7 Step Patent Search Strategy

4. Search for related patents and applications by classification and sub-classification. Record all relevant patent numbers

5. Access patents and applications by clicking on the ‘Original document’ tab on the left toolbar. Review all relevant patents and applications, including:
   - Claims
   - Specifications
   - Drawings

6. When reviewing patents, look for the ‘also published as’ heading

   Also published as: GB2481247 (B)

   This heading only appears in the Bibliographic data tab for inventions that have patents and/or applications in different countries

7. To find other relevant patents, review:
   - Cited documents
   - Citing documents
   - International Patent Documentation Center (INPADOC) patent family

Note: This example only shows one keyword search and one CPC search. You should plan to go through many iterations of keyword and classification searches.

For more assistance:

1. Visit our complete patent research guide: guides.lib.umich.edu/patents

2. Contact your patent librarians:
   Leena Lalwani
   734-936-2332  llalwani@umich.edu

   Paul Grochowski
   734-647-5738  grocho@umich.edu

Reference Desk: 734-647-5735
aael.ref@umich.edu

University of Michigan
North Campus ~ Duderstadt Center
2281 Bonisteel Boulevard
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2094
**Starting a Patent Search**

- **Patent searching is complex and time consuming.** Plan accordingly to spend several hours to learn the search process and evaluate results.

- **When searching for patents, keep a detailed record of:**
  - Keywords, classifications and sub-classifications searched
  - Document numbers of patents and applications examined

- **Tools available at the Art, Architecture and Engineering Library (AAEL):**
  - PUBWest and PUBEast databases
  - Patent related books

- **Espacenet:** free online patent search service from the European Patent Organization (EPO)
  - worldwide.espacenet.com
  - Click ‘Advanced Search’
  - International coverage of over 80 million patents with complete cooperative patent classification (CPC)

- **Disadvantages of other patent search services:**
  - United States Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO)
    - Only covers US patents
  - Google Patents
    - Patent coverage unknown
  - Refers CPC searches to Espacenet

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**7 Step Patent Search Strategy**

1. **Brainstorm keywords related to invention**
   - Describe function and features of invention
   - Generate broad and narrow terms

   **Keywords for ‘Rotating cylinder rodent trap’**:
   - **Rodent**
     - mouse, mice, rodent, vermin, pest, mammal
   - **Trap**
     - trap, trapping, capturing
   - **Container**
     - bin, box, bucket, pail, receptacle
   - **Rotating cylinder**
     - axle, pipe, platform, rod, bobbin, spindle
   - **Ramp**
     - ladder, steps, inclined plane

2. **Perform a keyword search in Espacenet (worldwide.espacenet.com)**

   ![Espacenet search interface]

   - Click on a CPC # to get more information

3. **In search results, look for patents and patent applications similar to your invention**
   - Look at the cooperative classifications (CPC)
   - Record all relevant classification and sub-classification numbers

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**Bibliographic data: US5528852 (A) — 1996-06-25**

- **In my patents list**
  - EP Register
  - Report data error

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**Icons**

- S subclassifications
- D definitions
- i notes
- ! warnings