



Supporting Innovation

Patents, Trademarks &
PTRC Services @ Your
Library

Introductions



David Irvin

Oregon State University
beav.es/ptrc
ptrc-osu@oregonstate.edu

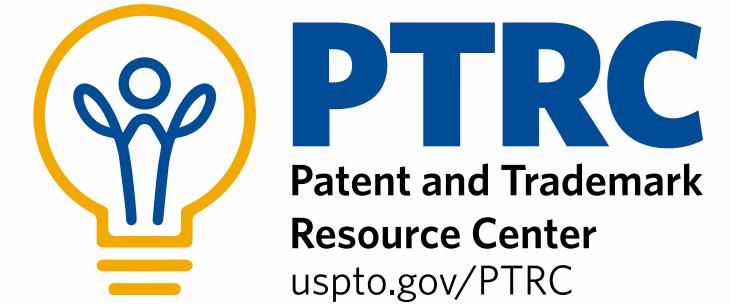


Tara Nash

Multnomah County Library
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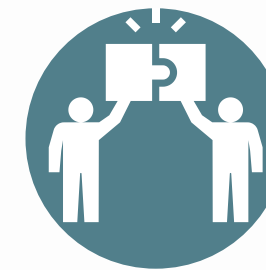
Patent & Trademark Resource Centers



A **Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC)** is a library designated by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to help the public access and navigate patent and trademark information.

PTRCs provide specialized resources, tools, and trained staff who assist inventors, entrepreneurs, and researchers in learning how to search existing patents and trademarks, understand the application process, and make informed decisions before filing.

While PTRCs do not provide legal advice, they play a vital role in supporting innovation and protecting intellectual property within their local communities.



Application Assistance



Patent & Trademark Search Assistance



Resource Connection



How Patrons Use the PTRC



What is this?

Patrons sometimes need a primer on what the difference is between a copyright, trademark or a patent.



Searching

Whether they are searching for prior trademarks or patents, patrons often need a guide on how to use the databases of the USPTO



Applying

From finding the right forms to making sure the margins of their docx files are correct, sometimes it takes an extra set of eyes to help.



A friendly ear

Sometimes patrons just want another person to talk through their process or don't know how to take the next step on their business journey.

Patents

What is a patent?

A patent is an intellectual property right. It's granted by the U.S. government to inventors. It gives the inventor the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, selling, or importing in to the U.S. their invention. That's for a limited time — and in exchange, the inventor must publicly disclose the invention when the patent is granted.

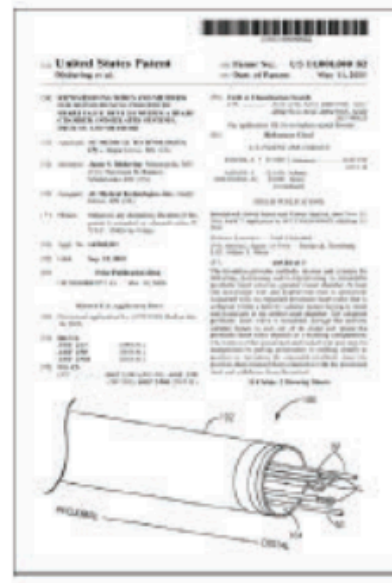


Types of Patents

Utility

Protects how an invention works, functions, or is made for 20 years from filing date

- Process
- Machine
- Article of manufacture
- Composition of matter



Design

Protects the way a product or article looks, the ornamental expression for 15 years from the date of grant



Plant

Protects newly invented strains of asexually reproducing flowering plants, fruit trees, and other hybrid plants for 20 years from filing date



Patent Public Search

Patent Public Search

The Patent Public Search tool is a new web-based patent search application that will replace internal legacy search tools PubEAST and PubWEST and external legacy search tools PatFT and AppFT. Patent Public Search has two user-selectable modern interfaces that provide enhanced access to prior art. The new, powerful, and flexible capabilities of the application will improve the overall patent searching process.

If you are new to patent searches, or want to use the functionality that was available in the USPTO's PatFT/AppFT, select **Basic search** to look for patents by keywords or common fields, such as inventor or publication number. Select **Advanced search** to use full query options as well as to further filter a patent search by database or organize documents through tagging.

[Basic search](#)

[Advanced search](#)



Search references

- > [Searchable indexes](#)
- > [Operators](#)
- > [Keyboard shortcuts](#)
- > [Stopwords](#)
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Training materials

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Support & Assistance

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- > [Contact us](#)
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How to access Patent Public Search

The image is a screenshot of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) website. At the top left, the USPTO logo is displayed. To its right, the text "UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE" is visible. In the top right corner, there are links for "About Us", "Jobs", "Contact Us", and "MyUSPTO". Below the header, a search bar contains the text "Search uspto.gov". A navigation menu includes "Patents", "Trademarks", "IP Policy", and "Learning and Resources". A "Find It Fast" button is located in the top right of the main content area. The main content area features a large image of Sumita Mitra with the text "Curiosity and clusters" and a short bio. Below this is a "Latest news" section with a link to "USPTO welcomes U.S. Copyright Office report on digital replicas". On the right side, a sidebar menu is open, listing various services. The "Patent Public Search" option is highlighted with a red rectangular box. Other options in the sidebar include "Patent search", "Patent Center | Forms", "Patent Center | Global Dossier", "Pay maintenance fees", "PTAB", "Search assignment | Record assignment", "MPEP | Classification", "Trademark search", "TEAS | Forms", "TSDR", "TTAB | ESTTA | TTABVUE", "Search assignment | Record assignment", "TMEP | ID Manual | TMOG | TBMP", and "Trademark processing wait times".

www.uspto.gov



What is Patent Public Search

- Patent Public Search is the official patent search platform of the US Patent & Trademark Office
- Introduced in February 2022
- Includes patents issued since 1790 and patent applications published since 2001
- Based on the search tool used by USPTO patent examiners
- 1836 Fire and withdrawn patents are not included



Basic Search

Quick lookup

Patent or Publication number

For example: 0123456 or 20210123456

Search results

Results for query "(9511833).pn."

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 records

Result #	Document/Patent number	Display	Title	Inventor name	Publication date	Pages
1	US-9511833-B2	Preview PDF Text	Multi-component robot for below ice search and rescue	Scott; Doug et al.	2016-12-06	16



Basic Search: Field Search

- Two search fields with drop-down menus
- One word per search field --- important
- Boolean set operator drop-down menu of AND, OR & NOT

Basic search

Search	For
<input type="text" value="Inventor name"/>	<input type="text" value="Leatherman"/>
	Operator
	<input type="text" value="AND"/>
Search	For
<input type="text" value="Publication date"/>	<input type="text" value="19801216"/>



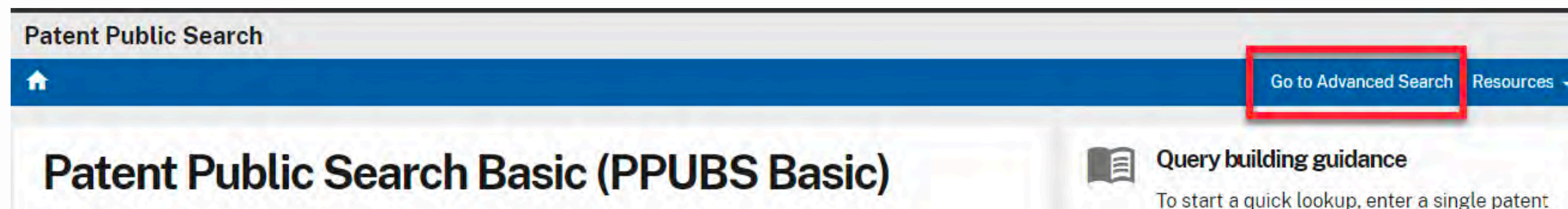
Search results in Basic Search

- Searching in the “everything” field will provide a large number of search results.
- View results using “preview” to view the front page thumbnail, “text” to open the searchable HTML page in a new tab, or “PDF” to open the PDF view in a new tab
- Your browser may have additional features such as “print” and “find”



Transitioning to Advanced Search

- Transition to the Advanced Search interface from Basic Search
- Click on “Go to Advanced Search”
- Advanced Search will open in a separate window
- This will begin a new search session



Devices & Browsers

Basic Search

- Should work with almost all devices used to search the internet, including smartphones and tablets
- Will work with most current browsers, including Safari

Advanced Search

- Will not work with smartphones and tablets
- Works best with Chromium-based browsers such as Chrome and Edge



Advanced Search

The screenshot displays the Patent Public Search 2.1.1 interface. The top navigation bar includes "Go to Basic Search" and "Resources". The main interface is divided into three panels: "Search History", "Search", and "Document Viewer".

