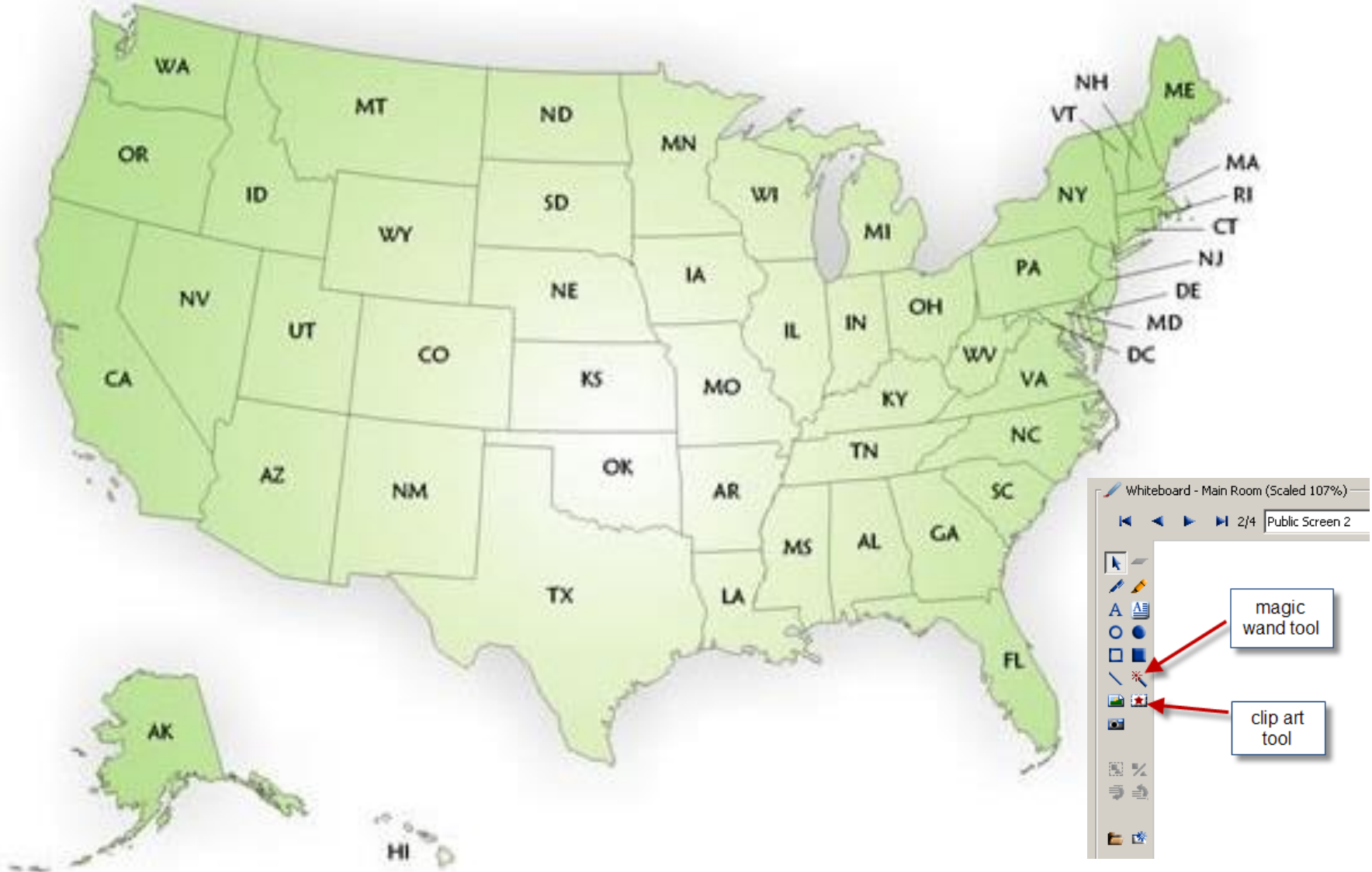


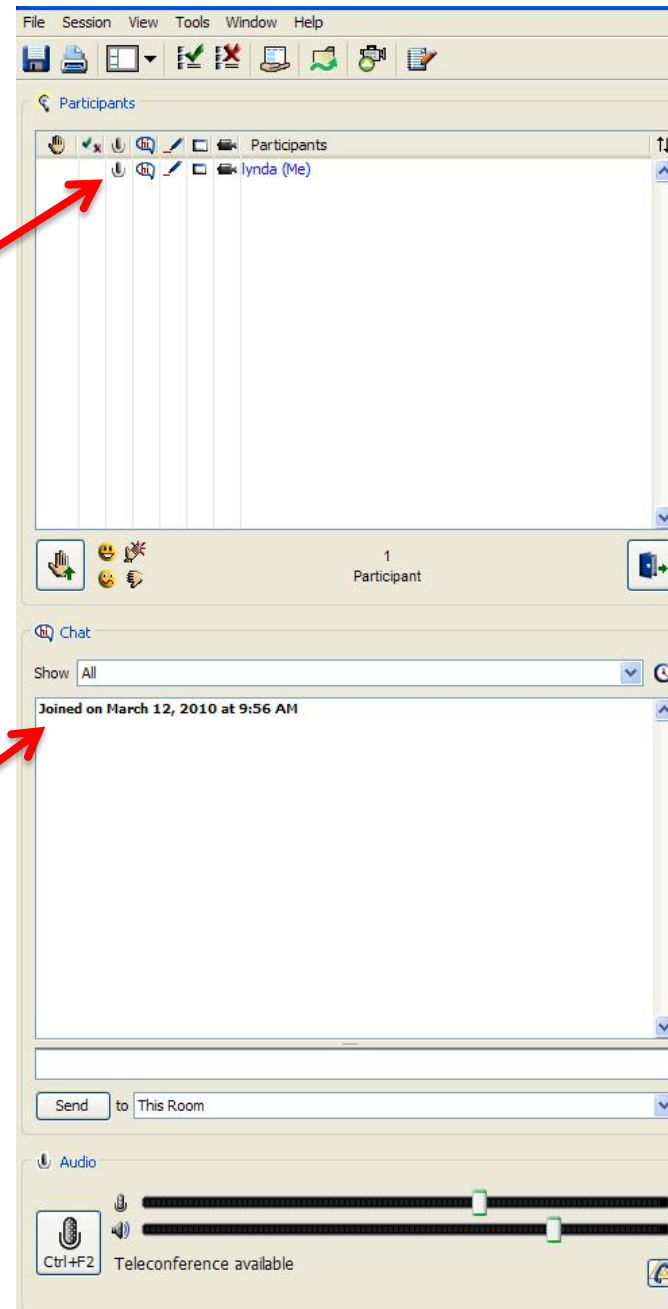
Accidental Gov Info Librarian: Patents!



