Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

Global Patent Index

User Manual

European Patent Office – Dir. 5411 Electronic Publication and Dissemination

GPI USER MANUAL REVISIONS

V.	Date	Description
4.0	2022/03	Management of multiple highlight colours for searched terms See Colour operators
3.9	2021/04	Correction in Regular monitoring (sample query 2): FMDFE = … andnot FMDFE = … replaced with DFE = … andnot FMDFE = …
3.8	2020/12	Amendment in the description of criterion NAT "National classification" (see Annex 1) and document field "National classification" (see Annex 4)
3.7	2020/11	Addition of search hit number and navigation bar in the window of searchable description and claims See Section content and Full document display examples
3.6	2020/10	Documents (bibliographic data and/or legal events) are downloadable in ODT format See Download and print
3.5	2020/06	Addition of search criteria for full text (descriptions and claims): FTXT, DESC, CLAIM WORD now includes words in titles, abstracts, descriptions and claims. See Search with keywords. See Completeness status of searchable full text.
3.4	2020/04	• Addition of new search criteria, result list columns and document fields for simple family information: See Search with simple family information, Date of first exchange and Regular monitoring • Addition of a new search criterion PRDO "Oldest priority date" • Addition of new parameters for Simple statistics and Cross-reference: Publication, application, priority country Publication, application filing, oldest priority date • Addition of information in Search with classifications (query examples and use of CPC resources on the web to improve queries) • Renaming of search criteria: FAMID "Simple family ID"→ FID "Family ID" ISR "Is representative" → ISFR "Is family representative" • Removal of national CPC and C-Set search criteria (CNO, CNOA, CNOI, CNOAD, CSCNO, CSBSN, CSNAD), result list columns and document fields – all CPC and C-Set symbols become "international"
3.3	2019/12	• The format XLS is replaced with XLSX for the download of result lists – result list and additional information (including the query) are in two separate sheets • The download limit is increased for result lists in XLSX, CSV and XML formats (5 000 to 10 000) • A new XML element QUERY is added in the XML of result lists • The simple statistics limit is increased (50 to 100) • The collection of GPI full text descriptions and claims is extended (full text available for display and translation – not for search). New coverage: AP AT AU BE BG BR CA CH CN CS CU CY CZ DD DE DK EA EE EP ES FI FR GB GR HR IE IL IN IS IT JP KR LT LU MA MC MD ME NL NO NZ OA PH PL PT RO RS RU SA SE SG SK SU TN TW UA US WO ZA

3.2	2019/09	Introduction of CPC international as of week 36/2019 – see notes in Search with classification and Search with combination sets Renaming of search criteria: • CSCPC “combination set (CPC)” changes to CSET “C-Set” • CSBSC “combination set base symbol (CPC)” changes to CSBS “C-Set base symbol” • CSCAD “CSCPC assignment date” changes to CSAD “C-Set assignment date” New search criteria: • CPCAO “CPC assigning office” • CSAO “C-Set assigning office” • CPCV “CPC version”
3.1	2019/01	Download limit increased for result lists (1 500 to 5 000) – see Limitations
3.0	2018/12	Changes for INPADOC legal status : • New criterion EVCA “Event category” • Renaming of criteria EVC “Event code” to EVCO and EVT “Event text” to EVDE “Event description” • INPADOC legal status display See also EVCA index content, Search with legal events.
2.9	2018/06	• All inventor and applicant names are searchable, including e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Russian names – see Search with names. • Columns “Inventor (original)” and “Applicant (original)” are available for addition in the result list, e.g. to see names in Asian languages (original format) – see Result list content customisation. • Parameters “Applicant country of residence”, “Inventor country of residence” and “Priority country” are added in the simple statistics – see Simple statistics. • Change of the default proximity operator used when searching for expressions (**+1w** replaced by **/1w** between the words of an expression) – see e.g. query examples in Search with names. • Stop words are no longer used at indexing time.
2.8	2017/12	• Database update calendar for 2018 (Annex 5) • Free trial information available on the EPO website
2.7	2017/03	• Download limitation for the GPI free trial version. See section Limitations
2.6	2016/12	• Access to full documents: See sections Document box, Download and Limitations • Legal status new search criteria EVED “date of event legal effect” and EVOW “owner mentioned in the event record”: See description in Annex 1
2.5	2016/06	• New section Regular monitoring • Definition of “Exchange” (for DOCDB and INPADOC data) added in Glossary • WITH operator usage limit: see notes in Comparison of AND and WITH operators and Limitations
2.4	2016/05	• New wildcard “?” – see section “Query syntax” • New operator “WITH” – see section “Query syntax” and Annex 2 • New search criteria added: OPP (opponent), THP (third party), DFE (date of first exchange), IPCAD, CPCAD, CNOAD, CSCAD, CSNAD (classification symbol assignment dates) – see Annex 1 • New feature “Database weekly content” on Help menu – see section “Database content and update” • Application/family search filter limit increased from 10 000 to 1 000 000 – see section “Query box” • Clarification of the usage of ISG “is granted” – see ISG in Annex 1 • New section “Limitations” • CPC parameter added in the statistics – see section “Cross-reference”
2.3	2015/07	• Link to EPO Global Dossier added for JP, KR and US applications (see red links in section “Document box”). • New search criteria added: FAMID “Simple family ID” (see section “Simple patent family”) and WBIB “Bibliographic data of the current week” (see section “Regular monitoring”). • Modification of existing criteria: For ISR (is representative), PRA (active indicator) and ISG (is granted), the accepted values are now YES or NO and no longer Y or N. • New section “Simple patent family” added.

2.2	2015/03	• User interface based on HTML5 instead of Adobe Flash Player (see section 1.3). • New section “Statistics window” added, including a description of the new “Simple statistics” and “Cross-reference” features. • Links to European Patent Register, PATENTSCOPE and Global Dossier for EP, WO and CN applications (see red links in section 5.3).

2.1	2014/04	• Patent citations now include one applicant name per citation. New search criterion CAPP “cited applicant” added to “SIMPLE SEARCH/Citation”. Modified sections:
		  ○ 8.6 “Search with applicants/inventors”
		  ○ 8.7 “Search with patent/NPL citations”
		  ○ Annexes 1 and 4
		• Citations raised during an appeal procedure now available. New search criteria (CPAPL, CNAPL) and document fields added. Modified sections:
		  ○ 8.7 “Search with patent/NPL citations”
		  ○ Annexes 1 and 4
		• Combination sets added. New category “Combination set” added to “DETAILED SEARCH”. Modified sections:
		  ○ New section 8.4 “Search with combination sets”
		  ○ Annexes 1 and 4
		• Result lists can be sorted by Publication and Application. Modified section:
		  ○ 5.2 “Result list box”
		• New search criterion DLELS “Date of last exchange (legal status)” added to “DETAILED SEARCH/Other”. Modified sections:
		  ○ 8.9 “Regular monitoring searches”
		  ○ 12 “Database content and update”
		  ○ Annexes 1 and 3
		• New search criterion DAD “Date of addition (DOCDB)” added to “DETAILED SEARCH/Other”. Modified sections:
		  ○ Annexes 1 and 3
		• Text (titles, abstracts) in all languages is searchable. Exceptions: Chinese, Japanese. Modified sections:
		  ○ 8.5 “Search with titles/abstracts”
		  ○ Annexes 1 and 4

2.0	2013/10	Full document rebuild (combination of former GPI and user interface user manuals, including new functionalities)
1.0	2011/01	Document creation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Global Patent Index (GPI) is one of the databases available in the **Patent information services for experts** user interface (UI), accessible at this link.

Offering enhanced searches of the EPO's worldwide collection, it comprises:

- DOCDB, the EPO's worldwide bibliographic data set, also used in PATSTAT and Espacenet.
- INPADOC, the EPO's worldwide legal event data set, also used in PATSTAT.
- Full text (text of descriptions and claims) also used in Espacenet.

1.1. GPI KEY VALUE PROPOSITION

1	Run timely and detailed searches in the EPO's worldwide data collection	See Database content and update
2	Perform regular monitoring of newly added patent documents	See Regular monitoring
3	Use built-in visualisation features for statistical analysis	See Statistics window
4	Focus on relevant data using customisable display and download	See User preferences
5	Run data quality assessment to measure potential risk of incomplete search result sets	See Completeness assessment searches

1.2. PREREQUISITES

Before starting to use GPI, you will need:

- A valid username and password, available from the EPO.
- Basic skills in Boolean language (see the Query syntax section, which contains multiple sample queries).
- An HTML5-compatible internet browser.
- A recommended minimum screen resolution of 1440 x 800.

Note: For information about updates to GPI, sign up to the GPI forum.

1.3. SECURITY

The use of HTTPS, combining the regular HTTP protocol with the Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) protocol, means that all communications between your computer and the GPI server are encrypted in both directions.

1.4. CONTACT POINT

For assistance on all matters relating to GPI (e.g. subscription process, database content, UI features, anomaly reports) please contact our support team at support@epo.org.

Notes:

- You are reminded of your acceptance of the terms and conditions at this link. It is essential that you read these terms and conditions in order to use GPI correctly.
- The queries shown in this document are sample queries only.
- The quality of the display of the images (first page images, embedded images in descriptions and claims, scanned pages of descriptions, claims, search reports and drawings) varies depending on the internet browser you use. Please contact our support team at support@epo.org for more information on this matter.
- The search history is stored locally in your internet browser and may be lost, for example in the case of a browser update or browser cache reset.

2. RUN YOUR FIRST SEARCH

❶ Launch **Patent information services for experts**, available at this link.

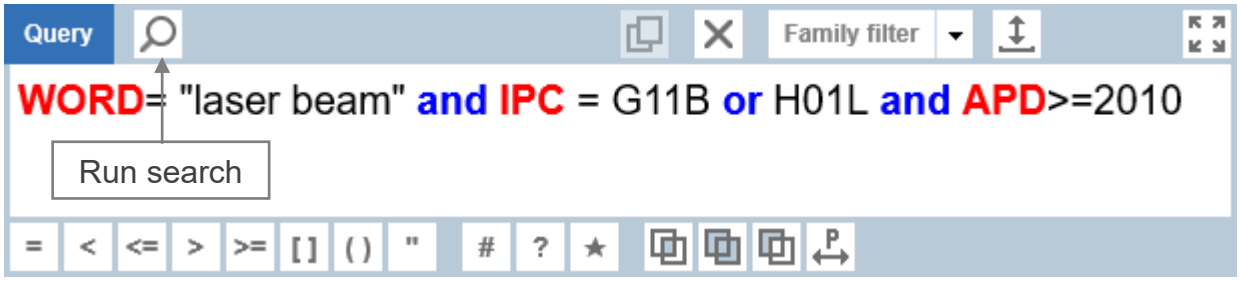
❷ Identify yourself with the username and password provided by the EPO, and click **Global Patent Index** in the list of databases in the Welcome window. You can obtain a free temporary username and password by registering for a free trial at this link.

❸ The Search window is now displayed. In the Query box, you can type in a query manually or copy and paste it, e.g.

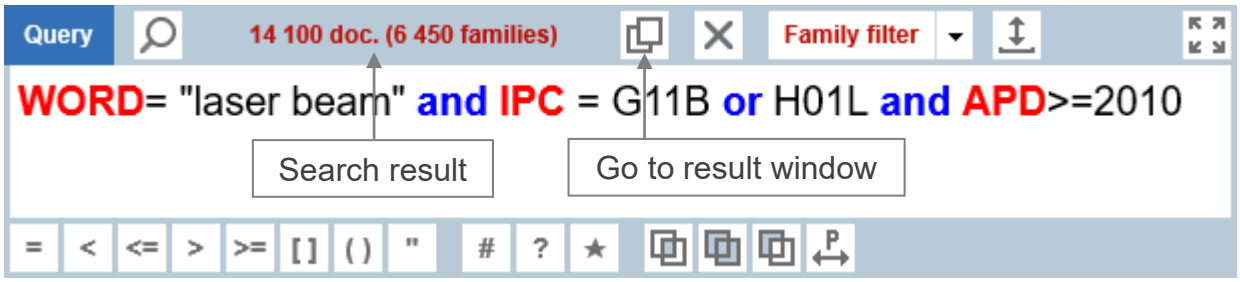
WORD= "laser beam" and IPC = G11B or H01L and APD>=2010

This query will search for all publications having the expression "laser beam" in their titles, abstracts, descriptions and claims (criterion WORD), limited to IPC subclasses G11B or H01L (criterion IPC - all editions/versions), and filed from 1 January 2010 onwards (criterion APD - Application date).

Then click the **Search** button to run your first search:



❹ Once the search result is displayed you can click the **Result** button to go to the Result window:

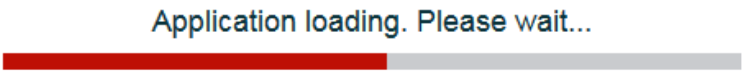


❺ The result list and documents are now displayed and ready for browsing, running statistics and downloading in multiple formats.

You can customise the result list and document content.

3. WELCOME WINDOW

When you use GPI for the first time or if the application has been updated (e.g. new search criteria or UI feature added or bug fixed), the following message appears:



Once the application has finished loading, the **Welcome** window appears and enables you to:

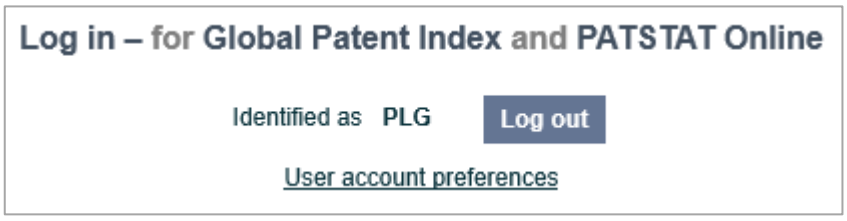
- Select the UI language in the top right-hand corner:

- Identify yourself by entering the username and password you have been provided with by the EPO.

  Before login:

  Click **Forgotten login detail** if, for example, you forgot your password or if you want a free trial.

  After login:



  Click **User account preferences** if, for example, you want to change your password.

- Select the GPI database:

	Database	Edition	
	EP full-text search	EPAB 2020/22	info
	EP Bulletin search	BULL 2020/22	info
	Global Patent Index	GPI 2020/22	info
	PATSTAT Online	PATSTAT 2020 Spring	info

In the **Database edition** column, the latest available edition is numerically displayed in YYYY/WW form, signifying the year (four digits) and GPI update week (two digits), e.g. 2020/22.

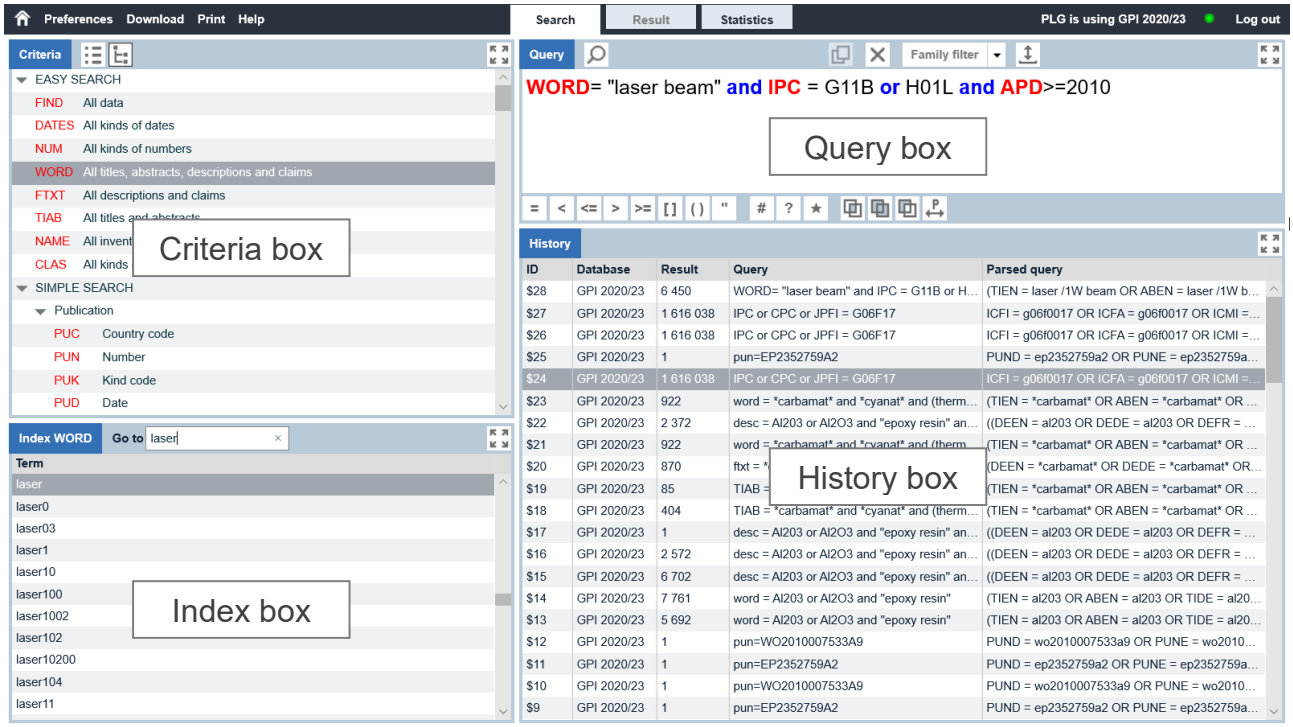
Note: The database is updated every Friday at 12.00 hrs CET, which means that in GPI the week starts on Friday at 12.00 hrs CET.

When you click the GPI database, the Search window appears.

4. SEARCH WINDOW

Once you have logged in and selected the GPI database in the Welcome window, the **Search** window is displayed. It has four boxes with the following functions:

- Criteria box: Navigate the list of search criteria to identify and select the criteria you need for your searches.
- Index box: Browse the contents of the database for a search criterion selected in the **Criteria** box, e.g. for identifying possible variations of an applicant/proprietor's name or a keyword in titles, abstracts, descriptions and claims.
- Query box: Create queries, run searches, save/load queries.
- History box: Browse your search history and re-use history entries in your queries. The history content is also used for saving queries.



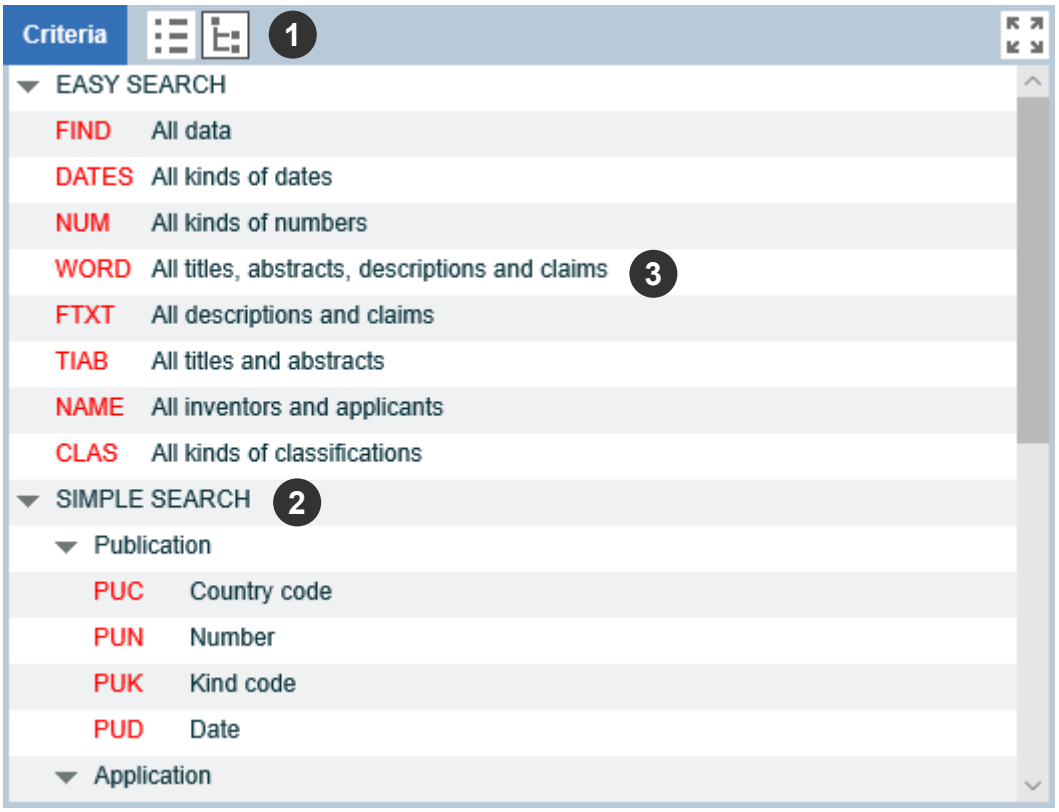
You can adjust the proportions of the boxes by dragging the horizontal and vertical dividers (dividers are the dark lines between the boxes - e.g. there is a vertical divider between the **Query** and **History** boxes which can be dragged up and down to resize them).

Boxes can also be maximised and minimised by clicking the **maximise** and **minimise** buttons  (located in the top right-hand corner of each box) or by double-clicking the box top toolbar.

4.1. CRITERIA BOX

The GPI search criteria are described in detail in Annex 1.

Each criterion has a code and a name. For example, the code **WORD** stands for **all title, abstract, description and claim words**.



❶ Use buttons to display the criteria list in alphabetical order or by pre-defined categories, e.g. **Publication** in **SIMPLE SEARCH**.

❷ Open/close a category by clicking the arrow or double-clicking the category name.

❸ Select (one click) a criterion to see the content of its corresponding index, or move the selected search field to the Query box by dragging & dropping or double-clicking. You can also enter criteria manually in the **Query** box.

You can mix criteria from the EASY SEARCH, SIMPLE SEARCH and DETAILED SEARCH categories in your query. Example:

WORD = laser +2w beam* and IPC = G11B and DFE [202110, 202112]

4.2. INDEX BOX

An index reflects the database content for the data corresponding to a search criterion. It does not reflect the database content limited to the current search.

Example 1 – Index APP for applicant/proprietor names

The APP index contains all the applicant/proprietor names (standardised by the EPO and/or as provided by patent authorities) of all the patent documents stored in the GPI database.

❶ The **Go to** box enables quick and easy index scrolling. The index content helps you to check the availability, spellings and formats of the data you want to search for, e.g.:

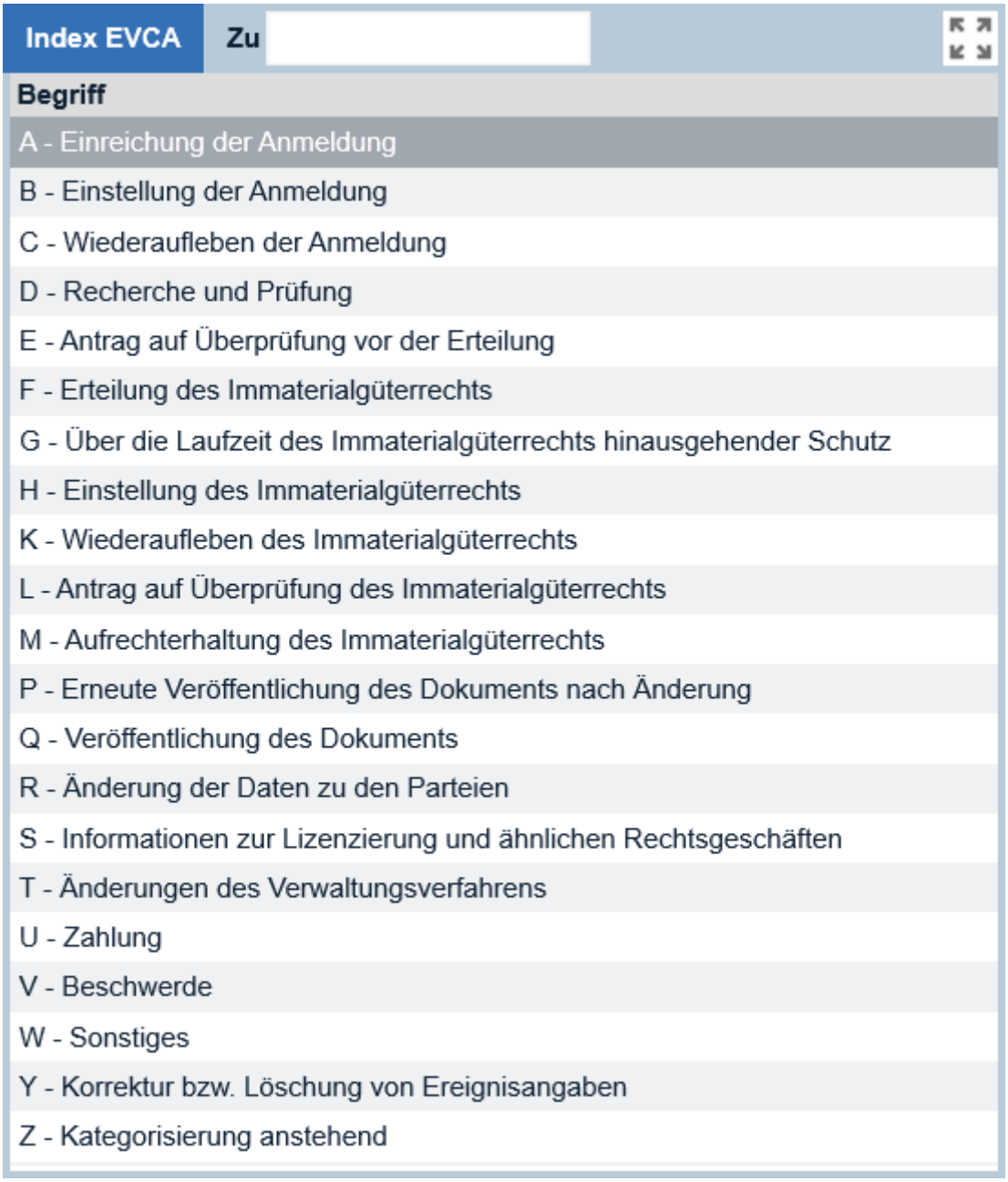
- To identify possible variations of an applicant/proprietor's name or keyword.
- To check the indexing format of classification symbols and dates.

❷ You can move selected index terms to the Query box by:

- Dragging and dropping one or more selected terms.
- Double-clicking them.

Example 2 – Index EVCA for INPADOC legal event categories

The EVCA index contains the event categories A to Z in the language of the UI (German in this example):

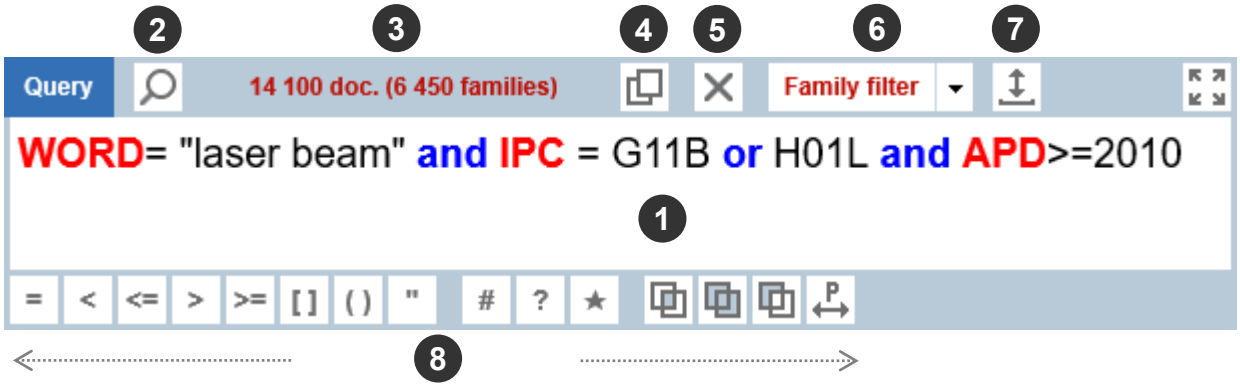


See also INPADOC legal event display example and Search with legal events.

The origin of categories is essentially the WIPO standard ST.27 “Exchange of Patent Legal Status Data” available at this link.

4.3. QUERY BOX

The **Query** box enables you to create queries, run searches and save/load queries. See the Query syntax and Search features sections, which contain multiple sample queries.



❶ **Query edit zone**. The text of a query can be:

- Entered manually.
- Dragged from the list of search criteria and dropped.
- Dragged from an index and dropped.
- Dragged from the search history and dropped.
- Loaded from a user query file.
- Pasted from an external application.

❷ **Search** button. Equivalent to pressing **Enter** on your keyboard.

❸ **Search results**. The content depends on the selected search filter and the amount of data found (see also item ❻ below).

❹ **Go to result list** button. Opens the Result window.

❺ **Delete current query** button.

❻ **Search filters** drop-down list. The filtering mechanism works as follows:

- **Family filter** is selected (default). If a DOCDB simple family has multiple publications, then:
  - If there is a DOCDB family representative, only its oldest publication is included in the result list.
  - Otherwise (the family has no DOCDB family representative), the oldest publication of all the family members is included.

- **Application filter** is selected. If a patent application has multiple publications, only the oldest one is included in the result list.

- **No filter** is selected. All publications matching the search are included in the result list.

Note: If your search returns more than 1 000 000 documents, the search filter drop-down list is disabled and all publications matching the search are included in the result list.

❼ **Save/load queries** button. Queries listed in the History box can be saved locally (with or without comments) for future use (see section Save/load queries).

❽ **Operator** toolbar. It includes:

- **Arithmetic** operators, e.g. the operator >= ”greater than or equal to”.
- **Boolean** operators (AND, OR, NOT/ANDNOT – no button for the WITH operator).
- **Wildcards**, e.g. the asterisk “*” that stands for 0 or more characters.
- **Proximity** operators. Searches for keywords (titles, abstracts, descriptions and claims), inventor/applicant names, and references to NPL (non-patent literature) citations are possible with proximity operators with the following logic: *Search word1 up to a maximum of x word(s) apart from word2 in that order or whatever the order.*

  Proximity operators can also be entered manually.

See also the Query syntax and Search features sections, which contain multiple sample queries.

4.4. HISTORY BOX

A query is added to the **History** box only if the associated search is successful, i.e. if there is no syntax error in the query.

The 100 most recent queries are stored locally in the search history. Stored queries are usually used for:

- Combining queries in the query edit zone, e.g.:

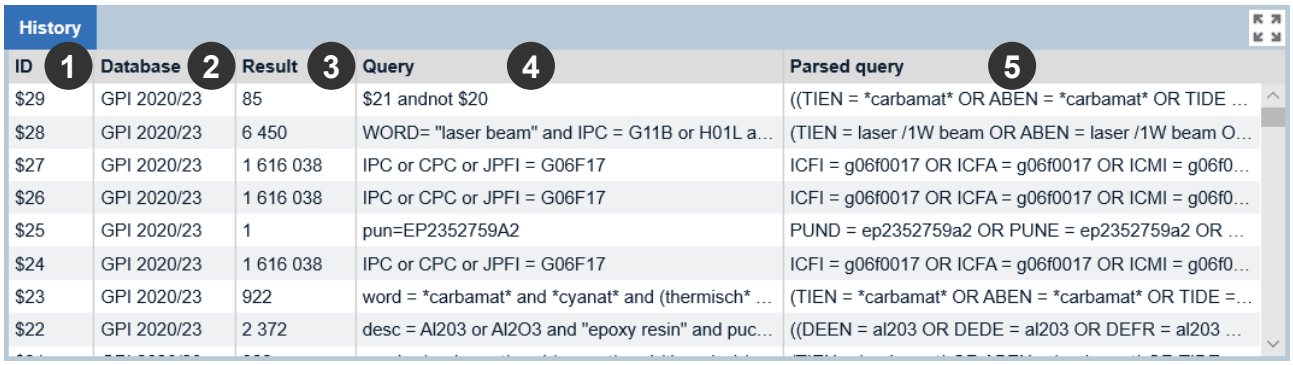
  IPC = A61K and $10

  $3 andnot $2

- Saving queries. History queries can be saved for future use (see Save/load queries section).

If your search returns zero documents, or an unexpectedly high number of documents, then the parsed query (i.e. the user query transformed into a query that is used by the search engine - see item ❺ below) may help you understand if there is an error in the logic of the query.

Note: The search history is stored locally in your internet browser and may be lost, for example in the case of a browser update or browser cache reset.



