Patent Resources
at Evansdale Library

Law 650

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• Evansdale Library at WVU is the only U.S. Patent and Trademark Resource Center in the state of West Virginia.

• Assist with learning how to search, navigating the USPTO website and contacting the USPTO.

• Access to their databases: PubWEST and PubEAST and, color Plant Patents.

• Provide reference assistance to inventors throughout the state.
Patent Definition

- A property right granted by the Government of the United States of America to an inventor “to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States or importing the invention into the United States” for a limited time in exchange for public disclosure of the invention when the patent is granted.
Three Types of Patents

**Utility**—any new, useful, and nonobvious process, machine, article of manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof.

**Design**—a new, original, and ornamental design for an article of manufacture

**Plant**—an asexually reproduced distinct and new variety of plant.
Terms of Patent

- The terms of utility and plant patents are twenty years from application date.

- The term of design patents is fourteen years from date of issue.
Available Search Tools

- Paper index, Manual
- USPTO Web site
  - [http://www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)
  - Fulltext of patents from 1976
- PubWEST database (Web-based Examiners Search Tool) & PubEAST
  - Available at USPTO Resource Centers—Evansdale Library
  - Fulltext of Patents from 1920 and Access to Foreign Patents
Keywords & Classification

- Keyword search available
- Classification more effective
  - Subject area searching
  - USPC—Classes and Subclasses, e.g., 562/891
  - CPC—beginning in Jan. 2014, e.g., C 07C 51/54
- Used to classify characteristics of invention
  - (1) essential function,
  - (2) essential effect or basic product resulting from the invention,
  - (3) physical structure of invention, and/or
  - (4) intended use of invention
How is the CPC Available?

- **Espacenet**

![Espacenet Patent search](image)

**Cooperative Patent Classification**

- Type in Keywords
- Select a group
HELPING INDEPENDENT INVENTORS
Remember to tell clients

- Keep a log or journal of invention
- Keep the development and testing confidential
- Consult with a patent attorney once you believe you have a viable invention
Patent File Wrappers and Public PAIR

- **Patent File Wrapper**
  - File for each patent application
  - Since 2003 have been scanned and are called IFW (Image File Wrapper)
  - Contains application, correspondence between USPTO and applicant

- Displays “real-time” information regarding patent application status.
- Both a Public and Private side to PAIR.
- Once patent issued available on Public PAIR
Questions?

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