Technical Stuff

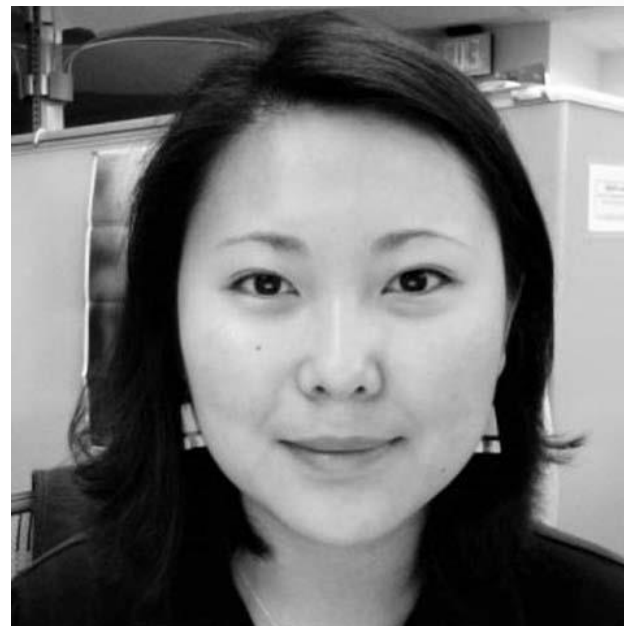
Status of group members. If mic is yellow, then you have control of mic.

