

## Access to Patent Information

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The access to patent information is provided by various organizations either on the site or via remote access. These organizations can be grouped into: (i) national patent offices, (ii) regional patent offices, (iii) government organizations, (iv) depository libraries, (v) inspection centres, and (vi) private organizations. Beginning with the mode of access to patent information, the paper briefly describes the patent information providing organizations and services provided by them.

The importance of patent information is being realized more and more all over the globe. The number of patents filed in a particular country has been an index of technological development of the country. The patent documents are seen as valuable technological inputs for the research and development work in a given technical field. More and more manufacturers and research workers are looking for patent information on the products and processes of their interest. To meet this demand several organizations in the country and abroad are gearing up with necessary infrastructure to provide the needed information.

### Mode of Access to Patent Information

The patent documents and other types of patent information are available in following various forms: (i) paper, (ii) microfilm,

(iii) microfiche, (iv) CD-ROM, and (v) on-line/Internet.

The national patent offices and other patent issuing organizations generally publish the patents on paper. Then either these organizations themselves or other patent information vendors publish the consolidated patent information in various forms given above. Microfilm and microfiche were originally used to compress the data and provide large volumes of data in a small space. Now CD-ROM has replaced the film media because of its following advantages: (i) large volumes of data can be stored, (ii) data can be easily searched by a PC, (iii) longer life compared to magnetic discs, (iv) useful for document archives, (v) easy to carry and distribute, (vi) affordable cost of search though high initial

investment, and (vii) easy production of paper copies.

On-line search is another important search tool to search for patent information. Several private and government organizations are offering patent information on-line on various communication networks and Internet. The major advantages and limitations of searching on-line databases are as follows: (i) huge databases containing information regarding millions of patents can be searched at a time in a single source, (ii) latest information is available only on-line, (iii) considerable saving in the time of search, (iv) cost of search is high, and (v) to reduce search cost, considerable amount of preparation for search or an expert search are needed.

Internet is the fastest expanding network and its access is spreading widely all over the globe. Taking advantage of the user-friendly features of Internet, several industrial property offices have established web pages on it. Various types of the patent-related information available on such web sites are as follows: (i) information about the industrial property offices, (ii) information on patent laws and rules, (iii) filing procedures, (iv) publications issued by IP offices, (v) sale of patent documents and ordering procedures, (vi) information on the patent documents, (vii) full text, bibliographies or images of patents, (viii) what is new? and (ix) frequently asked questions.

### **Patent Information Providing Organizations**

There are several organizations providing various types of information on patents and intellectual property rights all over the world. Some of them provide information about the patents filed in the country where they are located and others provide informa-

tion pertaining to a group of countries. They can be broadly grouped in the following manner.

#### ***National Patent Offices***

These are the organizations where patents of the respective countries are filed. They are the primary sources of patent information. In India there are four national patent offices located at Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai and New Delhi. Their addresses are given in Annexure 1.

#### ***Private Database Producers and Database Vendors***

M/s 'Derwent' of UK and 'Micropatent' of USA are examples of database producers and M/s Dialog Information Services Inc, ORBIT, Questel and STN are the database vendors ( see Annexure 2).

#### ***Patent Information Providing Indian Organizations***

In view of the growing demands and speed required to serve the needs of business, many private information searchers and brokers are offering professional help to organize the information and prepare specialist reports on demand. However, in the present paper only government organizations engaged in collection and dissemination of patent information are described. Prominent among such organizations are: Patent Information System (PIS), Nagpur; National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi; Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC), New Delhi; Intellectual Property Management Division of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (IPMD, CSIR), New Delhi; National Research & Development Corporation (NRDC), New Delhi; Value-Added Patent Information Services of the Central Manufacturing Technology In-

stitute (VAPIS, CMTI), Bangalore; and Value-Added Information Services of the National Chemical Laboratory (VAPIS, NCL), Pune. Information services offered by these organizations are described below. Addresses of these Centres are given in Annexure 3.

Besides, over 40 Indian Patent Inspection Centres spread all over the country stock Indian patents and provide access to them.

#### *PIS, Nagpur*

Government of India, Ministry of Industry, Department of Industrial Development, established PIS in 1980 in order to retrieve and disseminate technical information contained in the patent documents.

PIS provides a number of search facilities and copies of patent specifications. The services provided are SDI-search documentation, SDI-search, bibliographic search, English equivalent search, family search, assisted search, on-line search, patent copy supply, foreign patents, etc.

PIS has an exhaustive collection of patent documents stored on hard copies, microfilms and CD-ROMs.

#### *NIC, New Delhi*

The Patent and know-how Information Division of NIC provides patent bibliographic service both without abstracts and with abstracts and full text.

#### *INSDOC, New Delhi*

This centre provides following patent information services: (i) 'patent document supply' for Indian and foreign patents, (ii) 'patent alert' service which provides details and abstracts of patents filed or granted on a specific topic, (iii) 'full text patent (description)' (US only) provides full text without

graphical items, (iv) 'full text patent (image)' service which provides full image of the patent document including full text and graphical items, and (v) 'patent analysis' which provides information after analysis of patents by subject experts.

#### *IPMD, CSIR, New Delhi*

IPMD has a large collection of Indian patents and assists all CSIR laboratories in making patent searches and also in patenting the inventions of their scientists.

