LOOKING FOR PATENTS IN COMMERCIAL COMPUTER DATA BASES (L'UTILISATION D'UNE BANQUE DE DONNEES COMMERCIALE DANS LA RECHERCHE DE BREVETS D'INVENTION AUTOMATISEE)

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ABSTRACT

Searching for patents is a special aspect of information retrieval which covers many disciplines. In addition to the time-honoured manual searching of patent gazettes, many now want to use the modern, faster techniques of computer searching of commercial data bases, by both online and batch methods. For this, it is important to know what data bases contain patents, the extent of their coverage, and how to search specifically for them. These are discussed and summarized. (La recherche de brêvets d'invention représente un aspect special d'une recherche documentaire embrassant plusieurs domaines. Les rechercheurs maintenant demandent, comme un supplément de la méthode classique de recherche manuelle ou on se serve des registres de brêvets, aussi des techniques modernes et plus rapides de la recherche automatisée aidée par des bases de données commerciales avec le choix de système direct ou traitement par lots. En conséquence on a besoin de renseignement sur quelles bases registrent des brêvets d'invention, aussi que les domaines particulières y comprises, et sur les méthodes de recherche appropriées en chaque circonstance. Ces aspects son discutés et évalués.)

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Patents are a special area in the information field and cover many disciplines, limited only by the definitions of what is patentable. Their contents are searched from a legal point of view such as for prior art preparatory to applying for a patent on a new invention, or sometimes to look for infringement. Perhaps more often they are searched for their technical input to the broad field of knowledge.

The compilation of this list of data bases containing patents began from two needs. The first was that some years ago my company asked me to investigate and collect data on all data bases available commercially that would be of concern to the needs of the company. My original file on data bases increased rapidly, and selecting those that seemed most relevant to our needs, I went to visit some of the producers of the data services. This resulted in arranging for Alcan to access many of the data At the same time, part of my work dealt with patent searching for research results we wished to protect or for other legal reasons. seemed natural to become interested in using the data bases as a source for patent searching. At the Seminar on Intellectual Property as Sources for Scientific, Technical and Business Information, held at the Canadian Patent Office, November 22-24, 1976, I spoke on "Patent Searching from a User Point of View" and included a section on data base searching for patents. This paper is an expansion of what I presented then. As I began to prepare it I received a copy of Martha Williams' and Sandra Rouse's "Computer-Readable Bibliographic Data Bases - a Directory and Data Sourcebook" published by American Society for Information Science, Washington, DC, U.S.A., October 1976. This contained all the data bases I held in my files plus several more. Also in their questionnaire, they had asked the producers to indicate the approximate percent distribution of source items. In most cases these numbers are estimates, but they serve as a guide. I have done is to go through the 301 data bases listed and select those that list patents as a source. Then I arranged the resulting 45 bases into descending order of percentage of patent coverage, and found I had a very useful list. Of these 45 data bases, eight deal only with patents or trademarks. The other bases have a patent content ranging from 50 percent down to about 0.4 percent. Data bases for which I did not have a percentage figure, I have put at the end of the list under : ? % Patents.

DATA BASES CONTAINING 100% PATENTS

- 1. APIPAT Index to API Abstracts of Refining Patents: This base contains patents from the following 6 sections of the Derwent Central Patents Index: PLASDOC; AGDOC; FOOD, DISINFECTANTS, DETERGENTS; CHEMDOC; PETROLEUM; and CHEMICAL ENGINEERING; and a supplementary group of petroleum-related patents outside the scope of the Derwent Service.
 - American Petroleum Institute
 - Time span covered by data base: 01/64 to present.
 - Worldwide coverage of patents related to petroleum refining and the petro-chemical industry.

