

# **INVESTIGATING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ON THE INTERNET**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Investigating intellectual property on the Internet has many applications. For example, clients can utilize the Internet to stay abreast of industry developments, which may be useful for internal research and development purposes. Likewise, a client can follow intellectual property activities of competitors. Searches can be conducted for ownership of patents, trademarks, copyrights, and domain names so as to assess infringement risks or problems, to acquire intellectual property rights, and to explore business opportunities. There are many resources on the Internet which can be utilized for intellectual property investigation. The following list is a selection of useful sites for various aspects of intellectual property.

## **II. PATENTS**

### **A. United States**

*United States Patent and Trademark Office* - [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

This website allows issued patents to be searched using key words, including an inventor's name, assignee's name, or technical subject matter. Also, approximately two years ago the Patent Office began publishing applications 18 months after filing (though there are provisions for opting out of publication), such that published applications can also be searched.

### **B. Foreign Patents**

1. *World Intellectual Property Organization* - [www.wipo.org](http://www.wipo.org)

WIPO is a specialized agency of the United Nations, and is an international organization with 179 member nations. The WIPO cite can be used to search for foreign patents, trademarks, and copyrights, among other things.

2. *European Patent Office* - [www.esp@senet.com](http://www.esp@senet.com)

The European Patent Office issues patents for 20 European countries. This database can be searched for issued patents and printed publications from the EPO.

### **III. TRADEMARKS**

A. United States

1. *United States Patent and Trademark Office* - [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

Registered trademarks and applications for registration can be searched by the mark or by the owner's name. The status of pending applications can also be checked.

2. *Thomson & Thomson* - [www.thomson-thomson.com](http://www.thomson-thomson.com)

T&T provides an extensive range of trademark, copyright, title and domain name research, both U.S. and international, for a fee.

3. *Iowa Secretary of State* - [www.sos.state.ia.us](http://www.sos.state.ia.us)

While corporate names can be searched, note that trademarks registered with the State of Iowa cannot be searched on this website.

B. Foreign

1. *World Intellectual Property Organization* - [www.wipo.org](http://www.wipo.org)

Trademark registration for the 179 member countries can be searched on this database.

2. *Thomson & Thomson* - [www.thomson-thomson.com](http://www.thomson-thomson.com)

T&T provides an extensive range of trademark, copyright, title and domain name research, both U.S. and international, for a fee.

#### IV. **COPYRIGHTS**

##### A. United States

1. *United States Copyright Office* - [www.loc.gov/copyright/](http://www.loc.gov/copyright/)

Records of registrations and ownership documents since 1978 can be searched, though this is an experimental search method for simple searches and occasional users.

2. *Library of Congress* - [www.copyright.gov/records/#locis](http://www.copyright.gov/records/#locis)

This website provides for advanced, faster searches, though utilizes an older system which is more difficult to use.

3. *Thomson & Thomson* - [www.thomson-thomson.com](http://www.thomson-thomson.com)

T&T provides an extensive range of trademark, copyright, title and domain name research, both U.S. and international, for a fee.

4. Licensing Organizations

- a. Music - For ownership and/or license issues relating to music, the two largest worldwide organizations are *Broadcast Music, Inc.* ([www.bmi.com](http://www.bmi.com)) and the *American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers* ([www.ascap.com](http://www.ascap.com)). BMI represents approximately 300,000 songwriters, composers and music publishers with over 4.5 million musical compositions. ASCAP represents over 145,000 U. S. composers, song writers and publishers, as well as hundreds of thousands others worldwide. These licensing organizations should be contacted for permission to perform radio, television, Internet, live or recorded music

in any public or commercial setting. Blanket licenses are available to cover large selections of works.

b. Printed Publications - *Copyright Clearance Center, Inc.*

([www.copyright.com](http://www.copyright.com)). For an annual fee, CCC grants permission for clients to reproduce copyrighted materials. CCC manages rights to over 1.75 million works from over 9600 publishers and hundreds of thousands of authors and creators. blanket licenses are available to cover large selections of works.

c. Motion Pictures - *Motion Picture Licensing Corp.*

([www.mplc.com](http://www.mplc.com)). Licenses public showing of movie videos, such as for classroom viewing. The licensing fee depends on the size of the audience and the frequency of use.

## V. DOMAIN NAMES

A. *Thomson & Thomson* - [www.thomson-thomson.com](http://www.thomson-thomson.com)

T&T provides an extensive range of trademark, copyright, title and domain name research, both U.S. and international, for a fee.

