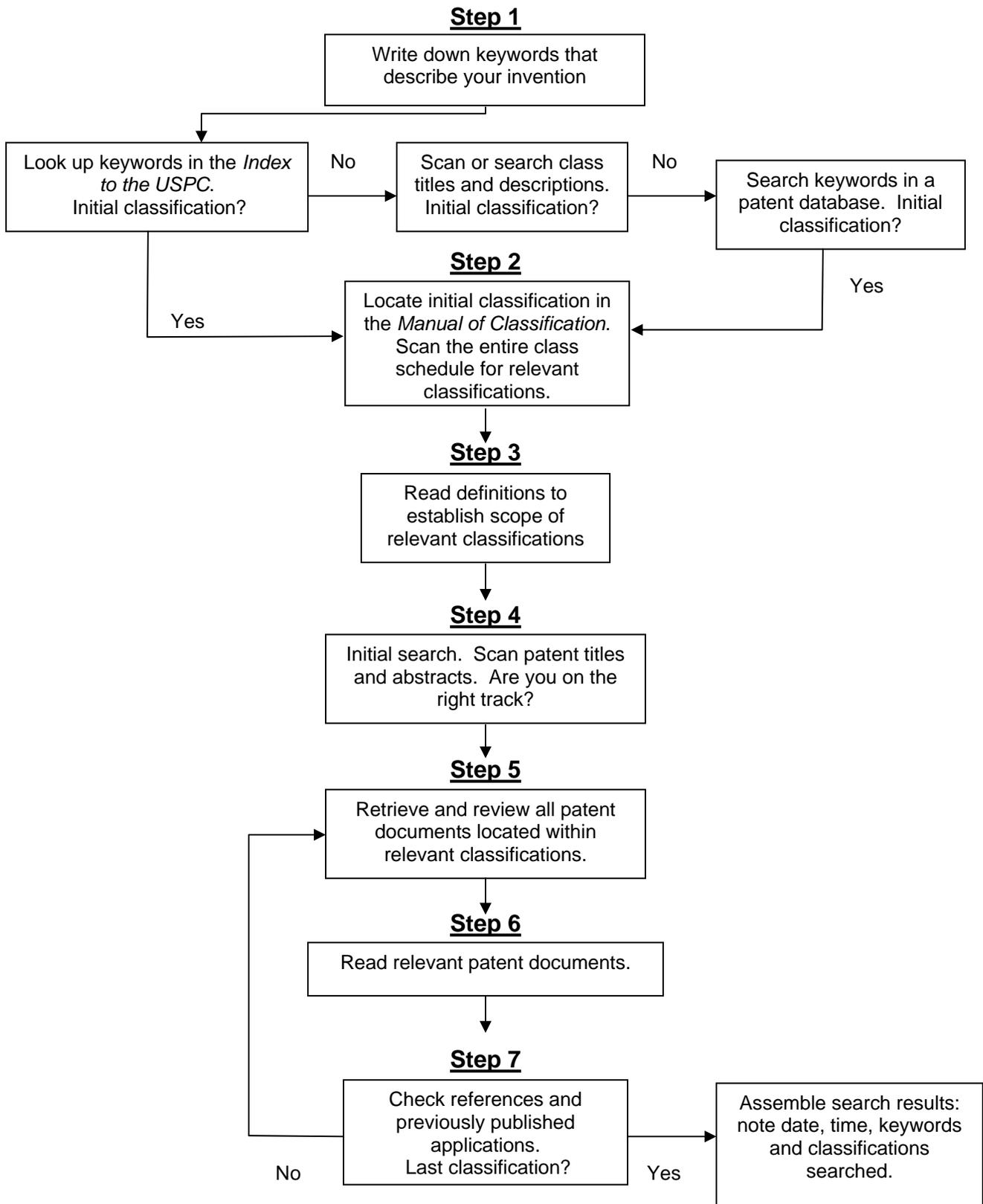


The Seven-Step Strategy Flowchart

A Basic Guide to Conducting a Patent Search



PTDL LIST

PATENT SEARCH CHECK LIST

SUGGESTED COMPLETED

Resources Available at UNL		
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY		
http://www.uspto.gov granted patents and applications		
West at UNL Engineering Library only		
Esp@cenet http://ep.espacenet.com European Patent Office databases		
http://www.WIPO.org Search International patent applications		
COMPANY DATA		
Mergent Online		
Reference USA		
Business Source Premier - Data Monitor reports under Company Profiles		
BUSINESS NEWS & JOURNALS		
LexisNexis Academic		
Business Source Premier		
BUSINESS & ECONOMIC STATISTICS		
STAT-USA		
LexisNexis Statistical		
NONPATENT TECHNICAL LITERATURE		
Consult USPTO Search Templates by class for additional resources		
http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/searchtemplates/searchtemplates.htm		
Compendex		
INSPEC		
IEEE Explore		
Transport		
Metadex		
Dissertation Abstracts		
ERIC		
Academic Search Premier		
JSTOR		
ACM Digital Library		
DTIC http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/		
Math Sci		
Medline		
Science		
Biological Abstracts		
BioOne		
CAB Abstracts		
SciFinder Scholar		
INTERNET SEARCH TOOLS		
Google http://google.com – advanced search		
Scirus http://www.scirus.com		
Yahoo! http://Yahoo.com		

Notes

Review the USPTO search templates for other resources for each class/subclass.

Though this is a comprehensive list, it will not include all potential resources for searching for prior art.

PRIOR ART RESOURCE COMPARISONS

	Literature Coverage	Patent Coverage	Truncation	Phrase Searching
SciFinder Scholar	CAPLus (Chemical Abstracts) and Medline – covers chemistry and related medical literature. Very broad, extensive, and inclusive with regard to subject areas and document types.	Extensive. USPTO, European Patent Office (European and/or patenting authorities of 70 countries) WIPO applications.	No symbol. Performs automatic truncation.	Uses natural language searching. Words together may only be searched as a phrase. Separate terms using prepositions or a comma vs. Boolean.