The centre supplies bibliographies of Indian patents using INPAT database developed by them. INPAT is available on-line on INSDOC's network SIRNET and also on ERNET.

The information is supplied free of cost to the CSIR laboratories, but for outsiders specified searches of 14 years data of Indian patents, and problem analysis are conducted at a charge.

#### *NRDC, New Delhi*

This organization provides the following services: (i) on-line facility for locating international patents to conduct a state-of-the-art technology survey, (ii) assessment of patentability of inventions, (iii) assisting inventors in patenting their inventions in India and abroad, and (iv) providing training on patents and patenting.

#### *VAPIS, CMTI, Bangalore*

This centre has a collection of patent databases using which the following types of information services are offered in the area of engineering: (i) bibliographic services, (ii) SDI services, (iii) full text information, (iv) trend reports, (v) customised search services, and (vi) comprehensive search service.

*VAPIS, NCL, Pune*

At the request of the client the unit conducts value-added patent information services (VAPIS) on chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals by conducting searches of interna-

tional databases on CD-ROMs and on-line. Based on the customer's need, the information is also collated and reports are prepared.

**Annexure 1 - Patent Offices in India**

Office	Territorial Jurisdiction
1 The Patent Office Branch Todi Estates, 3rd Floor, San Mill Compound Lower Parel West Bombay 400 013	The States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and the Union Territories of Goa, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli
2 Patent Office Branch 'C' Wing (C-4.A) 3rd Floor, Rajaji Bhavan Besant Nagar, Chennai 600 090	The States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and the Union Territories of Pondicherry, Laccadive, Minicoy and Aminidivi Islands
3 Patent Office Branch Unit No. 401 to 405 3rd Floor, Municipal Market Building, Saraswati Marg Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110 005	The States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammau and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Chandigarh and Delhi
4 Patent Office Nizam Palace 2nd M S O Building 234/4, Acharya Jagadish Bose Road Calcutta 700 020	The rest of India

**Annexure 2— Addresses of Selected Database Producers and On- line Service Suppliers**

Austrian Patent Office  
Oesterreichisches Patentamt  
Postfach 95  
A-1014 Wien, Austria

Bertelsmann  
Information Service GmbH  
Landsberger Strasse 191a  
80687 Munich, Germany

Danish Patent Office  
 Helgeshoj Alle 81  
 2630 Taastrup  
 Denmark

Derwent Information  
 Derwent House  
 14, Great Queen Street  
 London WC2B 5DF  
 United Kingdom

Dialog Corporation  
 2 Des Roches  
 Witney  
 Oxford OX8 6BE  
 UK

European Patent Office  
 P B No. 5818 - Patentlaan 2  
 2280- HV Rijswijk (ZH)  
 Netherlands

European Patent Office, Vienna Sub-office  
 Mollwaldplatz 4  
 1041 Vienna, Austria

Finnish National Board of Patents and Registration  
 Albertinkatu 25, P O Box 18154  
 SF-00180 Helsinki 18  
 Finland

German Patent Office  
 Zweibruckenstrasse 12  
 W 8000 Munchen 2, Germany  
 IFI/Plenum Data Corporation  
 302 Swann Avenue  
 Alexandria, VA 22301  
 USA

INPI

National Institute of Industrial Property  
 26 bis, rue de Leningrad  
 75800 Paris Cedex 08  
 France

ORBIT

InfoPro Technologies  
 18, Parikshot  
 Richmond, TW9 2RG

InfoPro Technologies  
 8000 Westpark Drive  
 Mclean VA 22102, USA

USACO Corporation  
 13-12 Shimbashi I-Chome  
 Minatoku, Tokyo 105, Japan

Questel  
 La Capitole  
 55, Avenue des Champs Pierreux  
 92029 Nantarra Cedex, France

Registro dela Propiedad Industrial  
 Calle Panama 1  
 28071 Madrid, Spain

Committee for Patents and Trademarks  
 M Cherkassky per. 2/6  
 Moscow 103621

STN

STN Information  
 C/o FIZ Karlsruhe  
 P O Box 2465  
 D-76012 Karlsruhe 1, Germany

C/o Chemical Abstracts Service  
 P O Box 3012  
 Columbus  
 Ohio 43210-012, USA

C/o Japan Information Centre of Science  
 and Technology  
 C P O Box 1478  
 Tokyo 100

**Annexure 3 - Addresses of Indian Organizations that Provide Patent Information**

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|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Patent Information System<br>3rd Floor, 'C' Block, CGO Complex<br>Seminary Hills, Nagpur 440 006                             | 5 | National Research Development Corporation<br>20-22, Zamroodpur Community Centre<br>Kailash Colony Extension<br>New Delhi 110 048 |
| 2 | Patents Know-how Information<br>Division, NIC<br>NIC Head Quarters<br>A- Block, CGO Complex<br>Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003 | 6 | VAPIS, CMTI<br>Central Manufacturing Technology Institute<br>Tumkur Road, P O Yeshwanthpur<br>Bangalore 560 022                  |
| 3 | Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre<br>14, Satsang Vihar Marg<br>New Delhi 110 067                               | 7 | VAPIS, NCL<br>National Chemical Laboratory<br>Dr Homi Bhabha Road<br>Pune 411 008  |
| 4 | IPMD, CSIR<br>INSDOC Building<br>14, Satsang Vihar Marg<br>New Delhi 110 067   |   |  |