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Frequently Asked Questions

1. Accessing TotalPatent®

1.1 I've forgotten my ID. How can I be reminded?

On the TotalPatent® sign in page (www.lexisnexis.com/totalpatent), click “Forgot ID?” Enter the email address associated with your LexisNexis® account and your ID will be emailed to that address. If you do not have a registered email address, or if you cannot remember it, please contact Customer Support at 1-800-543-6862.

1.2 I've forgotten my Password. How can I be reminded?

On the TotalPatent® sign in page (www.lexisnexis.com/totalpatent), Click “Forgot Your Password?” and enter your current ID. Then select the security question you previously provided during your initial setup and authentication. If you have not previously selected a security question, contact Customer Support at 1-800-543-6862. Enter the answer to the security question and click OK. Your password will be sent by email to the address you provided during your initial setup.

1.3 How does auto login work?

If you prefer not to enter your ID and password each time you use the LexisNexis TotalPatent® service, following these steps: Enter your ID and password on the sign-in page and select the Remember My Sign-In Information check box. Click Sign In and the next time you use the LexisNexis TotalPatent® service, you will go directly into the application without signing in.

1.4 What are the system requirements?

For optimal viewing, set your computer screen resolution to 1024x768 or higher. You can change these settings in your computer's display settings. To access the LexisNexis TotalPatent® service, you must have an Internet connection. LexisNexis recommends a modem speed of 56K or above. If you are connected via a LAN Connection, a TCP/IP connection of suitable speed with Internet access is required. Note that LAN firewalls, proxy servers, and network administration software including virus scanners, other traffic on the network, etc., may impact performance. For PCs, we recommend a Pentium processor operating at 233Mhz or above and for Mac users, we recommend a Power PC G3 or above. In either case 256 MB of RAM or higher is recommended. Note that if you generally run multiple applications or browser windows simultaneously, this will affect memory and overall performance so higher RAM is recommended.

1.5 Which web browsers are supported?

TotalPatent has been tested on Microsoft® Internet Explorer versions 7 and 8, as well as Mozilla Firefox® versions 15 and Google Chrome 21.

1.6 Which operating systems are supported?

TotalPatent® has been tested on Microsoft® Windows XP 32-bit.

1.7 Can I get to TotalPatent® through Lexis.com?

Yes, there is a link on Lexis.com to TotalPatent®.

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1.8 Can two users log in with my User Name and Password at the same time?

No, LexisNexis does not permit users to share User IDs or Passwords.

1.9 What is SSL?

Secured Sockets Layer is the standard encryption protocol used to provide a secure connection. With SSL in place, information is encrypted before it is transmitted between your computer and LexisNexis, blocking any attempt to observe this information by another party.

2. Coverage and Currency

2.1 How often are the collections updated?

This varies according to the publishing authority but most of the major full text collections are updated weekly.

2.2 Where can I find information about coverage in TotalPatent®?

The online coverage information lists scope, depth and breadth of the 100 collections available in TotalPatent®.

2.3 For which authorities is litigation information available?

Litigation information is available for US patents only.

2.4 For which authorities is Legal Status available?

Legal Status is available for the following collections: US, CN, DE, WO, EP, GB, JP, CA, FR, AT, AU, BR, ES, RU, CH, NL, TW, IT, FI, SE, DD, DK, BE, NZ, HU, IL, NO, CZ, HK, PL, PT, IE, AR, EA, PE, CO, SI, MD, SK, LT, EE, SU, CS, PH, MC, LU, and CU.

2.5 Where does the information for the Assignee and Inventor Look Up tools come from?

The source for the Assignee and Inventor information is the bibliographic data.

2.6 Where does the information for the Subsidiary Companies Look Up tools come from?

The source for the Subsidiary Companies information is LexisNexis Dossier.

2.7 How can I report an error in the Subsidiary Companies Look Up tools?

Users can contact the TotalPatent® development team via the Feedback link.

Frequently Asked Questions

3. Patent Families

3.1 What is a patent family?

A patent family is a set of either patent applications or granted patents filed in multiple countries to protect a single invention by a common inventor(s) and then patented in more than one country.

