

Monday Morning Session 8:30 - 12:00
How to Find Patent Information - Session Chair: Lucy Akers

10:30 - 11:00

Internet Patent Resources and Cost Saving Techniques to Supplement and Enhance Online Database Searching

by Sandy Smith, Patent InfoSmith
and Suzanne Robins, Patent Info Services

Abstract:

The efforts of the Trilateral Patent Offices in making patent information more available, comprehensive and easy to use are a significant development in patent information. The ability to obtain information free of charge from their web sites coupled with cost saving on-line searching techniques enable the budget conscious searcher to provide excellent results within budget constraints.

An independent searcher in particular, when working for small business entities and law firms, often does not have access to specialized indexing and coding services. For the independent searcher a primary challenge is finding alternatives to these value-added resources. Information and tools provided by the Trilateral Patent Offices have proven crucial to the ability of independent searchers to continue to provide high-level patent information to clients.

Examples will show:

- ◆ the use of the ECLA, IPC and US Classification Codes to perform searches;
- ◆ the use of forward and backward citation searching in the USPTO database to generate additional results;
- ◆ the use of databases of full-text and images of patent documents to do preliminary searches, to analyze search results and to prepare reports
- ◆ the availability of patent family information on the Internet
- ◆ some online database cost saving techniques

The resources available over the Internet, combined with judicious use of online searching, can enable the independent patent searcher to provide an excellent set of results for the client at a reasonable cost and within a reasonable time frame. Such resources and techniques can benefit all searchers.

Biography:

Sandra Smith is the principal of Patent InfoSmith, LLC, an independent patent information business specializing in chemical and pharmaceutical patent information retrieval. She concluded a 19-year career as a patent information scientist at Warner Lambert Parke Davis, now Pfizer, in 2001. She received a BA in Chemistry from Swarthmore College and a MS in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Michigan, where she also held a research associate position in pharmacology for 11 years. She has served as Secretary of the Patent Information Users Group for three years.

Suzanne Robins is President of Patent Information Services Inc., an independent patent and literature information consultancy specializing in chemical, pharmaceutical, and biotechnical searches. She received a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Virginia in 1981 and a Master's degree in Chemistry from Rice University in 1983. After joining the team of patent searchers at the Monsanto Patent Department in 1988 as an independent contractor she started her own company, Patent Information

Services, Inc. in 1991. She conducts patent and literature searches for a wide variety of clients around the country. Suzanne is a member of the American Chemical Society, the Division of Chemistry and the Law, the Division of Chemical Information, and Patent Information Users Group. Presently she is serving her fourth year as treasurer of PIUG.

Sandy: Patent InfoSmith, LLC
3188 Rumsey Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-3436
Phone: 734-769-2663
Fax: 734-769-7737
patinfosmith@comcast.net

Suzanne: Patent Information Services, Inc.
1601 Tina Terrace Dr.
St. Louis
MO 63146
314-434-6812 (phone & fax)
SGRobinsPI@cs.com