- CLAIMS/CHEM Class code, Assignee, Index, Method Search -Chemistry.
 - IFI/Plenum Data Company.
 - Time span: 01/50 to present.
 - All U.S. chemical and chemically related patents plus foreign equivalents from Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands.
- CLAIMS/GEM Class code, Assignee, Index, Method Search -General, Electrical, Mechanical
 - IFI/Plenum Data Company
 - Time span: 01/75 to present.
 - All U.S. patents in the general, electrical and mechanical engineering related areas.
- 4. CPI Central Patents Index (Consists of sections: A Polymers, Plastics; B Pharmaceuticals; C Agricultural Chemicals; D Food, Detergents; E General Chemicals; F Textiles, Paper; G Printing, Photographics; H Petroleum; J Chemical Engineering; K Nucleonics, Explosives; L Refractives, Ceramics; M Metallurgy)
 - Derwent Publications Ltd.
 - Time span: 01/70 to present.
 - Patent literature from 12 major patent publishing countries covering polymers and plastics, pharmaceuticals, food stuffs, textiles, graphic arts, petroleum, glass and ceramics, and metallurgy.
- 5. OTAF Data Base Office of Technology Assessment and Forecasts
 Data Base
 - U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
 - Time span 1963 to present
 - All U.S. Patents from 1963

(Data base not commercially available)

- 6. Patent Concordance Patent Concordance in Computer-Readable Form
 - Chemical Abstracts Service
 - Time span 01/62 to present.
 - Correlates patents issued by different countries for the same basic invention. Newly published patents which correspond to a patent for which an abstract has been published previosuly in Chemical Abstracts are not abstracted a second time. They are linked by number and issuing country to the first CA abstract number.
 - Related to patents covered in Chemical Abstracts.

- 7. WPI World Patents Index
 - Derwent Publications Ltd.
 - Time span: 01/74 to present.
 - Patent literature from 24 leading countries using IPC codes for: human necessities; performing operations, transporting; chemistry; textiles; building, construction; mechanics, lighting, heating; instruments, nuclear science; electricity.

A further data base should be included with this group. This is the Trademark Data Base.

- 8. Trademark Data Base
 - TCR Service Inc.
 - Time span: late 1800's to present
 - All U.S. trademark applications submitted for Federal registration, and contains data pertinent to the history of trademarks.
 - The base contains: description of goods; filing date; registration date, if available; serial number for all trademarks; and ancillary information such as, opposition actions, interference actions, etc.

DATA BASES CONTAINING: 50% PATENTS

- 9. POST Polymer Science & Technology
 - Chemical Abstracts Service
 - Time span: 11/67 to present
 - Worldwide coverage of the current scientific and technical literature related to macromolecular chemistry Sections 35-46 of Chemical Abstracts.

: 40% PATENTS

- 10. ABIPC Abstract Bulletins of the Institute of Paper Chemistry
 - also known as Paperchem
 - The Institute of Paper Chemistry
 - Time span: 07/66 to present
 - Theoretical principles, technologies, raw materials, paper and broad manufacturing and utilizing industries.
- 11. STI Specialized Textile Information Service
 - Shirley Institute
 - Time span: 01/70 to present
 - Literature of permanent technical value on the science and technology of textiles plus all relevant U.K. and U.S. patents.

: 35% PATENTS

12. MATERIALS

- Chemical Abstracts Service
- Time span: 01/75 to present
- Chemical and chemical engineering aspects of the production, properties, and applications of industrially important materials Sections 35-39, 41-43, 53-58 of Chemical Abstracts.

: 30% PATENTS

13. Petroleum Abstracts

- University of Tulsa
- Time span: 01/65 to present
- Technical literature and patents relevant to the exploration and production of gas and oil, geology, geophysics, geochemistry, drilling and reservoir engineering.

14. Textile Technol

- Textile Technology Digest Keyterm Index
- Institute of Textile Technology
- Time span: 01/66 to present
- Literature of textile technology and textile marketing.

: 18% PATENTS

15. WAA - World Aluminum Abstracts

- American Society for Metals
- Time span: 03/68 to present
- All information relating to aluminum, from ore processing through end uses.