❶ **ID** column. This is the history query number. As 100 of the most recent queries are stored, if the **History** box already contains 100 queries, the next new query stored is given the ID number $1 and the previous query number $1 is deleted.

❷ **Database** column. Database identifier (current year and week number - the GPI week starts with the day/hour of the database update, i.e. Friday at 12.00 hrs CET).

❸ **Result** column. The number of documents matching the search.

❹ **Query** column. The query as built by you in the query edit zone.

❺ **Parsed query** column. Your query as transformed by the parser for the search engine.

Context menu (right-click):

- **Append selected queries**. Add to the current query displayed in the query edit zone. The two queries are connected with a default Boolean operator defined in User preferences / General.

- **Replace selected queries**. Replace the current query displayed in the query edit zone with the selected query.

- **Delete selected queries**

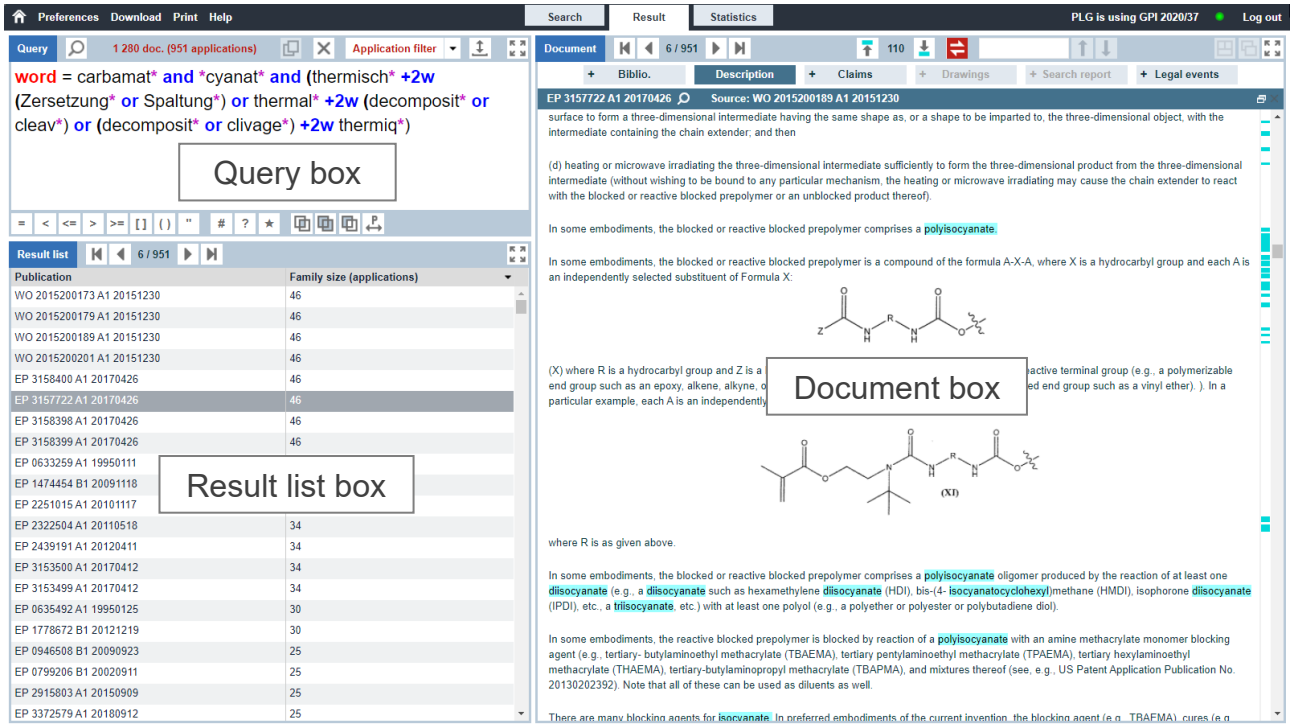
- **Print selected queries**

- **Download selected queries**. Download the selected queries to a PDF file (see also Download and print section).

5. RESULT WINDOW

Once you have run a search successfully in the Search window, you can access the **Result** window. It has three boxes with the following functions:

- Query box: Refine your search without going back to the Search window.
- Result list box: Browse and download the result list matching your search. The result list content can be customised to focus on relevant data. Statistics can be run on the result set.
- Document box: Browse and download the currently displayed document (including bibliographic data, legal event data and full text when available). The bibliographic data fields can be customised and re-ordered to focus on relevant data.

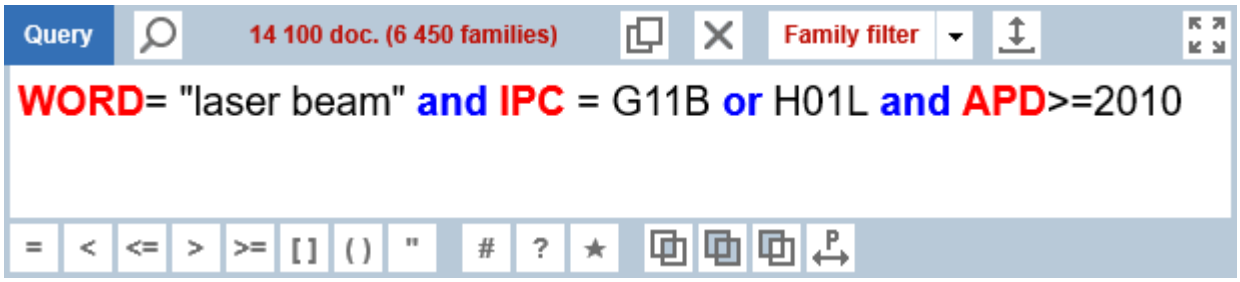


You can adjust the proportions of the boxes by dragging the horizontal and vertical dividers (dividers are the dark lines between boxes - e.g. there is a horizontal divider between the **Document** box and the **Query/Result list** boxes which can be dragged left and right to resize them).

Boxes can also be maximised and minimised by clicking the **maximise** and **minimise** buttons  (located in the top right-hand corner of each box) or by double-clicking the box top toolbar.

5.1. QUERY BOX

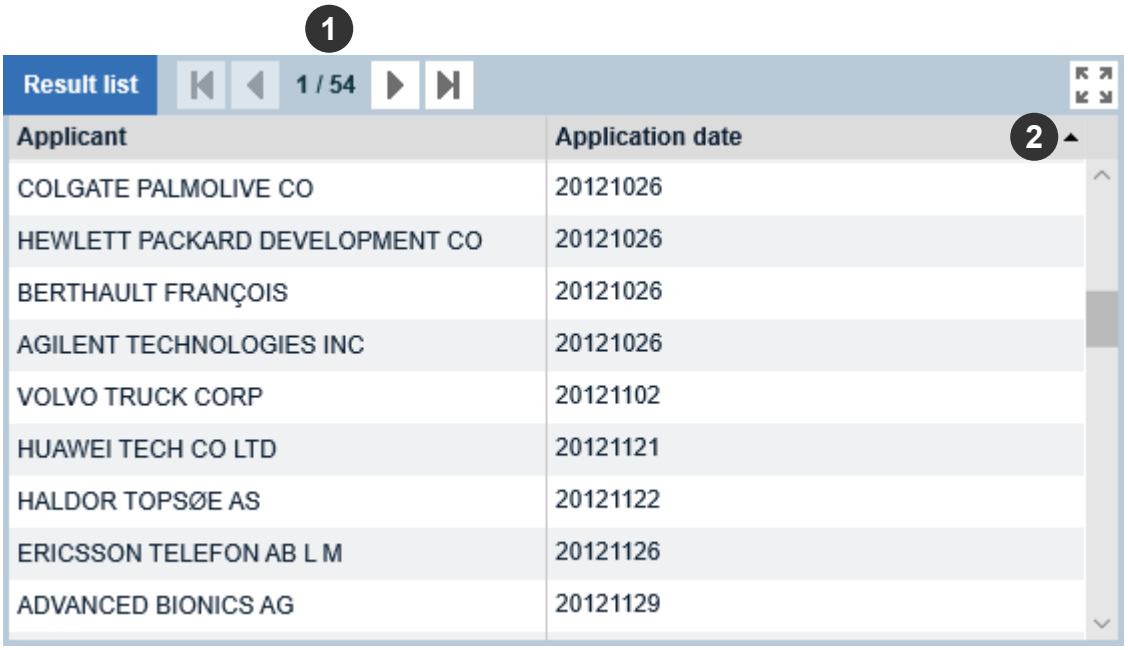
The features are identical to those of the Query box in the Search window. They allow you to refine your current search without going back to the **Search** window.



5.2. RESULT LIST BOX

By default the result list includes one column only (**Publication** column).

All columns are described in Annex 3.



❶ **Navigation** buttons. If your search returns more than 10 000 documents, only the first 10 000 will be included in the scrollable part of the result list.

❷ **Column** headers. Whatever the number of documents, click the arrow located to the right of a column header to trigger the sort feature (ascending, descending or no sort).

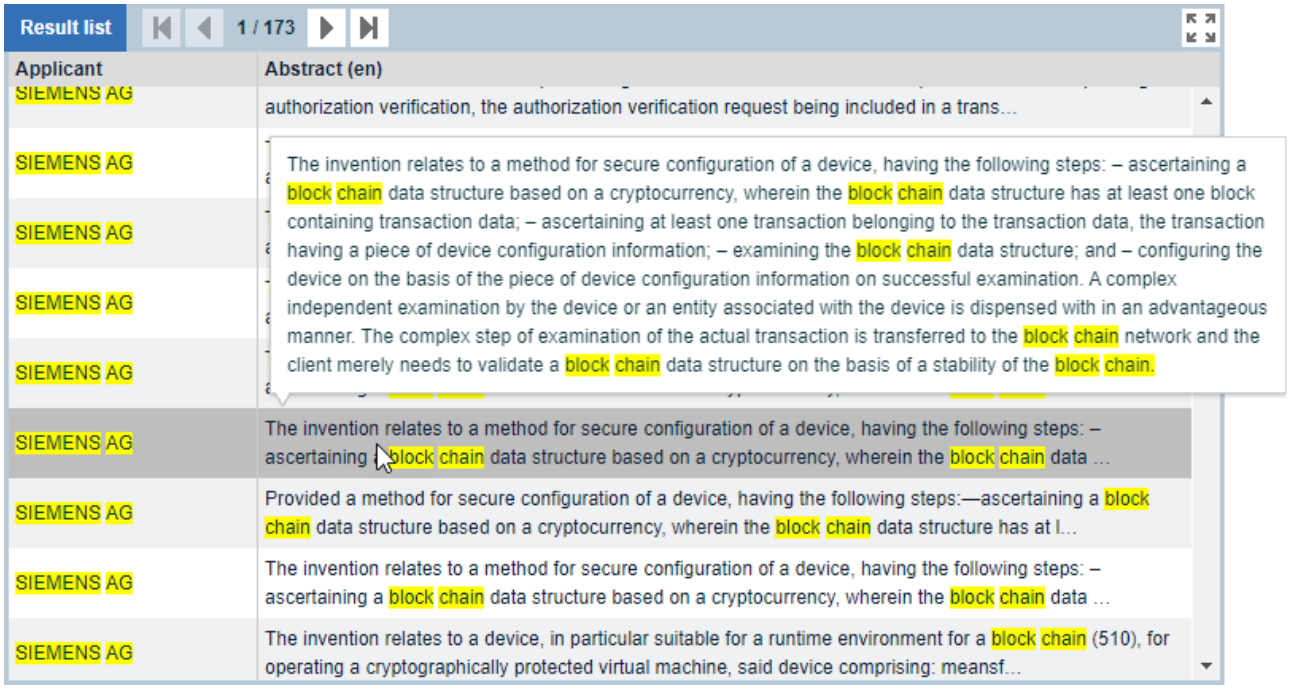
The sort feature is currently available for the following columns:

Publication	Family size (publications)
Publication date	Family size (applications)
Application	Family ID
Application filing date	Date of first exchange
Oldest priority date	

Documents can be selected and displayed in the Document box:

- With the navigation buttons.
- With a simple mouse-click in the list.
- By drag and drop. Documents displayed in the Document box are tiled.

The highlight colour used in a result list is always yellow. Unlike the highlight colours used e.g. in descriptions and claims, it cannot be changed (see the colour operators you can use in your queries).



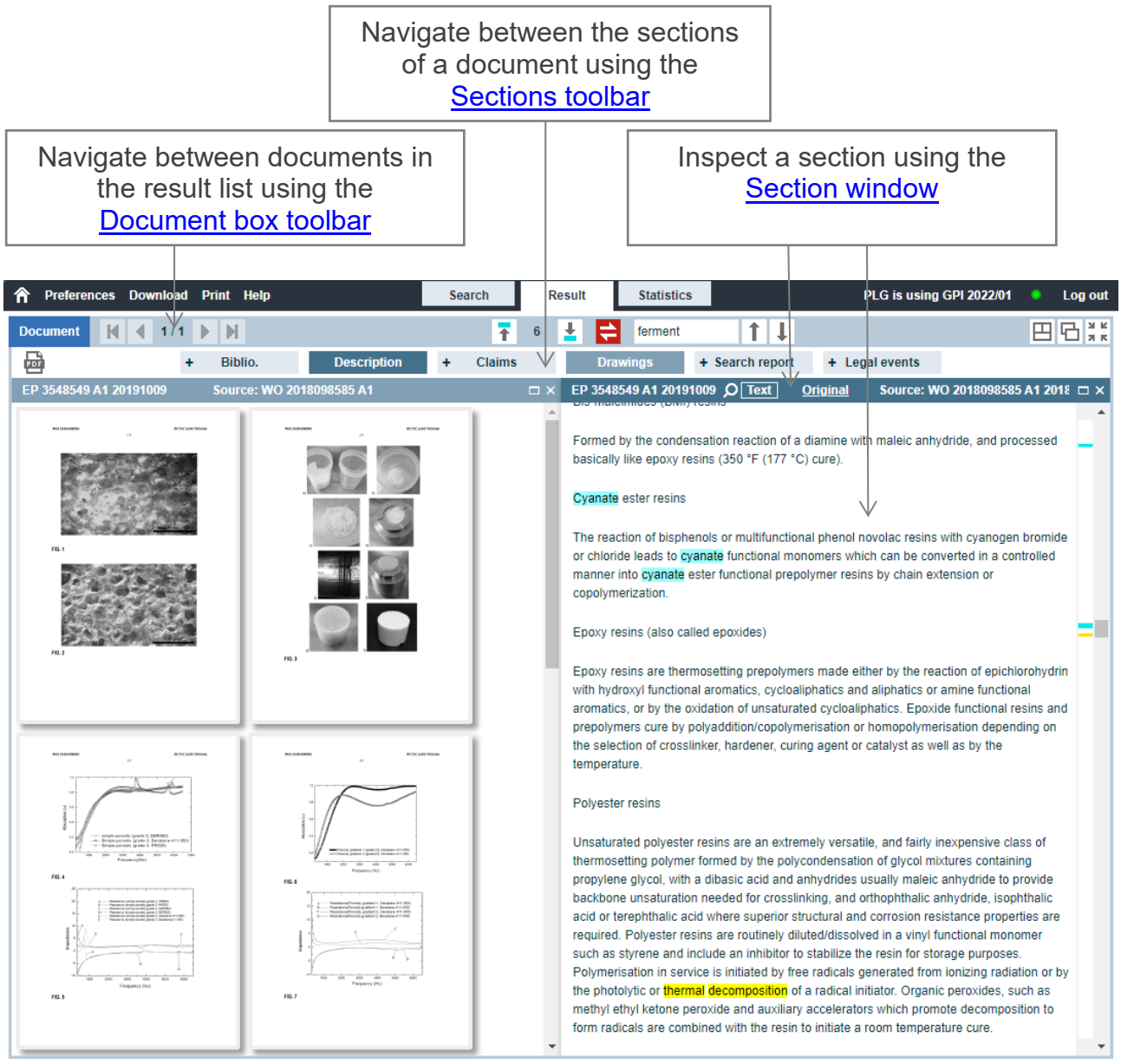
5.3. DOCUMENT BOX

Documents displayed in the UI comprise a set of sections, including data linked to the life of the patent:

- Bibliographic data (DOCDB)
- Description
- Claims
- Drawings
- Search report
- Legal event data (INPADOC)

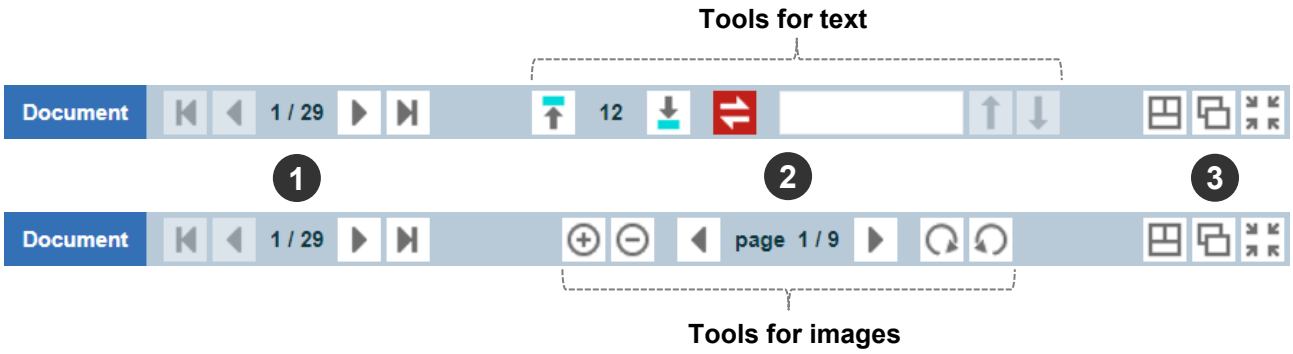
See Annex 4 for a detailed description of the bibliographic data, the content of which can be customised by means of removing unnecessary fields and re-ordering relevant fields.

In the **Document** box, for example, you can:



Example of an EP document (Euro-PCT published by WIPO and not republished by the EPO) with two sections displayed: description in the right-hand window and a mosaic of drawings on the left.

5.3.1. Document box toolbar



❶ **Result list navigation** buttons. If your search returns more than 10 000 documents, only the first 10 000 will be included in the scrollable part of the result list.

❷ **Text/Image** tools. The tools differ depending on the kind of data displayed.

- **Text** (bibliographic or legal event data, descriptions, claims)
    - **Hit navigation** buttons: go to previous/next term searched (hit). The number of hits displayed between the two buttons (12 in the above screenshot) is available only for searchable description or claims; It is not available for bibliographic or legal event data.
    - **Translation** button: activates the translation feature.
    - **Find** feature: enter a term to be looked for in the currently displayed text.
- **Image** (scanned pages of first pages, descriptions, claims, search reports, or drawings)
    - **Zoom** buttons.
    - **Page navigation** buttons.
    - **Rotate** buttons.

❸ **Arrange window** buttons (tile, cascade, minimise/maximise). A maximum of four windows (e.g. four sections of the same document) can be opened simultaneously.

5.3.2. Sections toolbar

❶ **Biblio** to **Legal event** section buttons:

- Where enabled (i.e. not greyed out), click the section you want to see in the current window, or
- Click "**+**" to show the section in a new window.

❷ **Original publication** button. Display the original publication in PDF format in a new window or tab of your internet browser. The meaning of "original publication" depends on the publishing authority:

- For EP publications: the PDF file is a character-coded PDF/A file taken from the EPO product EP full-text search. It is also downloadable from the European Publication Server.
- For non-EP publications: the PDF file is created on-the-fly using the EPO web service Open Patent Services (OPS). It is also downloadable from Espacenet.

Notes:

- For non-EP publications, an "original publication" is a set of scanned pages the content and quality of which may differ compared with what was actually published by the patent authority.
- A number of additional sections, e.g. **Amendment** and **Revisions**, are sometimes present in the scanned pages of original publications. In such cases, GPI tries to merge the additional section(s) with the previous section(s) (Biblio, Description, Claims, Drawings or Search report). These additional sections are available as individual bookmarks in the PDF file of the "original publication".
- As the number of pages of a given section is not known in OPS, and as a section may start on a page where a different section ends, GPI always adds the first page of the next section at the end of the current displayed section. Therefore, for example, in some cases the last page of the **Description** section may include claims, but in other cases the last page of the **Description** section may contain claims only.

5.3.3. Section window

5.3.3.1. Section title bar

❶ **Document identifier**. This is usually made up of the country code, publication number, kind code and publication date of the document selected in the result list.

❷ icon. Visible if the description and claims are searchable.

❸ **Text** and **original**. Text (e.g. description and claims in text format) and images (scanned pages) of the original publications may be available and displayed:

- **For documents not published by the EPO**, including Euro-PCT applications published by WIPO and not republished by the EPO: these items enable you to see the scanned pages of the original publication and the text (GPI bibliographic data, description and claims) of the selected section.
- **For documents published by the EPO**, including Euro-PCT applications published by WIPO and republished by the EPO: these items are hidden (all EP publications are available in text format from EP0000001 onwards), except for European search reports, which are available in image (scanned pages) and text formats as of 2012 week 27.

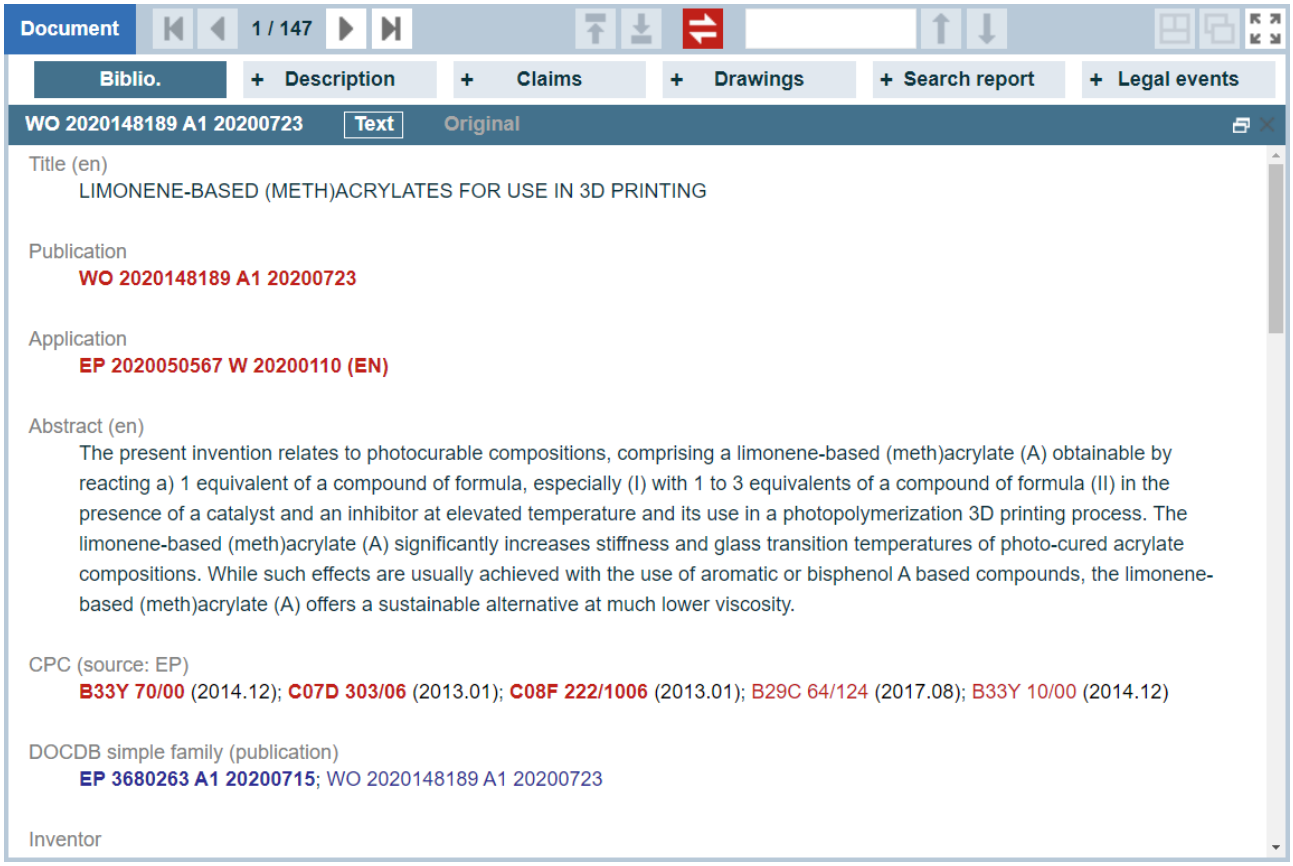
❹ **Source identifier (only for Euro-PCT applications not republished by the EPO)**. GPI will display a source for EP documents corresponding to Euro-PCT applications published by WIPO and not republished by the EPO. In this case, as shown in the above screenshot, the source is a WO document.

❺ **Arrange window** buttons (minimise/maximise, close). A maximum of four windows (e.g. four sections of the same document) can be opened simultaneously.

Note: In GPI the full text may or may not be searchable. Additional searchable full text is included regularly. If the full text is searchable, is visible as shown in the above screenshot. is not used for bibliographic and legal event data as they are always searchable. See Completeness status of searchable full text.

5.3.3.2. Section content

Section Biblio. **is selected:**



The links available in the **Biblio** section are

- **Red links** to external applications:
  - Publication field: link to **Espacenet**.
  - Application field:
    - EP applications: link to the **European Patent Register**.
    - PCT applications: link to WIPO **PATENTSCOPE**.
    - CN applications filed as of 2010/02/10, JP applications (patents and utility models) filed as of 2005/01/01, KR applications (patents and utility models) filed as of 2000/01/01 and US applications filed as of 2003/01/01: link to the **Global Dossier**.
  - Links to **classification schemes** (Espacenet for CPC, WIPO for IPC).
- **Blue links** to **GPI documents**, e.g. patent citations and family members.

Highlighting of terms searched in the bibliographic data:

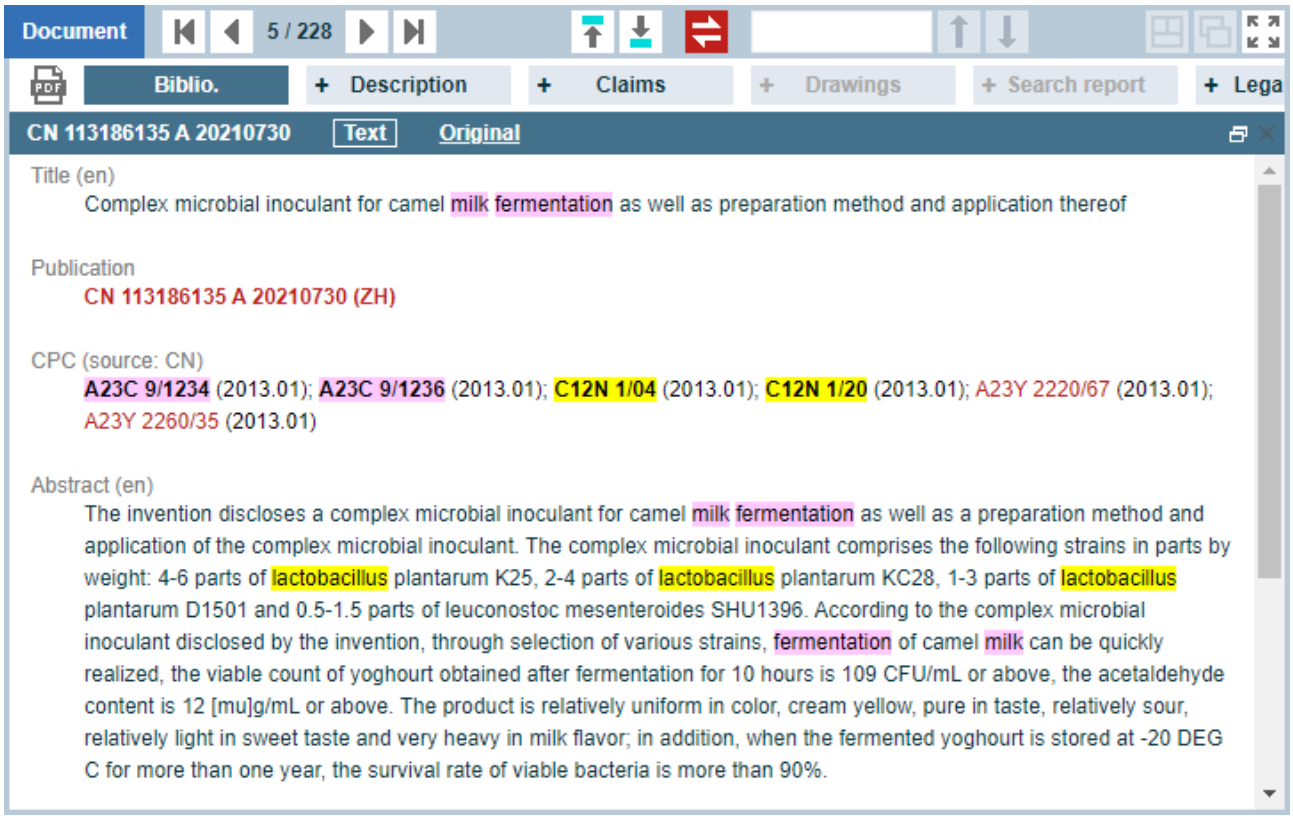
Unlike with searchable legal events and full text (description and claims), not all bibliographic data is highlightable.

Currently, the following bibliographic data fields are highlightable:

- Title
- Abstract
- Inventor
- Applicant (and applicants in patent citation fields)
- DOCDB simple family (publication)
- DOCDB simple family (application)
- CPC

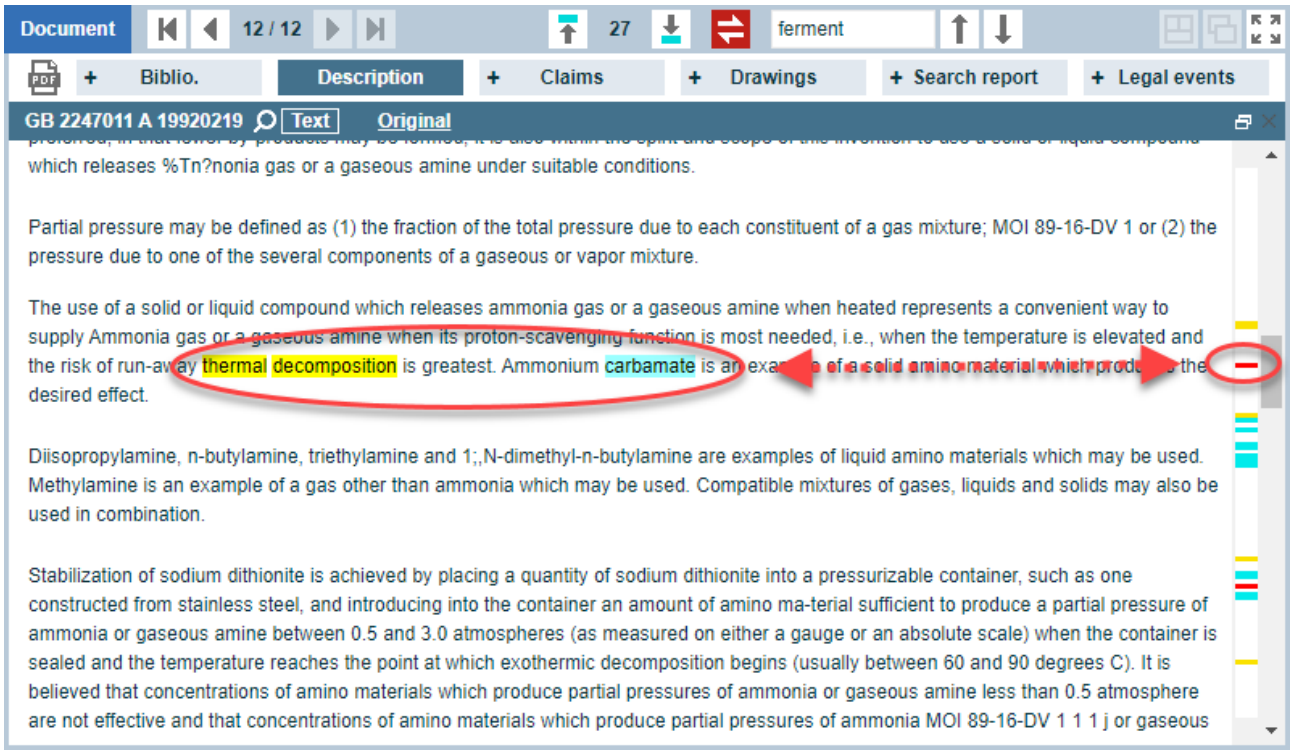
The example below shows the use of different highlight colours in the **CPC** and **Abstract** fields for the following query (see the colour operators you can use in your queries):

TIAB or CLAIM = -P (ferment* /3w (dair* or milk* or milch* or lait*)) and -Y (lactobacill* or lactococc* or lactic +3w acid* +3w bacter* or bacter* +3w lactiq* or milchsäurebakter*) and CPC = -P (A23C9) and -Y (C12N1)



Section Description **or** Claims **is selected:**

If the text of the description or claims is searchable, a **navigation bar** (showing the location of all hits in the text) is displayed at the right-hand of the text:



In this example, part of the query is FTXT = carbamat* and -Y (thermal +2w decompos*)

GB 2247011 A is retrieved and includes a total of 27 terms searched (hits) in the text of its description, this information being displayed between the previous/next hit buttons:

A marking in the navigation bar may represent multiple hits – for example, thermal decomposition and carbamate are three hits represented by a single red marking.
Red is used when different highlight colours overlap in the navigation bar – see the colour operators you can use in your queries to highlight searched terms in different colours.