Chat box. Feel free to chat at anytime.





David Zwicky
Engineering Services Librarian
NCSU Libraries



Hyun-Duck Chung
Librarian and Market Research
Information Specialist
University of Toronto Libraries,
Gerstein Information Science Centre
and MaRS Innovation.

ARE THERE ANY PATENT LIBRARIANS IN THE AUDIENCE?

- Yes (✓)
- No (✗)

WHAT IS A PATENT?

- A limited time property right granted by the U.S. Government to an inventor
- Confers the right to exclude others from:
 - Making, using, offering for sale, selling, or importing the invention in the United States
- Rights are granted in exchange for disclosing the invention
- Types: Utility, Design, Plant

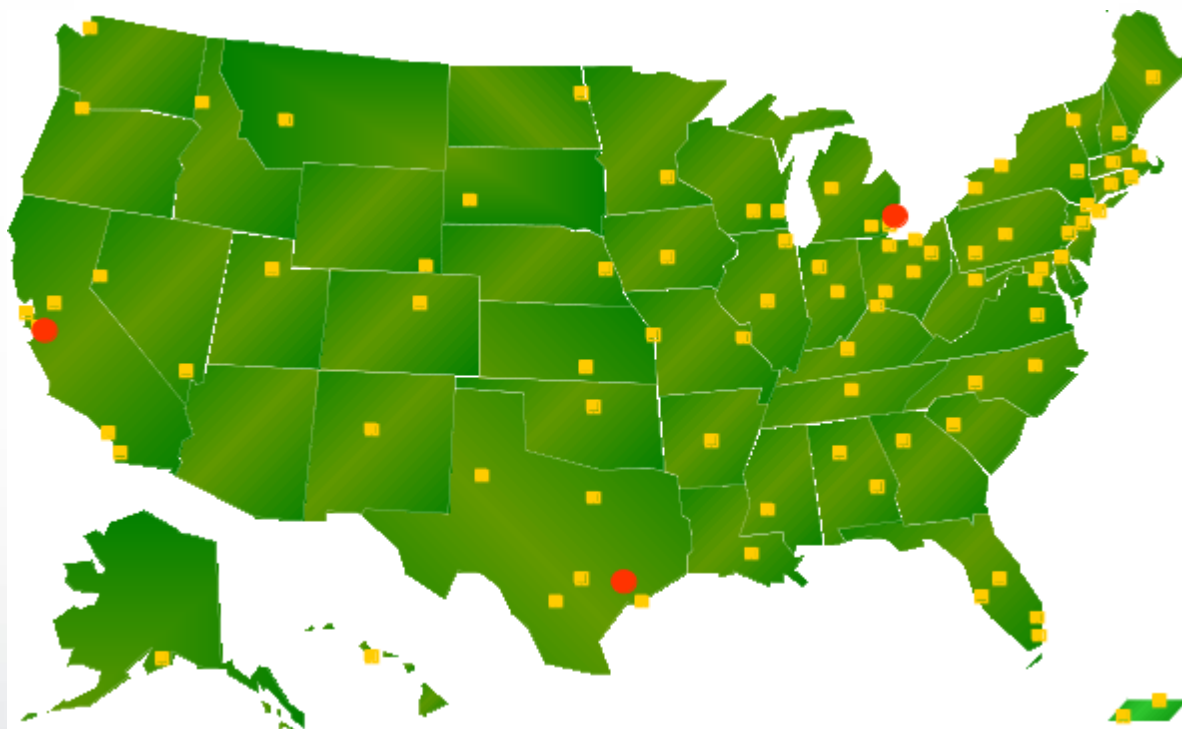
WHY SEARCH PATENTS?

- You need to search to see if your idea has already been patented
 - You are entitled to a patent *unless* your invention doesn't meet one of the patentability requirements.
 - One of the requirements is “novelty.” Your invention must be *new*
- Patents are a rich source of scientific and technical information

AT ONE TIME, TO DO A PATENT SEARCH . . .