: 16% PATENTS

16. CACon - CA Condensates

- Chemical Abstracts Services
- Time span: 07/68 to present
- Worldwide coverage of chemistry and chemical engineering.

17. CAISF - CA Integrated Subject File

- Chemical Abstracts Services
- Time span: 01/67 to present
- Volume Index entries for Chemical Abstracts, divided into two parts: Part A contains all Chemical Substance Index entries; Part B contains all General Subject Index entries.

18. CASIA - CA Subject Index Alert

- Chemical Abstracts Services
- Time span: 01/67 to present
- Current awareness data file containing Volume Index entries for Chemical Abstracts.

: 15% PATENTS

- 19. FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY
 - Chemical Abstracts Services
 - Time span: 01/75 to present

: 13% PATENTS

- 20. ENERGY
 - Chemical Abstracts Service
 - Time span: 01/75 to present
 - Worldwide coverage of chemical and chemical engineering aspects of energy sources, production, and technology.

: 10% PATENTS

- 21. FSTA Food Science and Technology Abstracts
 - International Food Information Service
 - Time span: 01/69 to present
 - Covers food science and technology.
- 22. TITUS Textile Information Treatment Users' Service
 - Institut Textile de France
 - Time span: 01/69 to present
 - Covers the literature related to goods and materials for the textile and related industries, structure, properties; processes and machines for the production of fibrous materials, ... non-wovens, etc.; treatment and machines for finishing, bleaching, printing, dyeing; and treatments and machines for the manufacture of finished products.

: 7% PATENTS

- 23. APTIC Air Pollutional Technical Information Center
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Time span: 01/66 to present
 - Worldwide coverage of the literature on air quality and air pollution prevention and control.

: 6.25% PATENTS

- 24. INSPEC
 - International Information Services in Physics, Electro- Technology, Computers and Control
 - Institution of Electrical Engineers
 - Time span: 01/69 to present
 - Worldwide coverage of literature related physics, electrical and electronics engineering, computers and control engineering, and mechanical engineering.

: 5% PATENTS

- 25. BEIC Battelle Energy Information Center
 - Buttelle
 - Time span: 1973 to present with some retrospectives back to 1940.
 - Covers publications not normally covered by other on-line data bases related to the principal current and potential energy sources.
- 26. Gas Chromatography
 - Computerized Information Retrieval System of Gas Chromatography Literature
 - Preston Technical Abstracts Company
 - Time span: 01/52 to present
 - Worldwide coverage of the literature dealing with the instrumentation, techniques, applications and theory of gas chromatography.
- 27. NMR Computer Based Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Literature Retrieval System
 - National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism and Digestive Diseases
 - Time span: 07/64 to present
 - Worldwide coverage of the literature dealing with all aspects of nuclear magnetic resonance.

: 4% PATENTS

- 28. CBAC Chemical-Biological Activities
 - Chemical Abstracts Services
 - Time span: 01/65 to present
 - Worldwide coverage of literature reporting interactions of chemical substances with biological systems in viro and in vitro as well as pharmacological and pharmaceutical techniques for observing such interactions. Chemical Abstracts Sections 1-5, 62-64.

: 2% PATENTS

- 29. NSA Nuclear Science Abstracts
 - Energy Research and Development Administration
 - Time span: 01/66 to present
 - International literature on nuclear science and technology.

- 30. Rock Mechanics
 - Rock Mechanics Information Science.
 - Time span: 01/68 to present
 - Covers the fields of geology, geophysics, mining, civil engineering, soil mechanics and fracture.
- 31. Toxic Materials
 - Toxic Materials Information Center General File
 - Toxic Materials Information Center
 - Time span: 1968-1974
 - The subject matter covers movement of chemicals through environmental media such as air, soils, analytical chemistry of organometallics, environmental modelling and energy sources.