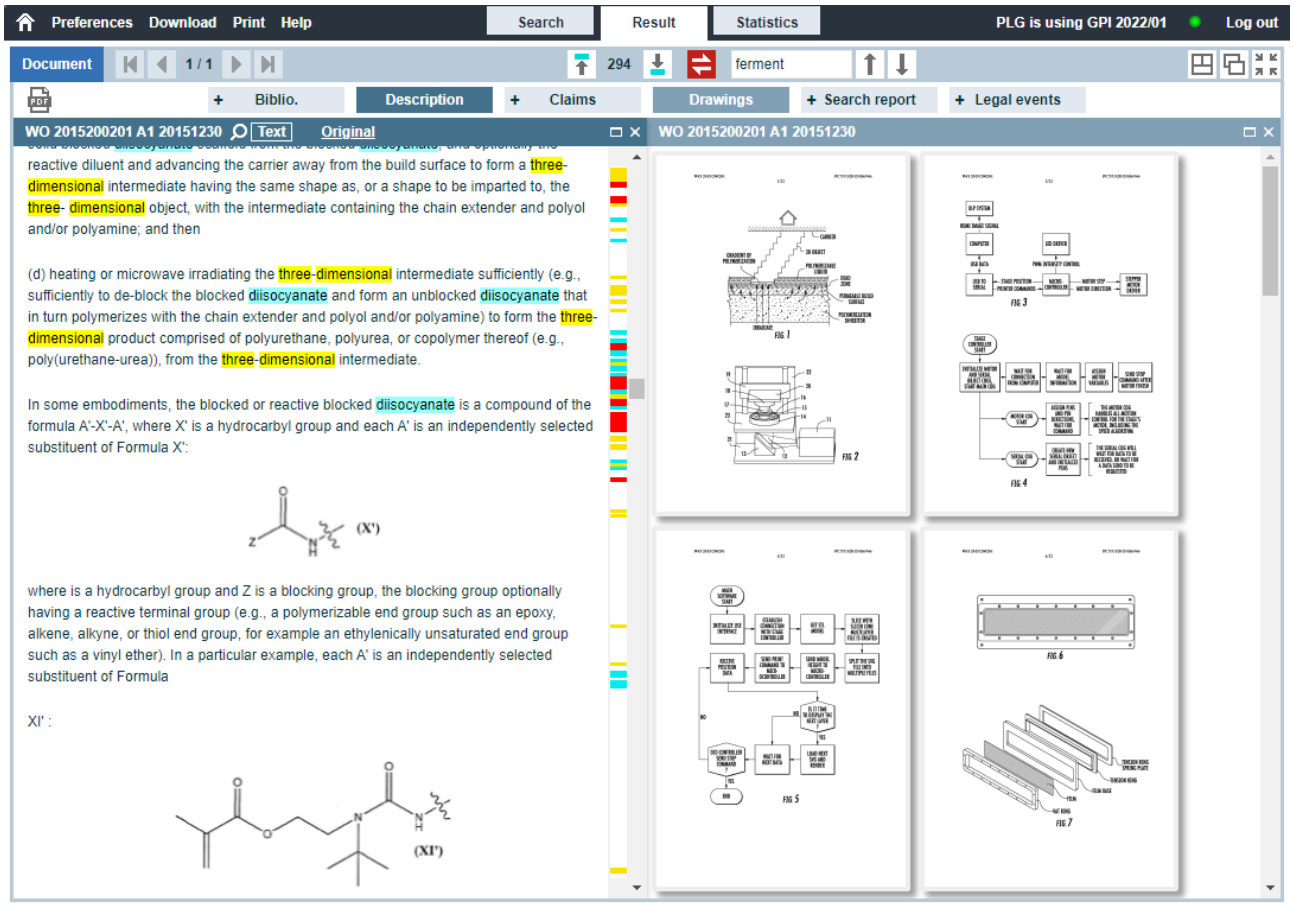
The location of a marking in the navigation bar is proportional to the location of its corresponding hit(s) in the whole text of the description or claims.

Note: number of hits and navigation bar are available only for searchable descriptions and claims. They are not available for bibliographic and legal event data.

See also Completeness status of searchable full text.

5.3.4. Full document display examples

❶ Document not published by the EPO (full text may or may not be searchable)



The Document box is maximised by clicking the minimise/maximise button located in the top right-hand corner, i.e. in this display mode the result list and query boxes are hidden.

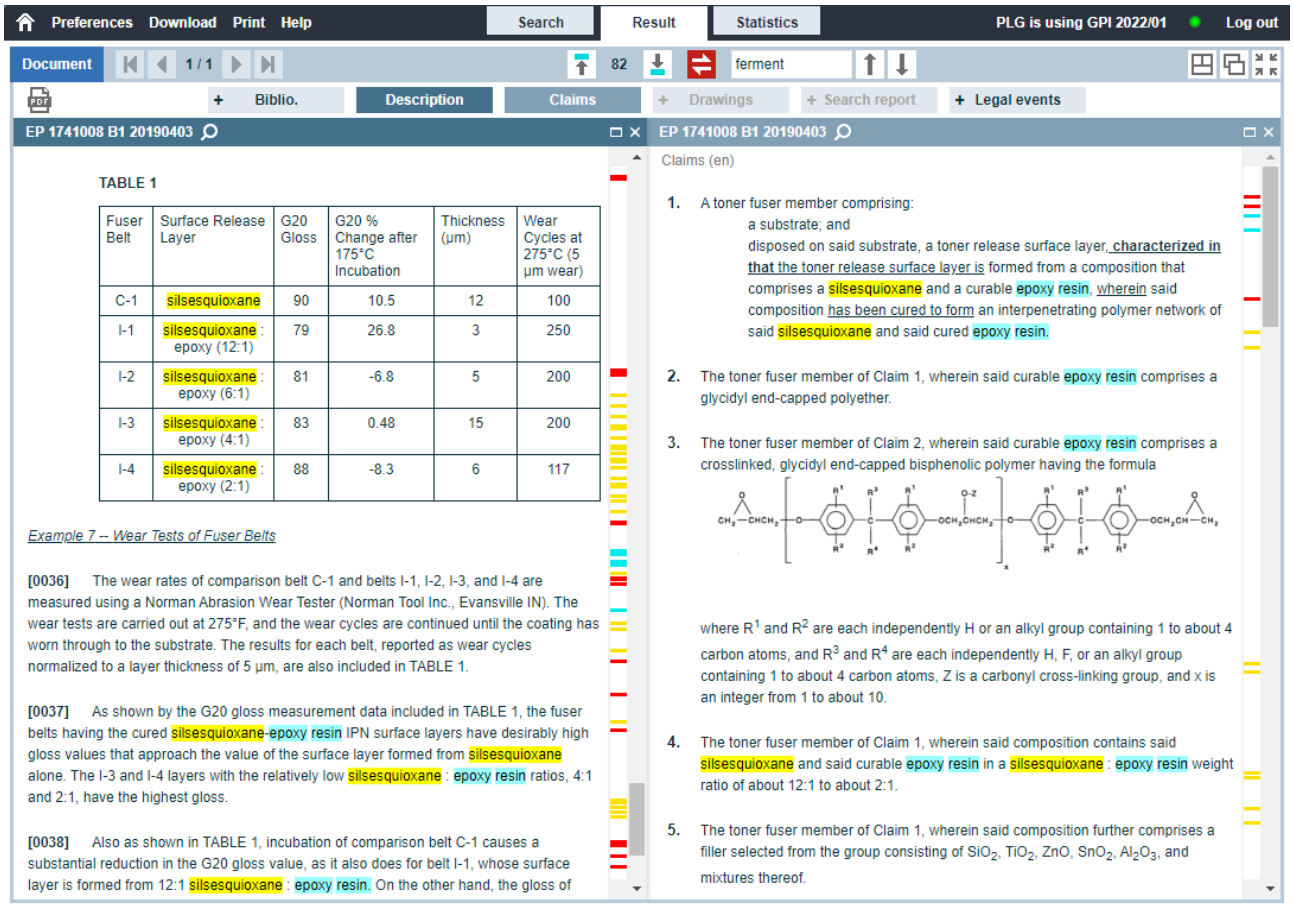
The description and the mosaic of drawings are selected and displayed.

Clicking the mosaic thumbnail displays the corresponding drawing in full size.

A navigation bar (showing the location of all hits in the text) is displayed at the right-hand side of the description.

The total number of hits (terms searched) in the selected section (description) is displayed in the top toolbar between the previous/next hit buttons:

❷ Document published by the EPO (full text always searchable)



The description and claims sections are selected and displayed. This full text sometimes includes links to Espacenet for applicant citations, embedded images (e.g. chemical formulae), tables and links to drawings.

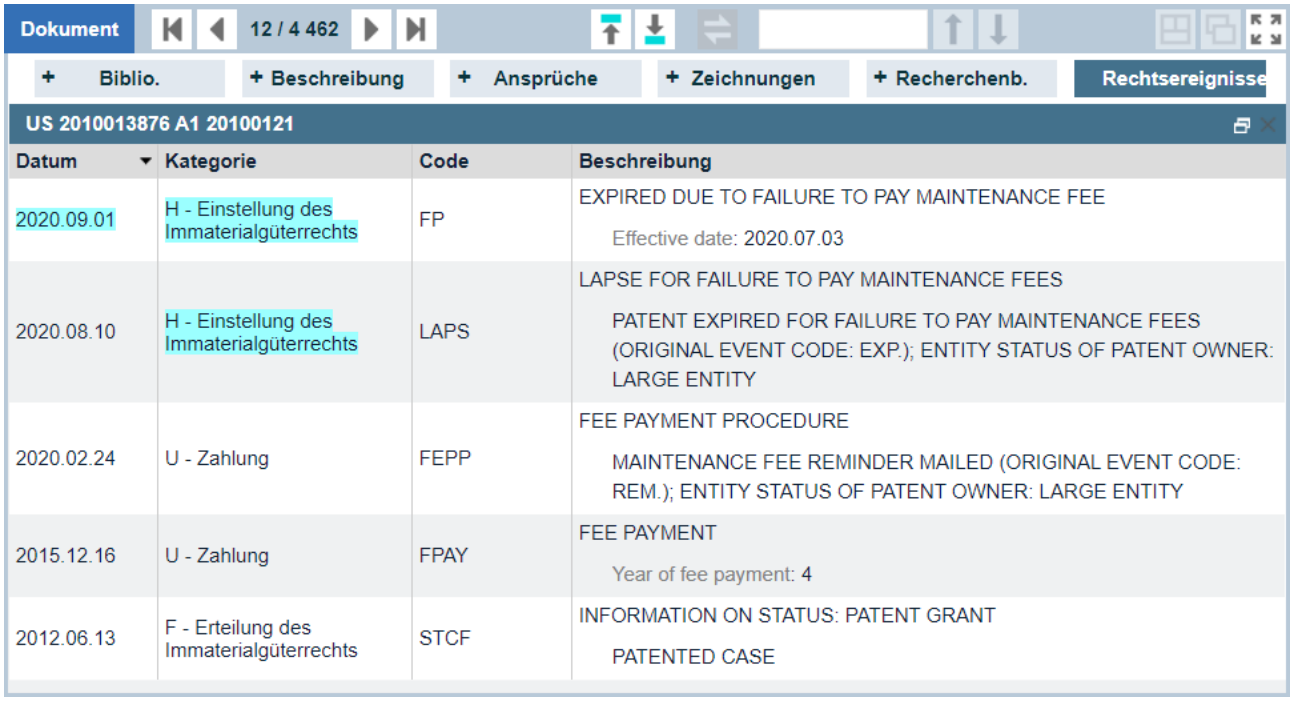
As per all EP B1 documents, the claims are available in the EPO's three official languages (English, French and German).

The Document box is maximised by clicking the minimise/maximise button located in the top right-hand corner, i.e. in this display mode the result list and query boxes are hidden.

Navigation bars (showing the location of all hits in the text) are displayed at the right-hand side of the description and claims.

The total number of hits (terms searched) in the selected section (description) is displayed in the top toolbar between the previous/next hit buttons:

5.3.5. INPADOC legal event display example



Datum	Kategorie	Code	Beschreibung
2020.09.01	H - Einstellung des Immaterialgüterrechts	FP	EXPIRED DUE TO FAILURE TO PAY MAINTENANCE FEE Effective date: 2020.07.03
2020.08.10	H - Einstellung des Immaterialgüterrechts	LAPS	LAPSE FOR FAILURE TO PAY MAINTENANCE FEES PATENT EXPIRED FOR FAILURE TO PAY MAINTENANCE FEES (ORIGINAL EVENT CODE: EXP.); ENTITY STATUS OF PATENT OWNER: LARGE ENTITY
2020.02.24	U - Zahlung	FEPP	FEE PAYMENT PROCEDURE MAINTENANCE FEE REMINDER MAILED (ORIGINAL EVENT CODE: REM.); ENTITY STATUS OF PATENT OWNER: LARGE ENTITY
2015.12.16	U - Zahlung	FPAY	FEE PAYMENT Year of fee payment: 4
2012.06.13	F - Erteilung des Immaterialgüterrechts	STCF	INFORMATION ON STATUS: PATENT GRANT PATENTED CASE

As shown in this screenshot of the German UI, event category names are in the language of the UI.

By default the list of legal events is sorted by event date descending (this default order is also used when downloading legal events, for example in PDF format). The list can be sorted ascending/descending by event date, category, code and title in the description.

Detailed information on event categories at this link (see PDF file “INPADOC classification scheme”).

See also EVCA index content (list of event categories) and Search with legal events.

The Document box is maximised by clicking the minimise/maximise button located in the top right-hand corner, i.e. in this display mode the result list and query boxes are hidden.

6. STATISTICS WINDOW

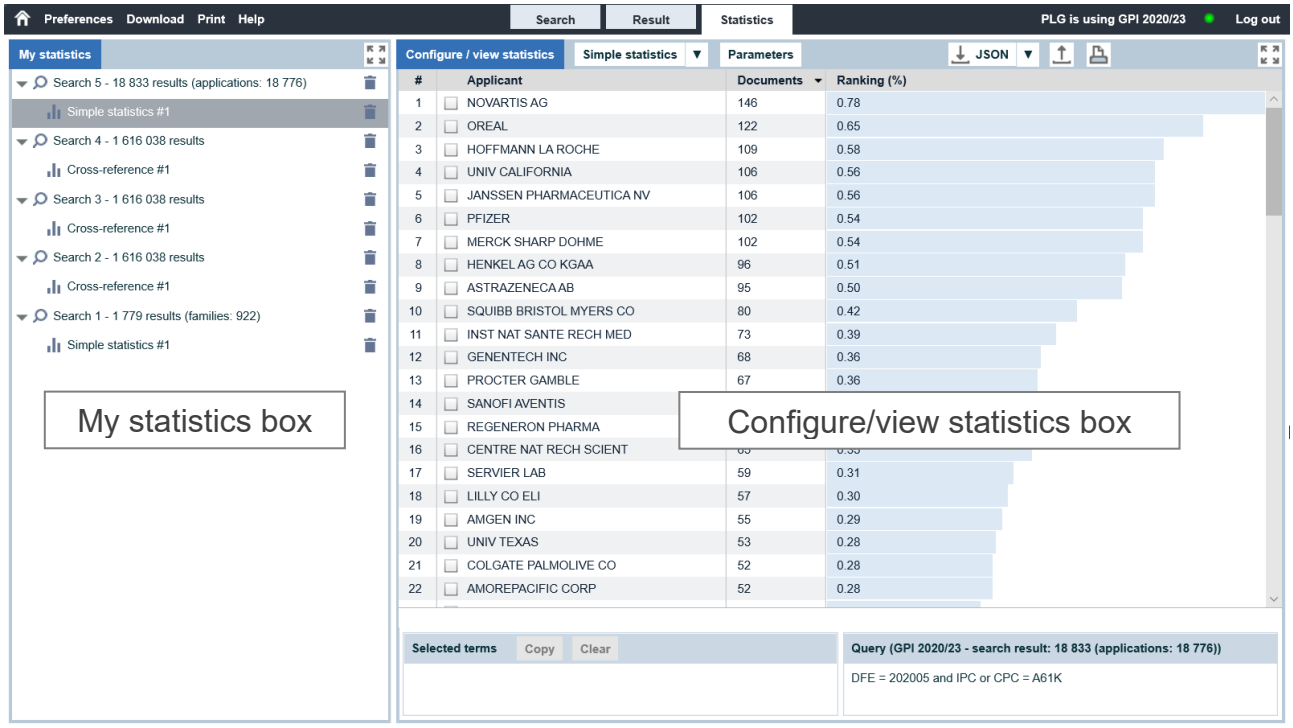
The statistics window appears when you click **Statistics** on the UI top toolbar. It has two boxes with the following functions:

- My statistics box: Navigate the list of searches and associated statistics that you have created.

- Configure/view statistics box: Create and visualise new statistics for the search selected in the **My statistics** box. Two types of statistics are available:

    - Simple statistics: the outcome is a table of the top 100 ranked items corresponding to the parameter that you have selected, e.g. applicants, CPC, F-terms, etc. (see example below).

    - Cross-reference: the outcome is a bubble chart for your selected parameters for the X and Y axis, e.g. top 20 IPC and top 20 Applicant.



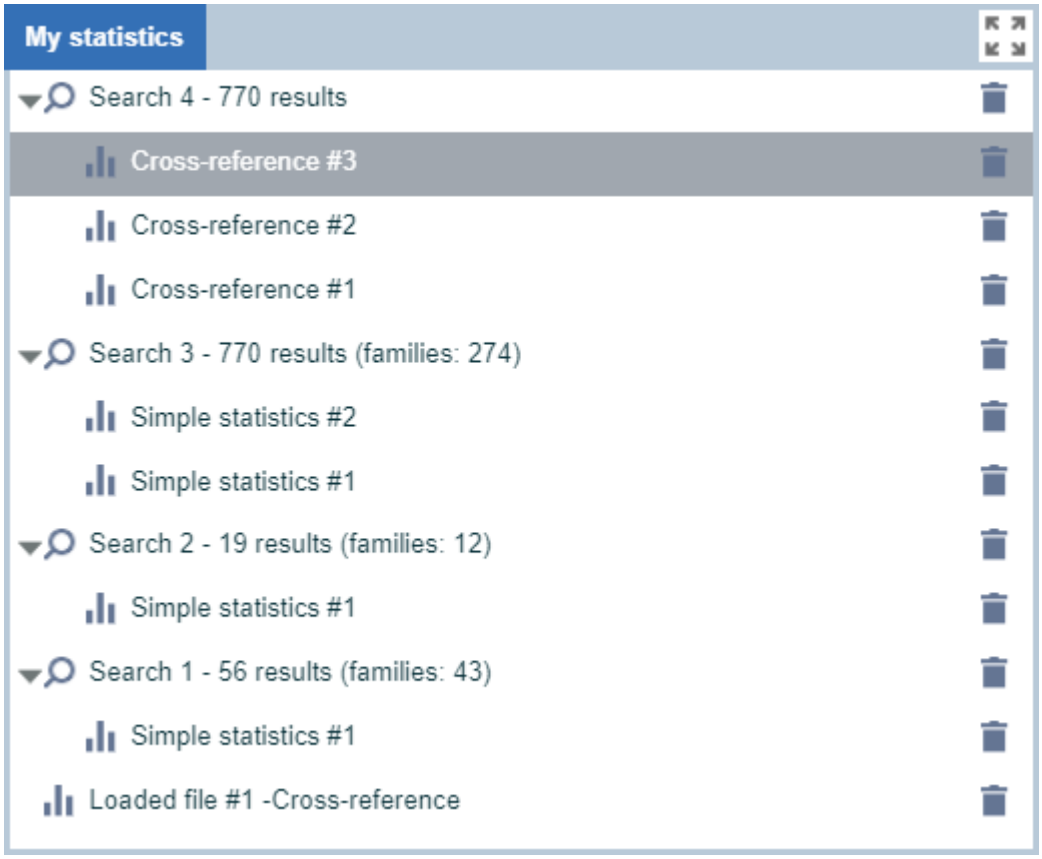
You can adjust the proportions of the two boxes by dragging the horizontal divider (the dark line between the two boxes which can be dragged left and right to resize them).

The **Configure/view statistics** box can also be minimised and maximised by clicking the **minimise/maximise** button  (located in the top right-hand corner) or by double-clicking the **Configure/view statistics** box top toolbar.

6.1. MY STATISTICS BOX

This box contains a list which may include the following items:

- Searches with result sets which have been or will be used to create and visualise statistics (most recent search at the top).
- For a given search, a list of statistics that you have created (most recent statistics at the top). Currently, GPI offers two types of statistics: simple statistics and cross-reference.
- Loaded files (statistics can be saved locally manually and loaded), which always appear at the bottom of the list as shown below:



See Configure/view statistics for creating, visualising, saving and loading statistics.

Searches, statistics and loaded files can be deleted from the list by clicking the **Delete** icon.

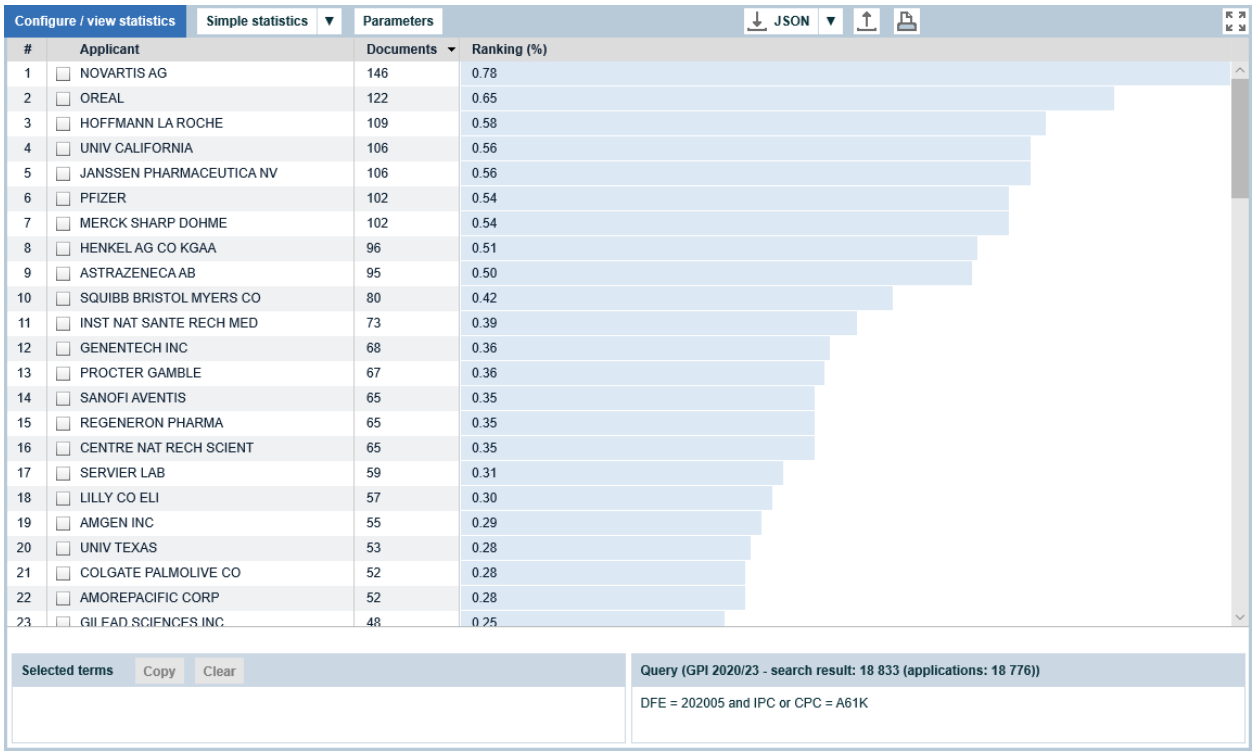
Statistics are automatically saved server-side and are therefore accessible from different computers.

Statistics are kept server-side for 72 hours before being automatically deleted.

6.2. CONFIGURE/VIEW STATISTICS BOX

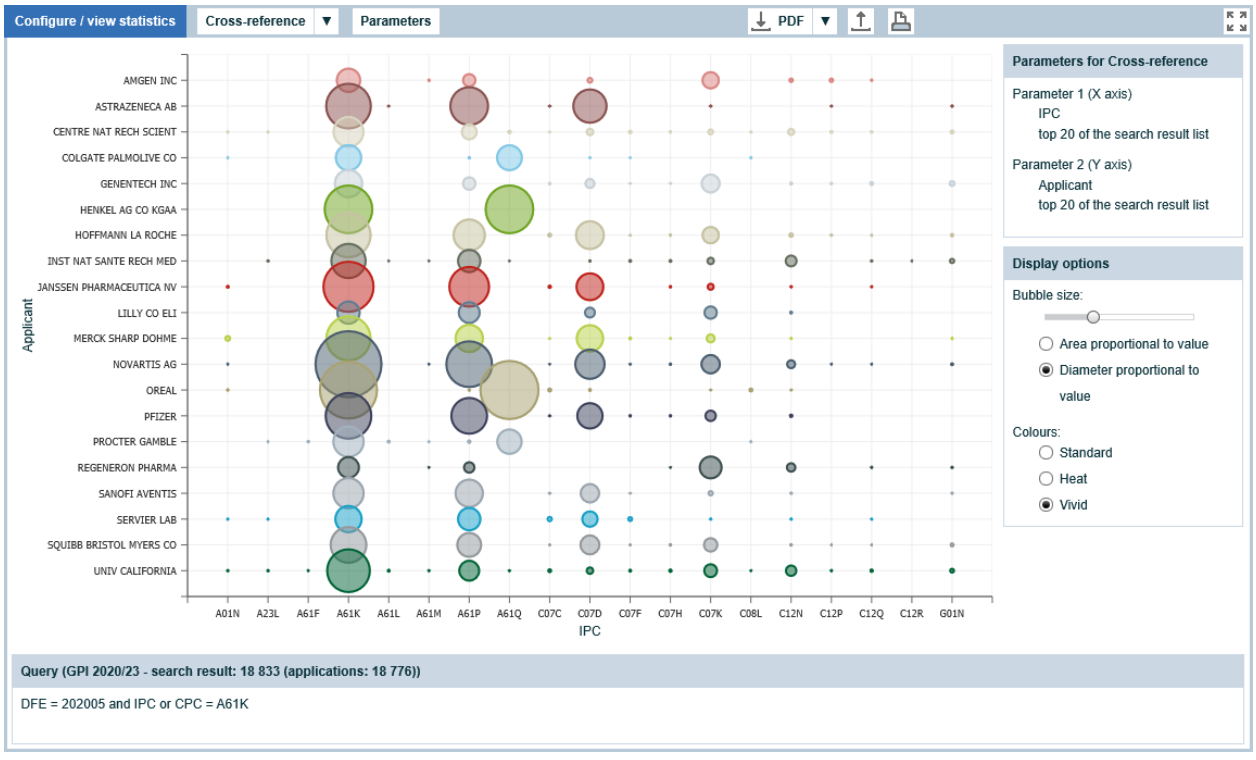
This box enables you to create **Simple statistics** or **Cross-reference** charts, and visualise and save/load them.

Example for Simple statistics: top 100 applicants/proprietors of your search result set



#	Applicant	Documents	Ranking (%)
1	NOVARTIS AG	146	0.78
2	OREAL	122	0.65
3	HOFFMANN LA ROCHE	109	0.58
4	UNIV CALIFORNIA	106	0.56
5	JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICA NV	106	0.56
6	PFIZER	102	0.54
7	MERCK SHARP DOHME	102	0.54
8	HENKEL AG CO KGAA	96	0.51
9	ASTRAZENECA AB	95	0.50
10	SQUIBB BRISTOL MYERS CO	80	0.42
11	INST NAT SANTE RECH MED	73	0.39
12	GENENTECH INC	68	0.36
13	PROCTER GAMBLE	67	0.36
14	SANOFI AVENTIS	65	0.35
15	REGENERON PHARMA	65	0.35
16	CENTRE NAT RECH SCIENT	65	0.35
17	SERVIER LAB	59	0.31
18	LILLY CO ELI	57	0.30
19	AMGEN INC	55	0.29
20	UNIV TEXAS	53	0.28
21	COLGATE PALMOLIVE CO	52	0.28
22	AMOREPACIFIC CORP	52	0.28
23	GILEAD SCIENCES INC	48	0.25

Example for Cross-reference: top 20 applicants/proprietors and top 20 IPC of your search result set



6.3. SIMPLE STATISTICS

You can use **Simple statistics** for the following purposes:

- To identify the most frequent classification symbols (IPC, CPC, FI or F-terms) in your result set corresponding to a preliminary query based on keywords of titles, abstracts, descriptions and claims. You can then select possible relevant symbols and append them automatically to your current query.

- To identify the most frequent applicants//proprietors or inventors in your result set.

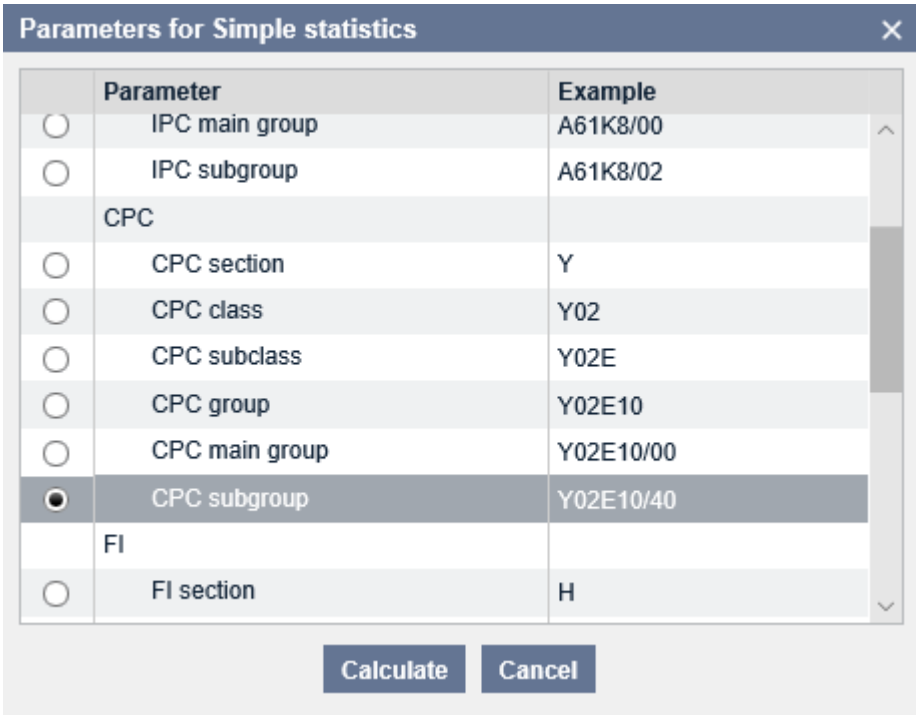
❶ **Query** area. Shows the query and search result used to compute the statistics.

❷ **Statistics** button list. May be used as follows:

- Click the button to run the selected statistics (the parameter used for the previous statistics calculation will then be re-used), or
- Open the list to change the type of statistics, e.g. use **Simple statistics** instead of **Cross-reference**, and then click the **Parameters** button ❸ to select the parameter(s) which will apply to the selected statistics.