NOW THERE ARE PATENT & TRADEMARK DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY



INCLUDING TWO IN NORTH CAROLINA



NCSU



UNC-Charlotte

BUT THERE ARE ALSO A NUMBER OF RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

The screenshot shows the USPTO website homepage. At the top left is the USPTO logo. The main header reads "United States Patent and Trademark Office" and "An Agency of the Department of Commerce". To the right is a search bar with a "GO" button and a "HOW DO I:" dropdown menu. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: "About USPTO", "Patents", "Trademarks", "IP Law & Policy", "Products & Services", "Careers", "Inventors", "News & Notices", "eBusiness/Alerts", "FAQs", and "For Kids".

The main content area features a "USPTO Updates Registration Exam" article with a photo of people working at a desk. To the right is a "USPTO Self Service" section with a dropdown menu for "Information Services and Data Products" and a "GO" button. Below this are social media links for Facebook and Twitter.

At the bottom, there are three columns of quick links:

- Patents**
 - 1 **Patents Process**: Visit the Patents Process page
 - 2 **Search**: Search patent databases
 - 3 **View Fee Schedule**: Check on the current fees and information related to the patent process
- Trademarks**
 - 1 **Trademark Basics: Start Here**: View How-To Videos; FAQs; Basic Facts Booklet; Processing Timelines; ID Manual; TMEP
 - 2 **Search Marks**: Search pending and registered marks (TESS)
- IP Law & Policy**
 - 1 **IP Policy and Enforcement**: USPTO leads efforts to develop and strengthen both domestic and international IP protection
 - 2 **Training and Education**: The Global IP Academy (GIPA) offers IP related programs around the world

<http://www.uspto.gov>

WHAT CAN YOUR LIBRARY DO?

- Install TIFF reader for USPTO patent search tool on public computers
- Direct inventors to websites
 - <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/ptdl>
 - <http://library.uncc.edu/patents>
 - <http://www.uspto.gov>
 - <http://www.uspto.gov/inventors>
- Provide search strategy information
- DO NOT search *for* someone

WHAT CAN A PTDL DO?

- Access PubWEST (Web-based Search Tool)
 - More sophisticated search tools (access to Boolean *and* proximity operators)
 - More patents available for keyword searching
 - Selected international patents
 - Difficult to access and use
 - Optimized for serious, experienced patent searching; not as useful for casual use by students or researchers

WHAT ELSE CAN A PTDL DO?

- View plant patent images in color
 - The web versions are grayscale
- Access print resources
 - USPTO publications
 - How-to guides
 - Inventor & small business resources
 - Much of this is also available on uspto.gov

HAVE YOU SEARCHED FOR PATENTS?

- Yes (✓)
- No (✗)

THE RIGHT WAY TO SEARCH (OR WHY GOOGLE ISN'T ENOUGH)

- Keyword searching is ineffective
 - Patents are written in a combination of legal and technical language - “patentese”
 - Odd spellings, errors, abbreviations, obsolete terms
 - Patents are intentionally obfuscatory
 - Keyword indexes don't go all the way back
- Class searching is the way to go
 - Patents, all the way back, are organized (and searchable) by class and subclass based on the type of invention

THE SEVEN STEPS (PLUS ONE)

1. Brainstorm synonyms
2. Look up synonyms in Classification Index
3. Identify classes and subclasses
4. Read the class and subclass definitions
5. Search patents (and patent applications) in applicable classes
6. Review the documents you've found
7. Use the references in those documents to identify additional classes and repeat

You will also want to search non-patent literature

WHERE DO I FIND THESE TOOLS?


- A lot of places, but here's where we keep them:
 - <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/ptdl>
 - Click on “patents” in the sidebar
 - Click on “I am an inventor doing a patentability search”
 - Click on “How to conduct patent searches using the Seven Step Strategy” (there's also a link to a video tutorial from USPTO)

MOCK SEARCH

- For sample searching, it's best to pick something that we know is already patented
- We'll be searching for: **a heated dog dish**

FROM LIB.NCSU.EDU

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FIND GET HELP SERVICES ABOUT **Search**

PTDL Home
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Search

- Patents
- Trademarks
- Plants

Planning a Visit
Additional Resources

Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) Program

Conducting a Patentability Search

Take a look at these helpful materials from the USPTO:

Video Tutorial Overview & Basic Steps

- [How to Conduct a Preliminary U.S. Patent Search: A Step by Step Strategy](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/ptdl/CBT/) (36 minutes)
- [How to conduct patent searches using the Seven Step Strategy](http://www.uspto.gov/products/library/ptdl/services/step7.jsp)

Keep in Mind:

- Keyword searching will not provide the full picture! Patent language is not intuitive for the layperson. For example, a bicycle is classified as an "Occupant Propelled Land Vehicle".
- A complete patentability search must consider all prior art, including earlier patents, foreign patents and non-patent literature.

While most searches can make use of the USPTO Web Patent Databases through general Internet access, NCSU Libraries additionally provides on-site access to Cassis and PubWEST:

FROM USPTO.GOV

Product Catalog

Locate Libraries

• Patent & Trademark Depository Libraries (PTDLs)

- History and Background
- Mission
- Events Schedule
- Tutorials
- PTDL Locations by State
- **Materials & Services**
- News & Notices
- Public Search Facility

Training/Events

Customer Information Services

Seven Step Strategy

Quick Start

[Patent and Trademark Depository Library](#) (PTDL) staff are available to provide training on U.S. patent search processes and research tools including the [Cassis DVD-ROM](#) system, the [PubWEST](#) database, and the [USPTO website](#) .

Classification

1. Brainstorm keywords related to the purpose, use and composition of the invention.
2. Look up the words in the [Index to the U.S. Patent Classification](#) to find potential class/subclasses.
3. Verify the relevancy of the class/subclasses by using the [Classification Schedule](#) in the [Manual of Classification](#) .
4. Read the [Classification Definitions](#) to verify the scope of the subclasses and note "see also" references.

Access Full-Text

5. Search the [Issued Patents](#) and the [Published Applications](#) databases by "Current US Classification" and access full-text patents and published applications.

Review and References

6. Review the claims, specifications and drawings of documents retrieved for relevancy.
7. Check all references and note the "U.S. Cl." and "Field of Search" areas for additional class/subclasses to search.

MOCK SEARCH: HEATED DOG DISH

1. Brainstorming

Describe your invention. What does it do? What is it made of? What is the end product? What else could it be used for? What are some *alternate* ways to describe your invention?

MOCK SEARCH: HEATED DOG DISH

2. Look up in Classification Index

Index to the United States Patent Classification (USPC) System

[Preface to the Index to the USPC](#)
Select the format and section (by letter) ...

[Index in HTML](#)
[Index in PDF](#)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z


Animal		
Artificial	428	16
Having lights	362	124
Attack resistant stock	428	907*
Beds	D30	118
Bee culture	449	
Blocking repelling or chasing	49	58+
Butchering	452	
Depilating	452	71
Calls and callers	446	397
With mouthpiece	446	207+
Canopy frame supported by	135	90



Traps	43	58+
Design	D22	119+
Watering devices	119	72+
Design	D30	121+
Whips & whip apparatus	231	
Animal Cell Culture	435	325+
Animal Cell Growth Media	435	404+

MOCK SEARCH: HEATED DOG DISH

3. Identify classes and subclass(es)

 **United States Patent and Trademark Office**

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[Patents](#) > [Guidance, Tools, and Manuals](#) > [Classification](#) > [Class Schedule](#)

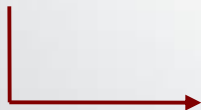
[Class Numbers & Titles](#) | [Class Numbers Only](#) | [USPC Index](#) | [International](#) | [HELP](#)

Class 119 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY
 Click here for a printable version of this file

Turn Outline

Select Largest Indent Level to be Displayed

+			200	AQUATIC ANIMAL CULTURING
			270	SILKWORM CULTURE
+			6.5	ENTOMOLOGICAL CULTURE DEVICE



+			72	WATERING OR LIQUID FEED DEVICE
+			600	GROOMING
+			650	ANTIVERMIN TREATING OR CLEANING
			700	TREADMILL
			701	ROUNDAABOUT

MOCK SEARCH: HEATED DOG DISH

4. Read the definitions

72

WATERING OR LIQUID FEED DEVICE:

This subclass is indented under **the class definition**. Inventions not otherwise classifiable especially designed for supplying animals with drink. This subclass and the indented subclasses also include those devices designed for supplying liquid-food, such as buttermilk, etc., as well as structures equally adapted to use as a feeding or watering device.