3.2 What patent family features does TotalPatent support?

In TotalPatent®, results can also be sorted, grouped and de-duplicated into Patent Families. Users can prioritise the order in which the representative family member is retained by ranking their preferred authorities in the Preference settings. De-duplication is currently by Main family only. The earliest publication is retained. TotalPatent® users can also create Family Reports. These are determined by user's individual Preference settings and use the Extended Family definition. Family reports are available as HTML only and comprise a Table of Contents, Representative record, Bibliographic information, image, family table and Legal Status option.

3.3 What is the difference between INPADOC, Main and Extended patent families?

The INPADOC patent family is a broad definition of a patent family; one which takes domestic application numbers as additional connecting elements and includes documents having the same scope but lacking a common priority.

The Main patent family is defined as comprising all documents having exactly the same priority or combination of priorities.

The LexisNexis Extended patent family follows broadly the same set of principles as the INPADOC family with the exception that US Divisionals and Continuation are not included in the family.

3.4 Which family member/version is retained after de-duplication?

The earliest publication is retained.

3.5 Why shouldn't I just use the INPADOC family information?

Because the LexisNexis Extended family covers authorities not included in INPADOC and is often updated more timely than INPADOC.

Frequently Asked Questions

4. Search

4.1 What search operators does TotalPatent® support?

TotalPatent® supports the following logical operators: AND, OR, AND NOT as well as the following proximity operators W/n, PRE/n, NOT W/n, W/s (within sentence) and W/p (within paragraph). note that W/s is translated to W/10 and that W/p looks for paragraph boundaries. However, as not all documents have paragraph boundaries, using W/50 or W/150 can be an alternative.

4.2 What searchable fields does TotalPatent® support?

TotalPatent supports approximately 200 searchable fields. An alphabetical list of searchable fields can be found in the Help system, together with examples of how the fields may be used.

4.3 What is the difference between the "!" and "*" wildcards?

Use an exclamation mark (!) to find a root word plus all the words made by adding letters to the end of it. Use an asterisk (*) to replace characters anywhere in a word, except the first character. Use one asterisk for each character you wish to replace.

4.4 How can I use a wildcard when searching for classification codes?

The ! wildcard may only be used with 3 or more characters. Searching G02! will return documents containing G02B26/12; G02C5/22K etc.; G02C! will return documents containing G02C5/08; G02C7/08 etc.;G02C5! will return documents containing G02C5/22B; G02C5/22H etc. and G02C5/2! will return documents containing G02C5/22D; G02C5/22D8 etc.

4.5 Can I search for a phrase?

Yes, you can. Simply put the phrase within quotation marks, e.g, "Collapsible bicycle frame". This will return only those documents in which the exact phrase is present.

4.6 Using Assignee/Applicant drop down/search box does not return all the hits I was expecting, why?

The Assignee/Applicant field in the drop down/search boxes searches against the Assignee at Issue only. Post issuance assignees are not included.

4.7 Using Inventor drop down/search box does not return all the hits I was expecting, why?

The format for Inventor names varies between publishing authorities. Some use first name, middle initial, last name, whereas others use last name first name, middle initial etc. Remember to use proximity operators, such as W/2 to capture more variations of the Inventor's name.

4.8 How can I search for documents before, after or between a particular (set of) publication/application/priority dates?

Use the Publication Date drop down menu for restricting searches by Publication Date. For Application and Priority dates use the following formats in the respective drop down menu: for date is before (<YYYY-MM-DD); for date is after (>YYYY-MM-DD); for date is between (>=YYYY-MM-DD and <=YYYY-MM-DD).

Frequently Asked Questions

4.9 What is the format for searching for publication/application/priority numbers?

Formats for publication, application and priority numbers can vary from authority to authority and, indeed, even with an authority. For best results, always consult the online publication number formatting guide.

4.10 What is the Normalized Assignee field?

The Normalized Assignee field allows users to search for organizations names, regardless of how it has been published, including common typographical errors and abbreviations, as well as changes in case and punctuation.

4.11 How do I search Current Assignee only?

Use a combination of `assigneeatissue()` and `assigneeaftissue()` to be certain of capturing the current assignee of a patent.

4.12 How can I do a search in IPC/ECLA/CPC/USPC/JPC?

The simplest way is to use the various class restrictions found on the Advanced Search form.