❸ **Parameters** button. Each type of statistics (**Simple statistics** or **Cross-reference**) has its own set of parameters. When this button is clicked the following parameters show up for **Simple statistics**:

IPC (all levels), CPC (all levels), FI (all levels)
F-terms
Applicant (or proprietor),
Applicant (or proprietor) country of residence
Cited applicant (i.e. applicants of cited patent documents)
Inventor
Inventor country of residence
Publication, application, priority country
Publication, application filing, **oldest** priority date



Select the parameter you want to use (in the example: CPC subgroup) and click **Calculate** to run your simple statistics.

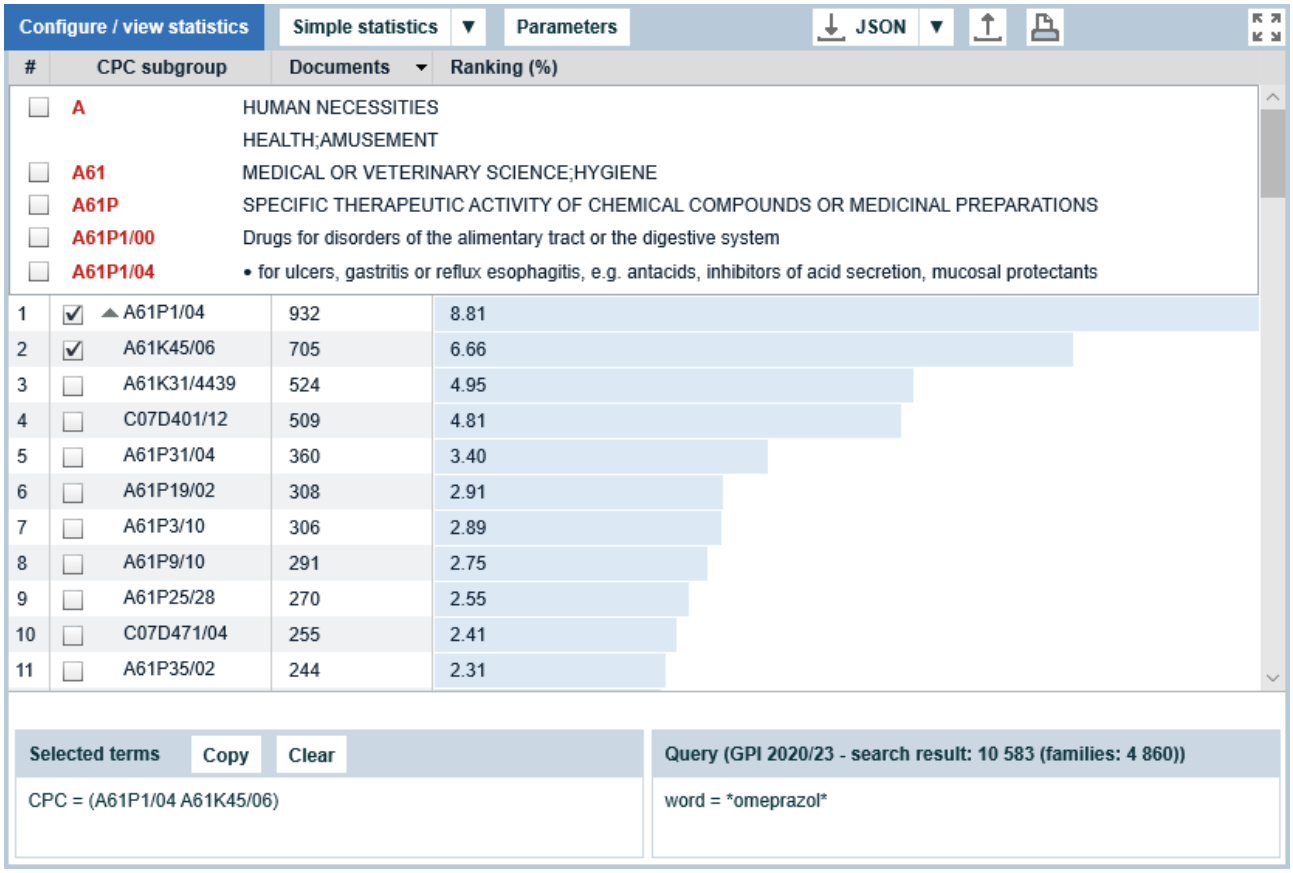
Notes:

- The top 100 applicant/proprietor and inventor names used are the standardised ones in DOCDB (Latin character set) format and not the ones in DOCDBA or ORIGINAL format, e.g. not the ones with Chinese, Japanese or Korean character set. Depending on the country and publication kind code, publications may not have names available in DOCDB format when running **Simple statistics**.

- To compare the ranking of the CPC statistics in GPI with the ranking in the EPO CPC browser, select **CPC group** in the list of parameters.

❹ **Simple statistics** outcome visualisation. Includes the top 100 items of the parameter you selected in ❸. This list is calculated on the basis of the result set corresponding to the search selected in the **My statistics** box (it could be your most recent search or an older one – the selected search shows up in ❶). Note that you can select each item on the list by clicking its checkbox and re-use it in your current query (see point ❻ below). Also note that:

- If you run statistics using IPC, each classification symbol is a link to its description in WIPO IPC.
- If you run statistics using CPC, you can click a symbol on the list to see its description and hierarchy in the UI without going to the CPC classification, as shown in the following screenshot:



❺ **Sort** icon. You can sort the content of a column in ascending or descending order by clicking the arrow located in the column header.

❻ **Selected terms** area. You can select any item in the top 100 by clicking its checkbox. You can re-use the selected items in your current query by clicking the **Copy** button. Clicking the **Clear** button empties this area and unchecks all checkboxes.

❼ **Save** button list. The following formats are available:

- JSON: JSON is a format frequently used in and between HTML applications. You can use this format e.g. for archiving statistics output which can be loaded and visualised later.
- HTML
- CSV

❽ **Load** button. Use this button to load statistics (**Simple statistics** or **Cross-reference**) previously saved in JSON format.

Note that statistics are kept server-side for 72 hours. Should you want to keep statistics for more than 72 hours, you can save them in one of the proposed formats, e.g. JSON for visualising your statistics in the UI.

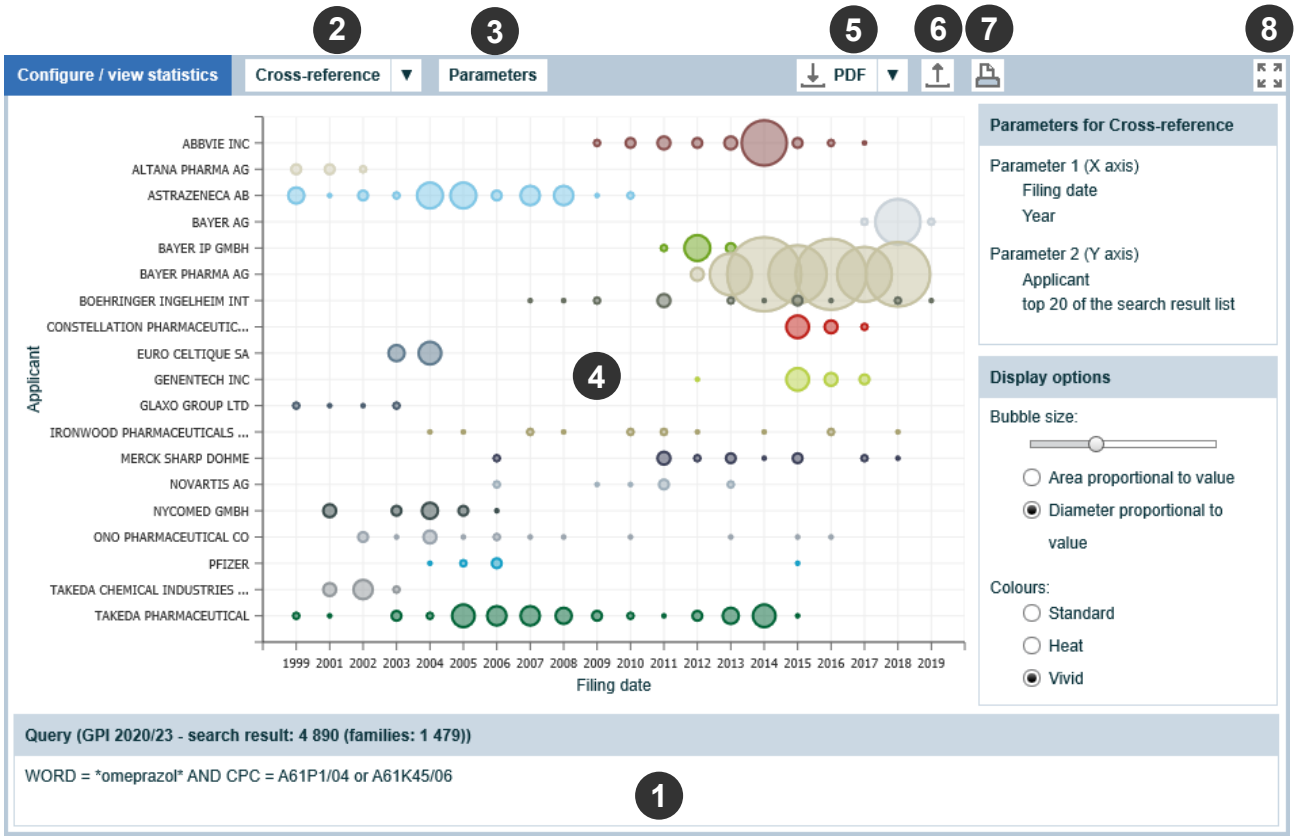
❾ **Print** button.

❿ **Maximise/minimise** button. Click this button to maximise or minimise your **Configure/view statistics** box. The box can also be maximised or minimised by double-clicking its toolbar.

6.4. CROSS-REFERENCE

You can use **Cross-reference** for the following purposes:

- To visualise technology trends over a number of years for the top 20 IPC or CPC subclasses.
- To visualise the activity of the top 20 applicants/proprietors over a number of years or in the top 20 IPC or CPC subclasses.

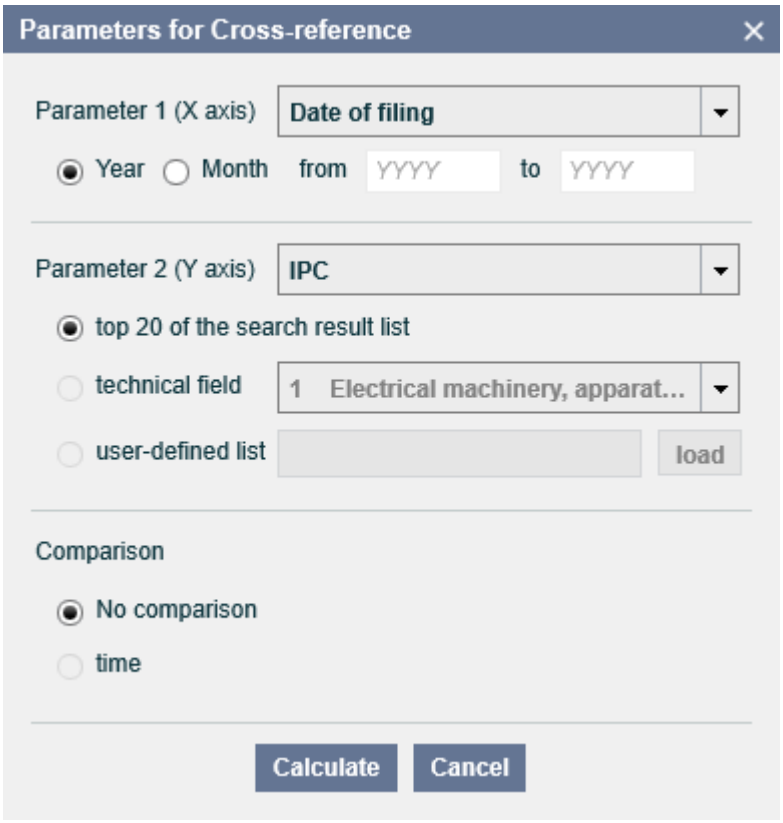


❶ **Query** area. Shows the query and search result used to compute the statistics.

❷ **Statistics** button list. May be used as follows:

- Click the button to run the selected statistics (the parameter used for the previous statistics calculation will then be re-used).
- Open the list to change the type of statistics, e.g. use **Cross-reference** instead of **Simple statistics**, and then click the **Parameters** button ❸ to select the parameter(s) which will apply to the selected statistics.

❸ **Parameters** button. Once clicked, the following parameters are shown:



Parameter 1 (X axis) and parameter 2 (Y axis) can be one of the following items:

IPC (subclass level)
CPC (subclass level or Y02 area)
Applicant (or proprietor),
Inventor
Publication, application, priority country
Publication, application filing, **oldest** priority date

Note: The top 20 applicant/proprietor and inventor names used are the standardised ones in DOCDB format (Latin character set) and not the ones in DOCDBA or ORIGINAL format, e.g. not the ones with Chinese, Japanese or Korean character sets. Depending on the country and publication kind code, publications may not have names available in DOCDB format when running **Cross-reference**.

Select parameters 1 and 2 and click the **Calculate** button to run your cross-reference.

Note that parameters 1 (X axis) and 2 (Y axis) can be identical, e.g. **IPC** and **IPC** to spot associations of technical fields, or **applicant** and **applicant** to spot collaborations.

❹ **Cross-reference** outcome visualisation. This is a bubble chart showing the top 20 items corresponding to the parameters you selected for the X and Y axes. You can modify the style of your chart using the display options located on the right-hand side of your screen.

❺ **Save** button list. The following formats are available:

- JSON: JSON is a format frequently used in and between HTML applications. You can use this format e.g. for archiving statistics output which can be loaded and visualised later.
- PDF
- CSV

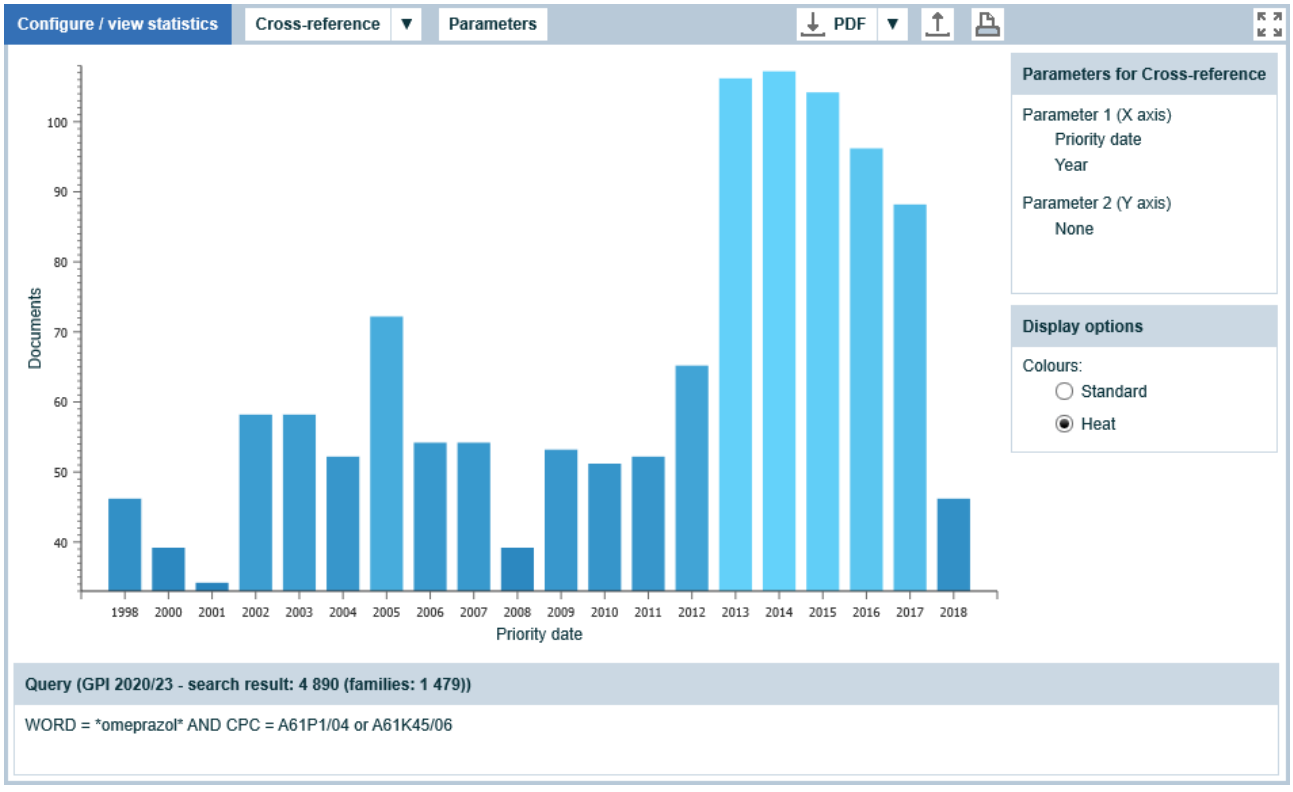
❻ **Load** button. Load statistics (**Simple statistics** or **Cross-reference**) previously saved in JSON format.

Note that statistics are kept server-side for 72 hours. Should you want to keep statistics for more than 72 hours, you can save them in one of the proposed formats, e.g. JSON for visualising your statistics in the UI.

❼ **Print** button.

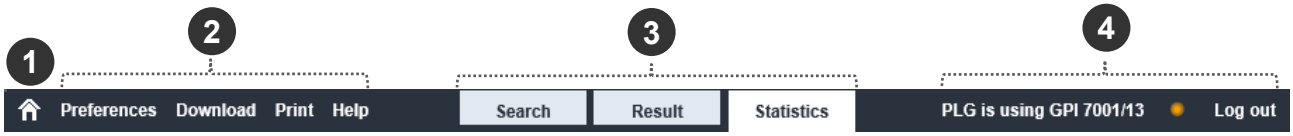
❽ **Maximise/minimise** button. Click this button to maximise or minimise your **Configure/view statistics** box. You can also maximise or minimise the box by double-clicking its toolbar.

In addition to bubble charts, the cross-reference outcome can also be a bar chart when selecting “none” for the Y axis:



7. UI TOP TOOLBAR

The top toolbar is visible in the **Search**, **Result** and **Statistics** windows. It provides access to the **Download**, **Print** and **User preference** functionalities, and navigation between the **Welcome**, **Search**, **Result** and **Statistics** windows:



❶ Go to the Welcome window.

❷ Menu:

- **Preferences**: Set your user preferences, e.g. for customising the result list content and document content.
- **Download**: Download e.g. your current result list or documents.
- **Print**: Print e.g. your current result list.
- **Help**:
  - **Database help**: Access the GPI factsheet on the EPO website to download this user manual.
  - **Discussion forum**: Access the forum to discuss the latest topics.
  - **Completeness status of bibliographic data**: Get an overview per country. See database content.
  - **Completeness status of searchable full text**: Get an overview per country and kind code. See database content.
  - **About**: See the current version of **Patent information services for experts**.

❸ Navigate between the Search, Result and Statistics windows.

❹ Username, GPI database edition number, and **Log out**.

8. QUERY SYNTAX

8.1. QUERY BASIC COMPONENTS

GPI queries are usually a combination of the following:

- **Search criteria codes**, e.g. WORD for keywords of titles, abstracts, descriptions and claims.
- **Terms to be searched for**, e.g. keywords, IPC/CPC symbols, applicant/inventor names, country codes, kind codes, publication dates, etc.
- **Boolean operators** to connect criteria and terms for a given criterion
    - **AND**
      Documents with "argon" and "purification":
      WORD = argon and purification
    - **OR**
      Documents with "laser" and "beam" in their English title or abstract:
      TIEN or ABEN = laser and beam
      Documents with "E coli" or "Escherichia coli":
      WORD = "E coli" or "Escherichia coli"
    - **NOT**, **ANDNOT**
      Documents without a publication date:
      not (PUD = *)
      Documents with CPC A01B13/08 but not A01B13/12:
      CPC = A01B13/08 andnot A01B13/12 - identical to:
      CPC = A01B13/08 and not (CPC = A01B13/12)
      Note the use of brackets when not used alone.
    - **WITH**
      Documents with the event code INTG (intention to grant) published in January 2016 in at least one of their legal events:
      EVCO = INTG with EVD = 201601
      See the comparison of AND and WITH operators and Annex 2 to understand the added value of WITH in a number of cases.

The Boolean operators are available in the following languages:

English	and	andnot	or	with
French	et	etsauf	ou	avec
German	und	undnicht	oder	mit

- **Arithmetic operators**

  - **= equal to**
    Documents with "laser":
    WORD = laser

  - **> greater than**, **>= greater than or equal to**
    Documents filed as of 2010/01/01:
    APD >= 2010/01/01 (identical to APD >= 2010)

  - **< less than**, **<= less than or equal to**
    Documents published before 1900/01/01:
    PUD < 1900/01/01 (identical to PUD < 1900, PUD < 01011900)

  - **[ ] date range**
    Documents published in the first half of 2010:
    PUD [2010/01/01, 2010/06/30]
    Documents published between 1900 and 1920:
    PUD [1900, 1920] - note that PUD=[1900, 1920] is not correct syntax due to the presence of "=".

  - **( ) brackets** to force the order of operations
    Documents about the "purification" ("Reinigung" in German) of "argon":
    WORD = argon and (purification or reinigung)

- **Proximity operators**

  Documents where "argon" is up to a maximum of two words apart from "purification", whatever the order ("/" means *whatever the order*), e.g. "argon purification", "purification of argon":
  WORD = argon /2w purification

  Documents where "nano" is one word apart from "particle" or "particles", in the same order ("+" means *in the same order*):
  WORD = nano +1w particle?

- **Wildcards**

  - *** (asterisk)** stands for zero or more characters
    Documents containing the words "particle", "particles":
    WORD = particle*
    Documents containing the words "dihydroxyphenyl", "trihydroxyphenyl":
    WORD = *hydroxyphenyl
    Documents containing the words "disaccharide", "disaccharides", "monosaccharide", "monosaccharides":
    WORD = *saccharide?
    Documents containing the words "hydroxydiphenyl", "hydroxycarbophenyl":
    WORD = hydroxy*phenyl

  - **# (hash)** stands for one character
    Documents containing the words "paralyse", "paralyze":
    WORD = paraly#e

  - **? (question mark)** stands for zero or one character
    Documents containing the words "particle", "particles":
    WORD = particle?
    Documents containing the words "color", "colors", "colour", "colours":
    WORD = colo?r?

  The number of wildcards is limited to five per term.

  Truncations can be used for words and not for expressions delimited with double quotes. For example, IPC = "A61K 49"* is not a correct query. The correct query is IPC = "A61K 49" which is identical to IPC = A61K49

- **String delimiters " "** (double quotes)

  Double quotes cannot be used in combination with wildcards.

  Examples: If an IPC symbol is copied from the first page of a patent document and pasted into the Query box, the symbol may be composed of two terms separated by white space, e.g. A61K 49/00.

  In this case the query
  IPC = A61K 49/00
  will be interpreted as
  IPC = A61K OR IPC = 49/00

  The above query will not return the expected result. This is due to

  - the presence of white space between A61K and 49/00, and
  - the use of the default operator OR between terms - see User preferences / General on setting the value of default operators.

  The correct syntax should be
  IPC = "A61K 49/00"
  which is equivalent to
  IPC = A61K49/00

  In other words, use string delimiters to search for expressions.

  Examples:

  WORD = nano particles
  may be an incorrect query, whereas
  WORD = **"**nano particles**"**
  would retrieve a more accurate result.

  INV = FROMONT GAELLE
  may be an incorrect query, whereas
  INV = "FROMONT GAELLE"
  would retrieve a more accurate result.

- **Colour operators**

With CPC = Y04S, all CPC symbols in the Y04S subclass are highlighted in the CPC field of the bibliographic data.
With EVDE = licence, all occurrences of "licence" are highlighted in the text of legal events.
With FTXT = laser and beam*, all occurrences of "laser" and "beam" or “beams” are highlighted in the description and/or claims.

If you use the above queries without specifying the highlight colour, the default highlight colour turquoise is used.

GPI enables you to specify different colours in your queries, for example to represent different technical concepts, each concept being associated with a number of relevant terms.

The following four highlight colours are available:

Colour	Syntax	Highlight in text
Turquoise (default colour)	-T or -t	search hit
Yellow	-Y or -y	search hit
Pink	-P or -p	search hit
Grey	-G or -g	search hit

Query examples:

ftxt = -Y(laser and beam or rayon) and ftxt = -T(welding or soudure)

ftxt = -Y (carbamate) and -G (thermal +2w decompos*)

Note the use of brackets, which is mandatory when using a colour parameter.

ftxt = carbamate and -Y(thermal +2w decompos*)

With this query, occurrences of "carbamate" will be highlighted in turquoise (the default colour that does not need to be specified).

See highlighting examples in bibliographic data and full text.

Notes - Hints for query syntax in GPI:

- Criteria, search terms and Boolean operators can be entered in upper or lower case.

- Searches for expressions are automatically transformed into proximity searches.
  Example:
  WORD = **"**nano particles**"**
  is transformed into
  WORD = nano /1w particles

- Wildcards cannot be used in combination with string delimiters (double quotes).

  Example:
  WORD = "laser beam*"
  does not return the expected result (documents containing "laser beam" or "laser beams").
  The correct query is:
  WORD = laser +1w beam*

  The following queries are not correct (truncations can be used for words and not for expressions):
  WORD = "laser beam"*
  APP = "DELTA ELECTRONIC"*

- GPI queries are evaluated from left to right, and brackets must sometimes be used to force the order of operations.

  Example: you want to retrieve documents on the purification ("Reinigung" in German) of argon. If you enter:
  WORD = argon and purification or reinigung

  the real query used by the search engine would be (evaluation from left to right):
  WORD = (argon and purification) or reinigung

  GPI would return a surprisingly high number of results due to the missing brackets, and many documents would contain "Reinigung" but not in association with "argon".
  One correct query would be:
  WORD = argon and (purification or reinigung)

  Due to left-to-right evaluation, the following query would also be correct:
  WORD = purification or reinigung and argon

- As a consequence of Boolean logic, the meaning of NOT (A **OR** B) is NOT A **AND** NOT B, i.e. it is not NOT A **OR** NOT B. For example:

not (IPC = B23K26/02 or B23K26/08)	is interpreted as
not (IPC = B23K26/02) and not (IPC = B23K26/08)	and similarly
not (IPC = B23K26/02 and B23K26/08)	is interpreted as
not (IPC = B23K26/02) or not (IPC = B23K26/08)	

8.2. COMPARISON OF AND AND WITH OPERATORS

Patent documents include data fields which may contain single or multiple items, each item being more or less complex, depending on its nature.

The WITH operator produces more accurate search results compared with AND in the case of fields containing multiple complex items, e.g. **INPADOC legal events** , **CPC** and **DOCDB simple family**.

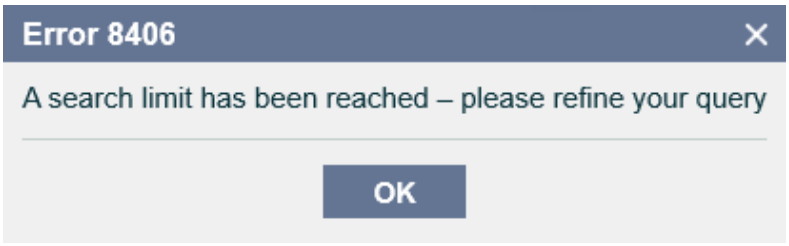
The search criteria compatible with the WITH operator are listed in Annex 2. The following examples illustrate the differences between the AND and WITH operators in user queries.

Notes:

- WITH is designed to be efficient (i) between search criteria of a given field and not between search criteria of different fields or (ii) between terms of a given criterion that is with-compatible.

- A search corresponding to a query including WITH between criteria not listed in Annex 2 or between criteria of different fields will return 0.

- Unlike the AND and OR operators and like proximity operators, the WITH operator is subject to a usage limit at search time. It is difficult to give a figure for this limit, but when it is reached the UI displays the following message:



Example 1 - INPADOC legal event field

If present, this field usually contains multiple items, each item being a legal event which includes the following searchable data:

- date, e.g. 20160110 (criterion EVD)
- category, e.g. B (criterion EVCA)
- code, e.g. 18D (criterion EVCO)
- description, e.g. DEEMED TO BE WITHDRAWN (criterion EVDE)

EVD=201810 AND EVCO=18D retrieves publications for which there is a legal event published in October 2018 and also the code 18D for that event.

Because a single publication may be associated with several legal events, it is very likely that this query will also retrieve publications having a legal event or events published in October 2018 but not having the event code 18D for the particular events. Equally, legal events having the event code 18D but which were published on some date other than October 2018 will also be returned. This is a characteristic of the way in which the AND operator works.

In this case, EVD=201810 WITH EVCO=18D will make the search more accurate, i.e. all matching publications have the searched terms in at least one legal event.

WITH can also be used between different terms of the same search criterion:

EVD=201810 WITH EVDE= “TRANSFER OF RIGHTS” WITH FUJITSU

See also Search with legal events

Example 2 – CPC field

If present, this field usually contains multiple items, each item being a CPC including the following searchable data:

- CPC symbol, e.g. A61K9/0019 (criterion CPC)
- CPC assignment date, e.g. 2018.09.03 (criterion CPCAD)

CPC=A61K9/0019 AND CPCAD=201912 retrieves publications with CPC A61K9/0019 and assigned in September 2018.

Because a single publication may be associated with several CPC symbols, it is very likely that this query will also retrieve publications having CPC A61K9/0019 but not assigned in December 2019. Equally, other CPC symbols assigned in December 2019 will also be returned. This is a characteristic of the way in which the AND operator works.

In this case, CPC=A61K9/0019 WITH CPCAD=201809 will make the search more accurate, i.e. all searched terms are present in at least one CPC symbol.

Note that the date of assignment of a CPC symbol (searchable with CPCAD) is not the date of the CPC scheme version displayed between brackets in GPI documents:

CPC (source: EP GB KR RU US)
G01N 27/3273 (2013.01 - EP GB KR RU US); G01N 27/3274 (2013.01 - GB RU US);
G01N 33/483 (2013.01 - KR); G01N 33/48785 (2013.01 - GB); G01R 31/2829 (2013.01 - GB)

See also Search with classifications

Example 3 – DOCDB simple family field

This field is always present, as every publication in GPI belongs to a simple family. It usually contains multiple items, each item being a family member having the following searchable data:

- publication information (criteria FMPUC FMPUN FMPUK FMPUD)
- application information (criteria FMAPC FMAPN FMAPK FMAPD)
- grant information (criterion ISFMG with two values: YES or NO)
- date of first exchange (criterion FMDFE)

FMPUC = US AND ISFMG = YES retrieves publications having a US family member which is a granted patent.

Because a single publication may have a simple family with several family members, it is very likely that this query will also retrieve publications having a US family member that is not a granted patent. Equally, non-US family members that are granted patents will also be returned. This is characteristic of the way in which the AND operator works.

In this case, FMPUC = US WITH ISFMG = YES will make your search more accurate, i.e. all the searched terms will be present in at least one family member.

The following queries are not valid (the search will return 0):

> FMAPC = US WITH ISFMG = YES – the grant information can only be combined with publication-related information, and not application-related information.
>
> FMPUC = US WITH FSP > 1 – the family size information is available at family level and not at family member level. The correct query is as follows:
> FMPUC = US AND FSP > 1

See also Search with simple family information

Example 4 – Applicant field (applicant or proprietor)

If present, this field may contain multiple applicant names.

APP = UNIV* AND TECH* retrieves publications with, for example, the applicant “TECHNISCHE UNIV GRAZ”.

Because a single publication may have multiple applicants, it is very likely that this query will also retrieve publications having UNIV in one applicant’s name and TECH in another applicant’s name. This is characteristic of the way in which the AND operator works.

In this case, APP = UNIV* WITH TECH* will make your search more accurate, i.e. all the searched terms will be present in at least one applicant name.

Note: The following query is not valid:

APP = "UNIV* TECH*" – wildcards (asterisk in this example) cannot be used in combination with string delimiters (double quotes).