SEE OR SEARCH THIS CLASS, SUBCLASS:

- 51.01+**, for a feeding device used to supply nourishment to an animal wherein the nourishment, if in a flowable form, has viscosity characteristics significantly different from water.
- 51.5**, for a feeding device combined with a watering device.
- 69.5**, for a birdbath.

MOCK SEARCH: HEATED DOG DISH

5. Search!

+   72 WATERING OR LIQUID FEED DEVICE



USPTO PATENT FULL-TEXT AND IMAGE DATABASE

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Searching US Patent Collection...

Results of Search in US Patent Collection db for:
CCL/119/72: 415 patents.
Hits 1 through 50 out of 415

Next 50 Hits

Jump To

Refine Search

- | PAT. NO. | Title |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 7,918,186 | Grass-growing devices for pet fountains |
| 2 7,913,648 | Water drinking container for animals |
| 3 7,891,319 | Liquid bird feeder |

US PATENT & TRADEM
PATENT APPLICATION FULL TEXT A

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Searching AppFT Database...

Results of Search in AppFT Database for:
CCL/"119"/72: 106 applications.
Hits 1 through 50 out of 106

Next 50 Hits

Jump To

Refine Search

- | PUB. APP. NO. | Title |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 20110073044 | BIRD DRINKER ASSEMBLY WITH A TRIANGULAR SUPPLY LINE |
| 2 20110073043 | Bird Feeder |
| 3 20110056438 | PUPPY CUP |

A NOTE ABOUT APPLICATIONS

- Patent applications are published eighteen months after they're submitted
- They may not have become patents
- They may not contain the same information as the final patent
- When determining if your invention is novel, *they still count*
- You can't ignore them

MOCK SEARCH: HEATED DOG DISH

6. Review the documents

- If it's a patent granted since 1976, the full text is on the USPTO website
- Older patents need to be viewed as page images, using the TIFF viewer (or using another website)
- All applications that matter are available in full text on the USPTO website

PRINTING PATENTS

- Once you have the patent number, you have more options
 - Google Patents
 - Pat2PDF (pat2pdf.org)
 - Patent Fetcher (free.patentfetcher.com)
 - And many more

USPTO PATENT FULL-TEXT AND IMAGE DATABASE

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Full page images
(TIFF format;
requires additional
software)

United States Patent
Campbell

6,915,761
July 12, 2005

Weatherproof pet feeder

Abstract

Brief
description

A weatherproof pet feeder (12) has an enclosure (14) pivotally mounted to a feeder base (16) by a hinge (18). Latches (22) secure the enclosure (14) in a downward position on the feeder base (16). The feeder base (16) has two bowl sockets (34, 36). The bowl socket (34) has an electric heater coil (58) for heating a water bowl (38). The feeder base (16) is raised above a ground surface on support legs (44). The support legs (44) have mounting feet (46), tubular leg sections (72) and insecticide bands (96). The support legs (44) are sealed on lower ends by nipples (48) for containing weighting material which prevents the weatherproof feeder (12) from being overturned. The feeder base (16) has tie down loops (52) and the mounting feet (46) have apertures (86) for receiving stakes (88) for securing the weatherproof pet feeder (12) to the ground surface.