: 1% PATENTS

- 32. CPA Chemical Propulsion Abstracts
 - Johns Hopkins University
 - Time span: 01/69 to present
 - Chemical propulsion, propellants, explosives, pyrotechnics, materials and construction, safety and hazards.
- 33. MRIS Maritime Research Information Service
 - Maritime Transportation Research Board
 - Time span: 01/70 to present with 1968-70 selected items.
 - Worldwide coverage of publications dealing with maritime research and the maritime industry.
- 34. STAR Scientific and Technical Aerospace Reports
 - U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 - Time span: 01/62 to present
 - Worldwide coverage of technical report literature related to aerospace information.
- 35. SWRA Selected Water Resources Abstracts
 - Water Resources Scientific Information Center
 - Time span: 01/68 to present
 - Covers the water-related aspects of the life, physical, and social sciences as well as related engineering and legal aspects of the characteristics, conservation, control, use or management of water.

: 0.5% PATENTS

- 36. NTIAC Nondestructive Testing Information Analysis Center
 - Southwest Research Institute
 - Time span: 01/60 to present

- Covers the international literature related to nondestructive testing and/or evaluation techniques and processes, involving material-energy interaction phenomena such as radiographic, holographic, acoustic, magnetic, etc.

: 0.4% PATENTS

- 37. MASS Spectrometry Bulletin
 - Mass Spectrometry Data Centre
 - Time span: 11/66 to present
 - Literature of mass spectrometry and related topics.

: ? % PATENTS

- 38. CAB System Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux Systems
 - Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux Systems United Kingdom
 - Time span: 01/73 to present
 - File of agricultural information containing all records in the 22 journals published by CAB and covers every branch of agricultural science.
- 39. ISMEC Information Services in Mechanical Engineering
 - Institution of Electrical Engineers and ISMEC Division of Data Courier, Inc.
 - Time span: 01/73 to present
 - Literature of engineering management and production, measurement and control, mechanics, tools and equipment, energy and power, transport and handling, mechanical engineering and natural resources, and other applications of mechanical engineering.
- 40. NTIS Bibliographic Data File
 - National Technical Information Service
 - Time span: 07/64 to present
 - Multidisciplinary coverage of technical reports generated by U.S. Government-sponsored research.
- 41. Olje-Indeks
 - Norsk Senter for Informatikk
 - Time span: ?
 - Covers journal articles, newspaper articles, books, government papers and patents in the field of oil prospecting and refining.
- 42. PASCAL
 - Programme Appliqué à la Compilation Automatiques de la Litterature
 - Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique
 - Time span: 01/72 to present

- Available as 32 separate subject oriented data bases covering basic and applied science, engineering and technology, medicine, psychology and psychiatry.

43. POLLUTION ABSTRACTS

- Pollution Abstracts, Division of Data Courier, Inc.
- Time span: 01/70 to present
- Worldwide coverage of significant literature on all major pollution-related topics: air pollution, water pollution; solid wastes, noise pollution, pesticides, radiation, and general environmental quality.
- 44. SCI Science Citation Index
 - Institute for Scientific Information
 - Time span: 01/61 to present
 - International coverage of the prime journals of science, basic and applied, engineering, technology, life sciences, and medicine.

45. SHIP Abstracts

- Norsk Senter for Informatikk
- Time span: ?
- Covers selected ship technical and management articles from international journals, reports, proceedings, patents.*

DATA BASE SEARCHING FOR PATENTS

There are four commercial vendors of data bases in Canada that are available to most Canadian companies and universities. They do not cover all of the data bases listed above, and some of the data bases are covered by more than one of the vendors. The data bases containing patents available from each of the vendors are listed along with a simplified description of how to manipulate the base to receive specific patent information. The usual searchable items such as title, authors, etc. are not cited, and where nothing is shown in the tables then the patent information must be obtained through these searchable areas.