9. DATABASE CONTENT AND UPDATE

9.1. OVERVIEW

GPI is a cumulative database updated every Friday at 12.00 hrs CET. It includes:

- The EPO's worldwide bibliographic data collection (DOCDB).
  See Completeness status of bibliographic data.

- The EPO's worldwide legal event data collection (INPADOC).

- Full text (descriptions and claims).
  See Completeness status of searchable full text.

The GPI database edition, which is visible in the list of databases in the Welcome window, reflects the week of DOCDB data exchange. For example, on Friday at 12.00 hrs in **week 02 of 2020**, the GPI database edition is 2020/02 and contains:

- DOCDB data exchanged in **week 02 of 2020**, e.g. EP documents published on Wednesday and DE documents published on Thursday are usually exchanged on Thursday and searchable in GPI on Friday at 12.00 hrs CET.

- INPADOC data exchanged in **week 01 of 2020**, e.g. legal events of EP documents published in week 01 are usually exchanged on Saturday in week 01 and searchable in GPI in week 02 on Friday at 12.00 hrs CET.

In other words, there is a one-week delay between bibliographic and legal event data.

In DOCDB, a document (publication) is triggered for weekly exchange when:

- It has been added to the database, i.e. a new document is created (“new document” does not necessarily mean “newly published document”).

- It has been removed from the database or withdrawn.

- It has been amended, i.e. modified:

  - Any bibliographic information relating to it has been modified, i.e. an existing document is amended. However, detailed information on the nature of the amendment within a document is not searchable per se.

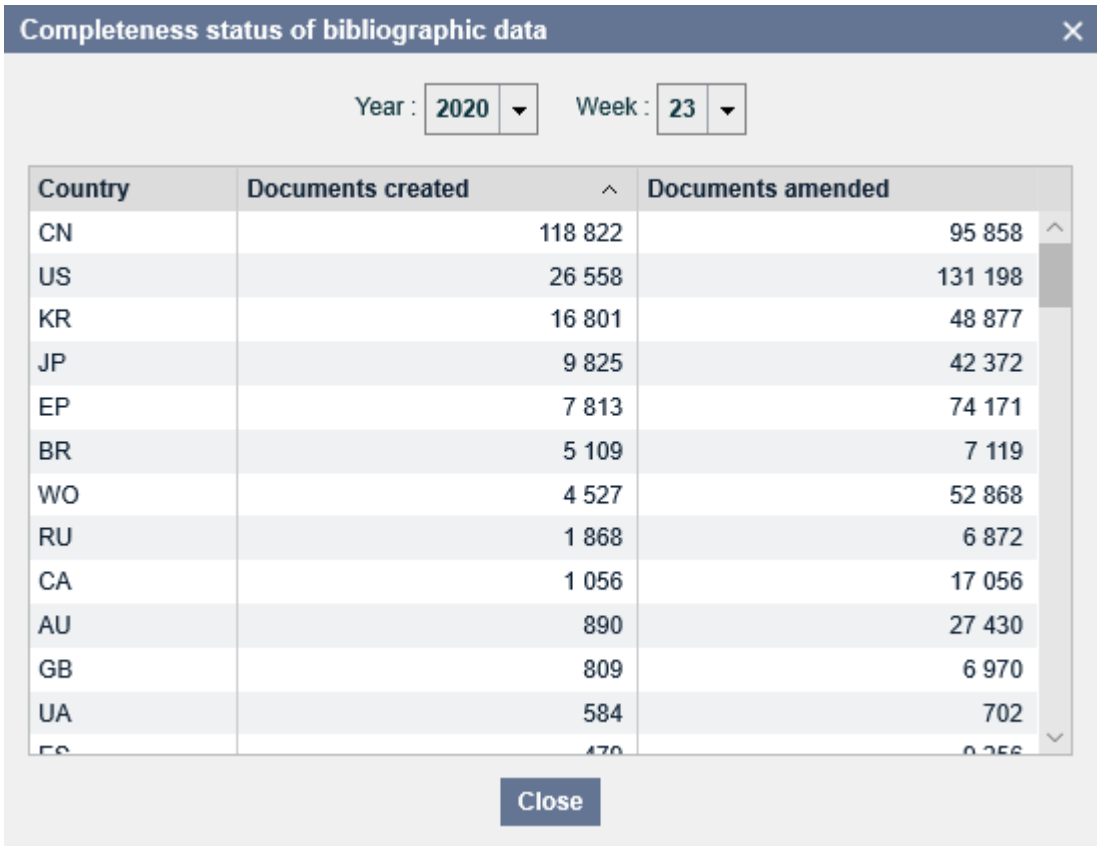
  - It has been re-keyed, i.e. the publication reference itself has changed.

The weekly exchange can contain hundreds of thousands of documents due to re-keys or large amounts of backfile data deliveries to the EPO from other patent authorities.

In addition to weekly DOCDB/INPADOC data exchanges and GPI updates, the GPI database is also fully reprocessed twice a year using a full DOCDB/INPADOC data exchange (also known as DOCDB and INPADOC data backfiles).

9.2. COMPLETENESS STATUS OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA

As far as bibliographic data is concerned, an overview of the database content is displayed if you select **Completeness status of bibliographic data** in the Help menu:



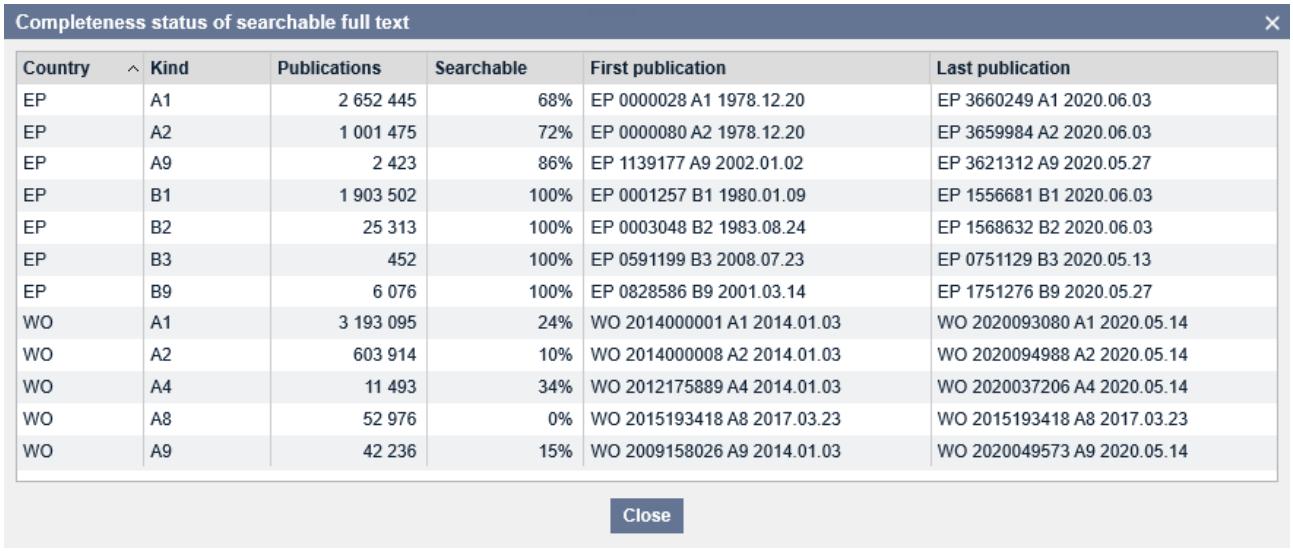
In the above list:

- **Documents created** means publications added to the database for the first time.
- **Documents amended** means publications added to the database again following modification of their content.

This list may help you to understand unexpected search results due, for example, to an unusually low number of documents for a given country in a given week.

9.3. COMPLETENESS STATUS OF SEARCHABLE FULL TEXT

As far as searchable full text (descriptions and claims) is concerned, you can get an overview of the database content by selecting **Completeness status of searchable full text** in the Help menu:



Country	Kind	Publications	Searchable	First publication	Last publication
EP	A1	2 652 445	68%	EP 0000028 A1 1978.12.20	EP 3660249 A1 2020.06.03
EP	A2	1 001 475	72%	EP 0000080 A2 1978.12.20	EP 3659984 A2 2020.06.03
EP	A9	2 423	86%	EP 1139177 A9 2002.01.02	EP 3621312 A9 2020.05.27
EP	B1	1 903 502	100%	EP 0001257 B1 1980.01.09	EP 1556681 B1 2020.06.03
EP	B2	25 313	100%	EP 0003048 B2 1983.08.24	EP 1568632 B2 2020.06.03
EP	B3	452	100%	EP 0591199 B3 2008.07.23	EP 0751129 B3 2020.05.13
EP	B9	6 076	100%	EP 0828586 B9 2001.03.14	EP 1751276 B9 2020.05.27
WO	A1	3 193 095	24%	WO 2014000001 A1 2014.01.03	WO 2020093080 A1 2020.05.14
WO	A2	603 914	10%	WO 2014000008 A2 2014.01.03	WO 2020094988 A2 2020.05.14
WO	A4	11 493	34%	WO 2012175889 A4 2014.01.03	WO 2020037206 A4 2020.05.14
WO	A8	52 976	0%	WO 2015193418 A8 2017.03.23	WO 2015193418 A8 2017.03.23
WO	A9	42 236	15%	WO 2009158026 A9 2014.01.03	WO 2020049573 A9 2020.05.14

In the above list:

- **Country** and **Kind** means the publication country codes and publication kind codes of publications that have searchable full text.
- **Publications** means the total number of publications available in GPI with or without searchable full text.
- **Searchable** means the percentage of publications with searchable full text.
- **First publication** and **Last publication** means the earliest and latest publications with searchable full text.

Note: At the time of writing (user manual version 3.5), the searchable full text available is the one indicated in the above screenshot. Additional searchable full text will be included regularly and announced in the GPI forum.

10. DOCDB SIMPLE FAMILY

10.1. SIMPLE FAMILY DEFINITION

The DOCDB simple family is a concept that groups publications of identical technical content together on the basis of identical priority pictures. It is the outcome of a number of business rules mainly run automatically or applied manually for fine tuning.

In other words, a simple family is a collection of patent applications and granted patents claiming the same priority rights. For a given invention, the corresponding simple family includes all kinds of publications of first filings (if any) and subsequent filings in various countries in various languages, including, for example, possible continuation and divisional applications. Due to the fact that they are considered to cover the same technical content as the parent application, continuations and divisionals will always be in one patent family with the parent application, regardless of the priorities they claim.

With simple families you can:

- Quickly identify patents that are related to an individual invention.
- Reduce your workload: look at one document and you have seen them all.
- Overcome language barriers: look at the document in the language that suits you best.
- Analyse applicant filing strategies.

10.2. SIMPLE FAMILY CONTENT

In GPI, a simple family comprises:

- All family members in the simple family, meaning all publications of all applications within the family.
- An indication of the family member which is the DOCDB family representative: where available, the application and all associated publications of the family representative are shown in bold.
- An English-language abstract, where available within the family.
- CPC and C-Set information assigned by the family member patent authorities.

The DOCDB simple family is identical to the "Also published as" list displayed in Espacenet. It is not to be confused with the INPADOC extended family.

Example of a simple family with a family representative (in bold):

DOCDB simple family (publication)
DE 202008002466 U1 20080529; DE 112009000938 A5 20110120; EP 2291597 A2 20110309; WO 2009103281 A2 20090827; WO 2009103281 A3 20091119; WO 2009103281 A4 20100107

DOCDB simple family (application)
DE 202008002466 U 20080221; DE 112009000938 T 20090219; EP 09712445 A 20090219; DE 2009000235 W 20090219

Family representatives, family members and family sizes are available as individual columns for the result list. See also Search with simple family information.

Notes:

- With the exception of CPC, C-Set and English-language abstracts, no bibliographic data are aggregated at family level. For example, IPC and applicant/proprietor names are publication-specific and not aggregated or searchable at family level. Legal event information is also not aggregated at simple family level.

- Simple family identifiers do not reflect possible movements in the family picture, i.e. if a publication becomes a new family member in an existing simple family, there will be no flag indicating that the family has changed but new family members can be detected using their date of first exchange using the criteria DFE and FMDFE (see Date of first exchange and Regular monitoring).

10.3. SIMPLE FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE

An application is suitable for becoming the DOCDB simple family representative if:

- It is the first application in a family that is part of the EPO search collection, i.e. part of all the major publishing countries and the countries that publish in one of the EPO's official languages (English, French and German).

- It is the first application in a family that is in one of the EPO's official languages.

- It has been formally published - "announcement in the gazette" or "laid open to the public" are not formal publications.

In GPI, publications which are DOCDB family representatives can be retrieved using the search criterion ISFR "is family representative". Example:

PUC=EP and ISFR=YES and WBIB=YES and STA=C

retrieves all new (STA=C) EP publications (PUC=EP) of the current week (WBIB=YES) which are representatives (ISFR=YES).

Notes:

- As a significant number of simple families do not have family representatives, queries including ISFR=YES will not retrieve families without family representatives.

- The above rules also apply in the case of simple families limited to one application, i.e. the publications in a simple family limited to one application are not necessarily seen as family representatives.

11. SEARCH FEATURES

11.1. SEARCH WITH NUMBERS AND COUNTRY CODES

If you identify any criteria relevant for your searches that are not described in this section, see the list of GPI search criteria in Annex 1.

See Query syntax for information on essential query-building practices and more search examples.

Note: The queries shown in this document (criteria, operators and values) are sample queries only.

Most common search criteria

PUC PUN PUK:	Publication country, number and kind code
FMPUC FMPUN FMPUK:	Publication country, number and kind code of the family member – see Search with simple family information
APC APN APK:	Application country, number and kind code
FMAPC FMAPN FMAPK:	Application country, number and kind code of the family member – see Search with simple family information
PRC PRN PRK:	Priority country, number and kind code
NUM:	You can use this criterion if you are not sure whether a number is a priority or application or publication number

Data indexing rules

Patent identifiers are usually composed of the following:

- Country code CC
- Number NB
- Kind code KC

At indexing time a patent identifier CCNBKC is split as follows:

NB
CC
CCNB
CCNBKC

and each individual term is a valid searchable term.

Example: In the case of publication EP1000000A1, the PUN index contains 1000000, EP, EP1000000 and EP1000000A1, and each term can be used in a query without right-truncation. The same rule applies to FMPUN, FMAPN, APN and PRN.

Query examples

PUN = EP1000000
Retrieve EP1000000 A1 and B1 publications.

Note that the content of the result list depends on the selected Search filter:

- If search filter = “Family filter” or “Application filter”, the result list contains EP1000000A1 only.
- If search filter = “No filter”, the result list contains EP1000000A1 and EP1000000B1.

APN = CN201020242884 EP96401893 JP2003142886 US59025690
Retrieve publications of the listed applications (note that, in this example, white space can be used between numbers, assuming that the default operator between terms is set to "OR" in your User preferences / General).

PUC = (FR or GB or DE or CH or AT) and PUK=B*
Retrieve all B documents (B, B1, B2, etc.) of the listed countries.

NUM = "A 000 041"
Use NUM if you are not sure whether a number is a priority, application or publication number. In this example, "A 000 041" is a number in original format, and its corresponding number in DOCDB format is IT BZ20010041 A.

The result of the above search will show up in the Italian publication as follows:

Publication
IT BZ20010041 A1 20030227
Priority
IT BZ20010041 A 20010827

See Consistency of search results for more details.

PRN = US 59025690
Does not retrieve the expected result due to the presence of white space between country and number, i.e. all white space in patent identifiers must be removed before running your search.

11.2. SEARCH WITH DATES

If you identify any criteria relevant for your searches that are not described in this section, see the list of GPI search criteria in Annex 1.

See Query syntax for information on essential query-building practices and more search examples.

Note: The queries shown in this document (criteria, operators and values) are sample queries only.

Most common search criteria

PUD:	Publication date
FMPUD:	Publication date of the family member See Search with simple family information
APD:	Application filing date
FMAPD:	Application filing date of the family member See Search with simple family information
PRD PRDO:	Priority date, oldest priority date
DFE:	Date of first exchange of a publication See Date of first exchange and Regular monitoring
FMDFE:	Date of first exchange of the family member (publication) See Search with simple family information and Regular monitoring
DATES:	All dates

Data indexing rules

Dates are usually formatted as follows: YYYYMMDD (Y=year M=month D=day).

For the publication date 20121231, the following terms appear in the PUD index (same principle for all dates):

2012
201212
20121231

Search filter

A filter enables you to enter a date in multiple formats:

- YYYYMMDD or DDMMYYYY or YYYYMM
- YYYY/MM/DD or DD/MM/YYYY or YYYY/MM or MM/YYYY
- YYYY-MM-DD or DD-MM-YYYY or YYYY-MM or MM-YYYY
- YYYY.MM.DD or DD.MM.YYYY or YYYY.MM or MM.YYYY

Query examples

The following queries are equivalent:

PUD = 2008
PUD = 2008*
PUD >= 2008/01/01 and PUD <= 2008/12/31
PUD [2008-01-01, 2008-12-31]

The following queries are not equivalent:

PRD [20000101, 20001231]
PRD >= 20000101 and PRD <= 20001231

PUD [2015, 2020] and PUC = (IT ES PT FR GR TR) and IPC = C01B23
Retrieves publications published in the range 2015-2020 for the listed countries in the IPC technical field C01B23.

(PRD or APD) [2015, 2020] and APP = BASF
Retrieves publications filed in the range 2015-2020 for the applicant/proprietor BASF.

DFE [202107, 202112] and APP = BASF
Retrieves publications exchanged for the time (i.e. available for the first in GPI) in H2 2021 for the applicant/proprietor BASF.

Notes:

- A significant number of documents do not have dates at the time of indexing. Searching with NOT (PUD = *) will retrieve all documents having no publication date.
- A significant number of documents do not have the YYYYMMDD format, or have erroneous dates. For information, see the DCF “Date of Coming into Force” index content.
- When entering dates using the MMYYYY format, a separator must always be used between MM and YYYY (optional for YYYYMM format).
  Correct date formats include 12.2015, 201512 and 2015/12.

11.3. SEARCH WITH CLASSIFICATIONS

If you identify any criteria relevant for your searches that are not described in this section, see the list of GPI search criteria in Annex 1.

See Query syntax for information on essential query-building practices and more search examples.

See also Search with combination sets for advanced searches based on CPC.

Note: The queries shown in this document (criteria, operators and values) are sample queries only.

Most common search criteria

IPC:	Cumulates all IPC editions/versions
CPC:	Cumulates the CPC invention and additional information
CPCAO:	CPC assigning office
JPFI JPFT:	Retrieves Japanese publications
CLAS:	Cumulates all kinds of classification

Data indexing rules

For IPC B66D 5/14, the following terms appear in the IPC index (same principle for all IPC-like data such as CPC and JPFI):

B66	(sections are not indexed individually)
B66D	
B66D0005	(group on 4 digits)
B66D000514	

Each individual term can be used in a query without right-truncation.

Search filter

A filter enables you to enter classification symbols in multiple formats. For example, the following queries are equivalent:

CPC or IPC = A01B1/10
CPC or IPC = "A01B 1/10"
CPC or IPC = A01B000110

Query examples

CPC or IPC = A
Returns 0 documents because sections are not indexed individually.
The correct query is CPC or IPC = A*

CPC or IPC = B66D1
Retrieves publications of the CPC or IPC group B66D1.
This query retrieves publications classified in main group B66D1/00 or in underlying sub-groups, e.g. B66D 1/10.

CPC or IPC = B66D1/00
Retrieves publications of the CPC main group B66D1/00.
This query does not retrieve publications classified in underlying sub-groups of this main group.

CPC = B01D 2257/104
Does not retrieve the expected result due to the presence of white space between class and group, which is interpreted as a logical "or", assuming that the default operator between terms is set to "or" in your User preferences / General.
The correct query is CPC = B01D2257/104.
Also correct: CPC = "B01D 2257/104".

CPC = B01D with CPAO = EP
Retrieves publications where a CPC symbol in the subclass B01D was assigned by the EPO.
Note the presence of the WITH operator between CPC and CPCAO to ensure that the search only returns documents having the symbol and the assigning office in the same CPC item – see Comparison of AND and WITH operators.

Notes:

- With the introduction of the “CPC international” in 2019, the criterion CPC can be used to search for patent documents that are not necessarily classified by the EPO or the USPTO:

  CPC (source: CN EP GB KR US)
  H01L 27/3244 (2013.01 - KR); **H01L 51/5246** (2013.01 - CN EP GB KR);
  H01L 51/5253 (2013.01 - CN EP KR US); **H05B 33/04** (2013.01 - KR);
  H01L 27/3244 (2013.01 - CN EP US)

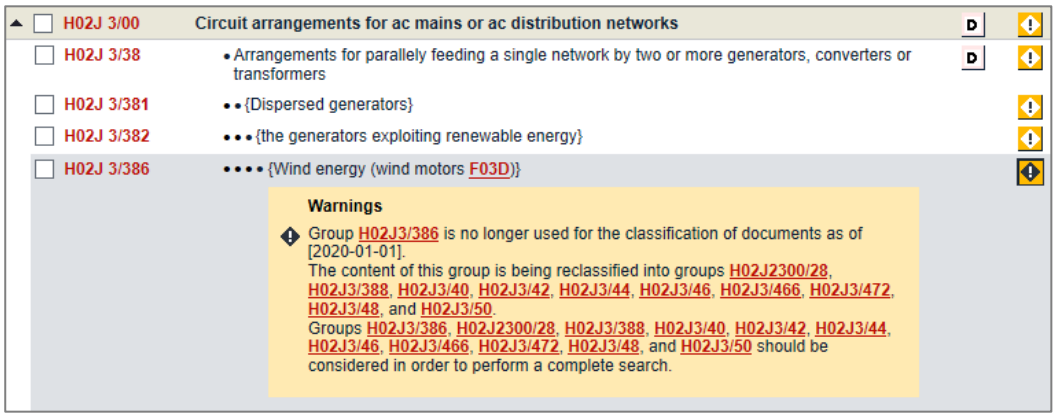
- The IPC and CPC hierarchy is not known in GPI. You cannot, for example, indicate that you want to search for CPC A01B13/08 (1 dot) and automatically include sub-levels A01B13/10 (2 dots) and A01B13/12 (3 dots).

- As patent documents are sometimes reclassified to reflect modifications in classification schemes, you may want to regularly check the validity of classification symbols included in your queries. The examples on the following pages show CPC information available in a number of services that may help improving your queries.

- A significant number of documents do not have classification information at the time of indexing. Searching with NOT (IPC = *) will retrieve all documents having no IPC. See Completeness assessment searches to measure potential risk of incomplete search result sets.

Case of **H02J3/386** in the CPC scheme version 2020

In January 2020, the EPO CPC browser shows the following warning:

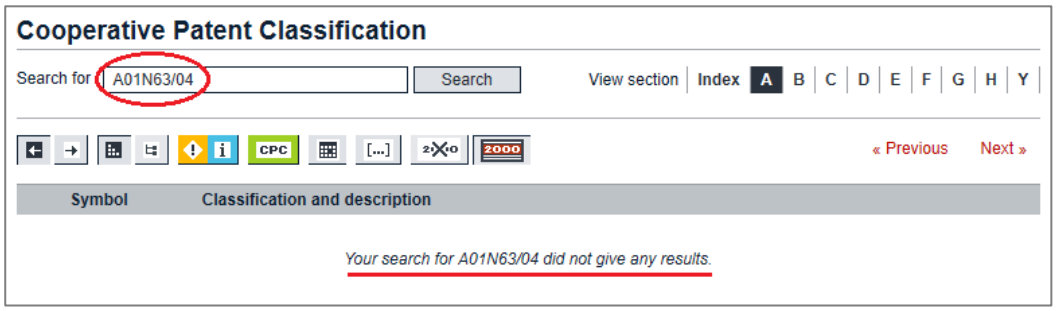


Therefore, should a query include H02J3/386 and “in order to perform a complete search” as recommended in the above warning, you may consider amending the query as of January 2020 including the above mentioned CPC symbols:

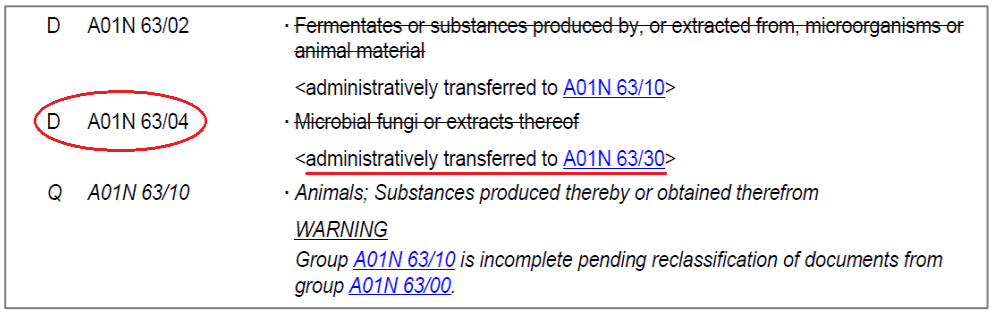
> CPC = H02J3/386 H02J2300/28 H02J3/388 H02J3/40 H02J3/42 H02J3/44 H02J3/46 H02J3/466 H02J3/472 H02J3/48 H02J3/50

Case of **A01N63/04** in the CPC scheme version 2020

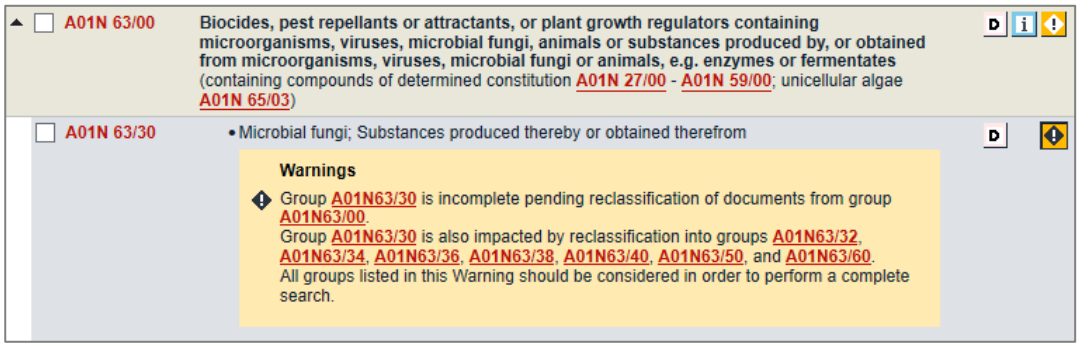
In January 2020, searching for A01N63/04 on the EPO CPC browser returns the following message:



The reason is that A01N63/04 is no longer a valid symbol. More specifically, the PDF file included in "CPC Compilation of Changes - January 2020" (zip file) on the CPC website shows that A01N63/04 is deleted (status "D") and that it is "administratively transferred to A01N 63/30":



For A01N 63/30 the EPO CPC browser shows the following warning:



Therefore, should a query include A01N63/04 and "in order to perform a complete search" as recommended in the warning, you may consider amending the query as of January 2020 including the mentioned CPC symbols:

> CPC = A01N63/00 A01N63/30 A01N63/32 A01N63/34 A01N63/36 A01N63/38 A01N63/40 A01N63/50 A01N63/60

On the CPC website you will also find the service Searchable Notice of Changes (NoC) that enables you to easily check the validity of CPC symbols used in your queries.

11.4. SEARCH WITH COMBINATION SETS

In patent documents, single classification symbols allocated by patent examiners classify technical features on their own, whereas linked symbols classify technical features "together" or "taken in combination". Combination sets (also called Combi-Sets or C-Sets) are ordered lists of linked CPC symbols created by patent examiners.

The meaning of a combination set varies according to the technical field:

- It can be compared to a cooking recipe, each ingredient (CPC symbol) being added to the recipe in sequence.
- It can link compounds and processes.
- It can be a layer amongst multiple layers, i.e. each layer is a combination set. Layer 1 (combination set 1) is the closest to the substrate, layer 2 being the next adjacent coating and so on.
- In some technical fields, the order of symbols does not matter.

A publication may contain multiple combination sets, and a symbol may have multiple occurrences in a given set. The first symbol of a combination set is called the base symbol.

For more information, see training material on combination sets at this link (Cooperative patent classification website).

If you identify any criteria relevant for your searches that are not described in this section, see the list of GPI search criteria in Annex 1.

See Query syntax for information on essential query-building practices and more search examples.

Note: The queries shown in this document (criteria, operators and values) are sample queries only.

Most common search criteria

CSET: Combination set (C-Set)
CSBS: C-Set base symbol
CSAO: C-Set assigning office

Data indexing rules and search filter: see Search with classifications.

Note: The meaning of the search operator tilde “~” applied e.g. to three symbols S1 S2 S3 is: I want to retrieve documents where at least one combination set includes at least one union of S1 S2 S3 among all possible unions of S1 S2 S3. See the examples on the next page.

Query examples

CSET = C09J123/0861 or C08L2666/06
Retrieves all publications including at least one of the listed symbols in their combination sets.

CSET = C09J and C08L
Retrieves all publications including all listed symbols in their combination sets.

CSET = "H01L2924/00014 H01L2224/83801"
Retrieves all publications including all listed symbols, in the same order, in one of their combination sets.

CSET = "H01L2924/00014 H01L2224/83801"~
Retrieves all publications including all listed symbols, whatever the order, in one of their combination sets (note the presence of the tilde after the closing double quote).

CSBS = C09J or C08L
Retrieves all publications where the base symbol is one of the listed symbols.

Note: With the introduction of the “CPC international” in 2019, the criterion CSET can be used to search for patent documents that are not necessarily classified by the EPO or the USPTO:

C-Set (source: CN EP)

CN

1. **C08L 7/00** + **C08L 9/00** + **C08K 13/02** + **C08K 3/04** + **C08K 5/20**
2. **C08K 13/02** + **C08L 7/00**
3. **C08K 3/04** + **C08L 7/00**
4. **C08K 3/36** + **C08L 7/00**
5. **C08K 5/20** + **C08L 7/00**
6. **C08K 5/548** + **C08L 7/00**

EP

1. C08K 3/04 + C08L 7/00
2. C08K 5/20 + C08L 7/00
3. **C08L 7/00** + **C08L 9/00** + **C08K 5/20** + **C08K 3/04**

11.5. SEARCH WITH KEYWORDS

If you identify any criteria relevant for your searches that are not described in this section, see the list of GPI search criteria in Annex 1.

See Query syntax for information on essential query-building practices and more search examples.

Note: The queries shown in this document (criteria, operators and values) are sample queries only.

Most common search criteria

WORD:	Titles, abstracts, descriptions and claims in all languages. WORD may be useful if you want to include keywords in several languages. It would also make your queries shorter and easier to read.
TIAB:	Titles and abstracts.
FTXT	Descriptions and claims.
DESC:	Descriptions.
CLAIM:	Claims.

Data indexing rules

- For descriptions and claims: searchable keywords are mainly in English, French and German – see Completeness status of searchable full text.

- For titles and abstracts: searchable keywords are in all languages except Chinese and Japanese.

Word delimiters such as dot or hyphen are removed or replaced by empty spaces at indexing time (see the query examples on the next page).

The WORD index may help to identify possible variants of a keyword.

Query examples

WORD = argon and (reinigung or purification)
Retrieves documents related to the purification (or "Reinigung" in German) of argon.

WORD = "nano particles"
Retrieves documents containing the expression "nano particles".
Note that the search for an expression is transformed into a proximity search with the following operator: WORD = nano /1w particles - meaning "nano" up to a maximum of one word apart from "particles", whatever the order.
WORD = nano +1w particle? would be more appropriate to retrieve the words "particle" and "particles".

WORD = argon /2w purification
Retrieves documents where "argon" is up to a maximum of two words apart from "purification", whatever the order (e.g. "argon purification", "purification of argon").

WORD = x-rays
Does not retrieve the expected result because the hyphen is a word delimiter which is automatically replaced by an empty space. The corresponding (simplified) parsed query would be: WORD = x or rays
Correct queries would be:
WORD = “x-rays”
WORD = x +1w ray?

WORD = A.D.N
Retrieves documents containing ADN (the dot is a word delimiter which is automatically removed).

FTXT = H2SO4 or H2S04
Retrieves documents containing H_2SO_4 or H_2S0_4 in their description and claims (in patent documents chemical compounds sometime use the numeral “0” (zero) instead of the letter “O” for oxygen).

