NUS
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Patents FAQ

Question:
How do I search if I have a specific patent number? For example, US6,763,226, US20130075310, EP2137806(B1) or WO2013058518(A2)?

Country Code		Publication Number	Kind Code	
Indicate the country or inter-governmental organization that issued this patent. For example…			Indicate the kind of patent document	
US	United States	6,763,226	B1	[Issued] Patent
US	United States	20130075310	A1	Patent Application Publication
EP	European Patent Office	2137806	B1	European patent specification (granted patent)
WO	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	2013058518	A2	International application published without ISR

Answer:
Understanding the Codes
Knowing the country or jurisdiction which issued the patent makes it easier to find the right database to search. The two letter code in front of the number gives you the country information. For example, US6,763,226 refers to patent issued by the United States Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO). Sometimes, the kind of patent document is also indicated (in the code after the number).

If you are not sure what does the country or kind code represent, go to Patents Subject Guide (https://libguides.nus.edu.sg/patents) and click on tab for Classification, Codes & Glossary, etc and look for various listings on "Country Codes" or "Kind Codes" under the section on Codes.

Choosing the Internet Sources/Databases
Go to Patents Subject Guide (https://libguides.nus.edu.sg/patents), under tab for Internet Sources or Databases, choose the relevant database or Internet site to search. For example, you may want to search Google Patents, PATFT or AppFT for US patents/applications. If you have many patents, you may want to use databases that cover multiple countries like The Lens or Espacenet. Take note that each database has different date range coverage or countries coverage.

Do also check out the websites of the Intellectual Property Offices (see WIPO's Directory of Intellectual Property Offices). Many of them provide online access to their patent documents.

How to Search
In most databases, the quickest way to retrieve specific patent document is to use publication or number search.

Loh Mee Lan/16.11.2021