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Matthew Hall, Charles Oppenheim, Margaret Sheen
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"Patenting - Pitfalls and Prizes"

Robert Pidgen
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"How Technology Got a Boost from the Japanese Patent Office"

Christine A. McDaniel and Keith E. Maskus
Chemtech, August, 1999, pp.53-58

An interesting article on Japanese Patent Law and its impact on the dissemination of technology...This is a very digestible summary of Japanese Patent Law and includes some comparisons to US patent law. This article basically builds a strong case for the premise that the methods used by the Japanese patent system promoted the diffusion of technology and had a positive effect on technical progress.

Contributed by Sandra Unger, Exxon

"The Newly-Engineered Status of APILIT and APIPAT"

Nancy Lambert
EContent (formerly Database), August, 1999, Vol. 22 (4)

This article may also be available online. It is based on a talk given at the 217th ACS National Meeting, Anaheim, CA on March 21, 1999, Division of Chemical Information.

Contributed by Aleksandr Belinskiy, Information Specialist, Brooklyn, NY

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"Enhanced Hypertext Categorization Using Hyperlinks"

S. Chakrabarti, D. Byron, P. Indyk
Proceedings of SIGMOD-98. ACM International Conference on Management
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Contributed by Georg Richter, October 2002

"Database Secrets of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office"

Robert F. Jack
Searcher, May, 1998, Vol. 6(5), pp.12-24

The article covers the rationale for patent office searching and the current state of searching at the USPTO. It includes a description of some of the specialized software information sources available to searchers at the PTO and the examiners they support.

Contributed by Edlyn S. Simmons

Articles: 1997

"Virtual File Merging: A Technique to Enhance Patent Searches"

Nancy Lambert
Database, Oct. 1997, Vol.20(5), pp.36-44

A detailed discussion of the use of multi-file and cross-file searching techniques at intermediate stages of a search to "merge" the indexing of the different databases being searched. Examples, both simple and complex, are included.

Contributed by Nancy Lambert

"But What's In It For IBM?: Patents on the Net"

Nancy Lambert
Searcher, September, 1997, Vol. 5(8), pp. 33-37

A detailed look at this most extensive (so far) of the free U.S. patent databases on the Internet; a look at the security paranoia it has inspired; and a comparison of the IBM site with a product that IBM is selling for its clients to mount in-house.

Contributed by Nancy Lambert

Articles: 1996

"Patent Searching: What, Why, When, Where?"

Nancy Lambert
Online User, Nov.-Dec. 1996, Vol. 2 (6), pp.45-51.

Not aimed at the professional searcher, but a useful article to hand your search clients:
A brief primer on patent information and an evaluation of Internet patent information resources.

Contributed by Nancy Lambert

"QPAT-US: A Patent Searcher's Evaluation"

Nancy Lambert
Proceedings of the 1996 Chemical Information Conference, Nimes, France, October 1996, pp.97-104.
H. Collier, Ed., Infonortics Ltd., Tetbury, Glos., England.

A detailed look at this Internet U.S. patent full-text search resource, with an extensive wish list.

Contributed by Nancy Lambert

"Drilling for Gold: Databases for Petroleum Information"

Nancy Lambert
Searcher, April 1996, Vol. 4(4), pp. 8-12.

A close look at the American Petroleum Institute and Petroleum Abstracts databases. Some reflections on specialty databases that currently require hefty up-front subscriptions, and how they can continue to survive.

Contributed by Nancy Lambert

"Online Statistical Techniques as Patent Search Tools. Part 2: Patent Classifications"

Nancy Lambert

Database, April-May, 1996, Vol. 19(2), pp. 67-73.

A two-part article discussing how to use online patent statistical techniques, not to generate statistics, but to help you formulate searches and find heavily-cited or very old patents in a subject. Some detailed information on finding and searching both U.S. and International Patent Classifications.

Contributed by Nancy Lambert

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"More Patents - Lots More - On the Internet"

Nancy Lambert

Searcher, Nov.-Dec. 1995, Vol. 3(10), pp. 24-27.

