PATENTVENTURES – EXPERT DIRECTED COMPREHENSIVE SEARCHES

We search using systematic techniques that are outlined below. On the second page, following the technique summaries, we provide a menu of specific proposals to help you select the best match for your particular situation. Clearly, we can customize any of these proposals to further tailor the search to your needs. The list of techniques provided is intended to be exhaustive. However, some of the techniques are applicable only to specific kinds of searches, e.g., invalidity searches.

Preliminaries:

Review the Claims and Specification: Understand explicitly defined and operatively defined terms and the general scope of the independent claims; identify any ambiguous parsing of clauses; identify any means clauses; identify structure in means clauses (if any); evaluate claim differentiation.
Review the File History: Awareness of substantive Amendments or Remarks
Review the art before the Examiner: Awareness of the closest art of record.
Quick Survey of State of the Art: What literature, research, and products preceded and were contemporary to the invention? Develop a profile of the person of ordinary skill in the art.
Review earlier search results: Exploit known results to date.

Patent Document Search Methods (in declining order of priority):

Quick check of art cited in other cases associated with the inventors and assignee: Is there a failure to disclose anything? (Includes check for foreign search reports.)
Quick check for Background References and Incorporated by Reference documents not submitted by IDS: Did the Examiner not review key prior art that the applicant clearly knew about?
Keyword-based: Develop keyword/synonym lists and intelligent combinations based on claims; explore educated-guess variations based on the number and type of initial results; full-text searches, plus educated-guess restricted searches of title, abstract, and claims based on the number and type of initial results.
Patent-family: For the closest art of record, explore other patents that have chain-of-prosecution relationships; update as closer art is found.
References in Similar Technology Patents: Is there a good reference in another similar case that was not considered?
Classification-based: Search within the classes searched by the Examiner; Re-evaluate the best search classes and search there as well; use to further qualify keyword searches as needed based on the number and type of initial result.
Seminal inventions and inventors: Identify inventions and inventors most frequently cited in related art. To what extent do the claims read on their disclosures?
Reverse Referenced by: In patents that cite the target, what other patents are cited? Do any pre-date the target and do the claims read on their disclosures?
Favorite References of other Examiners in the Art-Group: Are there frequently used references by other Examiners that have not been considered in the target?

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Prior-Art Access Methods:

Category I: Web-based search and retrieval of U.S. and Foreign patent documents.
Category II: Web-based search and retrieval of general literature; "Google" companies and academics involved in related work; site-based searches within any specialty sites identified as promising.
Category III: Web-based search and retrieval of Non-patent Literature (NPL) via ACM and IEEE indexed publications.
Category IV: Nexus/Dialog indexed NPL search and retrieval.
Category V: Journal/Proceedings/Magazine/Textbook educated physical library browsing search and retrieval.
Category VI: Personal Interviews, e.g., with competitive inventors, academics, and prominent technical leaders in the field.
Category VII: Competitive Product Analysis – survey of similar products and related collateral documents; acquisition and review of documentation and analysis of hardware and software for products suspected of anticipating the claims; visits to museum reserves and private collections of products and documents.
Category VIII: Speculative acquisitions of both printed matter and products for evaluation as prior art.

Menu of Defined Example Searches:

Defined Search	Recommended % Time by Access Method Category							
	I	**II**	**III**	**IV**	**V**	**VI**	**VII**	**VIII**
Up to $10k Search	95	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
$20k Search	85	10	5	0	0	0	0	0
$30k Search	80	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
$40k Search	75	5	15	5	0	0	0	0
$50k Search	60	5	10	25	0	0	0	0
$60k Search	50	5	10	25	10	0	0	0
$75k-100k Search	40	5	5	25	10	10	5	0
$100k and Up Search	30	5	5	25	10	10	10	5