B. *Allwhois* - [www.allwhois.com](http://www.allwhois.com)

Allwhois provides worldwide domain name research for a fee.

## VI. OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INTERNET RESOURCES

A. *Patent Law Links* - [www.patentlawlinks.com](http://www.patentlawlinks.com)

Provides links to various litigation resources related to intellectual property.

B. *Patent Enforcement and Royalties, LTD* - [www.pearlltd.com](http://www.pearlltd.com)

PEARL is a publicly traded company which invests in patents and other intellectual property by financially assisting patent owners to enforce their patent rights, in exchange for a percentage of any settlement or judgment and future royalties.

C. *Thomson Derwent* - [www.derwent.com](http://www.derwent.com)

Through a subscription service, this company provides comprehensive access to global patent, scientific, researching and business information. Derwent collates, abstracts, classifies, and indexes documents from 40 patent issuing authorities and more than 1200 scientific journals and conference proceedings worldwide. Derwent does not supply trademark or copyright information.

D. *Delphion* - [www.delphion.com](http://www.delphion.com)

A subscription service, Delphion provides patent research for U. S. and foreign patents, as well as other intellectual asset management tools.

E. *IP SearchEngine* - [www.ipsearchengine.com](http://www.ipsearchengine.com)

IP SearchEngine provides searchable access to over 600 patent, non-patent art, trademark, and domain name databases from over 70 separate websites, through a subscription service.

F. *IP Mall* - [www.ipmall.com](http://www.ipmall.com)

This site is a product of the Franklin Pierce Law Center, a well-known intellectual property law school. The site provides a vast array of web resources relating to intellectual property, with a very well organized topical index covering patents, trademarks, copyrights, unfair competition, franchising, telecommunications, multi-media and electronic commerce law, among others.

G. *NERAC* - [www.nerac.com](http://www.nerac.com)

This subscription service uses research specialists to conduct patent and technical literature searches.

H. *Source Translation Optimization* - [www.bustpatents.com](http://www.bustpatents.com)

This anti-patent site may be useful for accused patent infringers. This site has a lot of links to many different patent related sites, and provides invalidity searches for a fee.

<b>ENTITY</b>	<b>CITE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
United States Patent & Trademark Office	<a href="http://www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a>	U. S. patents and published applications; trademark registrations and/or pending applications.
World Intellectual Property Organization	<a href="http://www.wipo.org">www.wipo.org</a>	Foreign patents, trademarks and/or copyrights.
European Patent Office	<a href="http://www.esp@senet.com">www.esp@senet.com</a>	Foreign patents and published applications.
Iowa Secretary of State	<a href="http://www.sos.state.ia.us">www.sos.state.ia.us</a>	Corporate names, but not trademarks.
Thomson & Thomson	<a href="http://www.thomson-thomson.com">www.thomson-thomson.com</a>	Trademark, copyright, title and domain name searches (US and Foreign).
United States Copyright Office	<a href="http://www.loc.gov/copyright/">www.loc.gov/copyright/</a>	Simple copyright registration and ownership searches since 1978.
Library of Commerce	<a href="http://www.copyright.gov/records/#locis">www.copyright.gov/records/#locis</a>	Advanced, fast searches for copyright.
Allwhois	<a href="http://www.allwhois.com">www.allwhois.com</a>	Worldwide domain name searches for Intellectual Property (fee).
Patent Law Links	<a href="http://www.patentlawlinks.com">www.patentlawlinks.com</a>	Litigation resources - Intellectual Property.
Patent Enforcement and Royalties, Ltd.	<a href="http://www.pearlltd.com">www.pearlltd.com</a>	Financially assists patent owners in exchange for % of settlement, etc.
Thomson Derwent	<a href="http://www.derwent.com">www.derwent.com</a>	Comprehensive access to global patent, scientific, research and business information for a fee.
Delphion	<a href="http://www.delphion.com">www.delphion.com</a>	Research for U. S. and foreign patents - subscription service.
IP SearchEngine	<a href="http://www.ipsearchengine.com">www.ipsearchengine.com</a>	Patent, non-patent art, trademark and domain name databases - subscription service.
IP Mall	<a href="http://www.ipmall.com">www.ipmall.com</a>	Franklin Pierce Law Center - Links to IP resources
NERAC	<a href="http://www.nerac.com">www.nerac.com</a>	Patent and technical literature searches, research - subscription service
Source Translation Optimization	<a href="http://www.bustpatents.com">www.bustpatents.com</a>	Anti-patent site for accused patent infringers. Fee.

