

HISTORICAL PATENT SEARCHING REFERENCE SOURCES

Please ask the reference desk staff for assistance with items in the patent search room or room 135

1. **Early unnumbered U.S. patents, 1790-1836**
1790-1836, Cumulative
Patent search room – T223.D7 R47 1980
2. **List of patentees**
1790-1836, Annual
CIS Serial Set Microfiche (in room 135)
3. **Name and date patents**
July 31 1790-July 2 1836, Chronological
Patent search room – C 21.5/2X:N 15
4. **Subject-matter index of patents for inventions issued by the United States Patent Office from 1790 to 1873, inclusive**
1790-1873, Cumulative
Patent search room – T223.D7 A45 1976
<http://name.umdl.umich.edu/AGL4739>
5. **Annual report of the Commissioner of Patents**
Contains annual index, which eventually becomes #7
1837-1919, Annual
CIS Serial Set Microfiche (in room 135)
1842-1919 also available in paper – Patent stacks
6. **Official Gazette**
1872-Present, Weekly
1872-1999 on microfilm
1949-1975 in paper – Patent stacks
1976-2002 in compact shelving
Most recent 52 issues available online at:
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/og/>
7. **Index of patents issued from the United States Patent and Trademark Office**
1920-Present, Annual
1927, 1929-Present also available in paper – Patent stacks
**1920-1926, and 1928 are gaps in our collection!
8. **USPTO Web (green search box)**
<http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html>
1790-1975, searchable by patent number or current US classification
1976-present, full-text searchable
Images are in TIFF format
9. **Pat2Pdf**
<http://www.pat2pdf.org/>
#x1-present, searchable by patent number. Images are in PDF format.

HISTORICAL PATENT SEARCHING TECHNIQUES

Use the following table to determine which of the resources outlined above will help with your search. This tool is useful when you have either a specific patent number, or another piece of information, along with a good idea of when the patent may have been issued.

<i>If you know:</i>	Exact Year	Exact Date	The year is before:	
			1836:	1873:
Patent Number	<p>If you have the patent number, go to the USPTO Web at http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html and use the Patent Number Search. You will need a TIFF viewer to view the patent.</p> <p>PDF versions are available at http://www.pat2pdf.org</p>			
Patentee Name	#1, 2, 5 or 7	#1, 2, 5, 7 -OR- #6	#1	
Patent Title (or probable title)	#4, 5 or 7 -OR- #1, which is arranged by class, and then by title	#4, 5 or 7 -OR- #1, which is arranged by class, and then by title -OR- #6	#1	#1 or 4

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The first 10,000 or so patents issued were not originally numbered and were lost in the Patent Office fire of 1836. Less than 3,000 were restored, and both the recovered and the lost patents were retroactively assigned numbers. These are referred to as the **X Patents**. You may notice that if you look at a list of early patents, there are number gaps – these numbers are essentially placeholders for lost patents.

Two important notes concerning X patents: (1) If you search for one on the USPTO Web site, you will need to insert an x before the number, i.e., x1. (2) If you can't find a specific pre-1836 patent, remember – it may not even be out there. Some are just plain lost.