

Database Guide

Derwent Innovation Index

International patent database allowing searching of independently produced abstracts. Great for Inventors or researchers interested in patents owned by a particular company or relating to a particular technological area.

Summary

- Coverage is world-wide, dating back to 1960's or 1970's depending on subject.
- Allows searching of older patents which are cited by a given document, or later ones which cite it.
- Links to full patent documents on Espacenet.
- Results can be sorted by date, inventor, holder and citation level. Results can also be analysed statistically by holder, inventor or classification.

Strengths

- Standardised and professionally-written entries are more effectively searchable with subject keywords.
- Detailed titles allow more rapid recognition of relevant and non-relevant patents.
- Advanced search allows very powerful command-line-type searching for expert online searchers.
- Useful means to search various classification systems for the appropriate classification.
- Citation searching allows easy discovery of related patents and a measure of how significant a patent is.
- Useful statistical analysis of results.

Weaknesses

- Links to full patent text on Espacenet are sometimes not present when patent document is, in fact, on Espacenet.
- Some countries have abstracts of limited quality.
- Individual applicants and inventors can only be searched by family name and initials, not full personal name.

Alternatives

- **Espacenet** - This allows patents to be searched internationally by a number of different search terms. Many complete specifications are available. The coverage varies by country.
- **DEPATISNET** - (free international patent database from the German patent office),

Printing/Downloading

- Printing is allowed within reasonable limits.
- Downloading is not allowed.