Inventors: **Campbell; Glenda Gail** (Weatherford, TX)
 Appl. No.: **10/730,563**
 Filed: **December 8, 2003**

Inventor

Current U.S. Class: 119/51.01 ; 119/61.3; 119/61.5; 119/61.52; 119/72; 119/73; 119/74; 119/76
Current International Class: A01K 5/00 (20060101); A01K 5/01 (20060101); A01K 001/10 (); A01K 039/00 (); A01K 005/00 ()
Field of Search: 119/410,414,469,470,475,73,72,74,76,61.5,61.53,61.52,61.56,61.3,61.1,51.12,51.01 D30/121-133

} Other applicable classes

References Cited [\[Referenced By\]](#)

U.S. Patent Documents

1257211	February 1918	Frost
2492604	December 1949	Townsend
2682255	June 1954	Kleeman
2781607	February 1957	Smiley
2841116	July 1958	Nichols et al.
2845896	August 1958	Copeland
2865326	December 1958	Lowe, Jr.
2944364	July 1960	Kelly
3324833	June 1967	Clugston
3654904	April 1972	Kreuger
3763825	October 1973	Fleming
3995595	December 1976	Williams
4029051	June 1977	McKinney
4334501	June 1982	McDaniel et al.
4561384	December 1985	Liff
4860691	August 1989	Mayer
4974546	December 1990	Burgett
5054431	October 1991	Coviello

} 7. Check references

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A weatherproof pet feeder for placing outdoors to provide feed and water for a small animal, the weatherproof pet feeder comprising: a feeder base having an entrance section with an open forward end for receiving the animal, and a feeder section which the animal accesses after walking into the entrance section of the feeder base; wherein said feeder base has a substantially planer shape which is horizontally disposed, said entrance section being defined by an entrance slot which extends into said substantially planar shape and defines a U-shaped entrance, said entrance slot extending into said feeder base approximately two-thirds of a longitudinal length of said feeder base; support legs extending downward from said feeder base to a ground surface and suspending said feeder base above the ground surface; an enclosure having a front opening for receiving the animal and an enclosed rearward end, said enclosure fitting over said entrance section and said feeder section of said feeder base, with said front opening registering with said open forward end of said entrance section of said feeder base and said enclosed rearward end enclosing said feeder section of said feeder base; and means for securing said enclosure to said feeder base, such that said enclosure is moveable relative to said feeder base for accessing said feeder section.
2. The weatherproof pet feeder according to claim 1, wherein said enclosure has an exterior surface with a top defining a crest which extends from said enclosed rearward end to said front opening, said crest having a rearward ridge defined atop said closed rearward end and a forward ridge disposed adjacent to said front opening, and said crest sloping downward from said rearward ridge and downward from said forward ridge to an intermediate portion, disposed between said forward ridge and said rearward ridge.
3. The weatherproof pet feeder according to claim 1, wherein said feeder section includes two bowl sockets for receiving a feed bowl and a water bowl, respectively.
4. The weatherproof pet feeder according to claim 3, wherein said feeder section of said feeder base includes a heating element disposed with one of said bowl sockets for warming a water bowl when received within said one of said bowl sockets.

The claims are the meat of the patent. Claims define the *precise* legal limits of the patent. They're difficult to read and difficult to write. If your claims are too broad, you might infringe on another patent. If your claims are too narrow, you might not get all the protection to which you are entitled.

MOCK SEARCH: HEATED DOG DISH

- ...and repeat.
 - Check other synonyms
 - Check referenced classes and subclasses
 - Check referenced patents
- A thorough patent search can take between twenty and thirty hours, if not even longer

MOCK SEARCH: HEATED DOG DISH

Plus One: Searching non-patent literature

- Articles
- Conference proceedings
- Blogs, websites
- Foreign patents
- Anything that's publicly accessible is fair game

MISCELLANEOUS CAVEATS (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

- An INVENTOR is the person who created the invention. An ASSIGNEE is the entity that owns the patent (a company, university, etc.)
- Names are tricky. *Joe Brown*, *Joseph Brown*, *Joseph A. Brown*, and *J.A. Brown* are all valid and may get different results
- The America Invents Act may pass this year, changing us from “first to invent” to “first to file”

DOS AND DON'TS

- DO: Use a generic example
- DO: Explain search strategies
- DO: Direct to print/online resources
- DON'T: Ask for details of the invention
- DON'T: Suggest search terms
- DON'T: Fill out any paperwork

WHAT YOU MUST NOT DO, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES


- Offer legal advice or anything that could be interpreted as legal advice (including offering an opinion on whether or not an idea is patentable)
- This is “unauthorized practice of law” and is illegal in North Carolina