- Search History:** Shows a table with columns for ID, Results, Query, Databases, Options, and Actions. It currently displays "No records found."
- Search:** Features a search input field labeled "Enter query text" and a "Search" button. A dropdown menu is open, showing the following options:
 - Databases
 - Select all
 - US-PGPUB
 - USPAT
 - USOCR
- Document Viewer:** Currently empty.

Additional interface elements include a "Reset Layout" button, a "New" button, and a "Quick Search" button. The "Search Results" panel at the bottom shows a "Hit Terms" section and a "Help" button.



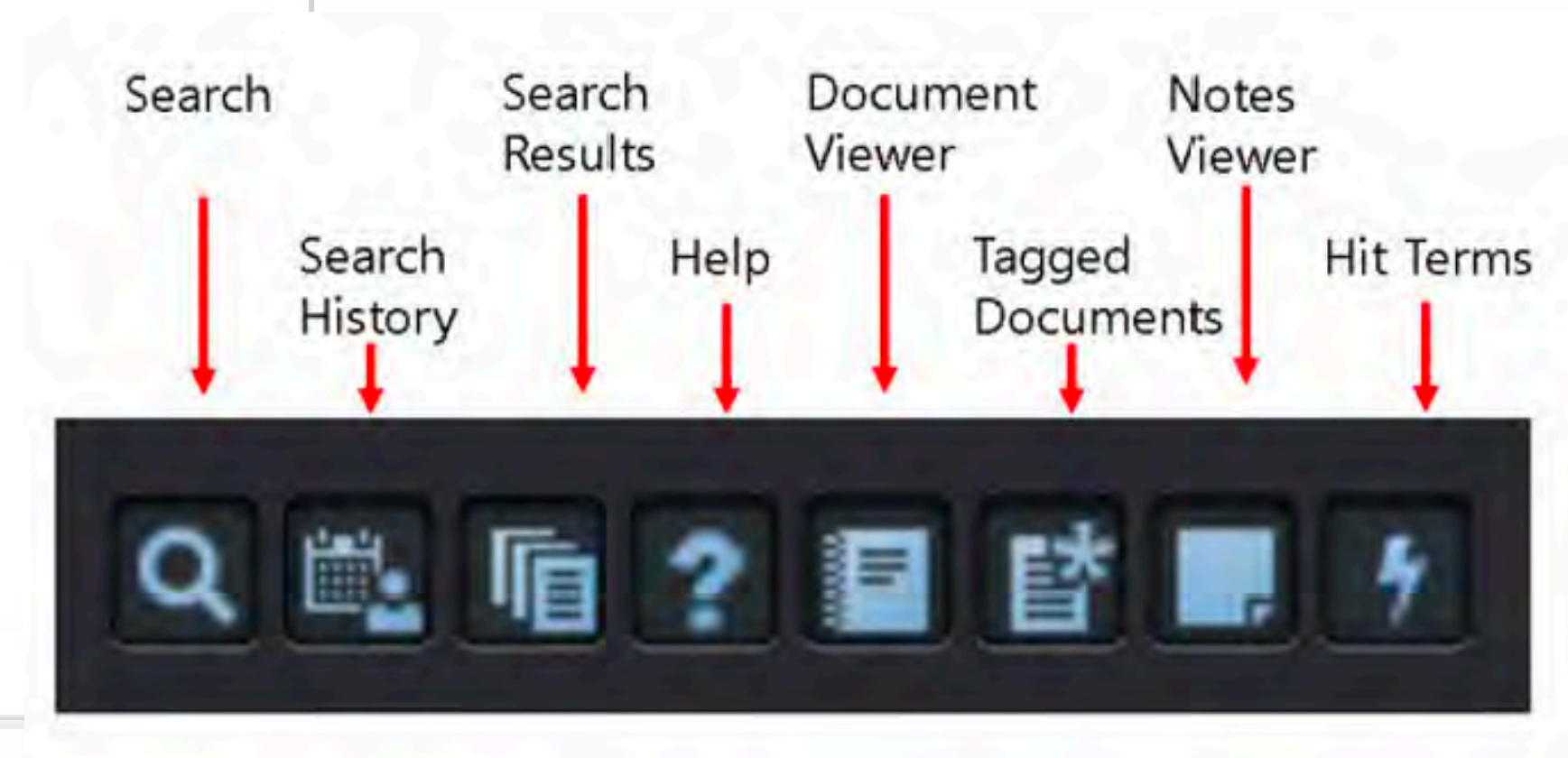
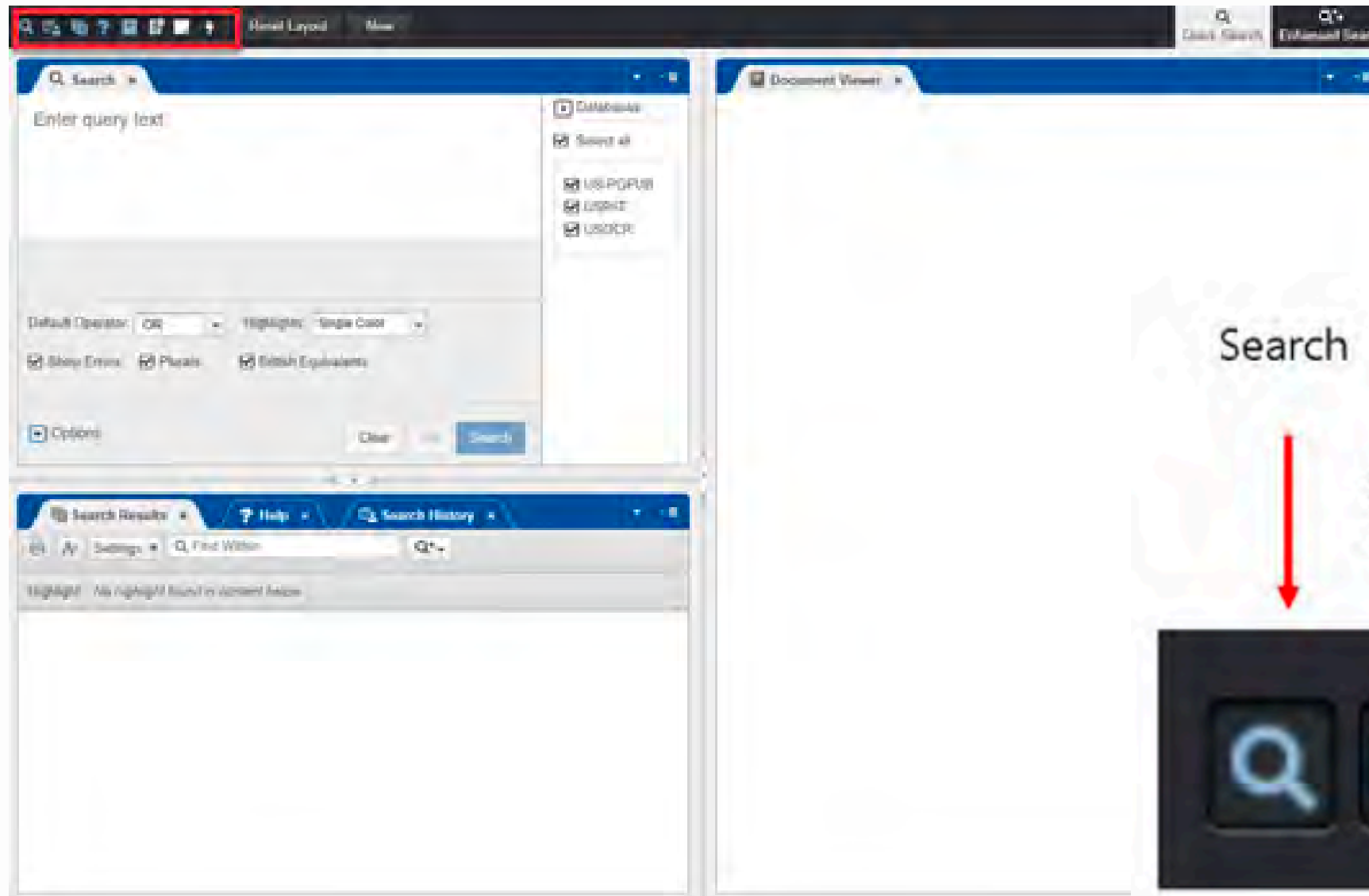
Three databases, one search tool

