applications, CLAIMS®/US Patents (File 340) does include Probable Assignee (PS=) data for US published applications.

If the legal ownership of the patent is transferred to a different owner ("reassigned"), the new owner is indexed in the Post Issue/Reassignment Assignee (RA=) field. The legal ownership of a patent may be transferred multiple times, and each time the "new" assignee is indexed in the RA= field. Note that not every reassignment transaction is recorded with a patent office, and not all patent files include reassignments, but patent files on Dialog that do include at least some legal status data include:

- [CLAIMS®/Current Patent Legal Status \(File 123\)](#) – US legal status data updated weekly
- [U.S. Patents Fulltext \(File 654\)](#) – US legal status data updated monthly
- [INPADOC/FAMILY AND LEGAL STATUS \(File 345\)](#) – Legal status data for 30+ countries *may* include reassignments

For example, to search for patents "owned" by a company named, first EXPAND PA= and SELECT the appropriate E reference numbers; then EXPAND RA= and SELECT the appropriate E reference numbers; then combine your results with the OR operator. For example, to search for all patents owned by Wabco Automotive UK Ltd. in INPADOC (File 345):

```
B 345
E PA=WABCO AUTOMOTIVE
S E#:E#
E RA=WABCO AUTOMOTIVE
S E#:E#
S S1 OR S2
```

Although the Company Name (CO=) prefix is available in some patent files, it should be used with caution for searching Patent Assignee names, since it is not used consistently across the patent files.

Search for patent attorney or agent names using the Agent/Legal Representative (LR=) prefix:

Names of attorneys, law firms or patent agents that represent patent applicants are indexed with the Legal Representative (LR=) prefix where this data is available. Use the EXPAND command to view the LR= index and to identify variations on the attorney/agent or law firm name.

SEARCHING FOR PRIOR ART

Use OneSearch® categories to search multiple patent files and to identify relevant non-patent literature files: When conducting a thorough prior-art search, be sure to search both patent and non-patent files. For example, when you BEGIN the OneSearch category PATENTS, you will search 18 files simultaneously without having to type out each file number. You can also quickly identify and search relevant technical literature files by using other [OneSearch](#) categories, such as ENG (Engineering), MEDDEV (Medical Devices), or SCITECH (Science and Technology). Since files in OneSearch groupings often include overlapping content, use the [REMOVE DUPLICATES](#) (RD) command to identify and remove duplicate records from your set. Use the [IDPAT](#) command to identify duplicate records when searching multiple patent files.

Use DIALINDEX® to identify relevant databases and to fine-tune your search strategy: Another method for identifying relevant technical literature is to 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. DIALINDEX "Supercategories" are groupings of files even larger than OneSearch categories, for example ALLCHEM (Chemistry) scans 75 files, ALLMEDPH (Medicine and Pharmaceuticals) scans 198 files, and ALLSCIENCE scans 302 files. Consult the [File 411 Bluesheet](#) and view our Dialog At a Glance "[Using DIALINDEX®, A Database Finding Tool](#)" On-Demand Recorded Short Module for more tips on using this powerful finder file.

Use the KWIC format to preview your search results: The KWIC (Key Word in Context) display format allows you to view your search terms in a "window" of text. Display records in KWIC format to determine whether your search is retrieving relevant records, or to determine which records to display in a longer format. Be sure to select the "Highlight Search Terms" option in your Preferences so terms searched appear in bold-face type. The following is an example KWIC display from MEDLINE® (File 154):

1/K/8
 DIALOG(R)File 154: MEDLINE(R)
 (c) format only 2009 Dialog. All rights reserved.

... in a negative MCT could predict future occurrence of **asthma** over a 3-year period.
 METHODS: A total of 100 consecutive patients with clinical suspicion of **asthma** but who had a negative MCT per ATS FEV(1) criteria (< 20% FEV(1) decline... ..n = 55). sGaw and FEF(25 - 75) decreases from the negative MCT could not predict **asthma**; ...

DEVELOP YOUR PATENT RESEARCH EXPERTISE

Consult the [How Do I...?](#) Series: The Dialog **How Do I...?** series supplies concise, step-by-step instructions for how to find the most-requested information on Dialog. Currently 48 patent search applications are available at <http://support.dialog.com/howdoi/patents/>.

Attend Dialog training sessions: Dialog offers a variety of training options that will help you expand your subject expertise and your Dialog proficiency. Visit support.dialog.com/training to view live Web-based remote-training schedules, titles of On-Demand Recorded Online Courses and available self-paced Web-based online courses.

Consult Knowledge Center Specialists for search assistance: Knowledge Center Search Specialists are available for 24-hour support Monday through Friday to assist you with selecting the appropriate file(s) for your search, constructing your search strategy, comparing output options, and estimating costs where possible. Contact the Knowledge Center by telephone or e-mail:

- + 1 800 334 2564 (800 3DIALOG) – North America
- + 00 800 3334 2546 (800 33DIALOG) – Rest of World
- customer@dialog.com or <http://www.dialog.com/contacts/webform/>

DTSP052609