Notes:

- Wildcards cannot be placed between string delimiters (quotes). For example, WORD = "laser beam?" does not return the expected result (documents containing "laser beam" or "laser beams").The correct query would be WORD = laser +1w beam?

- A significant number of documents include text where white space is missing between words, so you might like to consider using right truncation in your terms. See also Index box.

11.6. SEARCH WITH NAMES

If you identify any criteria relevant for your searches that are not described in this section, see the list of GPI search criteria in Annex 1.

See Query syntax for information on essential query-building practices.

Note: The queries shown in this document (criteria, operators and values) are sample queries only.

Most common search criteria

INV:	Inventor names whatever their format (docdb, docdba, original) and language
APP:	Applicant/proprietor names whatever their format (docdb, docdba, original) and language
CAPP:	Cited applicants (name of applicants for cited patent)
OPP:	Opponent names
THP:	Third party names
EVOW:	Owners mentioned in the legal event records
NAME:	Inventors, applicants/proprietors, cited applicants, opponents, third parties and owners mentioned in the legal event records (combines INV, APP, CAPP, OPP, THP and EVOW)

Data indexing rules

Names are indexed by terms and expressions.

For example, the inventor "Fromont Gaëlle" appears in the INV index as follows:

fromont
fromont gaelle
gaelle

Word delimiters such as dot or hyphen are removed or replaced by empty spaces at indexing time (see the query examples on the next page).

The INV, APP, CAPP, OPP, THP and EVOW index may help to identify possible variants of a name.

Query examples

APP = dupont and pierre
Retrieves documents where the applicant/proprietor's names are for example "Dupont René" and "Gauthier Pierre". See Comparison of AND and WITH operators (in particular Example 4).

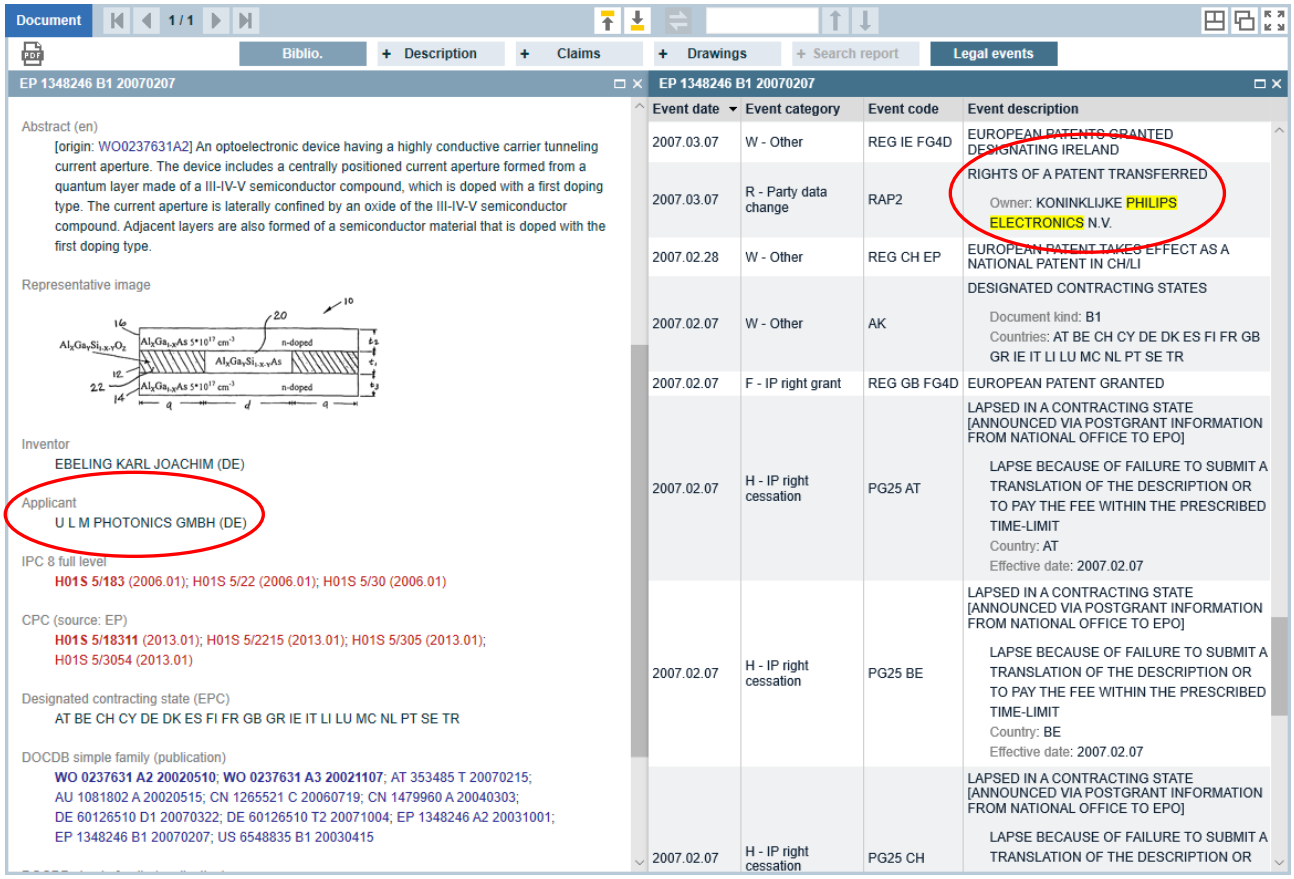
APP = "dupont pierre"
Retrieves documents where applicant/proprietor's names include the expression "dupont pierre" or "pierre dupont".
Note that the search for an expression is transformed into a proximity search with the following operator: APP = dupont /1w pierre - meaning "dupont" one word apart from "pierre", whatever the order.

INV = KOSCO-VILBOIS
Does not retrieve the expected result, because the hyphen is a word delimiter which is replaced by an empty space. The corresponding (simplified) parsed query would be:
INV = KOSCO or VILBOIS
A correct query would be: INV = “KOSCO-VILBOIS”, which is equivalent to:
INV = “KOSCO VILBOIS”

APP = "UNIV KYOTO" or 国立大学法人京都大学
Retrieves documents where the applicant/proprietor is "UNIV KYOTO" or 国立大学法人京都大学 which is one of the Japanese names used in patent documents for the “University of Kyoto”.

APP or EVOW = "PHILIPS ELECTRONICS"
Retrieves documents where the applicant/proprietor is "KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV", "KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV" and all other variations that include the expression "PHILIPS ELECTRONICS". It also retrieves documents where the owner mentioned in the legal event records is "PHILIPS ELECTRONICS" following, for example, a change of ownership. See the example on the next page.

Example showing EP 1348246 B1 published in February 2007. The legal event information on the right-hand side shows a transfer of rights to "KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.", this event being published in March 2007, whereas the bibliographic data on the left-hand side shows the proprietor "ULM PHOTONICS GMBH":



Using APP or EVOW = "PHILIPS ELECTRONICS", EP 1348246 B1 is retrieved and it would not be retrieved using APP only.

In other words, the combination "APP or EVOW" may help reduce the risk of not retrieving relevant documents.

Notes:

- Wildcards cannot be placed between quotes.

- A significant number of documents do not have inventor or applicant/proprietor-related data (names, countries of residence) at the time of indexing. See Completeness assessment searches to measure potential risk of incomplete search result sets.

- Inventor/applicant/proprietor's names are available in multiple formats (DOCDB, DOCDBA, ORIGINAL) and languages. We recommend using the criteria INV and APP, each of them cumulating all available formats and languages. For more details, see Consistency of search results.

- Inventor/applicant/proprietor's names in ORIGINAL format are sometimes in non-Latin character set such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean or Russian character sets. At display level in result lists and documents, priority is given to the most standardised format, known as DOCDB format which is always in Latin character set. It is possible, therefore, that some searched data is not displayed in documents.
  TIP: If you download a document in XML, you will see that it includes the terms included in your query.

- For a number of Asian patent authorities, publications are sometimes provided to the EPO in two steps: a first delivery with names in non-Latin character set and a subsequent delivery (e.g. three month later) with names in Latin character set. Depending on the country and publication kind code, Asian publications may not always get names in Latin character set.

- Names in ORIGINAL format used at search time are the ones provided by patent authorities, i.e. GPI does not carry out automatic translation or language analysis at search time.

- Because of the frequent name variations in patent documents, we recommend that you (i) avoid long names and (ii) consider using the WITH operator. For example:

  APP = "KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV" does not retrieve documents where the applicant is "**KONINKLIJKLE** PHILIPS ELECTRONICS **N V**".
  APP = "PHILIPS ELECTRONICS" does retrieve these documents.

  APP = "PHILIPS ELECTRONICS" does not retrieve documents where the applicant is "PHILIPS KONINK ELECTRONICS N V" due to KONINK between PHILIPS and ELECTRONICS.
  APP = PHILIPS with ELECTRONICS does retrieve these documents.

  APP = PHILIPS with ELECTRONICS does not retrieve documents where the applicant is "PHILIPS ELECTRONIC" ("S" is missing).
  APP = PHILIPS with ELECTRONIC* does retrieve these documents thanks to the right truncation (asterisk).

  See Comparison of AND and WITH operators (in particular example 4).

11.7. SEARCH WITH PATENT/NPL CITATIONS

If you identify any criteria relevant for your searches that are not described in this section, see the list of GPI search criteria in Annex 1.

See Query syntax for information on essential query building practices.

Note: The queries shown in this document (criteria, operators and values) are sample queries only.

Most common search criteria

CCAT: Search categories of search reports, e.g. X, Y
CPAT: Patent citations whatever their origin
CNPL: Non-patent literature (NPL) citations whatever their origin

See also CAPP, OPP and THP in Search with names to search for cited applicants, opponents and third parties.

CPAT and CNPL include more accurate search criteria for searching the following patent/NPL citation types:

- applicant
- search report
- international search report
- supplementary search report
- examination phase
- international preliminary examination phase
- opposition phase
- appeal phase
- third parties

Data indexing rules

Patent citations: same rules applied to all patent identifiers.
See Search with numbers.

NPL citations: same rules applied to title, abstract and full-text keywords.
See Search with keywords.

Query examples

CCAT = (X Y) andnot (A D E I L O P T)
Retrieves documents containing only the categories Y or X in their search reports.

CNPL = "GYNAECOLOGICAL ONCOLOGY"
Retrieves documents containing the searched expression in at least one of their NPL citation fields, e.g. "EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF GYNAECOLOGICAL ONCOLOGY" in a search report.
Note that this query is automatically converted into a query containing proximity operators:
CNPL = GYNAECOLOGICAL /1w ONCOLOGY

CPAT = EP1000000 AT232441 DE69905327 NL1010536 US6093011
Retrieves documents containing one or more of the listed citations in at least one of their patent citation fields, e.g. search report and/or applicant citation fields.

Notes:

- Searchable citations are backward citations, i.e. documents (patents or NPL references) that are usually older than the document in which they are cited.
- Non-searchable citations are forward citations, i.e. patent documents that are usually more recent than the document they are citing (see e.g. **Cited by** field in document EP2000000A1).
- Wildcards cannot be placed between string delimiters (quotes).
- The cited applicant retrieved with CAPP is the unique applicant available in citation data included in the EPO's worldwide bibliographic data resource (DOCDB) and used at indexing time in GPI.
- DOCDB makes citation data available for the first publication of a given application, e.g. in the case of a European A3 document, citations of the search report are usually included in the A2 document.

11.8. SEARCH WITH LEGAL EVENTS

If you identify any criteria relevant for your searches that are not described in this section, see the list of GPI search criteria in Annex 1.

See Query syntax for information on essential query building practices.

Note: The queries shown in this document (criteria, operators and values) are sample queries only.

Most common search criteria

EVD: Date of the legal event (the date the event is made public by a patent authority, for example in a patent gazette or bulletin, and not necessarily the date of legal effect)

EVCA: Category of the legal event (event categories are groups of events of similar nature – detailed information on categories at this link; see PDF file "INPADOC classification scheme"). The origin of categories is essentially the WIPO standard ST.27 "Exchange of Patent Legal Status Data" available at this link.

EVCO: Code of the legal event

EVDE: Description of the legal event (the event title and additional data in the event record). See INPADOC tables with coverage information and the full list of event codes and titles at this link.

See also EVOW in Search with names to search for owners mentioned in the legal event records.

Data indexing rules

- Event dates are in the format YYYYMMDD (Y=year M=month D=day).
  For the event date 20121231, the following terms appear in the EVD index:
  2012
  201212
  20121231

- Event categories are single characters in the range A to Z, e.g. category C for events related to "Application revival". See EVCA index content.

- Event codes are indexed by words and expressions.
  For the event code "PG25 IT", the following terms appear in the EVCO index:
  IT
  PG25
  PG25 IT

- Proximity searching is possible between words of an event description.

Query examples

isg=yes and evd[201801, 201803] with evca=h and app or evow=schering or sankyo

Retrieves granted patent documents (criterion ISG – is granted) with legal events published in the first quarter of 2018 (criterion EVD – event date) and related to "IP right cessation", e.g. lapse or expiry, (criterion EVCA – event category), for the listed proprietors (criterion APP – applicant/proprietor, and EVOW – owner mentioned in the event record).

Note the presence of the WITH operator between EVD and EVCA to ensure that the search only returns documents having the date and the category in the same legal event – see Comparison of AND and WITH operators.

The list of legal event categories is available at this link (see PDF file "INPADOC classification scheme").

Notes:

- To date, the EPO has classified approximately 3.000 legal events used in INPADOC since 1997 in the categories A to Z (see EVCA index content), i.e. pre-1997 legal events are not classified. A search using the query EVCO = * andnot EVCA = * retrieves documents with at least one event (events always have codes) and with at least one event that has no category.

- Legal events used after 1997 in INPADOC and not classified are assigned under the category Z "Categorisation pending". This category includes for example new legal events with new codes that may be subsequently classified by the EPO and assigned under a category A to Y. A search using the query EVCA = Z retrieves documents where there is at least one legal event that is not categorised under A to Y.

- Category N "Permanent termination" of WIPO standard ST.27 is not used by the EPO in the INPADOC classification scheme where termination-related legal events are covered in categories B "Application discontinuation" and H "IP right cessation".

- Concerning the deliveries of legal events from patent authorities to the EPO and their availability in INPADOC, the coverage information can be analysed using the material produced by the EPO (see INPADOC tables at this link).

- Compared with legal events available in GPI, more up-to-date legal events may be found in registers of patent authorities. See the important information in the terms and conditions of use of data provided by the EPO at this link.

- All legal events relating to a given application are linked to all publications of that application, e.g. all legal events relating to application EP99203729 show up in publications EP1000000A1 and EP1000000B1.

11.9. SEARCH WITH SIMPLE FAMILY INFORMATION

If you identify any criteria relevant for your searches that are not described in this section, see the list of GPI search criteria in Annex 1.

See Query syntax for information on essential query building practices.

Note: The queries shown in this document (criteria, operators and values) are sample queries only.

Most common search criteria

FMPUC FMPUN FMPUK:	Publication country, number and kind code of the family member – see Search with numbers and country codes
FMPUD:	Publication date of the family member See Search with dates
FMAPC FMAPN FMAPK:	Application country, number and kind code of the family member – see Search with numbers and country codes
FMAPD:	Application filing date of the family member See Search with dates
FMDFE:	Date of first exchange of the family member (publication) See Date of first exchange and Regular monitoring
ISFMG:	Is the family member a granted patent?
FSP:	Family size (number of publications)
FSA:	Family size (number of applications)

As all publications are simple family members, PUC and FMPUC are identical for a given publication, but the search scope of PUC differs from that of FMPUC. For example:

- PUC = EP produces a result list containing EP publications only.
- FMPUC = EP produces a result list containing publications whose families include at least one EP family member, i.e. not all publications in the result list are necessarily EP publications.

When the search filter **Family** is selected (see search filters in the Query box), FMPUC and PUC retrieve the same number of families, but the publications in the result list may be different, except in cases where the family is limited to one publication.

The same applies to FMPUN, FMPUK, FMPUD, FMAPC, FMAPN, FMAPK, FMAPD and FMDFE.

Note: With the exception of CPC, C-Set and English-language abstracts, no bibliographic data are aggregated at family level. For example, IPC and applicant/proprietor names are publication-specific and not aggregated or searchable at family level. Legal event information is also not aggregated at simple family level.

Query examples

Use FMPUC “publication country code of the family member” and FSA “family size (number of applications)” to retrieve families which include (i) at least one FR or one DE family member and (ii) more than one application:
FMPUC = FR or DE and FSA > 1

Use FMPUC “publication country code of the family member” to retrieve families which include at least one EP, one JP and one US family member:
FMPUC = EP and JP and US

Use FMPUC “publication country code of the family member” and ISFMG “is the family member a granted patent?” to retrieve families which include at least one EP and one US family member, both being granted patents:
FMPUC = EP with ISFMG = yes and FMPUC = US with ISFMG = yes

The above query cannot be simplified as follows:
FMPUC = EP and US with ISFMG = yes
This query has the following meaning: retrieve families which include at least one EP and one US family member, one of the two being a granted patent.

The WITH operator ensures that searched terms are in one family member, whereas AND may retrieve documents with one searched term in one family member and another searched term not in the same family member.

Use FMPUC “publication country code of the family member” and FMDFE “date of first exchange of the family member” to retrieve families with at least one family member available for the first time in Q1 2020, except those where there are EP and JP and US family members:
FMDFE [202001, 202003] andnot FMPUC = EP or JP or US

11.10. DATE OF FIRST EXCHANGE

The exchange of publications extracted weekly from the EPO's DOCDB bibliographic data set means that they are available for weekly processing in the GPI processing line.

All publications exchanged in a given week have one of the following two statuses:

- STA = C (where C stands for "created"). All publications which are new (created) in DOCDB data are exchanged with status C. This does not necessarily mean that these publications are newly published. For example, in a given week, the data delivered to the EPO by a given patent authority might include backfile data.

- STA = A (where A stands for "amended"). All publications which have been modified (amended) are exchanged with status A. This is the case, for example, for re-key operations (i.e. the publication reference itself has changed) and any bibliographic information amendments such as classification or reclassification activities.

Publications **exchanged for the first time** have STA = C status and the day of exchange is usually a Thursday. These publications are usually available in GPI the same week on Friday at 12.00 hrs CET.

Even though there is a day's difference between the "date of first exchange" and the "date of first availability" in GPI, the two expressions are used interchangeably in this user manual.

The calculation of DFE "date of first exchange" is carried out in the GPI processing line, i.e. it is not a date that is available in DOCDB, which does not record the whole exchange history of publications. This calculation is based on a number of rules using the date of addition to DOCDB (criterion DAD) and the date of publication (criterion PUD).

As all publications are simple family members, DFE and FMDFE are identical for a given publication, but the search scope of DFE differs from that of FMDFE. For example:

- DFE = 202001 retrieves publications exchanged for the first time in January 2020, i.e. all publications in the result list were exchanged in January 2020.

- FMDFE = 202001 retrieves publications of simple families where at least one family member was exchanged in January 2020, i.e. the publications in the result list were not all necessarily exchanged in January 2020.

When the search filter **Family** is selected (see search filters in Query box), DFE and FMDFE may retrieve the same number of families, but the publications in the result lists may be different, as shown in this example:

Simple family (ID 42829708)
WO 2012038587 A1; BR 112013006620 A2; CN 103118586 A; CN 103118586 B; DE 602011059720 T1; EP 2618724 A1; EP 2618724 A4; EP 2618724 B1; FI 126159 B; FI 20105978 A0; FI 20105978 A; HK 1184041 A1; JP 2013537826 A; JP 5658371 B2; KR 101522115 B1; KR 20130099113 A; US 2013135584 A1; US 8960910 B2

With DFE = 201906: the publication representing the family in the result list is EP 2618724 B1 because it was exchanged for the first time in June 2019.

With FMDFE = 201906: the publication representing the family in the result list is WO 2012038587 A1 because (i) its family has the family member EP 2618724 B1 exchanged in June 2019 and (ii) it is the DOCDB family representative selected to represent the family in the result list (see the explanation in the Query box).

See also the use of DFE and FMDFE in regular monitoring.

Notes:

DFE and FMDFE should be used with caution for the following reasons:

- Publications without a publication date do not have a DFE/FMDFE.
- DFE/FMDFE cannot be used for publications exchanged before 2006 because the DOCDB data exchange rules were different prior to 2006.
- In a number of cases, the actual date of first exchange may not be the one calculated, for example in the case of DOCDB rekey operations (e.g. change of publication kind codes).

11.11. COMPLETENESS ASSESSMENT SEARCHES

A completeness assessment involves evaluating whether the data is complete in terms of:

- Data collection coverage, i.e. evaluating the possible gaps (missing documents). There are no functions in GPI for performing this assessment. Tables available at this link ("Contents and coverage of the DOCDB bibliographic data" and "Contents and coverage of the INPADOC legal event data") may help you find possible gaps in the data, but they do not provide lists of missing documents in the data sets.

- Document content, i.e. evaluating possible missing bibliographic data or missing legal event data. A number of simple searches can be carried out to analyse the GPI database content and, more specifically, to evaluate the set of documents that cannot be retrieved due to missing bibliographic data.

For example, GPI can help with the answers to the following questions:

- What documents do not have a publication date?

  not (PUD = *)

- What documents do not have a publication date for the countries I am searching?

  PUC = (FR GB CH AT) andnot PUD = *

- What documents published from 2000/01/01 onwards do not have an English abstract and English title for the countries I am interested in?

  PUC = (FR GB CH AT) and PUD>=2000 andnot (ABEN or TIEN = *)

- What documents published between 1990 and 2000 do not have an applicant/proprietor for the countries I am searching?

  PUC = (FR GB CH AT) and PUD [1990, 2000] andnot APP = *

- What documents do not have legal event data for the countries I am interested in?

  PUC = (FR GB CH AT) andnot EVD = *

  As legal events always have an event date EVD per event, “andnot EVD = *” retrieves documents that do not have any legal events.

In other words, whatever the kind of search carried out with GPI, we recommend that you run preliminary searches to evaluate the risk of not retrieving documents that do not have the data that is the main object of the search.

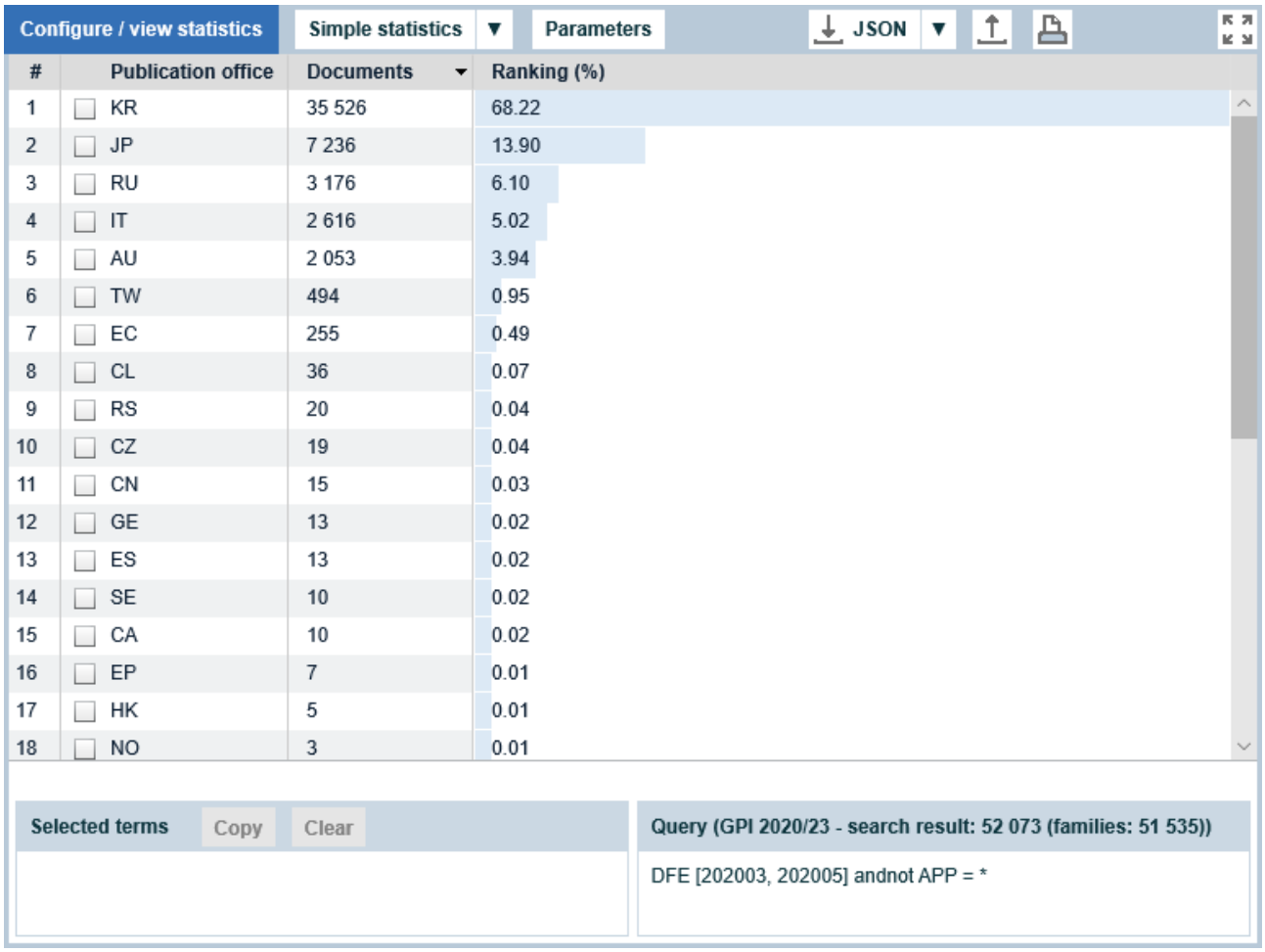
For example, if you are carrying out a monthly monitoring (criterion DFE “date of first exchange”) of applicants (criterion APP “applicant/proprietor”), the following preliminary search could be run to measure the proportion of documents without applicants (monitoring carried out in April 2020 to retrieve documents available for the first time in March):

DFE = 202003 retrieves 435 000 documents available for the first time in March 2020.

DFE = 202003 andnot APP = * retrieves 40 000 documents that do not have applicants.

Therefore, the risk of not retrieving documents in April due to missing applicants in the bibliographic data is (40 000/435 000)*100 = 9%

You could then run a **simple statistics** to check, for example, the countries where applicant names are missing:



Note: In some cases, data not being available can be the result of regulations in place at the patent office concerned. One example is inventors that may not be available in EP documents (European patent application published with the mention “the designation of the inventor has not yet been filed”).

11.12. CONSISTENCY OF SEARCH RESULTS

The results of some searches may not seem to match your queries, for example, if you are searching for a number, an applicant name or abstract words but some of the documents you have retrieved do not appear to contain your searched terms.

However, the search results are in fact correct because:

- GPI data is available in several formats (DOCDB, EPODOC, original, etc.) and in a document, priority is given to data available in DOCDB format because it is the most standardised format (displaying for example numbers and names in several different formats would not enhance readability).

- The simple family abstract in English language in not displayed in a document that already has its own English abstract but both abstracts are used at search time.

Example 1

APP = company
I want all documents containing "company" in their applicant/proprietor field, whatever the format of the applicant/proprietor name.
In this example, some documents appear not to contain the word "company" because the standardised form (DOCDB format) used to display an applicant/proprietor does not contain the word "company", although the same data in its original format does.

Example 2

NUM = "A 000 041"
I want all documents containing "A 000 041" in their publication or application or priority field, whatever the number format.
"A 000 041" is in fact a number in original format, and its corresponding number in DOCDB format is IT BZ20010041 A. This searched number will show up in the Italian document as follows:

Publication
IT BZ20010041 A1 20030227
Priority
IT BZ20010041 A 20010827

Example 3

ABEN = "E-UTRAN"
The document TW 201410054 A is in the result list even if its abstract in English does not include "E-UTRAN". This document is retrieved thanks to the English abstract of the simple family representative US 2014036656 A1 which includes "E-UTRAN".

TIP: If you download the document in XML, you will see that it includes the terms included in your query.

12. REGULAR MONITORING

12.1. BASIC PRINCIPLES

In addition to the search features for patent identifiers, classifications, title/abstract/full-text keywords, inventor/applicant names, citations and legal events, GPI gives you the opportunity to carry out regular monitoring searches using specific search criteria in combination with the usual bibliographic data and legal event criteria.

The regular monitoring enabled in GPI consists of searching for patent documents available for the first time in GPI.

To set up and run regular monitoring with GPI you need to:

- Create an initial query, which will typically consist of two parts:
    - A filtering part for limiting the search scope to the desired time range in terms of first availability in GPI.
    - A user-specific part including the data to be monitored, for example a combination of classification symbols, applicant/proprietor names and legal event categories or codes.

    The two parts are usually connected in a query with the AND or WITH operator. See Query syntax for detailed information.
- Save the query using the GPI query saving and loading feature. See Save/load queries for more information.
- Load the query at the desired frequency, e.g. monthly, and adapt its content as necessary, e.g. if the filtering part contains a date which needs to be changed every month or quarter.
- Run the search.
- Analyse the search result.

The filtering part of a query may use different criteria depending on the monitoring frequency:

- Weekly monitoring: based on the criteria WBIB and STA.
- Monthly monitoring (or quarterly): based on the criteria DFE, FMDFE or EVD.

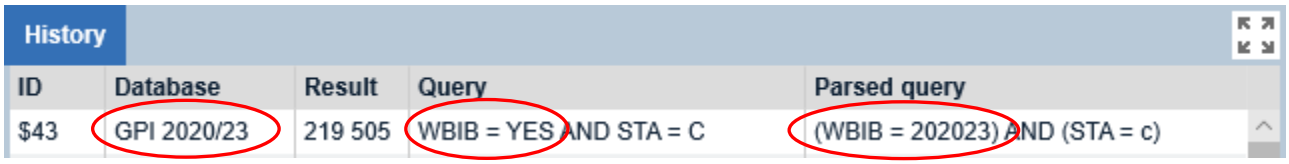
12.2. WEEKLY MONITORING

As DOCDB and INPADOC data are exchanged and used by GPI on a weekly basis, one option is to carry out regular weekly monitoring.

Weekly monitoring can be done between one GPI database update, i.e. Friday just after 12.00 hrs CET, and the next.

Weekly monitoring queries typically consist of a filtering part and a user-specific part connected by the Boolean operator AND. The search criteria available for the filtering part are WBIB (bibliographic data of the current week) and STA (document status):

- WBIB = YES in a query is a filter that will automatically restrict the search scope to all publications exchanged in the current week. WBIB = YES is automatically replaced at search time with the current GPI week number. This value is visible, after running the search, in the **Parsed query** column of the Search history. It is also the value of the GPI database edition:



- All publications triggered for DOCDB data exchange in a given week will have one of the following two statuses:
    - STA = C (where C stands for "created"). All publications which are new (created) in DOCDB data are exchanged with status C. This does not necessarily mean that these publications are newly published. For example, in a given week, the data delivered to the EPO by a given patent authority might include backfile data.
    - STA = A (where A stands for "amended"). All publications which have been modified (amended) are exchanged with status A. This is the case, for example, for re-key operations (i.e. the publication reference itself has changed) and any bibliographic information amendments such as classification or reclassification activities.

Notes:

- STA can only be used in combination with WBIB.
- WBIB with or without STA can only be used for monitoring the current week and not previous weeks.
- Detailed information on the nature of the amendment within a document is not searchable per se.

Sample query

Monitoring of the current week carried out on a Friday after 12.00 hrs CET (bibliographic data of the current week – criterion WBIB) to retrieve publications available for the first time in GPI (status C “Created” – criterion STA) in the specified technical areas (criterion IPC and CPC) for the specified applicants (applicants/proprietors, and owners mentioned in legal event records – criterion APP and EVOW):

WBIB = YES and STA = C and IPC or CPC = G06F3 G06F17
and APP or EVOW = "FACEBOOK INC" "APPLE INC" "LINKEDIN CORP" "EBAY INC"

Search result

The result list may include publications published in the current week, e.g. DE and EP publications, but also older publications exchanged in the current week, both categories being available for the first time in GPI.

This situation is quite frequent due to the fact that patent authority deliveries sometimes also contain backfile data.