- 1. SDC-INFOMART (ORBIT) Besides the general commands for the specific data bases, the special commands relating to searching for patents are outlined in TABLE 1.
- LOCKHEED (DIALOG) See TABLE 2.

^{*} For a complete listing of addresses and descriptions for these data bases see "Computer-Readable Bibliographic Data Bases - A Directory and Data Sourcebook".

- 174 -

TABLE 1

ORBIT SEARCHING FOR PATENTS ON DATA BASES

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Directly Searchable Categories	PN	(PN) ICS(IT) (PC) - - (PL)	ı	ı	ı	ı	1	IPC PN
Category Names	Patent Number	Patent Number Patent Assignee Patent Classification Patent Date Patent Priority No.	Source	Source	Source	Source	Source	Derwent Class International Patent Classification Priority Countries and Members
Data Base	APIPAT Unit Record	снем готі	NTIS	PAPERCHEM	POLLUTION Abstracts	TITUS	TULSA data base	WPI/CPI
	п	16	07	10	r ₃	22	13	1/4

DIALOG SEARCHING FOR PATENTS ON DATA BASES

Searchable Fields - Used with EXPAND, SELECT Commands

	File	Search Code	Field Name	Search Entry Example	Limit Suffix
	54	DT=	Document Type	DT=PAT	/PAT
	en en	AC=	Country of Patent	AC=Australian	
CA Con 70-71 CASIA	30 2	CL=	Application or Priority Code Patent Classification Number	CI=A01G	
Concordance	ţ ()	JN= PA= PN=	Country of Granted Patents Patent Assignee Patent Number	JN=Brit PA=Syntex? PN=100264	
F	50	DT=	Document Type	DT=PAT	
	23/2h		Classification Code	CL=252363500	/C Composition
		CL= Number/OR	Class ference	CL=252363500/OR CL=1062080000/XR	Publication
			Name	AN=CYANAMID	/M Machine or Device
			NE	PN=3503895 FN=GB1120263	/P Process or
		FN= Code	Foreign Patent Country	FN=GB(a)	Preparation
	12/13	PA= PN=	Patent Assignee Patent Number	PA=A.B. Dick, Co. PN=3489850	
1		P0=	Country of original patent	PO=Australia	
		PI=	application Country of patent	PI=USA	

(continued)

TABLE 2 (continued)

	Data Base	File	Search Code	Field Name	Search Entry Evennle	Timely Contract
39	ISMEC	1,1				XIII TOO OTHER
04	NTIS	9	RP=	Report No. Prefix	Patent RP=PAT	
77	SCISEARCH	34	CR=	Patents	CR=999523GB,1965	
15	WAA	33	CO= PD= PN=	Corporate source (patents only) Patent Date Patent Number	CO=International Nickel? PD=1975 PN=US 3,901,688	
		(g)	(a) Country Abbreviation:	ation: BE= Belgium FR= France G= Germany GB= Great Britain NL= The Netherlands		

- 3. CAN-OLE
 - (a) APIPAT
 - (b) Chemical Abstracts Condensates) CAC and INSPEC have a
 - (c) INSPEC) FORM index; using PATS as a search term, all patents can be retrieved by

or

S PATS, FORM S PATS, F

- (d) NTIS
- 4. QL Systems Ltd.
 - (a) Pollution Abstracts) combine search term(s) and
 - (b) World Aluminum Abstracts) (&) patents

SUMMARY

There are now many data bases that contain patent references. Some of these are not commercially available and access to them is not readily possible. Many of the bases are available on one or more of the larger services such as System Development Corporation (Infomart in Canada)—Orbit, and Lockheed-Dialog in the United States and CAN-OLE (C.I.S.T.I., Ottawa, Ontario) and QL Systems Ltd. (797 Princess St., Kingston, Ontario, K7L 1G1) in Canada.