Patent Public Search can be used to search up to three databases at the same time:

- **US-PGPUB:** U.S. Pre-Grant Publications (Published Patent Applications) since 2001
- **USPAT:** All issued U.S. patents since 1790
- **USOCR:** Text of issued U.S. patents from appx. 1830s to 1970 scanned using OCR (Optical Character Recognition)



Gadget Functions Toolbar



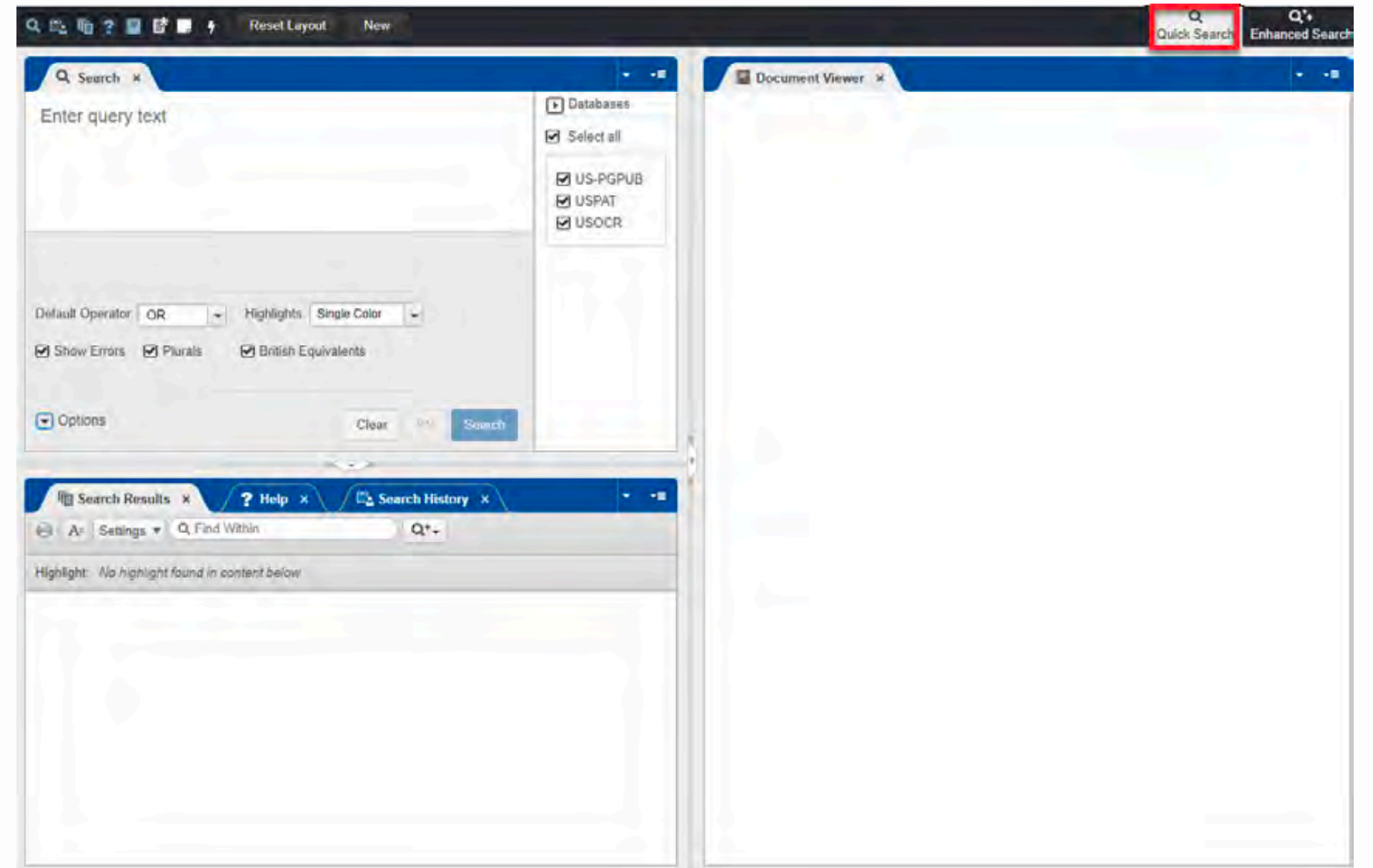
Quick Search

Three panels

Active gadgets:

- Search
- Search Results
- Help
- Search History
- Document Viewer

The other three gadget features can be activated

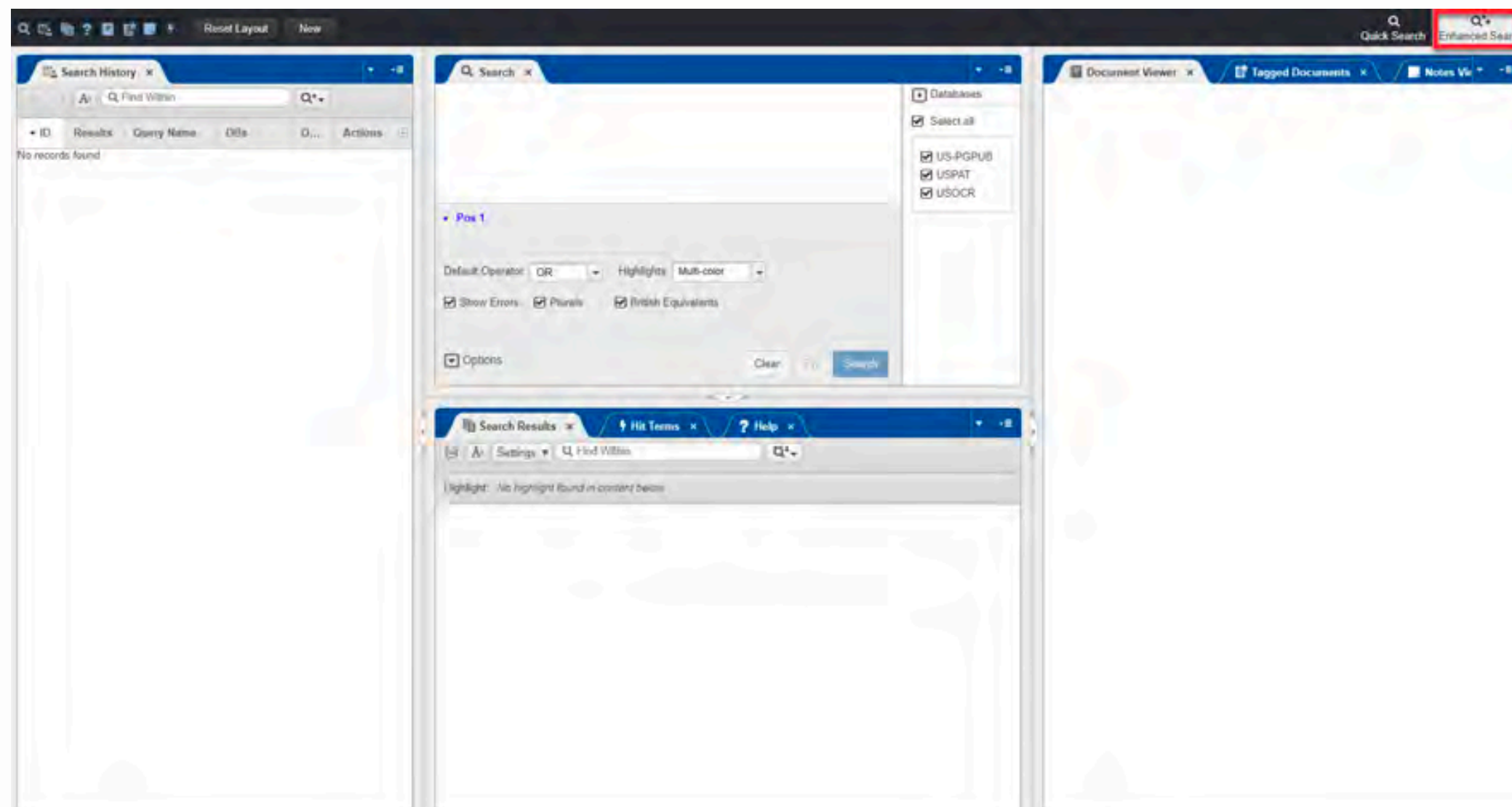


Enhanced Search

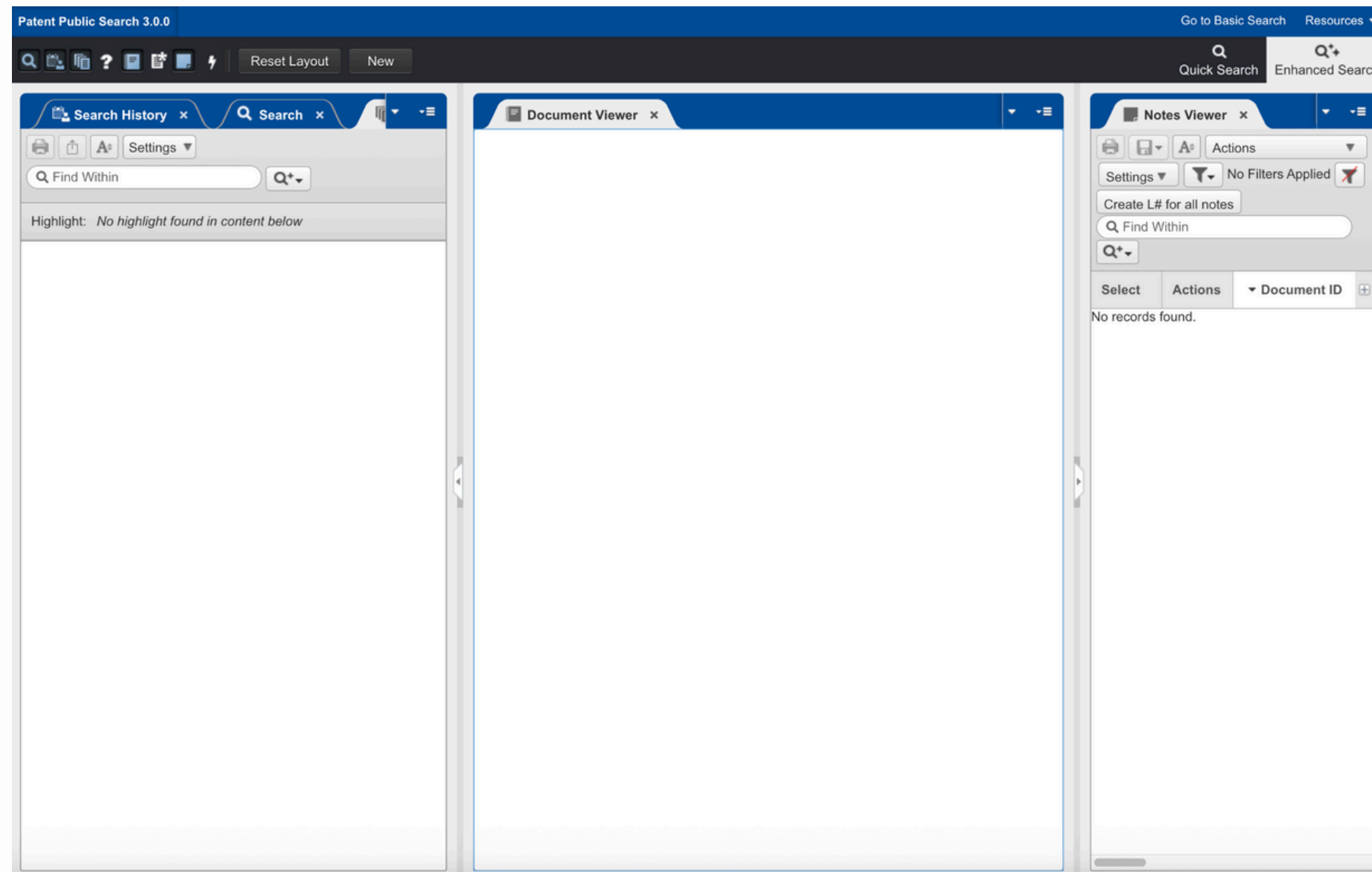
Four panels

All gadget features are active, including:

- Tagged Documents
- Notes Viewer
- Hit Terms



Customization & navigation



Searching

The screenshot displays the Patent Public Search 3.0.0 interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Go to Basic Search" and "Resources" links. Below this is a toolbar with "Reset Layout" and "New" buttons, and search options for "Quick Search" and "Enhanced Search".

The main interface is divided into two primary sections:

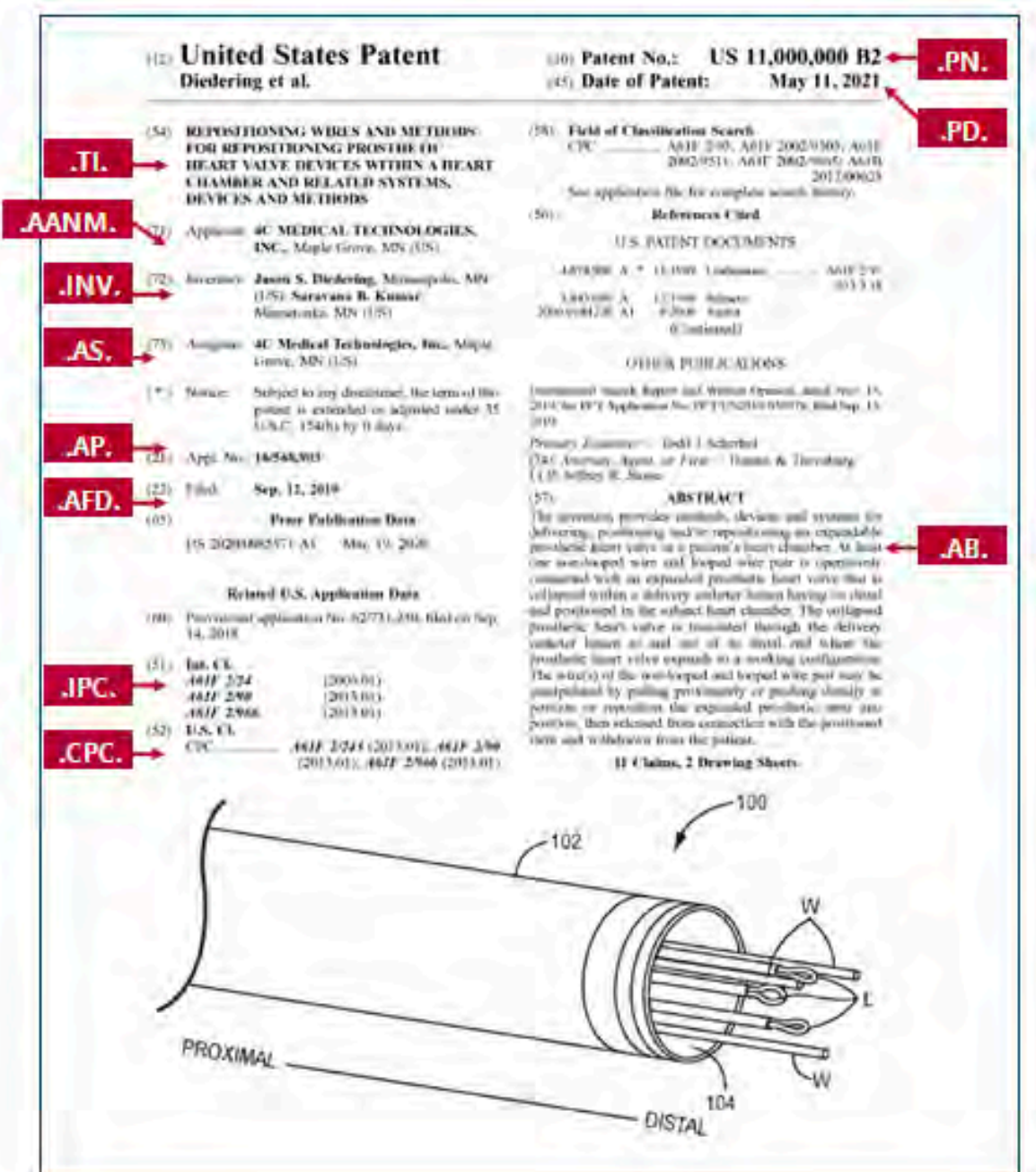
- Search Panel (Left):** Contains a text input field labeled "Enter query text". Below it are search options: "Default Operator" set to "OR", "Highlights" set to "Single Color", and checkboxes for "Show Errors", "Plurals", and "British Equivalents". A "Databases" sidebar is visible with "Select all" and checked boxes for "US-PGPUB", "USPAT", and "USOCR". At the bottom of the search panel are "Clear", "PN", and "Search" buttons.
- Document Viewer (Right):** A large empty area for viewing search results.