12.3. MONTHLY MONITORING

Monthly or quarterly monitoring queries typically consist of a filtering part and a user-specific part, usually connected with the AND or WITH operator. The search criteria which may be used for the filtering part include:

- DFE (date of first exchange – see Date of first exchange).
  See Sample query 1

- FMDFE (date of first exchange of the family member – see Date of first exchange).
  See Sample query 2

- EVD (event date). This is usually the date a legal event is made public by a patent authority, for example in a patent gazette or bulletin.
  See Sample query 3

Sample query 1

Monitoring of December 2019 carried out at the earliest on Friday, 27 December 2019 after 12.00 hrs CET to retrieve publications available for the first time in GPI (date of first exchange – criterion DFE) in the specified technical areas (criteria IPC and CPC) for the specified applicants/proprietors and owners mentioned in legal event records (criteria APP and EVOW):

DFE = 201912 and IPC or CPC = G06F3 G06F17 and APP or EVOW = "FACEBOOK INC" "APPLE INC" "LINKEDIN CORP" "EBAY INC"

Search result for query 1

The result list includes publications published in December 2019 and publications published before December 2019, both categories being exchanged and available for the first time in GPI in December 2019, for the specified IPC and applicants/proprietors. This situation is quite frequent due to patent authority deliveries of frontfile data which sometimes contain backfile data.

For quarterly monitoring, the query would use the date range operator (square brackets) as follows (example of Q4 2019 monitoring):

DFE [201910, 201912] and ...

Note: The last date of exchange in December being 26/12, the result list includes publications published at the latest on 26/12. As publications published between 27/12 and 31/12 are exchanged for the first time on the following Thursday, 02/01, the end of December publications are monitorable during the January monitoring carried in February with the filtering part DFE = 202001.

Sample query 2

Monitoring of March 2020 carried out at the earliest on Friday, 3 April 2020 after 12.00 hrs CET to retrieve publications available for the first time in GPI (date of first exchange – criterion DFE), excluding families already retrieved by a previous monitoring (date of first exchange of the family member – criterion FMDFE), in the specified technical areas (criteria IPC and CPC) for the specified applicants/proprietors and owners mentioned in the legal event records (criteria APP and EVOW):

DFE=202003 andnot FMDFE [201910,202002] and IPC or CPC=… and APP or EVOW=…

The above query corresponds to a monitoring activity which started in November 2019 (monitoring of October 2019).

Search result for query 2

In April 2020, the result list does not include families that were already retrieved between November 2019 and March 2020, even if new family members are retrievable for the first time in April 2020.

In other words, the result list in April 2020 includes publications of:

- new families created in March 2020
- families created before October 2019 with a new family member retrievable for the first time in April 2020, as illustrated on the next page.

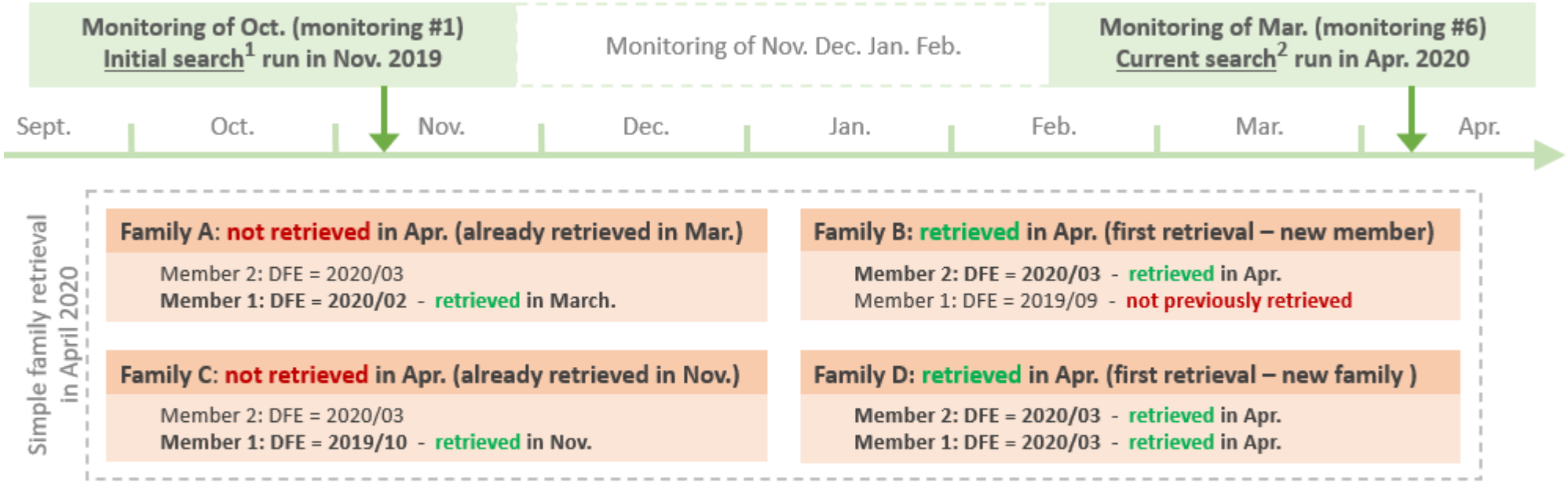
For quarterly monitoring, the query would use the date range operator (square brackets) as follows (example of Q1 2020 monitoring, starting at the earliest on 3 April 2020 after 12.00 hrs CET, excluding families already retrieved during the monitoring of Q1 to Q4 2019):

DFE [202001, 202003] andnot FMDFE [201901, 201912] and …

Note: With the exception of CPC, C-Set and English-language abstracts, no bibliographic data are aggregated at family level. For example, IPC and applicant/proprietor names are publication-specific and not aggregated or searchable at family level. Legal event information is also not aggregated at simple family level.

Regular monitoring of simple family members available for the first time in GPI removing families already retrieved by a previous monitoring

Scenario: monthly monitoring activity initiated in November 2019 – current month is April 2020



1 Initial search (query used in November 2019 to monitor October 2019):

DFE = 2019/10 and ...

A family with at least one member available for the first time in GPI in October is retrieved in November (case of family C)

2 Current search (query used in April 2020 to monitor March 2020):

DFE = 2020/03 andnot FMDFE [2019/10, 2020/02] and ...

A new family and a family not retrieved by the initial search are retrieved in April 2020 (case of families D and B)

The time range [first month monitored, current month monitored - 1] enables removing families having members available for the first time in GPI in this time range (case of families A and C), i.e. removing families already retrieved by a previous monitoring

Sample query 3

Monitoring of January 2020 carried out in February to retrieve EP publications where there is a legal event published in January 2020 (event date – criterion EVD) for a communication of intention to grant “INTG” (event code – criterion EVCO) and for the specified applicants/proprietors and owners mentioned in legal event records (criteria APP and EVOW):

EVD = 202001 with EVCO = INTG and APP or EVOW = "FACEBOOK INC" "APPLE INC" "LINKEDIN CORP" "EBAY INC"

The WITH operator is used instead of AND for better search accuracy – see Comparison of AND and WITH operators.

As the event code INTG is used for EP publications only, the result list contains EP publications only, so it is not necessary to specify PUC=EP in the query.

As events are included in all the publications of a given application, you may wish to consider using the search filter “Application” (see search filters in the Query box) to get just one publication (the oldest) per application in your result list.

Search result for query 3

The result list includes EP publications, whatever their publication date, where there is at least one legal event published in January with the specified event code for the specified applicants/proprietors.

For quarterly monitoring, the query would use the date range operator (square brackets) as follows (example of 2019 Q4 monitoring):

EVD [201910, 201912] with ...

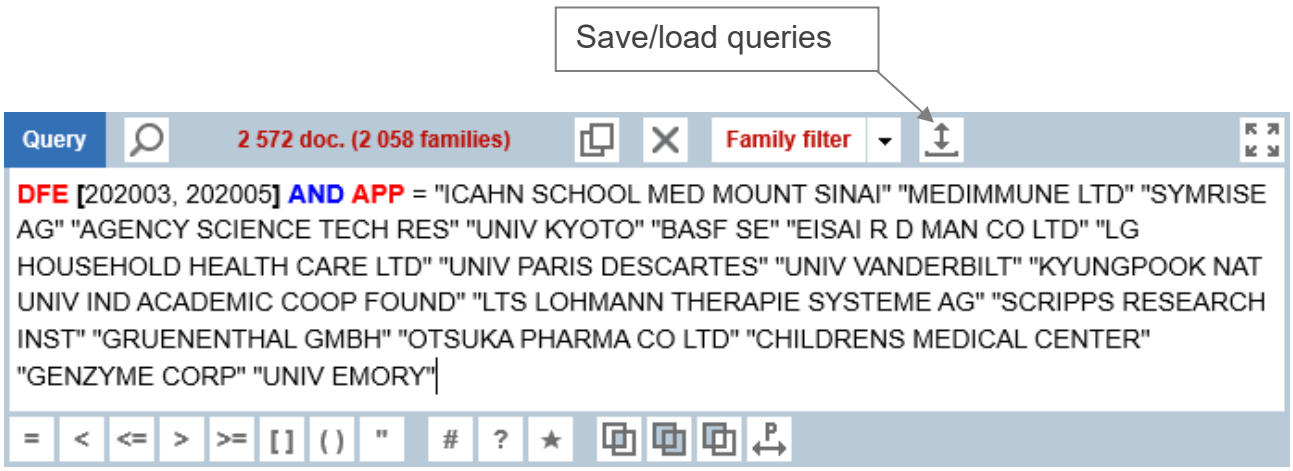
Notes:

- As explained in Database content and update, there is a one-week delay between INPADOC data and DOCDB data.
- Due to the above difference and in order to capture all possible relevant legal events published up to and including the last day of a given month, there must be a weekend after the last day of the month to be monitored before the Friday when the search can be run at the earliest (after the GPI database update at 12.00 hrs CET).

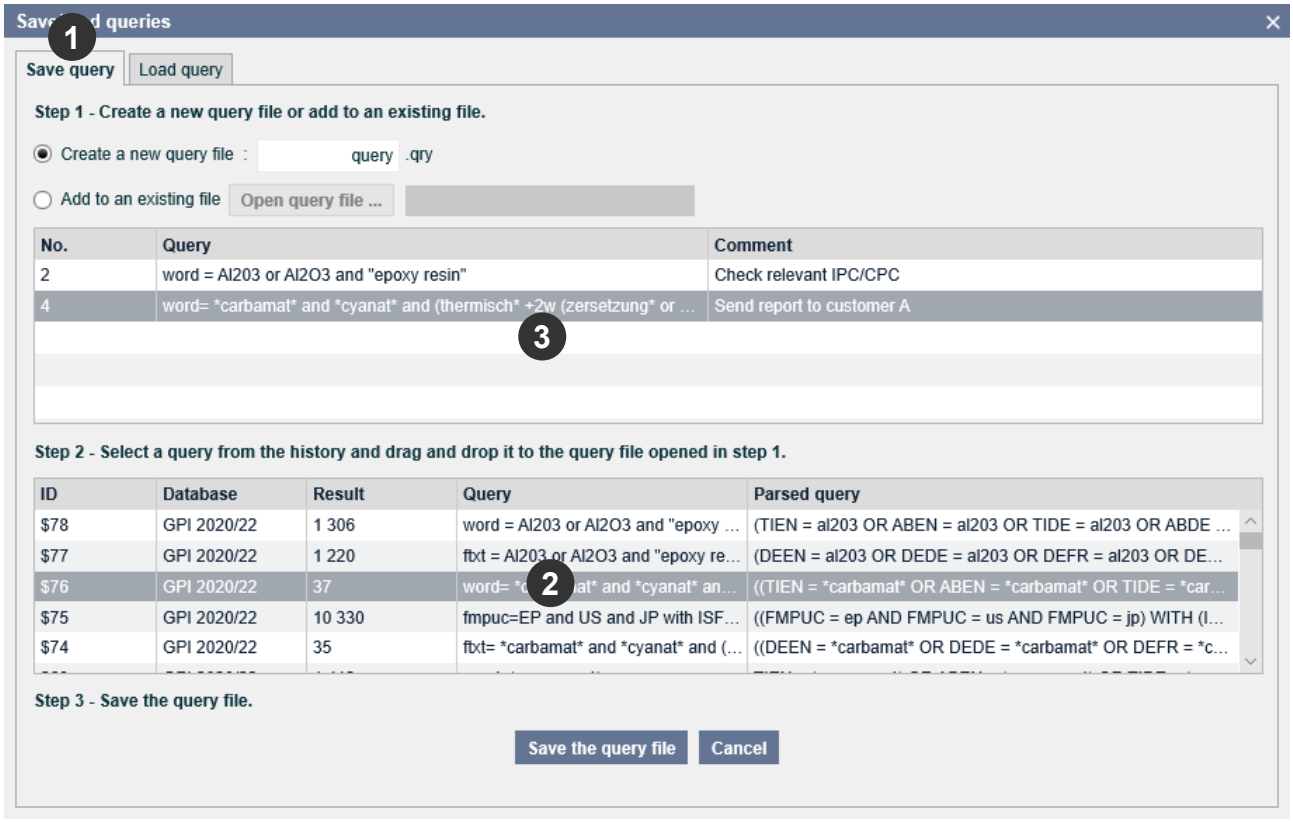
13. SAVE/LOAD QUERIES

If you have complex queries that you may want to frequently re-use, we recommend saving them locally and loading them as required. For more information, see Regular monitoring searches.

Queries can be saved/loaded using the **Save/load queries** button in the Query box of the Search window and the Result window:



13.1. SAVE QUERIES

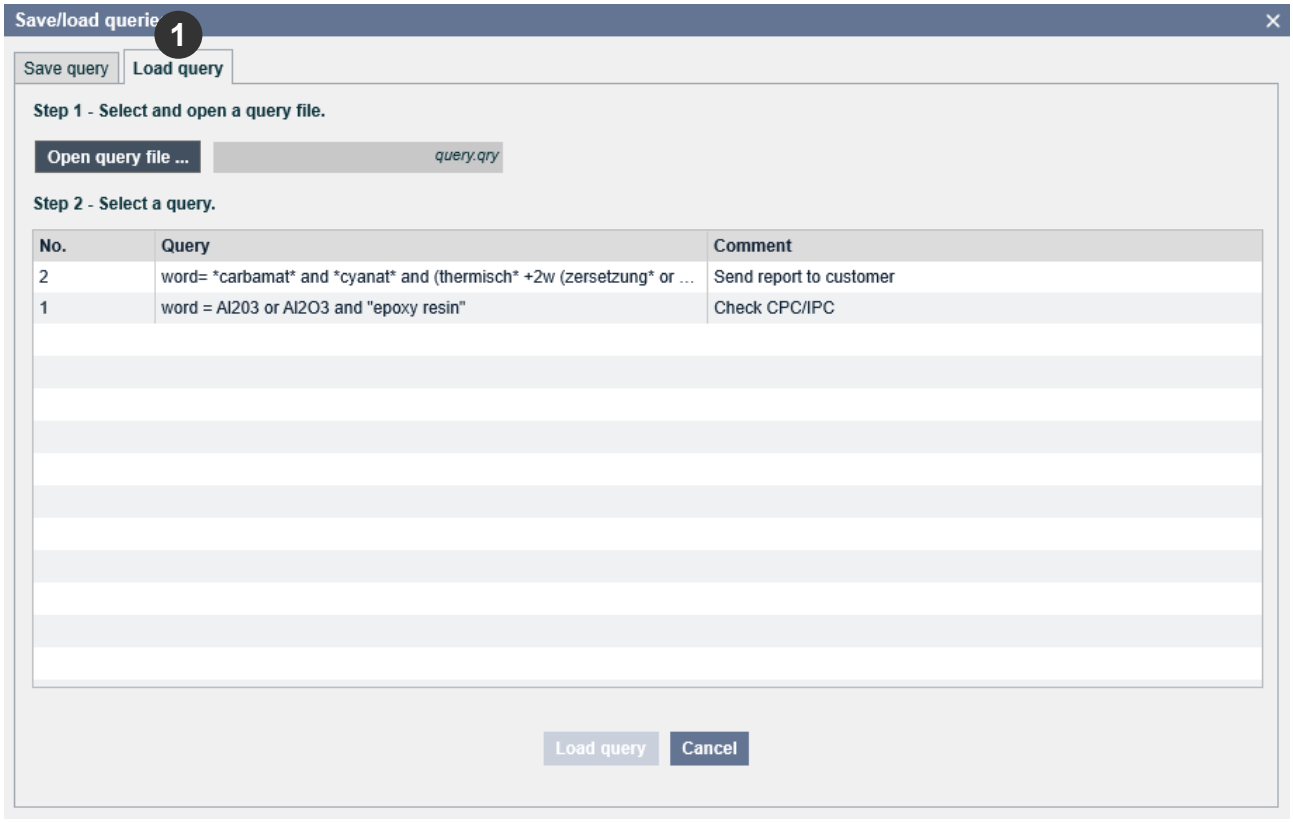


❶ The **Save query** tab lets you save history queries in a local file named query.QRY by default.

❷ Search history (same content as the History box in the Search window).

❸ Content of your query file showing queries that have been dragged and dropped from the search history. Saved queries may contain comments (see the context menu displayed when you right-click a query).

13.2. LOAD QUERIES



❶ The **Load query** tab lets you open your query file and select the query to be loaded. When you click the **Load query** button, you can choose whether the selected query should overwrite the current one or whether it should be appended to the query in the query edit zone.

If it is appended, the default Boolean operator used for this function is the one selected in your User preferences/General.

14. USER PREFERENCES

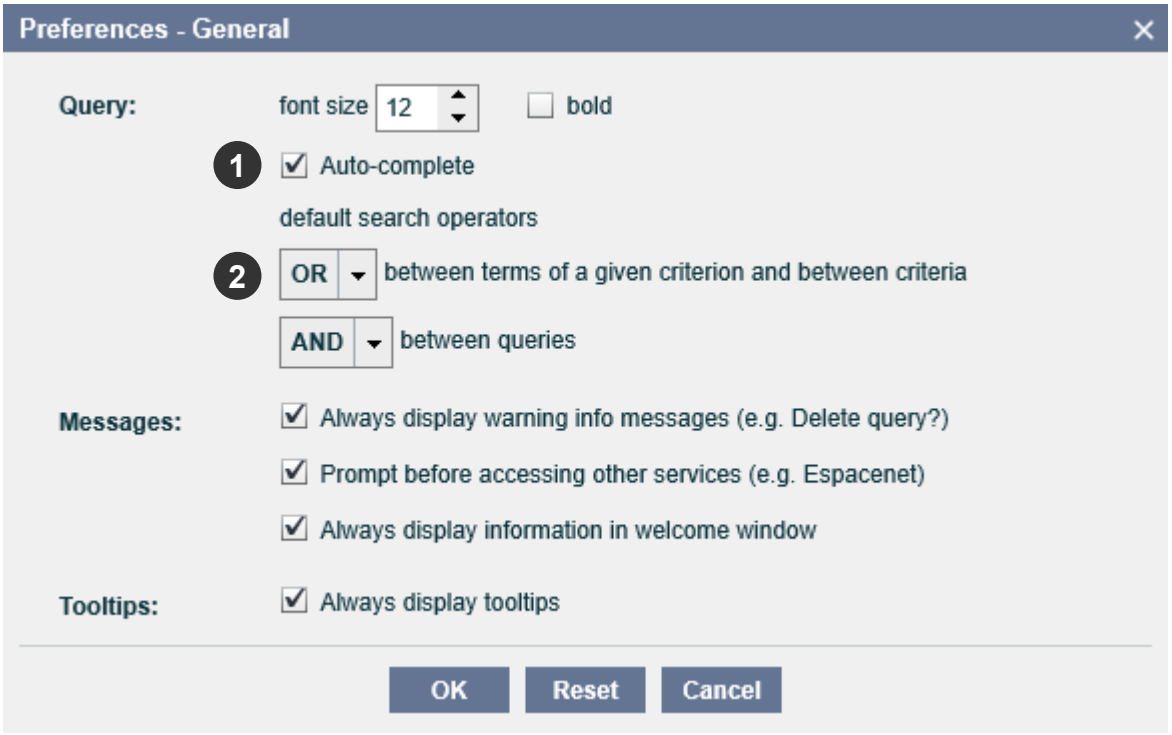
The user preferences feature allows for several different kinds of settings that will be stored locally for your convenience:

- Layout of the user interface, e.g. width/height of the **Criteria**, **Index**, **Query**, **History**, **Result list** and **Document** boxes in the **Search** and **Result** windows.
- Options selected when a function is executed, e.g. selected format for downloads, query filename used when saving/loading queries.
- Settings defined in the user preferences available in the Preferences menu.

This section covers the features available in the Preferences menu located in the UI top toolbar.

14.1. GENERAL PREFERENCES

Located in the UI top toolbar, on the **Preferences** menu under **General**:



❶ Auto-complete: As you gradually enter characters in the Query box, the UI displays a list of suggested terms for the search criterion you have entered. This list is built on the index content of the search criterion entered in your query.

❷ A default operator between terms (set to "OR" by default) is used when terms of a query are separated by white space. If the query you enter in the Query box is for example:

WORD = argon purification

this will automatically be parsed by default at search time into

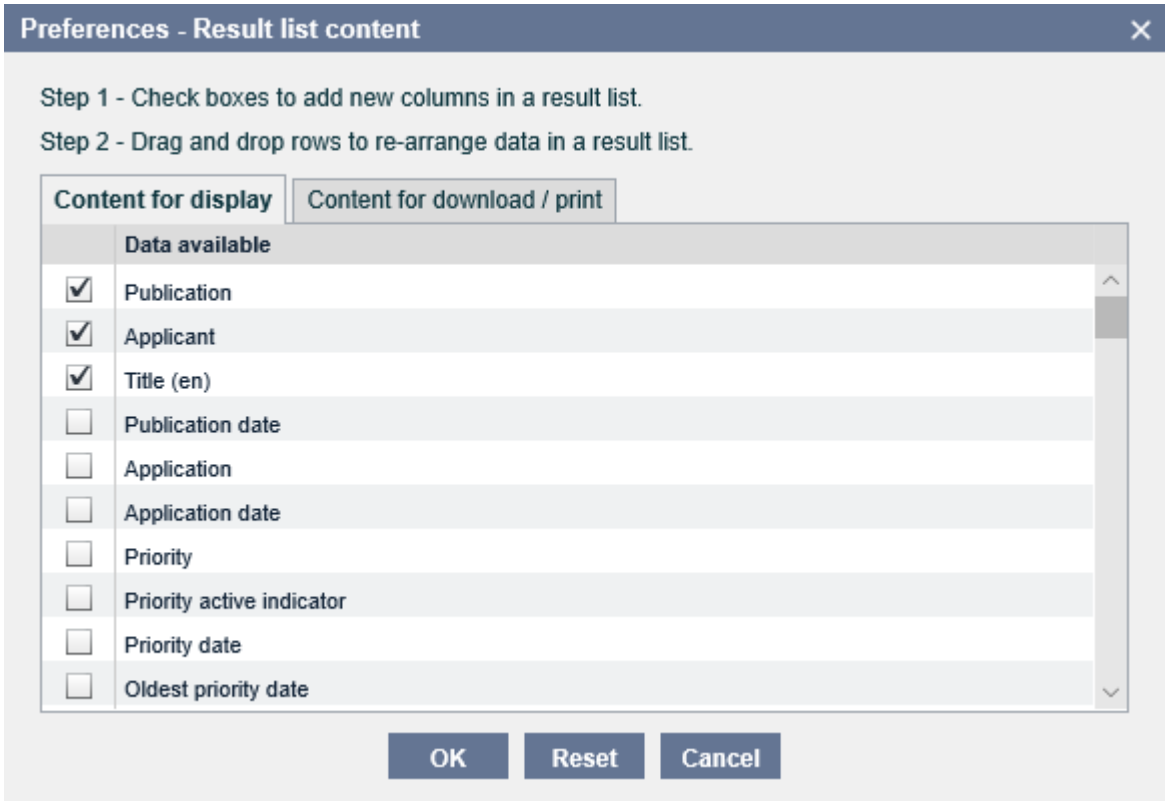
WORD = argon or purification

Assuming that you have changed the default value "OR" to "AND", the first query above will automatically be parsed at search time into:

WORD = argon and purification

14.2. RESULT LIST CONTENT CUSTOMISATION

Located in the UI top toolbar, on the **Preferences** menu under **Result list content**:



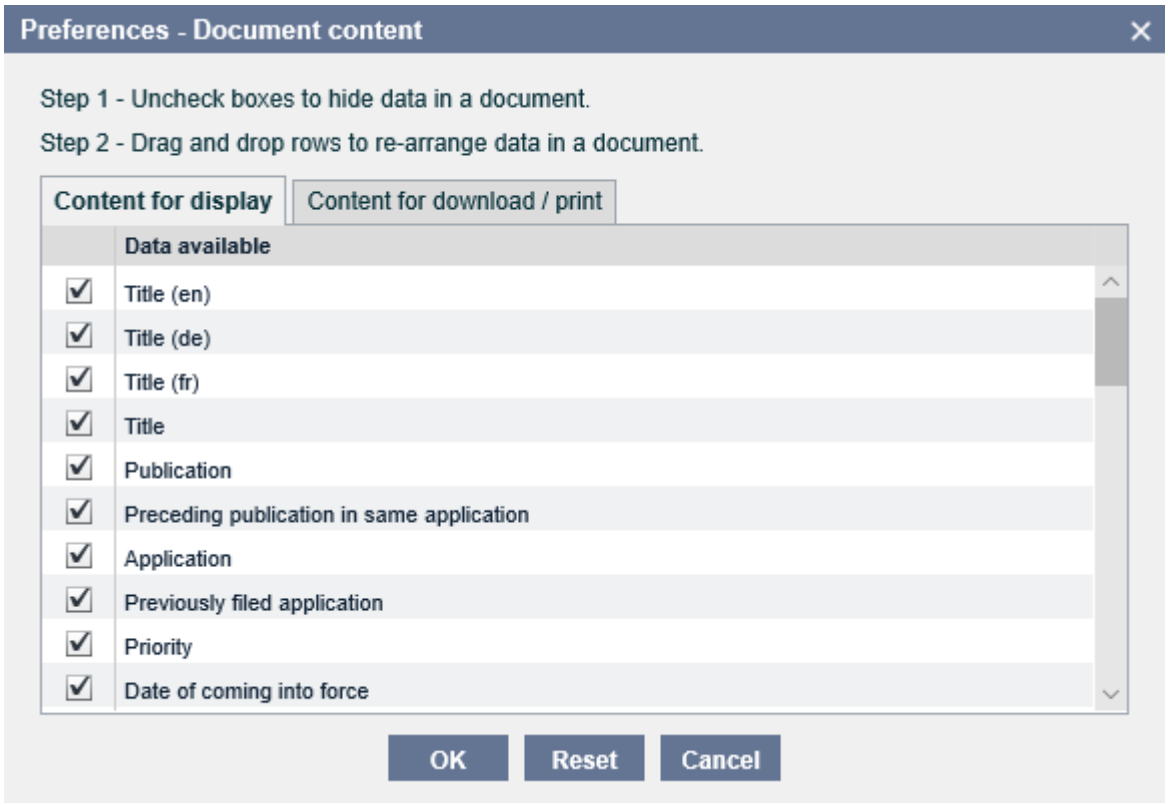
By default the result list contains a single **Publication** column, and you may decide to add and re-order additional relevant columns.

Note: You can define one customised layout for displaying the result list and a different one for downloads (see above, **Content for display** and **Content for download/print** tabs).

14.3. DOCUMENT CONTENT CUSTOMISATION

“Document” in this context means the bibliographic data associated with a publication. In other words, document content customisation has no impact on the display or download of legal event data, descriptions, claims, drawings or search reports.

Located in the UI top toolbar, on the **Preferences** menu under **Document content**:



By default, all bibliographic data are selected, but you can remove non-relevant items and re-order the relevant ones.

TIP: The claims of EP B documents are available in the EPO's three official languages (English, French and German) and the default claim order en-de-fr can be modified here:

Note: You can define one customised layout for document display and a different one for downloads (see above, **Content for display** and **Content for download/print** tabs).

15. DOWNLOAD AND PRINT

15.1. OVERVIEW

“Document” in the context of a download means the bibliographic and legal event data associated with a publication. In other words, it does not mean the full document of a particular publication (the so-called “original publication”).

The download feature is accessible in the UI top toolbar and the download procedure starts with a data preparation process carried out on the server side. This process includes wrapping the data into a single zip file.

Once prepared, the data is available for a 24-hour download procedure.

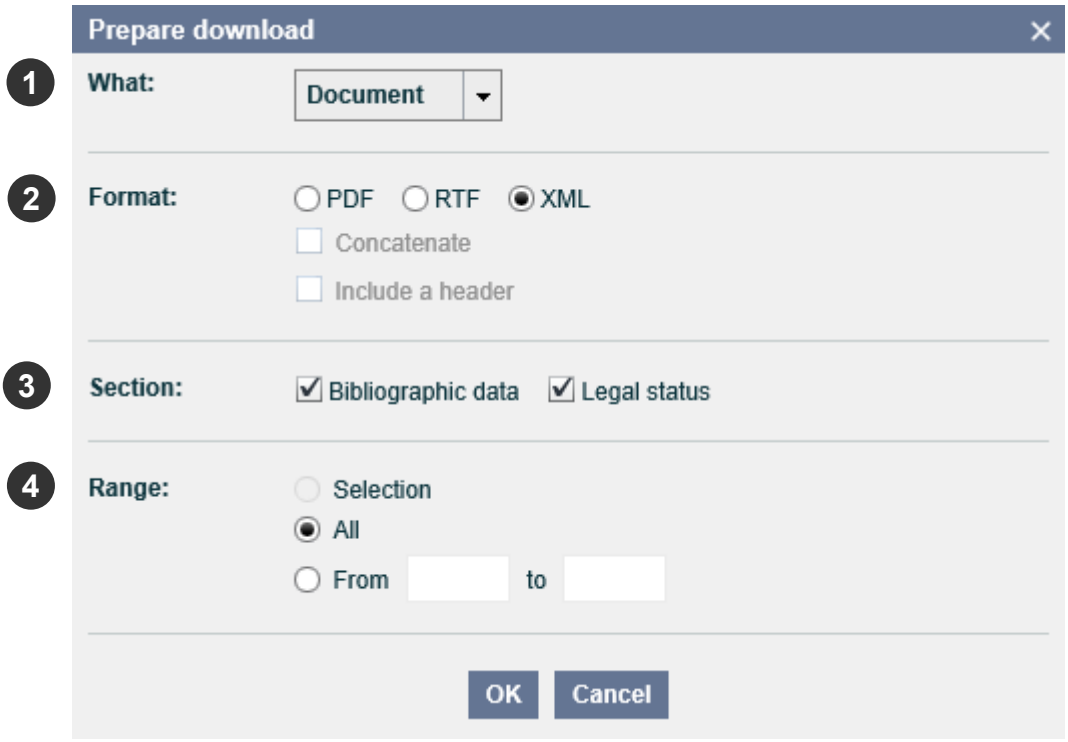
The **Download** menu contains two options:

- **Prepare download**. Opens a pop-up window where you define the data, data format and data range used by the preparation process.
- **Download manager**. Opens a pop-up window which includes a list of prepared data ready for the download process, or data being prepared.

Notes:

- The performance of the result list download varies depending on the selected output format and on the amount of result list columns. For example, PDF and HTML formats may result in performance issues for big result lists with many columns, contrary to CSV and XML formats.
- For regular download of big result lists with many columns we would recommend to use DOCDB (bulk data set in XML format).
- Bibliographic data and legal event data downloaded in XML are not strictly identical to the XML of the DOCDB and INPADOC bulk data products, i.e. the XML downloaded from GPI is not parse able with the DOCDB and INPADOC DTDs or schemas.
- Full text (descriptions and claims, searchable or not) is not downloadable.

15.2. PREPARATION PROCESS



❶ Downloadable data

- Search history
- Result list
- Document
- Original publication
- Chart

❷ Download formats

	PDF	ODT	RTF	XML	CSV	XLSX	HTML	JSON
Search history	✓				✓			
Result list	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Document	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Original pub.	✓							
Charts	✓				✓		✓	✓

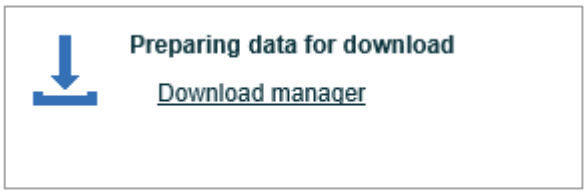
❸ Selection of bibliographic and/or legal event data.