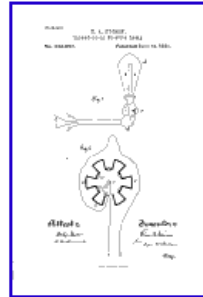
BUT SERIOUSLY, GOOGLE PATENTS

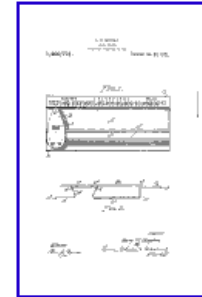
Google
patents beta

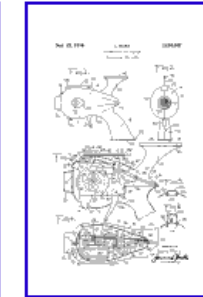
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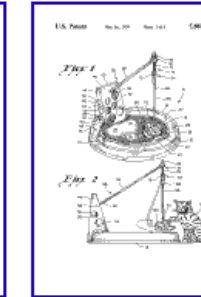
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U.S. Patent No. 1,100,000 CARLSON

Method of exercising a cat

U.S. Patent No. 1,100,000 CARLSON

Incandescent electric lamp

U.S. Patent No. 1,100,000 CARLSON

Ouija board

U.S. Patent No. 1,100,000 CARLSON

Futuristic toy weapon

U.S. Patent No. 1,100,000 CARLSON

Magnetic device for feline amusement and exercise

GOOGLE PATENTS: PROS & CONS

- Pros:
 - Full PDFs instead of single page images
 - No need to install TIFF viewer
 - The familiar Google search interface
- Cons:
 - Incomplete coverage
 - Keyword searching only, no searching by class
 - Issues with optical character recognition for older patents

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY HOUDINI, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

DIVER'S SUIT.

1,370,316.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 1, 1921.

Application filed June 30, 1917. Serial No. 177,971.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY HOUDINI, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Diver's Suit, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The invention relates to deep sea diving suits or armors, and its object is to provide a new and improved diver's suit arranged to permit the diver, in case of danger for any cause whatever, to quickly divest himself of the suit while being submerged and

HAKBY HOTTDINI HAKBY HOTTDINI



- › Overview
- [Abstract](#)
- [Drawing](#)
- [Description](#)
- [Claims](#)

Inventor: HAKBY HOTTDINI

Read this patent

Download PDF

[View patent at USPTO](#)

Patent number: 1370316
 Filing date: Jun 30, 1917
 Issue date: Mar 1, 1921

Drawings



**OPTICAL
 CHARACTER
 RECOGNITION**

OTHER RESOURCES

- <http://www.espacenet.com>
 - European patent searching tool
 - Remember, foreign patents count
- <https://oedci.uspto.gov/OEDCI>
 - Searchable database of patent agents and patent attorneys
 - DO NOT recommend a specific attorney, just point your patron to the list

PTDL CONTACT INFORMATION (BY APPOINTMENT)

- NCSU Libraries: Burlington Textiles Library
 - Dave Zwicky (david_zwicky@ncsu.edu)
 - <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/ptdl>
- UNC-Charlotte: J. Murrey Atkins Library
 - Alison Bradley (adbradle@uncc.edu)
 - <http://library.uncc.edu/patents>
- Beyond North Carolina, consult the list at <http://www.uspto.gov/products/library/ptdl/locations>

THANKS TO...

- Hyun-Duck Chung (MaRS Innovation)
- Michele Hayslett (UNC Chapel Hill)
- Alison Bradley (UNC Charlotte)
- The PTDLP Staff (USPTO)

QUESTIONS?

Session Evaluation

<http://tinyurl.com/grs-eval5>

Please fill out our survey and let us know what you think!

Upcoming Accidental Librarian Webinars

July 27: Resources for Guard and Reserve Soldiers and their Families with David Durant, East Carolina University

September 7: Good Health (Information) in North Carolina with Rebecca Hyman and Kurt Brenneman, Government & Heritage Library, State Library of North Carolina

September 21: State Agency Databases with Daniel Cornwall

Upcoming topics: Maps, basic legal research, and more!

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