At the bottom of the search panel, there are tabs for "Search Results", "Help", and "Search History". Below these tabs is a "Settings" dropdown, a "Find Within" search box, and a "Q+" icon. A message below the tabs reads: "Highlight: No highlight found in content below".



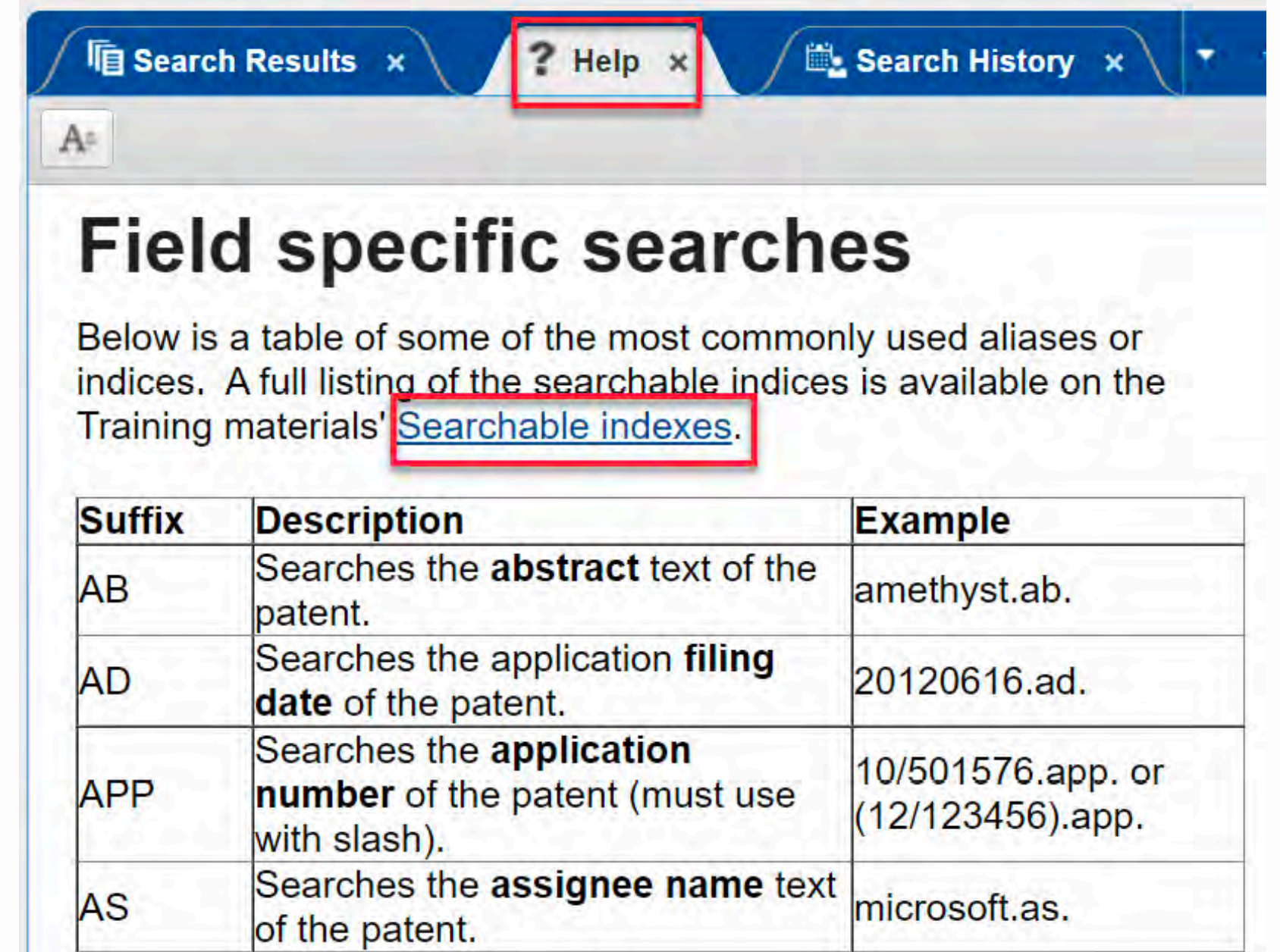
Field Codes

- Conducting a search without field codes will search all parts of a patent document
- Adding field codes to search terms will only search the specified parts or sections of a patent
- You must use periods on both sides of a field code except when searching date ranges
- Example: “prosthetic heart valve”.AB.



Is there a list of field codes?

- Frequently used field code abbreviations are located in the Help gadget
- The Help gadget also links to a full list of field codes or “searchable indexes”
- They are also located in the Search Overview Quick Reference Guide (QRG)



The screenshot shows a search interface with a blue header bar containing three tabs: "Search Results", "Help", and "Search History". The "Help" tab is highlighted with a red box. Below the header, the page title is "Field specific searches". The text below the title reads: "Below is a table of some of the most commonly used aliases or indices. A full listing of the searchable indices is available on the Training materials' [Searchable indexes](#)." The link "Searchable indexes" is also highlighted with a red box. Below the text is a table with three columns: "Suffix", "Description", and "Example".

Suffix	Description	Example
AB	Searches the abstract text of the patent.	amethyst.ab.
AD	Searches the application filing date of the patent.	20120616.ad.
APP	Searches the application number of the patent (must use with slash).	10/501576.app. or (12/123456).app.
AS	Searches the assignee name text of the patent.	microsoft.as.



Field Code Examples

Field code abbreviation	Example
.IN. or .INV. Inventor name	(Nikola <i>NEAR2</i> Tesla).IN.
.INCI. or .INST. Inventor city or state	Denver.INCI. <i>AND</i> CO.INST.
.AANM. Applicant name	Solight.AANM.
.AS. or .ASNM. Assignee name	Adobe.AS.
.PN. Patent or publication number	3168315.PN.
.AB. Abstract	(mobile ADJ charg* ADJ station).AB.
.CPC. Cooperative Patent Classification	B60L53/00.CPC. [or] B60L53/*.CPC.
.CLM. or .CLMS. Claims	(vehicle <i>NEAR</i> charger).CLMS.
.KD. Kind code (type of patent document)	S.KD. [design patent]



Boolean set operators

Boolean set operators indicate which terms the search results should contain

Examples:

- vehicle.AB. OR car.AB.
- (mobile OR portable).AB.
- Clock.TI,CLM. AND S.KD.
- “Ford Motor Company”.AS,AANM.

