

PATENT AND TRADEMARK DEPOSITORY LIBRARY

The Minneapolis Public Library has a complete file of U.S. patents from 1790 to the present; it is the only patent depository library in Minnesota. The collection was established in 1981 and is located in the Technology/Science/Government Documents Department of the library at the address and telephone number listed in the Resource Directory Section of the Small Business Assistance Office publication, *A Guide to Starting A Business In Minnesota*, under Government Document Depository Libraries and Inventors.

The collection contains:

- Utility Patents, 1790 - date. These are housed on DVDs in order of issuance.
- Design Patents, 1842 - date. This is a complete file, also on DVDs in order of issuance.
- Plant Patents, 1931 - date. This is a complete file in paper copy, many with color illustrations, file in order of issuance.
- Reissue Patents, 1832 - 1972. These are republication of defective patents on DVD.
- CDR file, 1973 - date. This contains corrections, disclosures and the continuation of the reissue file, on DVD.
- Official Gazette, Vol. 1, 1872 - date. This is a weekly publication listing patents granted and official notices of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The library has the paper volumes from the first to September 2002. It is now distributed in the DVD format and is also available on the USPTO website.

Patent Classification and Search Materials:

- **Index to the U.S. Patent Classification.** An annual alphabetical index to patents that lists patent classes and subclasses is available on the USPTO website.
- **Manual of Classifications.** A “family tree” of patent classifications, arranged by class and showing interrelationships between subclasses. Most recent versions are on the USPTO website.
- **U.S. Patent Classification Definitions.** Expands on the Manual of Classification by defining both classes and subclasses for utility patents. Most recent versions are on the USPTO website.
- **CASSIS CD-Rom.** This regularly updated multi-disk set is useful for preliminary prior art patent searching. Categories for searching include: inventors, assignees, class/subclasses of art, patent titles, and abstract summaries. Search results list patents by number. The full text of the patent is on DVD and at the USPTO website.
- **Trademarks are also searchable on CASSIS.** Two bimonthly updated disks include registered and pending works.
- **Web-based Search Tool (Pub WEST).** This is the public version of WEST that is available exclusively at the downtown Minneapolis Public Library. It can search U.S. patents for names and keywords back to 1920. Offers more sophisticated searching options than the USPTO website.

The patent collection and accompanying resources are available for self-service use during regular library hours. Library staff will provide assistance in the use of the materials. An introductory lecture on how to do a preliminary patent search is offered once a month. Contact the library for more information.