Orbit.com – Express searching
User Guide

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Keyword Searching

The wording or terminology in patent publications is not required to be uniform or standardized. We need to allow for the differences in the way inventors, attorneys, cultures and translators express patent language.

It is helpful to include the following in your keyword strategy:

- Synonyms
- Acronyms
- Different Spellings
- Different Word Endings

Using a SPACE between keywords:
A space between keywords is treated as a paragraph (P) operator
Example query: liquid toner
Finds: records with liquid and toner in the same paragraph

Using a COMMA between keywords:
A comma between keywords is treated as an OR operator
Example query: developer,toner
Finds: records with either liquid or toner

Using QUOTES around two or more keywords:
Quotes around keywords are treated with adjacency (W) operator
Example query: “intermediate transfer blanket”
Finds: records with the words intermediate transfer blanket/s next to one another and in that order

Combining QUOTES with SPACE:
Example query: “liquid toner” charge
Finds: records with the words liquid toner together and in same paragraph as charge

Using a combination of a SPACE and a COMMA between keywords:
Example query: liquid (toner,developer)
Finds: records with liquid in same paragraph as either toner or developer

Varied Keyword Endings / Beginnings

By default, one character flexibility on end of keyword; automatic, built-in ? symbol (allows for zero to one character).
Example query: charge
Finds: records with charge, charges, charger or charged

For more than one character ending or beginning:
Add + symbol to beginning and/or end of word
Example query: +charge+
Finds: records with charg..., discharg..., recharg..., excharg..., charging, chargeable, chargeback, etc

Note: Choosing to use + overrides automatic one character word ending variation and one must apply + (unlimited variation symbol) or ? (One character variation symbol) to all keywords where any variations are required.
Example query: +butyl+ catalyst?

One must add the ? to keyword catalyst to find singular and plural as the <<automatic ?>> is overridden by use of the + with keyword butyl
**Varied Keyword Spellings**

One character variation internally in keyword:  
Use # symbol in place of variable character  
Example query: polymerization  
Finds: records with polymerisation or polymerization

More than one character variation internally:  
Enter all the spellings of the word separated by comma  
Example query: (color, colour) toner  
Finds: records with toner in same paragraph as either colour or color

**The Following Combinations Are Not Supported**

Use of quotes multiple times in the same query  
Example: “Intermediate transfer blanket” “charge director”

Use of quotes with brackets or parentheses in the same query  
Example: “liquid” (toner, developer)
Assignee and Inventor Searching

Assignee or Company Names are not standardized. Often a company will be listed with many variations to its name. Different versions of an assignee name can be covered in one search by entering the variations separated by a comma(s).

To search patent assignee or owner name at time of publication:
- Use unique part of name - do not add: Corp, Inc, Ltd, KK or GmbH
- Use + symbol on names to allow for multiple word endings
- Use all variations of names: acronyms, spelled out, one word or two
- Use all earlier versions of a company name (no updating of names)

Example:
IBM, INT+ BUS+ MACH+: retrieves records assigned to IBM
DUPONT, DU PONT, NEMOURS: retrieves records assigned to DuPont

Inventor names are not standardized, so it is recommended that you search all possible variations on a name.

Enter Inventor name: Last Name <space> First Name

Why is this important?
Keyword searches may not retrieve all relevant patent documents and there may be “independent” inventors patenting relevant technology. Also sometimes inventors are not associated with known competitor companies - or only inventor names are given in the first publication (often the case in US applications where patent assignees are lacking).

A comma is used to separate one variation from another and is searched with the operator OR. Different versions of an inventor name can be covered in one search by entering the variations separated by a comma(s).

Example: SMITH DANIEL, SMITH DAN, SMITH D

Patent Number Wizard

Upload and search up to 200,000 numbers at a time. Auto-formatting allows for flexibility in entry of patent numbers in different formats.