Search tips:

- Group synonyms with parentheses
- Use commas for multiple field codes
- Use quotation marks for exact phrases

Boolean searches (AND, OR, NOT, XOR)

The following table provides examples of wildcard searches and the results you should expect from such searches. These boolean searches are applied to the document as a whole, and not to a specific paragraph or sentence.

Operator	Description	Example	Behavior
AND	Two terms, joined by "AND" must occur within the same document.	photographic AND noodle	Returns all documents that contain both the terms "photographic" and "noodle" somewhere in the document - regardless of their order.
OR	Two terms, joined by "OR" means at least one of the terms must occur in the document.	dog OR cat	One of these two terms must occur in the document.
NOT	The first term must occur, the second term must not.	cardboard NOT box	Returns documents where the term "cardboard" does occur in the document, and the term "box" never occurs in the document.
XOR	Two terms, joined by "XOR" means at least one of the terms must occur in the document, but not both terms	pipe XOR ptfе	One of these two terms must occur in the document, but not both terms.



Proximity operators

Proximity operators indicate how close search terms are.

Examples:

- (Rory NEAR2 Cooper).IN.
- electric.AB. ADJ vehicle.AB.
- (“license plate” WITH sensor) SAME (garage OR parking)

Proximity operators (Same, With, Adjacent, Near)

The following table provides examples of searches using proximity operators. These searches are specific to a given sentence, with the exception of SAME which searches within the paragraph.

Operator	Description	Example	Behavior
ADJ	Two terms must occur directly next to each other, and in order. ADJ is the only ordered operator.	oxidizing ADJ bacteria	Returns documents where these two terms occur adjacent to each other and in the same order. This is the default operator, and is applied when no operators are given.
ADJ[n]	Two terms must occur within [n] terms of each other, in order, and within the same sentence.	wet adj4 silicon	The term "silicon" must occur within the 4 words that follow the term "wet" - so the following "wet oxidized, polysilazane-based silicon oxide" would be considered a hit. Maximum value of N is 450.
NEAR	Similar to ADJ but order is not relevant.	electrospray NEAR ion	Returns documents where the terms "electrospray" and "ion" are next to each other and in the same sentence, but in any order. So unlike ADJ, this search would return a hit for "negative ion electrospray"
NEAR[n]	Again, similar to ADJ[n], but order is not relevant.	cyclotron NEAR7 magnetic	Finds documents where the term cyclotron is within 7 words of the term magnetic - regardless of order. This would hit the following "a magnetic sector mass analyzer, or an ion cyclotron." Maximum value of N is 450.
WITH	Terms joined with WITH must occur within the same sentence.	detect WITH light	Finds documents where the terms "Light" and "detect" occur within the same sentence.
WITH[n]	Terms joined with WITH must occur within n sentences of each other.	detect WITH10 light	Finds documents where the terms "Light" and "detect" occur within 10 sentences of each other. Maximum value of N is 25.
SAME	Term joined with SAME must occur within the same paragraph.	synthesizing SAME tomography	Very similar to WITH but the searches occur over paragraphs rather than sentences.
SAME[n]	Two term just occur within n paragraphs of each other.	wheel SAME3 wood	Very similar to WITH[n] but the searches occur over n paragraphs rather than sentences. Maximum value of N is 25.



Wildcards & truncation

Search alternate beginnings, endings, or spellings of a word with wildcards. Plurals and British equivalents are searched by default.

Examples:

- charg\$5
- (\$5craft AND float).AB.

Search tip:

- The Hit Terms gadget will display terms found in your search results
- Limiting truncation to a number of characters (example: \$5) will return search results more quickly

Wildcards (?, \$, *)

The following table provides examples of wildcard searches and the results you should expect from such searches.

Wildcard	Description	Example	Behavior
?	Matches any single character, can occur at the beginning, middle or end of a word.	m?cro	Returns all documents that contain the word "micro" or the word "macro" anywhere in the text of the document. You will see different highlighting for each term.
[\$#]	Matches up to the given number of characters.	micro\$3	The \$3 here matches up to 3 characters. Hits would include terms like "microvia", "microbio", "microsec", "microgel".



Date Ranges

Search date ranges for:

- @ay: application year
- @ad: application date
- @py: publication year
- @pd: publication date

Examples:

- A45B19/00.CPC. AND @ay>=2022
- hair AND clippers AND @py<=1930
- @pd=20241029

Equal	@pd=20011118
Greater than	@ad>19961231
Greater than or equal to	@ay>=2014
Less than	@py<1975
Less than or equal to	@py<=1975
Not equal to	@pd<>19990216
Range	@ay>=1980<=1986



Search Strategies

The screenshot displays the Patent Public Search 3.0.0 interface. The top navigation bar includes "Patent Public Search 3.0.0" on the left and "Go to Basic Search" and "Resources" on the right. Below this is a toolbar with icons for search, help, and other functions, along with "Reset Layout" and "New" buttons. The main interface is divided into two primary sections: "Search" and "Document Viewer".

The "Search" section on the left contains a text input field labeled "Enter query text". Below the input field are several options: "Default Operator" set to "OR", "Highlights" set to "Single Color", and checkboxes for "Show Errors", "Plurals", and "British Equivalents". A "Databases" sidebar is visible, showing "Select all" and three checked options: "US-PGPUB", "USPAT", and "USOCR". At the bottom of the search section are "Options", "Clear", "PN", and "Search" buttons.

The "Document Viewer" section on the right is currently empty. Below the search section, there are tabs for "Search Results", "Help", and "Search History". The "Search Results" tab is active, showing a "Settings" dropdown, a "Find Within" search box, and a "Highlight" status message: "No highlight found in content below".



Multi Step Search Strategy

1. Brainstorm terms describing the invention
2. Conduct a keyword search using Patent Public Search
3. Conduct an in-depth review of the selected documents
4. Expand the search to publications with relevant **classification numbers**
5. Review cited references
6. Broaden your search to include foreign patents and non-patent literature



Brainstorming terms

When choosing keywords, consider words that describe:

- The nature of the invention
- The process, product, or function
- The physical composition, structure, materials, or key components
- How the invention will be used
- Technical terms, industry terms, and synonyms

You may miss results that include:

- Synonyms (ex: “rodent extermination device” instead of “mouse trap”)
- Vague terminology (ex: “toy and process of use”)
- Obsolete terms (ex: “floppy disc”)



Classification resources

USPTO navigation menu with 'Classification' highlighted under MPEP.

Classification Resources page showing search forms for 'Classification Symbol Lookup' and 'Classification Text Search'.

