Patent Information, Search Methodologies and Techno-Legal Analysis

In association with the NPTEL Course "Patent Search for Engineers and Lawyers"

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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Patent information constitutes an important source of technical, legal and commercial knowledge. Systematic search for patents is not only relevant for determining the patentability of an invention, but also for technology assessment, research planning, freedom-to-operate analysis, technology scouting and understanding developments in particular fields of technology.

The conference seeks to examine patent search and analysis from both technical and legal perspectives, with particular emphasis on the methodologies involved in identifying, evaluating and interpreting patent information. It will provide a forum for interaction among engineers, lawyers, researchers, academicians, patent professionals and industry practitioners.

CONFERENCE THEME

Patent Search and Analysis

Assessment of R&D strength for potential patenting activity

Analysis of patent strategies and relevance of patent search

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Background

The increasing volume of patent filings across jurisdictions has made patent information an important resource for research and innovation. Patent documents contain detailed information concerning inventions, technological developments, inventors, applicants and the scope of claimed rights.

Effective use of this information requires appropriate search strategies and an understanding of both the technical and legal dimensions of patent documents. A search conducted as part of an academic or industrial R&D exercise may differ in purpose from a patentability search or a Freedom-to-Operate search. Technology landscaping and technology scouting similarly require systematic approaches to collecting, classifying and analysing patent information.

Objectives

Patent Search Methodologies — Principles and techniques for conducting structured searches of patent information.

Patent Information Analysis — Methods for analysing patent documents, patent families, classifications, applicants, inventors and technological developments, portfolio analysis.

Patentability and Prior-Art Searches — The role of patent searching in identifying relevant prior art and evaluating the patentability of inventions.

Freedom-to-Operate Searches — The purpose, scope and limitations of FTO searches in relation to product development and market entry.

Technology and Patent Landscapes — Use of patent information to identify technological trends, emerging areas and major participants in a field.

Techno-Legal Analysis — Understanding patent documents through the combined application of technical and legal perspectives.

Intended Participants

- Faculty members and academicians
- Research scholars, graduate students and post graduate students
- Engineers and R&D professionals
- Law students and legal practitioners
- Patent agents and patent analysts
- Intellectual property professionals
- Industry and technology-transfer professionals, start-ups
- Innovators and researchers engaged in technology development

THEMATIC AREAS

1. Patent Information and Search
Structure and contents of patent documents; patent databases and information sources; keyword and classification searching; applicant and inventor searches; patent families and related documents; search strategies and limitations.

2. Prior Art and Patentability
Purpose and scope of prior-art searches; identification of relevant patent and non-patent literature; novelty and inventive-step considerations; search strategies for complex technologies; interpretation of search results.

3. Freedom to Operate
Concept and objectives of FTO searches; identification of potentially relevant patent rights; claim-oriented searching; jurisdictional considerations; limitations and interpretation of FTO results.

4. Patent Landscaping and Analytics
Patent landscape studies; technology mapping; patenting trends; key applicants and inventors; geographic and temporal analysis; emerging technological areas.

5. Technology Scouting and R&D
Patent information as a source of technological intelligence; identification of emerging technologies; technology scouting and technology transfer; patent searching in academic research; support for R&D and innovation decisions.

6. Techno-Legal Perspectives
Reading patent documents from technical and legal perspectives; understanding claims and specifications; relationship between technical disclosures and patent rights; patent information in litigation and licensing.

7. Contemporary Developments
Digital tools for patent searching and analysis; data-driven patent analytics; emerging approaches to patent information retrieval; opportunities and limitations of AI-assisted patent search.

Conference Format

- Expert lectures and invited talks
- Technical sessions on patent databases and search methodologies – DIY approach to patent search
- Case studies and demonstrations
- Interactive exercises in patent searching and analysis
- Participant presentations of the work book exercise/ discussion of selected search exercises

PARTICIPANT DELIVERABLES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The three-day programme is designed to combine conceptual sessions with practical exercises. Participants will be expected to apply the methods discussed during the conference to a selected technological subject.

Patent Search Exercise
Development of a structured search strategy for a selected technological subject, including appropriate keywords, classifications and search parameters.

Prior-Art Identification
Identification and preliminary analysis of relevant patent and non-patent literature.

Patent Document Analysis
Examination of patent specifications, claims, classifications, applicants and patent-family information.

Patent Landscape
Preparation or interpretation of a basic patent landscape identifying relevant technological and applicant trends.

Techno-Legal Assessment
Consideration of patent information from both technical and legal perspectives, including preliminary consideration of claim scope and legal status.

Search Report / Presentation
Concise presentation or written report setting out the search approach, principal findings and limitations of the exercise.

Expected Outcomes

- Ability to formulate a search strategy appropriate to the purpose of a patent search.
- Familiarity with major categories of patent information and search resources.
- Improved ability to identify and interpret relevant prior-art documents.
- Basic understanding of patentability and Freedom-to-Operate search approaches.
- Ability to organise patent information for landscape and technology-trend analysis.
- Appreciation of the relationship between technical disclosures, patent claims and legal rights.
- Awareness of emerging digital and AI-assisted approaches to patent search.

Certificate

Participants fulfilling the applicable participation requirements will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Organisation and Registration

Organised by: Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
Department: Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, IIT Kharagpur
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