ADDENDUM

At the time this paper was presented, the author learned that Mr. R. Donati of Lockheed Information Systems, New York had compiled a table entitled "A Comparison of Patent Information Data Elements in $\text{DIALOG}^{(R)}$ Online Data Bases" which expands Table 2. Mr. Donati has given permission for his table to be included in this paper, which should add to its usefulness to the user seeking to locate patent literature on Online Data bases.

A Comparison of Patent Information Data Elements in DIALOG (R) Online Data Bases

Part A

	CLAIMS/CHEM & GEM FILES 23, 24	CA CONDENSATES FILES 2. 3	INSPEC
TO SELECT ALL PATENTS	All are patents		S PI=UK; S PI=US; S PI=USA; C 1+2+3 The last set is all
FIELDS PROVIDING SEARCHABLE KEYWORDS	TI S MULTILAYER(W)FILM	TI,DE S 1(W)2(W)DICHLORETHANE	DE, ID(TI), CS S NUMERICAL(W)CONTROL
ASSIGNEE	AN=CYANAMID AC=002888	PA=SOLVAY ET CIE PA=SYNTEX?	E PA=PLESSEY S PA=RTTNEY-BOWES?
INVENTOR	Not included unless assignee	E AU=COSTES, JEAN R. then select	E AU=BROWN, P.R. then select
PATENT NO.	PN=3503895	S PN=2529727(C)JN=GER	s PN=3906889(c)
			Pl=USA or S PN=39945/67 for orig. application no.
FOREIGN EQUIVALENTS	FN=GB1120263 also BE,DT,FR,NL	Use CA Patent Concordance (File 43)	Orig. Pat. Appli. No. S PN-47-7612 S PN-39945/67 Display record
USPO CLASS CODES	CL=252 CL=252363 CL=252363500 also CL=252363500/OR or /XR	CL=CO7C CL=CO7CA61K	Not used
OTHER CLASSIF. CODES	1	CA Section & Subsections SC=CA023 SC=CA023003	INSPEC Section Class Codes. SC=C9980
COUNTRY OF PATENT APPLICATION	U.S. only	AC=SWISS AC=UC	PO=Italy
COUNTRY OF GRANTED PATENT	FN=GB etc. for all GB equivalents	JN=GER JN=GER.OFFEN. also CO=CAXXAX	PI=UK) PI=US)only PI=USA)
ANNOUNCEMENT DATES IN INDEX	LIMIT on accession numbers e.g. L2/7600001-7699999 or UD=7608 etc.	LIMIT on accession numbers L 10/85000001-86999999 or UD=8610	LIMIT on accession numbers L 7/833376- 899999 or UD=76? UD=7611

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OTHER CLASSIF NATS Category Codes WAA Subject Category		appears in ID field	Subtect	PRODUCT (SIC) CODES
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	IG H	ABS FILES 18, 16	COUNTRY CODES OR NAMES S CC=4UK S CN=NORWAY	Same as above?			s un=76-05	s un=76?	S DT=73/05	S DT=76?		Searchable Abstract	Major/Minor descriptors	Mainly news items, e.g.	patent suits, licenses	sold, etc.	T
Part B (cont.)	WORLD ALUMINUM ABSTRACTS	FILE 33		S PN=US?	S PN=GERMAN?	avoid if possible	LIMIT on accession no.	L 7/450000-549999 or S UD=76?	S PD=1975 (Issue date)	Filing and application dates	displayable only	Searchable Abstract	Major/Minor descriptors				
	NTIS	० ग्राम	Mainly US		Mainly US		s w=7618	s un=76?	Filing date displayable			Displayable abstract. Com-	plete copy available from	NTIS.	Major/Minor descriptors and	identifiers.	
			COUNTRY OF PATENT Mainly US APPLICATION	COUNTRY OF	GRANTED PATENT		ANNOUNCEMENT	DATES IN INDEX	PRIORITY &	APPLICATION	DATES	OTHER ITEMS				÷	