- **B60L 53/00** **Methods of charging batteries, specially adapted for electric vehicles; Charging stations or on-board charging equipment therefor; Exchange of energy storage elements in electric vehicles**
- B60L 53/10
 - . characterised by the energy transfer between the charging station and the vehicle
 - . . {DC charging controlled by the charging station, e.g. mode 4}
- B60L 53/12
 - . . Inductive energy transfer
 - . . . Circuits or methods for driving the primary coil, e.g. supplying electric power to the coil
 - . . . Detection or removal of foreign bodies



Keyword search example

Problem: Electric car drivers have a limited number of charging stations available. They are concerned that they could experience a dead car battery between charging stations

Solution: A mobile charging station that could be brought to a car

Potential keywords:

- Electric car or electric vehicle
- Mobile or portable
- Charging station



Building a search string

Each search statement is recorded as an L set number (L#) in your “Search History”

After your first search, combine an L# with additional search terms without retyping the previous search

Example:

- L1: Electric NEAR2 (car OR vehicle)
- L2: L1 AND (charg* NEAR station)
- L3: L2 AND (mobile OR portable)

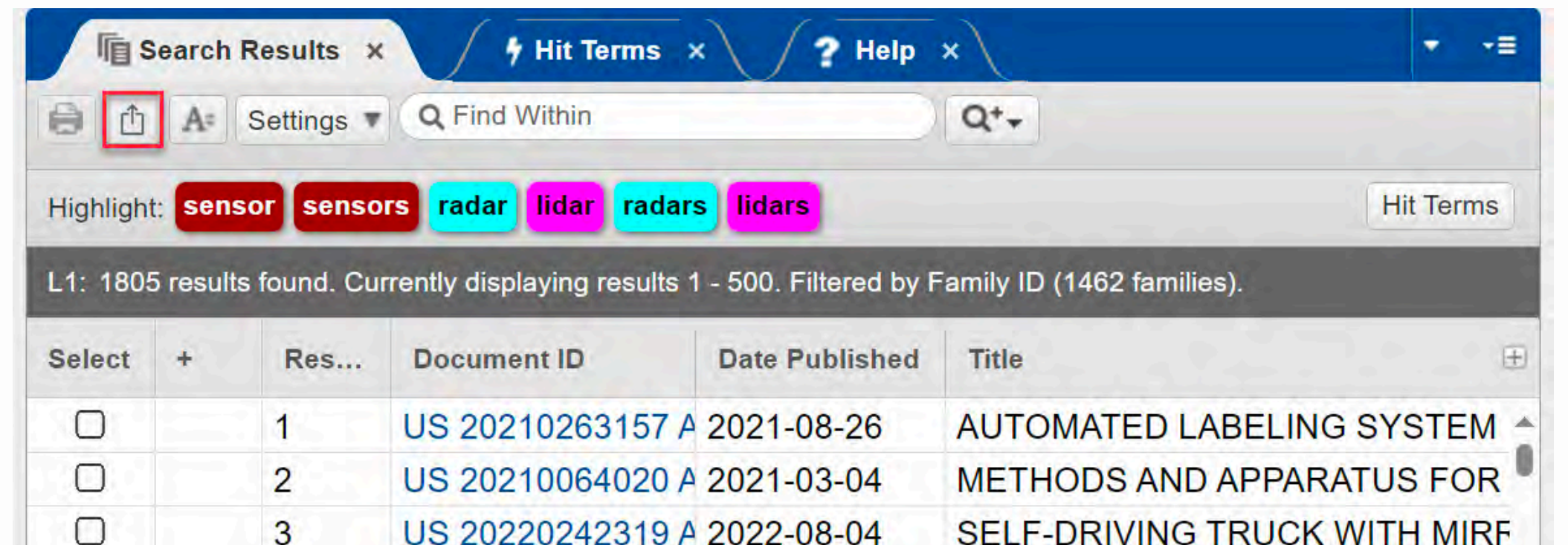
The screenshot displays the Patent Public Search 3.0.22 interface. At the top, there are navigation options: "Go to Basic Search" and "Resources". Below this is a toolbar with "Reset Layout", "New", "Quick Search", and "Enhanced Search". The main search area shows a search string: "L2» AND (mobile OR portable)". Below this is a "Search History" section with a table of search results.

ID	Results	Query Name	DBs	Operator	Actions
Prior Art 3					
L3	11,768	L2 AND (mobile OR portable)	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR	OR	
L2	21,197	L1 AND (charg* NEAR station)	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR	OR	
L1	289,156	Electric NEAR2 (car OR vehicle)	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR	OR	



Export search results

- Download displayed search results as a .csv file
- File can hold up to 10,000 search results
- If you have more than 500 results, scroll through all results to show the remaining documents before exporting



The screenshot shows a web interface for search results. At the top, there are tabs for 'Search Results', 'Hit Terms', and 'Help'. Below the tabs, there is a toolbar with a printer icon, a red box around an export icon (a document with an arrow), a font size selector 'A', a 'Settings' dropdown, a search box 'Find Within', and a 'Q+' button. Below the toolbar, there is a 'Highlight:' section with colored buttons for 'sensor', 'sensors', 'radar', 'lidar', 'radars', and 'lidars', and a 'Hit Terms' button. A status bar indicates 'L1: 1805 results found. Currently displaying results 1 - 500. Filtered by Family ID (1462 families)'. Below this is a table with columns: 'Select', '+', 'Res...', 'Document ID', 'Date Published', and 'Title'. The table contains three rows of results.

Select	+	Res...	Document ID	Date Published	Title
<input type="checkbox"/>		1	US 20210263157 A	2021-08-26	AUTOMATED LABELING SYSTEM
<input type="checkbox"/>		2	US 20210064020 A	2021-03-04	METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR
<input type="checkbox"/>		3	US 20220242319 A	2022-08-04	SELF-DRIVING TRUCK WITH MIRF



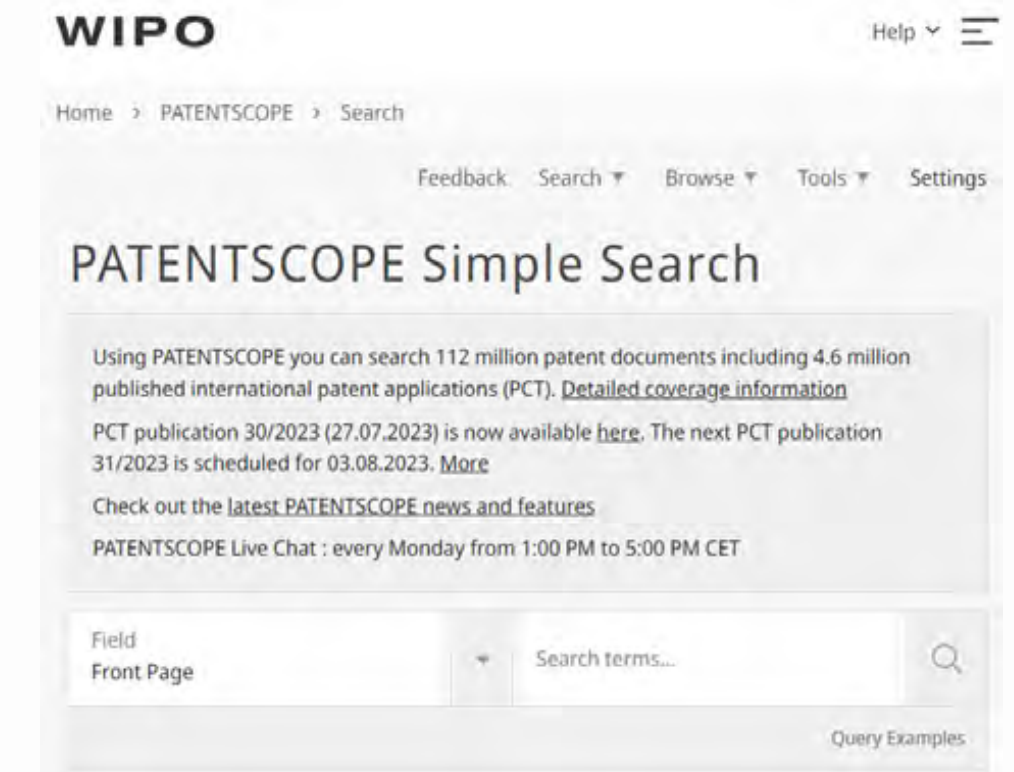
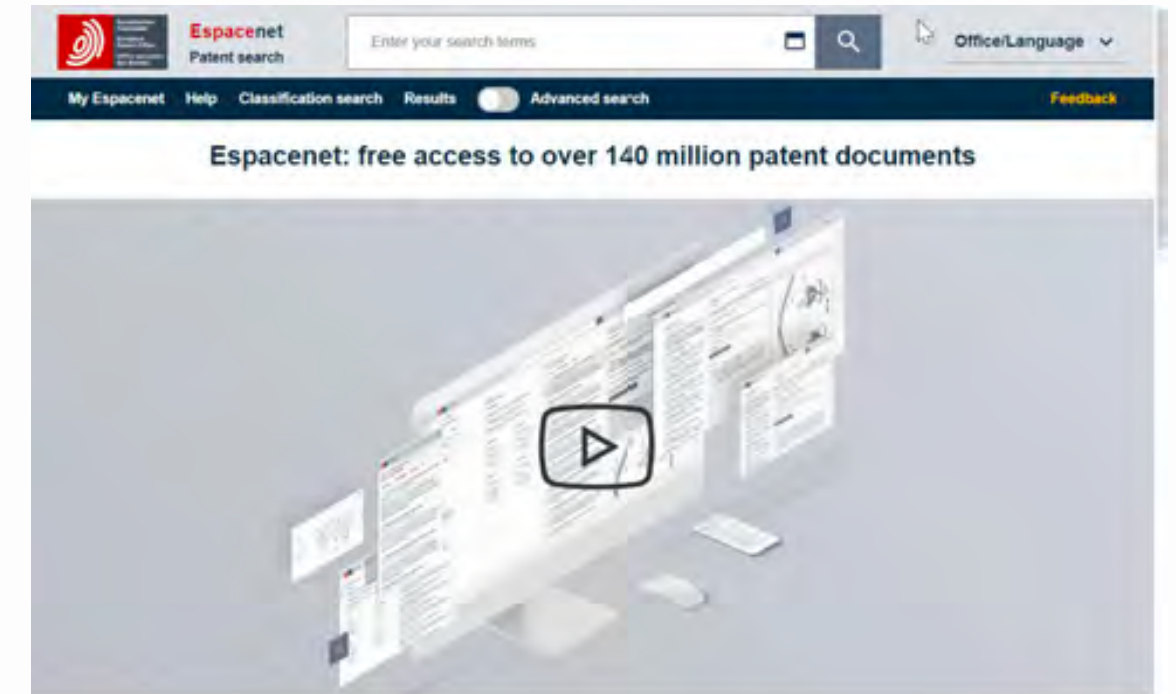
Broaden your search