A look at the controversy that arose among commercial patent information providers, professional searchers, and private inventors and end-user searchers when the USPTO put a free front-page US patent database on the Internet. Some recommendations to all of these, as well as to managers who pay for patent information, are provided.

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"Pharmaceutical Patent Alerting Services: Patents Preview and Patent Fast-Alert"

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"Patent Family Databases 10 Years Later"

Edlyn S. Simmons

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"The Idiot's Guide to Patent Resources on the Internet"

Nancy Lambert

Searcher, May 1995, Vol. 3(5), pp. 34-39.

The first of many articles on Internet patent resources. The content is out of date, but the conclusion can still give some useful ammunition to use against management who wonder why they're paying for expensive patent databases "when it's all there for free on the Internet."

Contributed by Nancy Lambert

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Stephen Adams

World Patent Information, 1995, Vol.17(1), 48-61.

Contributed by Edlyn Simmons

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"Patent Information in Biotechnology"

Andrew H. Berks

Trends in Biotechnology, 1994, Vol. 12, pp 352-364.

Abstract: Patents represent an important source of scientific and legal information. Unfortunately, many of the major sources of biotechnology scientific information, (for example, Medline and Biosis) do not index patents. It is probable that information of importance to the field of biotechnology reported in patents is not available in the scientific journal literature. This article gives a brief overview of patent law from the standpoint of the technical information content of patents, and provides a survey of relevant sources of patent information for retrospective searching and for current awareness.

Contributed by Andrew H. Berks, Ph.D.

"Derwent's New Plasdoc Indexing: A User's View"

Nancy Lambert

Proceedings of the 1994 Chemical Information Conference, Annecy, France, October 1994, pp.75-86.
H. Collier, Ed., Infonortics Ltd., Calne, England.

A look at how Derwent indexed polymers over the years; a detailed analysis of their latest major version of polymer indexing, complete with wish list.

Contributed by Nancy Lambert

"Some problems in the Translation of Japanese Patents"

Roger Huby & Victor T. Schenk.

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World Patent Information, 1994, Vol.16(1), pp. 28-32.

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World Patent Information, 1994, Vol.16(1), pp. 41-45.

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Edlyn M. Simmons, and Nancy Lambert

ChemTech, 1993, Vol.23(6), pp. 51-59.

Part of Edlyn's and Nancy's answer to Francis Narin: A compendium of detailed caveats regarding generating and drawing conclusions from patent statistics.

Contributed by Nancy Lambert

"Geographic Localization of Knowledge Spillovers as Evidenced by Patent Citations"

Jaffe, A. B., M. Trajtenberg and R. Henderson.

Quarterly Journal of Economics, 1993, Vol. 108 (3), pp.577-98.

A good example of the use of patent citations to draw information about the effects of information disclosure from patent documents.

Contributed by Jon Putnam

"WIPO. Glossary of terms concerning industrial property information and documentation"

World Patent Information, 1993, Vol.15(1), pp. 21-39

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Special Libraries, Winter 1992, pp.16-25.

Contributed by Madeline Douglass

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"Patent Statistics as Economic Indicators: A Survey"

Z. Griliches
Journal of Economic Literature, 1990, Vol. 28, pp.1661-1707.

Summarizes a very large number of empirical studies that use patent counts in conjunction with other economic data to infer the performance of firms, industries, and national economies.

Contributed by Jon Putnam

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"Patent Statistics Searching: Practices and Pitfalls"

Nancy Lambert

Proceedings of the Montreux 1989 International Chemical Information Conference, 1989, pp.141-160.

H. Collier, Ed., Springer Verlag: Heidelberg.

Nancy's first major article on patent statistics: Lots of examples using GET, MEMSORT, and Derwent's PatStat; lots of caveats about what you'll get.