Compendex	Extensive coverage of all fields of engineering. Includes journals, conference proceedings and articles, dissertations, and some monographs and technical reports.	Only covers patents through 1970 and only limited coverage.	Autostemming is default and can be turned off. Then can truncate as appropriate with *	Searches words together as a phrase, tends to place these records higher in relevance ordered result set. Also searches words separately and includes these records unless user forces phrase searching with ""
INSPEC	In depth coverage of electrical, mechanical, control, production, and manufacturing engineering, computing and control, physics, information science, etc.	Only covers patents through 1979 and only limited coverage.	Truncate with *	All words together in a search box are searched as a phrase unless separated by AND, OR, or NOT.
USPTO www.uspto.gov	None. Patent applications and granted patents in separate databases. Does have an array of patent statistics.	All US patents granted since inception in two time segments. Those before 1976 have limited retrieval except by patent number or class/subclass.	Truncate with \$	Two or more terms together in a search box must have "" around them or there will be an error message in the advanced search form. They are searched as a phrase in the Quick Search form. Advanced search form uses full Boolean and field specification.
EPO Ep.espacenet.com	None. Is a patenting authority (grants patents) for European Countries	3 databases, (1) EPO - granted patents and published applications, (2) published patent apps from 80 countries worldwide, and (3) WIPO patent applications	* - stands for a string of characters of any length, ? - stands for zero or one character, # - stands for exactly one character	Use "" for phrase searching. Enter the words (maximum of 4 per field), separated by a space. Apostrophes, hyphens and slashes cannot be used in search fields. To increase your chances of finding a patent document that matches your query, use the OR operator with synonymous terms. AND is the default operator.
WIPO www.wipo.org PATENTSCOPE Search Service	None. Separate section gives statistics. Not a patenting authority,	only patent applications under the PCT Patent Cooperation Treaty	Use * for right truncation	Use "" for phrase searching
GooglePatents http://www.google.com/patents	None	Covers US and EPO patents	Truncates everything anyway	Advanced search: Use "" or enter in exact phrase search box