Foreign patent documents

- **Espacenet** (European Patent Office search tool) at worldwide.espacenet.com/patent/
- **Patentscope** (World Intellectual Property Organization search tool) at www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/

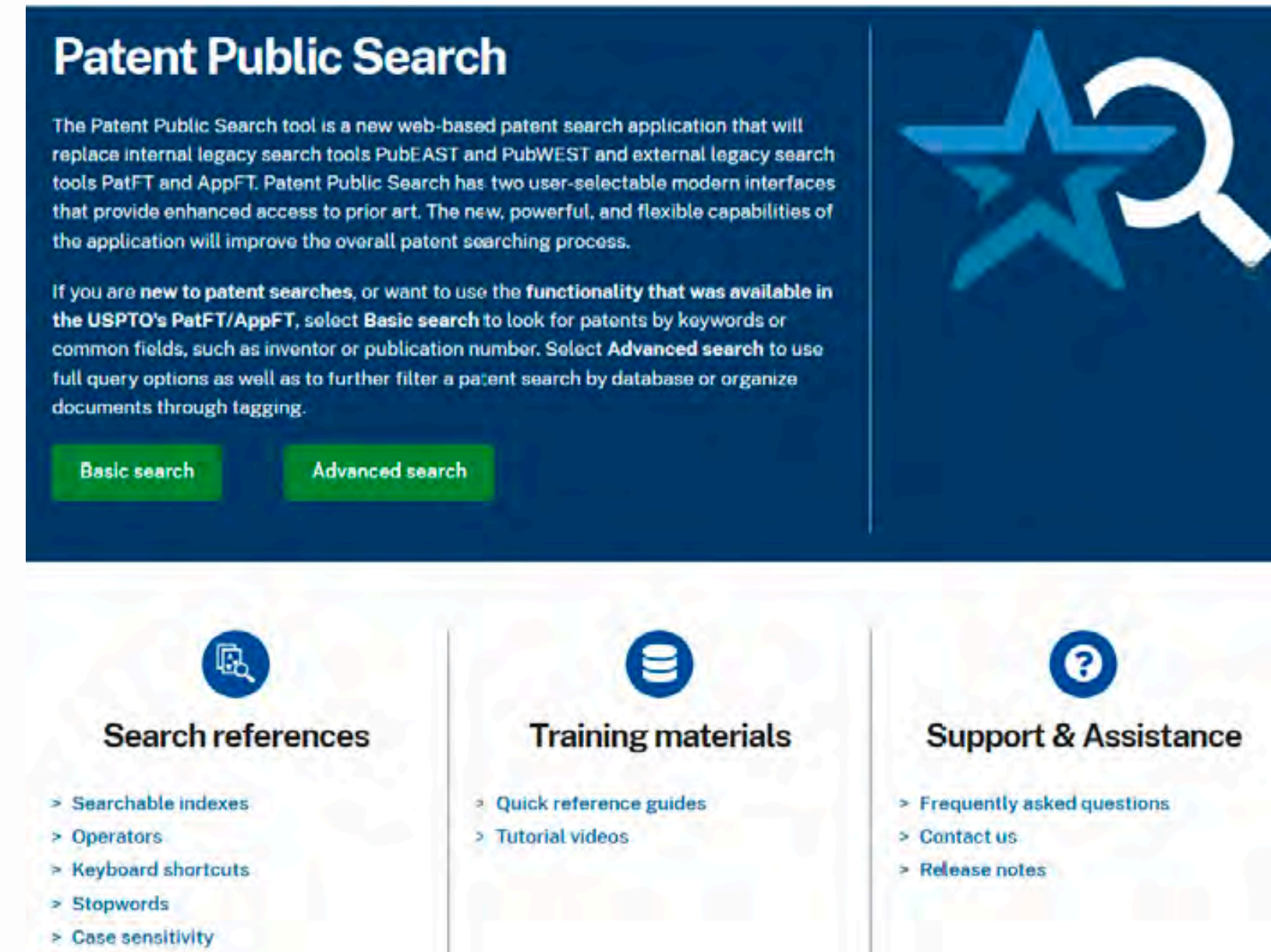
Non-patent literature

- Websites, books, journals, databases, and other published content



Patent search resources

- Micro tutorials, FAQs, and quick reference guides
- “Getting started with Patent Public Search” webinars for patent searchers: www.uspto.gov/PatentPublicSearch
- “Multi-step U.S. patent search strategy” and other resources available at: www.uspto.gov/patents/search



Patent Public Search

The Patent Public Search tool is a new web-based patent search application that will replace internal legacy search tools PubEAST and PubWEST and external legacy search tools PatFT and AppFT. Patent Public Search has two user-selectable modern interfaces that provide enhanced access to prior art. The new, powerful, and flexible capabilities of the application will improve the overall patent searching process.

If you are **new to patent searches**, or want to use the **functionality that was available in the USPTO's PatFT/AppFT**, select **Basic search** to look for patents by keywords or common fields, such as inventor or publication number. Select **Advanced search** to use full query options as well as to further filter a patent search by database or organize documents through tagging.

[Basic search](#) [Advanced search](#)

Search references

- > Searchable indexes
- > Operators
- > Keyboard shortcuts
- > Stopwords
- > Case sensitivity

Training materials

- > Quick reference guides
- > Tutorial videos

Support & Assistance

- > Frequently asked questions
- > Contact us
- > Release notes



What we can & cannot help with

We can help with:

- Showing how to search USPTO databases
- Demonstrating public tools like Patent Public Search using generic searches
- Guiding users to official USPTO forms and resources
- Helping interpret search results structure (classification, status, owners)
- Connecting entrepreneurs with business development partners and learning opportunities
- Providing general information about the patent process

We cannot help with:

- Offering legal advice or opinions
- Saying whether an idea is patentable
- Recommending specific search keywords or filing strategies
- Preparing, editing, or reviewing patent applications
- Conducting searches on behalf of a user





You can connect with us at
mclptrc@multco.us