4.13 How can I restrict my search to Utility Models or Design Patents?

Use the appropriate kind codes such as U1, U2 and Y1, Y2 for Utility Models and kind code S to restrict your search to US Design Patents.

4.14 How can I restrict my search to Applications/Granted patents only?

Select Applications or Granted from the Document Kinds check box on the Advanced Search form.

4.15 How can I combine a series of searches?

Save your searches to the Saved Search feature, then combine them using the AND, OR and AND NOT operators in Saved Search History.

4.16 How long are Recent Searches/Saved Searches/Downloads stored?

Recent searches are stored for 24 hours; Saved searches are stored indefinitely; Downloads are stored for 72 hours.

4.17 Where can I find the various Publication Kind Codes?

The online Help guide lists the many different publication kind codes available in TotalPatent®.

4.18 What if I don't know the Kind Code?

The online Help guide provides all the assistance needed to find appropriate kind codes for each authority.

4.19 Where can I find a patent application for an already-published patent?

Check the patent family table to find details of the original application.

Frequently Asked Questions

4.20 Do all records have a PDF of the original document?

In some cases, the original PDF of the document is not available. However, you may be able to view the PDF of a corresponding document.

4.21 Why are some PDF documents not searchable?

Non-Latin collections, e.g. China, Japan and Korea are not OCR'd and hence the PDFs for these authorities are not searchable.

4.22 Does TotalPatent® translate on-the-fly?

No, full text documents are pre-translated into English using machine translation technology, thus allowing users to search the full text of "foreign" language collections, using English key words.

4.23 Does TotalPatent® support the browser back button?

No, to go back to a previous search, use the History and Alerts tab.

5. Displaying and Reviewing Results; Work Folders

5.1 How do I increase the number of results displayed on a page?

Go to Preferences and against the Results Per Page option select from the following: 10, 25, 50, 75, or 100 results per page.

5.2 How can I display more than 3,000 records?

You can export up to 20,000 records into a Work Folder from where much of the same functionality is available as in the Results List.

5.3 What is the size limit of work folder Storage?

All users receive 100 Work Folders and each Work Folder may store up to 20,000 records; sub-folders may also store up to 20,000 records.

5.4 What are the various download limits for Results/Work Folders?

Refer to the list online

5.5 How can I see which applications have been granted in my Work Folder?

Search the contents of the Work Folder for Pub-Type(Granted).

5.6 What is the advantage of truncating Claims when I export to a spreadsheet?

Different versions of Excel have different character length limits. To avoid issues of formatting, we recommend that users truncate the claims to the first 2,000 characters only.

5.7 How can I return to my original results after editing/narrowing?

Use the History and Alerts tab to return to original results.

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5.8 In Work Folders, what is the difference between removing "Exact Duplicates" and "Family Duplicates"?

Exact duplicates are documents with identical publication numbers; Family Duplicates are documents with identical priority numbers

5.9 How do I find out if a patent or patent application is still in force?

Access the legal status by clicking on the legal status icon.

6. Other/General

6.1 Why can't I see the Notes search tab?

All subscribers have access to Notes. If you cannot see the Notes tab, contact your IP Sales specialist, LexisNexis account manager or Customer Support.

6.2 How do I change the Project ID?

To change the project ID at any time, follow these steps: Click the Project ID link at the top of the page. If you have not assigned a project ID before, enter a New ID in the box provided. If you have previously assigned an ID, you can enter a new one, or choose an existing ID from the drop-down list. Click Set to associate this ID with your research, or Cancel.

6.3 How do I disable the (LAFN) interruptive message?

Go to Preferences and against the Search Results options, select the option to take you straight to my first 3,000 results.

6.4 What is the difference between Notes and Comments?

Notes are available to view by other TotalPatent® users on the same bill group (account) and are, therefore, public; Comments are private and may only be viewed by the author.

6.5 Why are the images missing from some patents?

Not all records publish with an image and not all images are available as an electronic archive

6.6 How much does a file history/human translation cost?

The cost of File Histories and Human Translations depends upon the size of the file history and/or number of words and original language of the human translation. Estimates are available prior to confirming an order.

For additional assistance with TotalPatent®

You can call TotalPatent® Customer Support at any time, day or night.

877.412.3987

Email our team at IPtraining@lexisnexis.com



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