Contributed by Nancy Lambert

"Appropriating the Returns from Industrial Research and Development"

R. Levin, A. Klevorick, R. Nelson, S. Winter

Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, 1987, Vol. 3, pp. 783-820

This article is cited as the source of most "conventional wisdom" about the use of patents (and other mechanisms of earning returns to R&D, such as secrecy) across a large number of industries. Except in a few industries, such as pharmaceuticals, patents are not cited as the most important mechanism.

Contributed by Jon Putnam

"How to Search the IFI Comprehensive Database Online... Tips and Techniques"

Nancy Lambert

Database, December 1987, Vol. 10 (6), pp. 46-59.

...my favorite all time Patent Searching article (obviously biased due to the subjects I search)

I studied this article over and over long before I met Nancy Lambert, so this is not biased by the fact that she has become a good friend. It is well written with lots of explicit details. Whenever I attempt to teach any new searcher how to use the IFI Claims database, I make certain to point them to this article.

Contributed by Sandra Unger, Exxon

"Complementary Searching in Patent Databases"

Bernd-Ruediger Weckend

World Patent Information, 1987, Vol. 9 (3), pp.140-6.

Contributed by Edlyn Simmons

"Use of Descriptor Search Language in Automated Patent Information System"

S.V. Popov, R.P. Vcherashny, D.G. Lakhouti, V.V. Maslikov, I.L. Dubnova

World Patent Information, 1987, Vol. 9(3), pp.157-162.

Describes an experimental study which includes comments on increased precision by combining classification with keywords.

Contributed by Lucy Akers

"Comparison of Keywords and Classification for Building Strategies"

T.S. Eisenschitz, J.A. Crane

World Patent Information, 1986, Vol. 8 (1), pp.38-40.

Contributed by Lucy Akers

"Patents as Options: Some Estimates of the Value of Holding European Patent Stocks"

A. Pakes

Econometrica, 1986, Vol. 54, pp. 755-84.

A technically very demanding article that computes the value of patent rights held in Germany, France and the U.K. It won the Ragnar Frisch award for the best paper in Econometrica during the previous 5 years. Its methods are still state-of-the-art.

Contributed by Jon Putnam

"The Paradox of Patentability Searching"

Edlyn S. Simmons

Journal of Chemical Information and Computer Science, 1985, Vol. 25, pp. 379-386.

In the abstract, Edlyn writes:

The searcher charged with confirming the patentability of an invention is thus presented with three dilemmas: how to design and exhaustive search for a reference that is believed not to exist, how to recognize a reference describing the invention in a different context or vocabulary, and, if no relevant references are found, how to tell when the search is complete.

Another dilemma for searchers working at the behest of the inventor is that a successful search, one that finds prior art, can lead to an unhappy customer.

I didn't find any formal training that helped as much as this article did in giving me critical insights about the job that I do.

Contributed by Thomas E. Wolff, Wolff Information Consulting LLC

"Online Patent Searching: The Realities"

Stuart M. Kaback
Online, July 1983, p. 22

For years, Stu Kaback has referred to a 1983 article that he considers the best thing he has ever written. I asked him about it in and in two seconds he handed me a copy with the comment that he considers it the best (or at least very nearly the best) thing he has ever written. It is now a bit dated, but the truths and the insight from this article showed great vision when you consider that it was written over 13 years ago.

Contributed by Sandra Unger, ExxonMobil

"Computer-Based Patent Searches: using the IPC or Free-Text?"

H. Bechtel
World Patent Information, 1981, Vol. 3 (2), pp. 61-67.

Contributed by Lucy Akers

"Scientific and Technical Information Contained in Patent Specifications - Extent and Time Factors of its Publication in Other Forms of Literature"

F. Liebesny, J.W. Hewith, P.S. Hunter, M. Hannah
Journal of the American Society for Information Science, 1974, Vol. 25(5), p. 339

Contributed by Peter Steele

"Mainly on Patents: The Use of Industrial Property and Its Literature"

Felix Liebesny
London; Butterworth, 1972 - Part of a series "Information Sources for Research & Development"

Contributed by Julia M. Fletcher