

# Database Guide

## Design Finder

Designfinder is a subscription based system that collects industrial design information from around the world and presents this content in a database which allows searching.

### Strengths

- DesignFinder collects registered designs information from several registering authorities.
- The database is updated in line with any new published designs.
- Allows searching across all authorities in a single step.
- Displays results in an easy to use form that promotes rapid scanning of the images.

### Weaknesses

- Locarno classifications are not available for US or German designs (US national classification is available for US designs only).
- The basic search appears to perform simultaneous automatic left and right truncation (can be inconvenient when searching for design owners.)
- Most Spanish and some German designs have titles only in the local language and not English

### Alternatives

- None that allow cross authority searching at the moment.
- National and regional issuing office websites such as the US Patent and Trademark Office [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) , the UK IPO [www.ipo.gov.uk](http://www.ipo.gov.uk) or the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market <http://oami.europa.eu/en/default.htm> which handles community designs

### Printing/Downloading

- Printing permitted within reasonable limits.
- No downloading is allowed