❹ Definition of download range. For example, select **All** to download all the entries on your current result list, or all their corresponding documents (bibliographic and/or legal event data). “Selection” means the currently selected and displayed document or the selected entries from the result list.

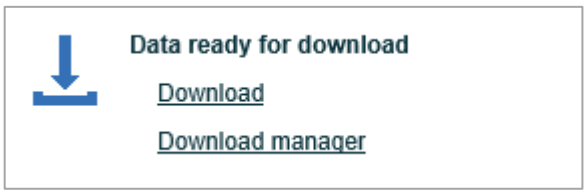
Note: Contrary to RTF format, multiple documents can be cumulated in one single file in ODT format.

15.3. DOWNLOAD PROCESS

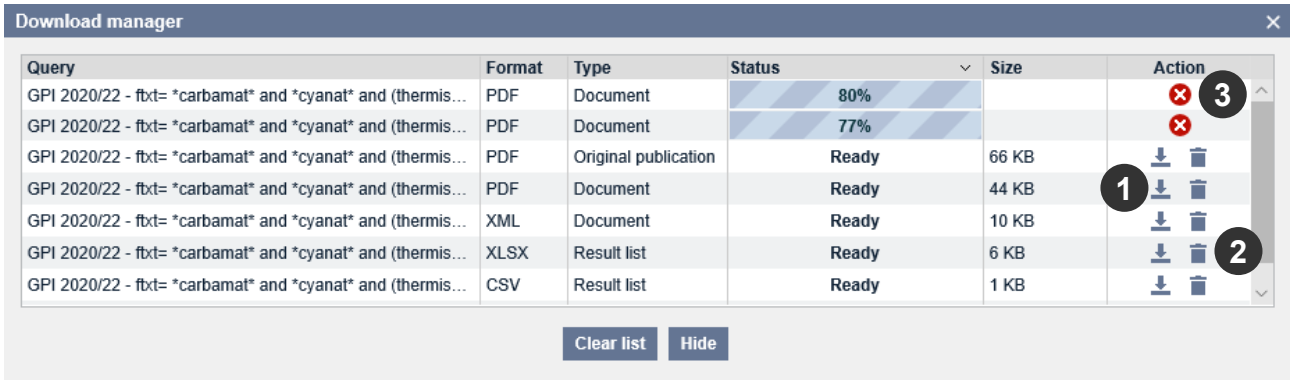
During the preparation process, the following window pops up in the bottom right-hand corner of the UI:



Once the preparation process terminates, the data is ready for download and the following window pops up:

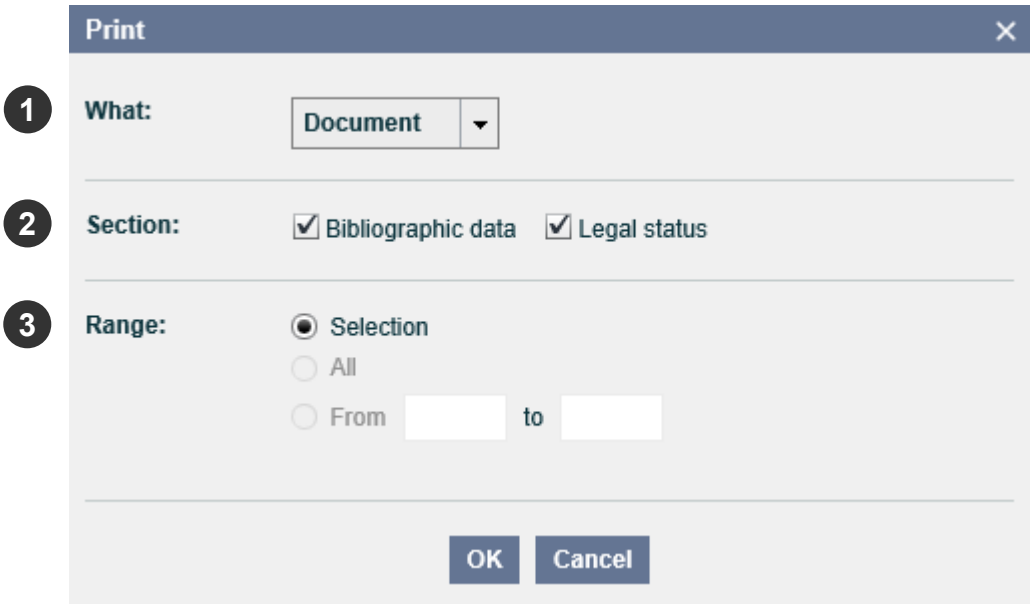


You can run multiple preparation processes first, and then download the corresponding files via the **Download manager**:



❶ Click this icon to start the download process.
❷ Click this icon to delete an item from the list.
❸ Click this icon to stop the preparation process.

15.4. PRINT PROCESS



❶ Printable data

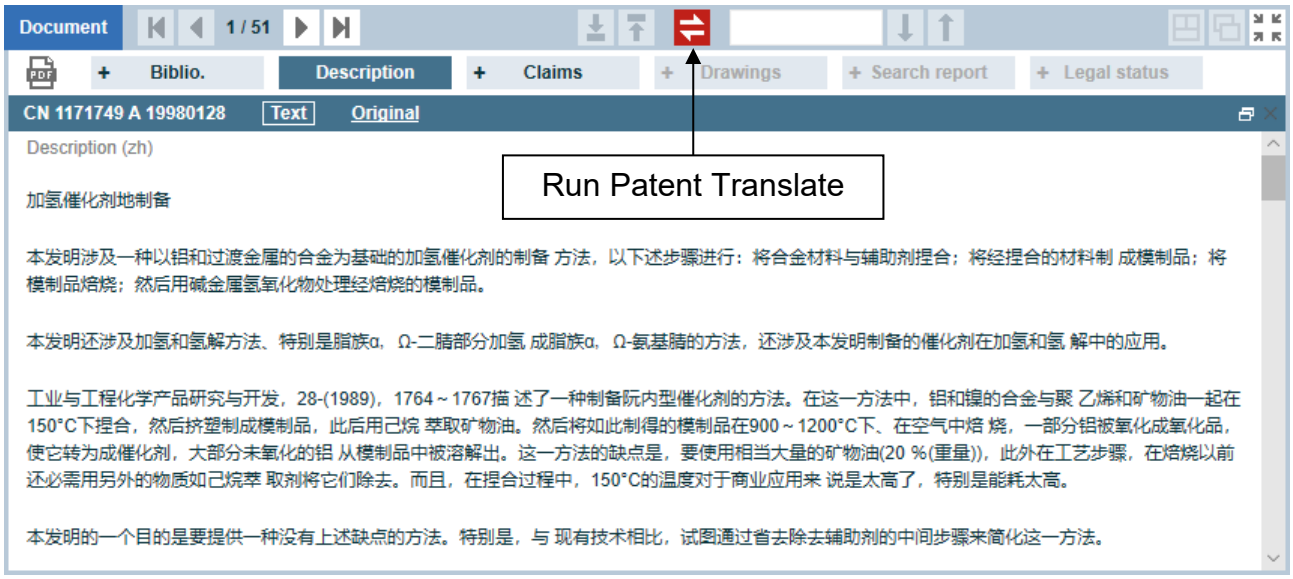
- History queries
- Result list
- Document (i.e. bibliographic and legal event data; full documents are not printable)

❷ Selection of bibliographic and/or legal event data

❸ Definition of print range

16. TRANSLATION

Titles, abstracts, descriptions and claims of GPI documents can be translated using a service developed by the EPO in co-operation with Google. This service generates on-the-fly translations and is also used in Espacenet and the European Publication Server.

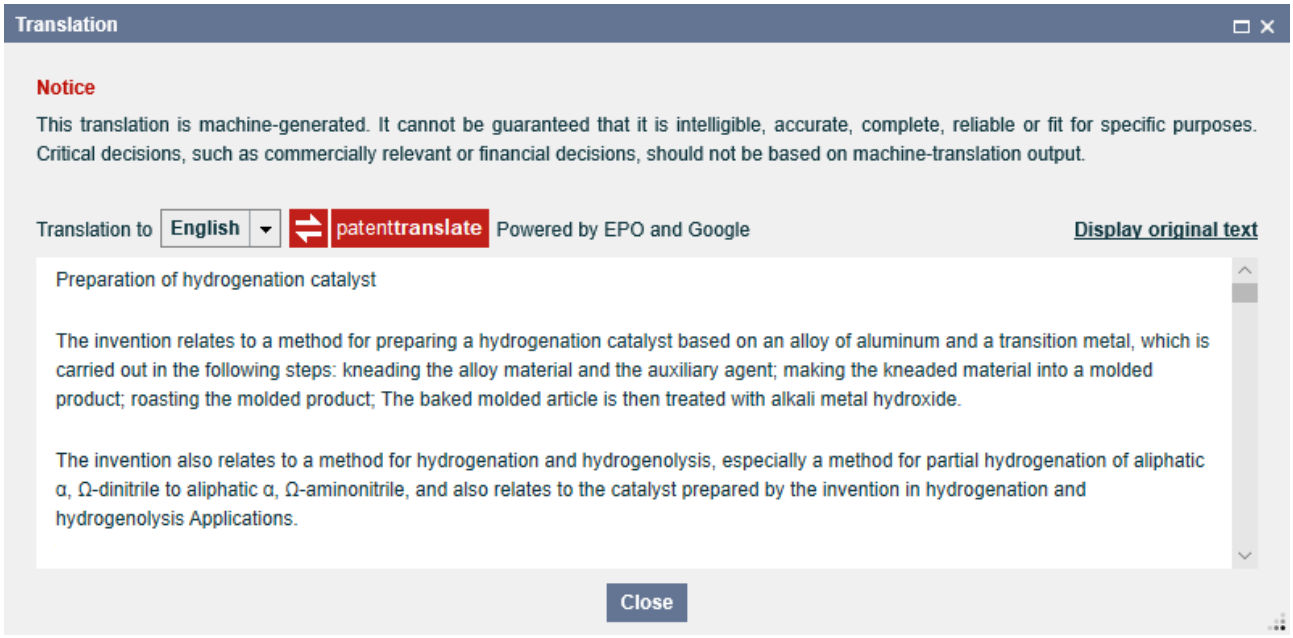


When you click the **Translation** button, the data is relayed to Patent Translate.

Before translation:

Select your target language from the list, and click the patenttranslate button:

After translation:



Hover over the translated text to display the original text.

17. LIMITATIONS

	Limit	Comment
Query		
Boolean clauses	10 240	For example, PUC=FR is one Boolean clause. The exact number of Boolean clauses is difficult to count because most criteria are combinations of low-level criteria. For example, PUN=EP3500000 results in three clauses: PUND=EP3500000 OR PUNE=EP3500000 OR PUNO=EP3500000
Characters	100 000	
Wildcards per term	5	
Search		
Search filter	1 000 000	The family/application search filter is automatically disabled if a search returns more than 1 000 000 publications
Search history	100	
WITH and proximity operators		The following message may appear at search time for complex queries: A search limit has been reached – please refine your query
Result list		
Scrollable length	10 000	
Download		
Result list entries	10 000 5 000	For XLSX, CSV and XML formats For PDF and HTML formats These two limits apply to the full version **Note: For regular download of big result lists with many columns we recommend to use DOCDB (EPO bulk data set in XML format)**
Documents[1]	1 500	This limit applies to the full version
Result list entries and documents	50	This limit applies to the free trial version
Original publications (scanned pages in PDF files)	10/200 1/200	10 items at a time, 200 items per day for the full version 1 item at a time, 200 items per day for the free trial version **Note: For original publications not published by the EPO the current limit is 100 pages. The PDF of original publications having more than 100 pages includes the first page only**
Persistence	24 hrs	Downloads are kept for 24 hours server-side and then deleted
Statistics		
Persistence	72 hrs	Charts are kept for 72 hours server-side and then deleted
User session		
Persistence	24 hrs	

[1] "Document" means bibliographic and legal event data, i.e. it is not the original publication

18. TROUBLESHOOTING

In some circumstances you may see error messages, e.g. when running searches or browsing your search results. This may be due, for example, to issues related to the GPI server or to low or no connectivity.

If you get an error message, or if the UI does not operate as expected, we recommend the following:

1. Run your search again. If GPI still does not operate properly, follow up with step 2.

2. Reload the UI by pressing **Ctrl** + **F5** on your keyboard. If GPI still does not operate properly, contact our support team at support@epo.org. We recommend that you send us a screenshot to help us analyse the problem as quickly as possible.

Note: You may have to repeat the login procedure if you are using GPI:

- During the database update on Friday at 12.00 hrs CET.

- During the update of other databases available in the UI on Wednesday at 14.00 hrs CET.

If you find data which are possibly incorrect or you experience unexpected UI performance, or if you wish to suggest any enhancements, please contact our support team at support@epo.org.

19. GLOSSARY

Criterion (plural = criteria): Represents searchable data. A criterion is identified by a code used in a Boolean query and a name. For example, CCAT is the code for "Citation category (search report)". See Criteria box and Query box sections.

DOCDB: The EPO's worldwide bibliographic data collection, which contains the bibliographic data of patent documents supplied to the EPO by over 90 countries (for more information on DOCDB content coverage follow this link). DOCDB data exchanged from DOCDB is available as raw data in XML format and is used as input data for GPI, Espacenet and PATSTAT.

DOCDB simple family: Also known as an Espacenet family. A concept that groups publications of similar technical content together on the basis of identical priority pictures. See DOCDB simple family section and follow this link for more information.

Document: A GPI document is a set of data linked to the life of a patent. A GPI document displayed in the UI always includes bibliographic data and may also include legal event data, a description, claims, drawings and a search report.

EP full-text search: One of the products available in **Patent information services for experts**. Complementing the European Publication Server, it offers full-text search, download and statistics features. More information at this link.

European Publication Server: Legally authoritative source of patent applications and patent specifications published by the EPO. More information at this link.

Exchange (of DOCDB data): DOCDB data exchange means extracting publications from DOCDB and making these publications available to GPI for further data processing. This usually takes place on Thursdays, and publications exchanged on that day are usually searchable in GPI the next day, just after the database update carried out each Friday at 12.00 hrs CET.

Exchange (of INPADOC data): INPADOC data exchange means extracting legal event data from INPADOC and making this data available to GPI for further data processing. This usually takes place on Saturdays, and data exchanged on that day is usually searchable in GPI the next week, just after the database update carried out each Friday at 12.00 hrs CET.

GPI (Global Patent Index): One of the products available in **Patent information services for experts**.

Index: Underlying data structure created at data processing time and used at search time. There is one index per criterion. Index content can be displayed to check the presence, spelling and format of data. See Index box section.

INPADOC: The EPO's worldwide legal event data collection, containing the legal event data of patent documents supplied to the EPO by over 50 patent authorities (national, regional including the EPO, and WIPO). A legal event usually includes the following:

- **Event date**: the date the event is made public by a patent authority, for example in a patent gazette or bulletin, and not necessarily the date of legal effect.
- **Event category**: event categories are groups of events of similar nature.
- **Event code**: identifier of a national, regional (including the EPO), or WIPO legal event. The codes are sometimes created by the EPO.
- **Event description**: the event title in English language and additional data in the event record, e.g. date of legal effect, new owner in the case of a change of ownership, number of the supplementary protection certificate (SPC).

See Search with legal events. More information at this link (entry point to the INPADOC product), this link (INPADOC content coverage and full list of legal event codes and titles) and this link (see PDF file “INPADOC classification scheme” for detailed information on legal event categories).

INPADOC extended family: See definition at this link.

OPS (Open Patent Services): One of the EPO's web services, designed for automated access to raw data extracted from the EPO's databases. For more information follow this link.

Patent information services for experts: Web application offering access to GPI and several other databases, with search, download and statistics functionalities via its UI, accessible at this link.

UI: User interface of **Patent information services for experts**, accessible at this link.

ANNEX 1

SEARCH CRITERIA DESCRIPTION

Criterion code	Criterion name	Meaning / example / note
CATEGORY "EASY SEARCH"		
FIND	All data	All data (bibliographic data, legal events and full text). FIND = wind and energy and F03D7/00
DATES	All kinds of dates	All priority, filing and publication dates. Accepted date entry formats are YYYYMMDD and DDMMYYYY, with or without separator "/" or "-" or “.” Examples of valid searchable terms: 20001231, 200012, 2000. DATES=2008 DATES>=2008/01/01 DATES [2000, 2010]
NUM	All kinds of numbers	All priority, publication and application numbers, in all formats available (DOCDB, EPODOC, ORIGINAL). Valid searchable terms for a patent identifier CCPNKC (country code + publication number + kind code) are PN, CC, CCPN, CCPNKC. NUM = "EP 00 102 3744" or CN20111440601 or DE102009018915A NUM = EP20000120374 NUM = 00120374 NUM = DE or CH or AT

WORD	All title, abstract, descriptions and claims	All words in titles, abstracts, descriptions and claims. WORD = laser* /1w beam* : "laser" (or lasers, etc.) up to maximum 1 word apart from "beam" (or beams, etc.), whatever the order. WORD = "laser* beam*" is not a valid query (wildcards cannot be used between quotes) Solution: WORD= laser* and beam* - Or: WORD = laser* +1w beam* An expression search is automatically transformed into a proximity search as follows: WORD = "word1 word2" is transformed into WORD = word1 /1w word2 Meaning: word1 up to a maximum of 1 word apart from word2, whatever the order.
FTXT	All descriptions and claims	All words in descriptions and claims. FTXT = laser* /1w beam*
TIAB	All titles and abstracts	All words in titles and abstracts in all languages available, except Japanese and Chinese. TIAB = laser* /1w beam*
NAME	All names	All names inventors, applicants, proprietors, cited applicants, opponents, third parties and owners mentioned in legal event records. Complete names (expressions) and individual terms are indexed. NAME = "FROMONT GAELLE" NAME = FROMONT and GAELLE NAME = "fromont* gaelle*" is not a valid query (wildcards cannot be used between quotes). An expression search is automatically transformed into a proximity search as follows: NAME = "word1 word2" is transformed into NAME = word1 /1w word2 Meaning: word1 up to a maximum of 1 word apart from word2, whatever the order.
CLAS	All kinds of classifications	All classification schemes. CLAS = "A01 B1/02" CLAS = A01B1/02 CLAS = A01B000102 CLAS = X100*

CATEGORY "SIMPLE SEARCH"		
Publication		
PUC	Country code	Publication country codes in DOCDB format. PUC = CH or FR or DE or EP or GB or US
PUN	Number	Publication numbers in DOCDB, EPODOC and ORIGINAL formats. Valid searchable terms for a patent identifier CCPNKC (country code + publication number + kind code) are PN, CC, CCPN, CCPNKC. PUN = JP1922738C PUN = JP1922738 PUN = 1922738 PUN = JP
PUK	Kind code	Publication kind codes in DOCDB format. PUK= B1 or B2
PUD	Date	Publication dates – accepted date entry formats are YYYYMMDD, DDMMYYYY and YYYYMM, with or without separator "/" or "-" or “.” Example of valid searchable terms: 20001231, 200012, 2000. The following queries have the same meaning: PUD = 2000 PUD [2000-01-01, 2000-12-31] PUD >= 20000101 and PUD <= 20001231

Application		
APC	Country code	Application country codes available for the application in DOCDB format. APC = CH or FR or DE or EP or GB or US
APN	Number	Application filing numbers in DOCDB, EPODOC and ORIGINAL formats. Valid searchable terms for a patent identifier CCANKC (country code + application number + kind code) are AN, CC, CCAN, CCANKC. APN=AT19800902018T APN=AT19800902018 APN=19800902018 APN=AT
APK	Kind code	Application kind codes available for the application in DOCDB format. For reasons of standardisation, PCT applications are identified by kind code 'W'. APK=W
APD	Date	Application filing dates – accepted date entry formats are YYYYMMDD, DDMMYYYY and YYYYMM, with or without separator "/" or "-" or "." Example of valid searchable terms: 20001231, 200012, 2000. The following queries have the same meaning: APD = 2000 APD [2000-01-01, 2000-12-31] APD >= 20000101 and APD <= 20001231

Priority		
PRC	Country code	Priority country codes available for the priority in DOCDB format. PUC = CH or FR or DE or EP or GB or US
PRN	Number	Priority numbers in DOCDB, EPODOC and ORIGINAL formats. Valid searchable terms for a patent identifier CCPNKC (country code + priority number + kind code) are PN, CC, CCPN, CCPNKC. PRN = "21842/79" PRN = JP or KR
PRK	Kind code	Priority kind codes available for the priority in DOCDB format. PCT applications claimed as priorities are identified by kind code ‘W’. PRK=W
PRD	Date	Priority dates – accepted date entry formats are YYYYMMDD, DDMMYYYY and YYYYMM, with or without separator "/" or "-" or “.” Example of valid searchable terms: 20001231, 200012, 2000. The following queries have the same meaning: PRD = 2000 PRD [2000-01-01, 2000-12-31] The following queries do not have the same meaning: PRD [20000101, 20001231] PRD >= 20000101 and PRD <= 20001231

Classification		
IC17	IPC 1-7	Symbols of IPC 1-7 classification (main, further and additional). Example of valid searchable terms for "B41M 5/26": B41, B41M, B41M0005, B41M000526. Note the group on four digits. The following queries have the same meaning: IC17=B41M5/26 or C08K11/00 IC17="B41M 5/26" or "C08K11/00" IC17=B41M000526 or C08K001100
IC8	IPC 8	Symbols of IPC 8 classification– strictly speaking, symbols corresponding to the reformed IPC, i.e. the IPC edition 8 does not exist as such. Example of valid searchable terms for "B41M 5/26": B41, B41M, B41M5 (or B41M0005 if taken from the IC8 index), B41M5/26 (or B41M000526 if taken from the IC8 index). Note the group on four digits. The following queries have the same meaning: IC8=C08K3/00 or C08L101/00 IC8="C08K 3/00" or "C08L 101/00" IC8=C08K000300 or C08L010100
IPC	IPC (all editions)	Symbols of IPC classification of all editions/versions (editions 1 to 7 and subsequent editions/versions). Example of valid searchable terms for "B41M 5/26": B41, B41M, B41M5 (or B41M0005 if taken from the IPC index), B41M5/26 (or B41M000526 if taken from the IPC index). Note the group on four digits. The following queries have the same meaning: IPC=C08K3/00 or C08L101/00 IPC="C08K 3/00" or "C08L 101/00" IPC=C08K000300 or C08L010100 The IPC hierarchy is not known in GPI. For example, you cannot indicate that you want to search for IPC A01B13/08 (one dot) and automatically include sub-levels A01B13/10 (two dots) and A01B13/12 (three dots).

CPC	Cooperative Patent Classification	Symbols of CPC invention and additional information. Example of valid searchable terms for "A01B 1/246": A01, A01B, A01B1 (or A01B0001 if taken from the CPC index), A01B1/246 (or A01B0001246 if taken from the CPC index). The following queries have the same meaning: CPC="A01B 1/246" CPC=A01B1/246 CPC=A01B0001246 The CPC hierarchy is not known in GPI. For example, you cannot indicate that you want to search for CPC A01B13/08 (one dot) and automatically include sub-levels A01B13/10 (two dots) and A01B13/12 (three dots).

Inventor		
INV	Name	Inventor names (expressions and individual terms) in DOCDB, DOCDBA, and ORIGINAL formats. INV="GONIDEC PATRICK" INV=GONIDEC and PATRICK INV=GONIDEC /2w PATRICK INV = DUPON* INV = "fromont* gaelle*" is not a valid query (wildcards cannot be used between quotes) Solution: INV = fromont* and gaelle* - Or: INV = fromont* +1w gaelle* An expression search is automatically transformed into a proximity search as follows: INV = "word1 word2" is automatically transformed into INV = word1 /1w word2 Meaning: word1 up to a maximum of one word apart from word2, whatever the order.
INVC	Country of residence	Inventor country of residence INVC = IN
Applicant		
APP	Name	Applicant/proprietor names (expressions and individual elements) in DOCDB, DOCDBA, and ORIGINAL formats. Examples: APP = HISPANOSUIZA or "HISPANO SUIZA" APP = fromont and gaelle APP = fromont +2w gaelle APP = "fromont* gaelle*" is not a valid query (wildcards cannot be used between quotes) Solution: APP = fromont* and gaelle* - Or: APP = fromont* +1w gaelle* An expression search is automatically transformed into a proximity search as follows: APP = "word1 word2" is automatically transformed into APP = word1 /1w word2 Meaning: word1 up to a maximum of one word apart from word2, whatever the order.
APPC	Country of residence	Applicant/proprietor country of residence APPC = ES

Title		
TIDE	German	Words of titles in German TIDE = Datenverarbeitungsanlage* See recommendations for ABEN.
TIEN	English	Words of titles in English not (TIEN = *) All documents without an English title. See recommendations for ABEN.
TIFR	French	Words of titles in French TIFR = MICRO +1w ONDE* andnot CUISSON See recommendations for ABEN.

Abstract		
ABDE	German	Words of abstracts in German See recommendations for ABEN.
ABEN	English	Words of abstracts in English ABEN = wind +2w generator Wind up to a maximum of two words apart from generator, in this order. ABEN = "wind* generator*" is not a valid query (wildcards cannot be used between quotes). Solution: ABEN = wind* and generator* - Or: ABEN = wind* +1w generator* An expression search is automatically transformed into a proximity search as follows: ABEN = "word1 word2" is transformed into ABEN = word1 /1w word2 meaning: word1 up to a maximum of one word apart from word2, whatever the order To enhance search ability, the following rule is used at indexation time: if a publication has no English abstract, then the abstract of the simple family representative is used (or the first one found in the simple family members, if there is no representative).
ABFR	French	Words of abstracts in French See recommendations for ABEN.

Full text		
DESC	Description	Words of descriptions. See recommendations for ABEN.
CLAIM	Claims	Words of claims. See recommendations for ABEN.
NBCL	Number of claims	Number of claims. NBCL >= 10 NBCL [10,20] **Note**: To date, NBCL can be used only for EP A1 and A2 publications.
FTL	Full-text language	Languages of full text. FTL = EN

Citation		
CIT	Citation (patent + NPL)	All kinds of patent and NPL citations. CIT = (DERWENT or WPI) Note that DOCDB usually makes citation data available for the first publication of a given application. For example, in the case of European A3 publications, citations of the search report show up in the A2 publication.
CAPP	Cited applicant	Applicant names of cited patent documents. CAPP = "JOHN SACKER" Recommendations made for criterion APP “Applicant” and INV “Inventor” apply.
OPP	Opponent	Opponent names. OPP = Caterpillar Recommendations made for criterion APP “Applicant” and INV “Inventor” apply.
THP	Third party	Third party names. THP = sabic Recommendations made for criterion APP “Applicant” and INV “Inventor” apply.

DOCDB simple family		
FMPUC	Publication country code (family member)	Publication country codes of family members Publications which families have at least one EP, one JP and one US family members (publications): FMPUC = EP and JP and US The scope of a search based on FMPUC is different compared with a search based on PUC. For example, PUC = EP produces a result list containing only EP publications whereas FMPUC = EP produces a result list containing publications which families include at least one EP family member (one EP publication). The same principle applies to FMPUN, FMPUK, FMPUD, FMAPC, FMAPN, FMAPK, FMAPD and FMDFE
FMPUN	Publication number (family member)	Publication numbers of family members FMPUN = EP3000000 Contrary to PUN, FMPUN is based on the DOCDB number format and not on the EPODOC and original formats, i.e. some numbers retrievable with PUN may not be retrievable with FMPUN
FMPUK	Publication kind code (family member)	Publication kind codes of family members FMPUK = B*
FMPUD	Publication date (family member)	Publication dates of family members FMPUD = 202001
FMAPC	Application country code (family member)	Application country codes of family members Publications which families have at least one EP, one JP and one US family members (applications): FMAPC = EP and JP and US
FMAPN	Application number (family member)	Application numbers of family members FMAPN = EP2019076571W Contrary to APN, FMAPN is based on the DOCDB number format and not on the EPODOC and original formats, i.e. some numbers retrievable with APN may not be retrievable with FMAPN

FMAPK	Application kind code (family member)	Application kind codes of family members FMAPK = W
FMAPD	Application filing date (family member)	Application filing dates of family members FMAPD = 202001
FSP	Family size (publications)	Family sizes (number of publications) FSP [1, 5]
FSA	Family size (applications)	Family sizes (number of applications) FSA > 1
FID	Family ID	Unique keys identifying DOCDB simple patent families. FID = 30000003 30000004 30000005 30000007 30000008 30000009 More information about DOCDB simple patent families and family IDs can be found in the DOCDB user documentation (PDF file) available for download at this link.
ISFR	Is family representative	Boolean values (“YES” and “NO”) in order to limit the scope of a search to DOCDB simple family representatives only. ISFR=YES The use of ISFR=YES, as an additional filtering mechanism, does not retrieve DOCDB simple families without family representatives.
FAB	Family abstract	Abstracts in English language of DOCDB simple family representatives, or other family members when no representatives are available. See ABEN
FABS	Family abstract source	FABS = PAJ

INPADOC legal events		
EVD	Event date	Date of the event. It is usually the date the legal event is made public by a patent authority, for example in a patent gazette or bulletin. It is not necessarily the date of legal effect (see criterion EVED). There is a one-week delay between INPADOC data and DOCDB data, i.e. the GPI database updated on Friday at 12.00 hrs CET contains bibliographic data of the current week, and legal event data of the previous week. EVD = 20031231 The following queries have the same meaning: EVD = 2000 EVD [2000-01-01, 2000-12-31] The following queries do not have the same meaning: EVD [20000101, 20000630] EVD >= 20000101 and EVD <= 20000630
EVCA	Event category	Category of the event. EVCA = K (category K “IP right revival” covers legal events related to the reinstatement or restoration of an IP right after its cessation – more information at this link (see PDF file “INPADOC classification scheme” for detailed information on legal event categories A to Z).
EVCO	Event code	Code of the event. EVCO = PG25 EVCO = "PG25 AT"
EVDE	Event description	Description of the event, i.e. the text of the legal event title and additional data in the event record. EVDE = "protection extended"
EVED	Date of event legal effect	Where available, it is the date included in the event field “Effective date”. It is not necessarily the date of publication of the event (see criterion EVD). EVED = 201809
EVOW	Owner mentioned in the event record	Where available, it is the name included in the event field “Owner name”. EVOW = “RENESAS TECHNOLOGY”

"DETAILED SEARCH" CATEGORY		
Publication		
PUXK	Extended kind code	Currently used in DE and WO publications. PUXK = 101000
PUND	Number (DOCDB)	Publication number in DOCDB format. PUND = DK0379341T3 See also PUN
PUNE	Number (EPODOC)	Publication number in EPODOC format. PUNE = DK0379341T See also PUN
PUNO	Number (original)	Publication number in original format (as provided by the patent authority). PUNO = 2019/238981
LOP	Language of publication (non-PCT documents)	LOP = ES
DPP	Date of preceding publication in same application	DPP = 19921201
PFA	Previously filed application	EPC 2000 - INID code 27 PFA = PCT/AT2006/000431
DCF	Date of coming into force	"Bekanntmachungstag" of DE utility models. Also currently used by some documents for IT ES BG HU GR NL CH SI OA. DCF = 20061031 Note that these dates are as provided by patent authorities (see content of DCF index). Their format is not always YYYYMMDD or DDMMYYYY.

Application		
APND	Number (DOCDB)	Application number in DOCDB format. APND = US82943207A See also APN
APNE	Number (EPODOC)	Application number in EPODOC format. APNE = US20070829432 See also APN
APNO	Number (original)	Application number in original format (as provided by the patent authority). APNO = 11829432 See also APN
LOF	Language of filing (PCT documents)	LOF = ES

Priority		
PRND	Number (DOCDB)	Priority number in DOCDB format. PRND = IB0100581W See also PRN
PRNE	Number (EPODOC)	Priority number in EPODOC format. PRNE = WO2001IB00581 See also PRN
PRNO	Number (original)	Priority number in original format (as provided by the patent authority). PRNO = "01/00581" See also PRN
PRXK	Extended kind code	Also known as priority linkage type. PRXK = W
PRDO	Oldest priority date	Oldest priority date PRDO >= 2010
PRA	Active indicator	Introduced in DOCDB for reasons of DOCDB simple family building. An active priority (PRA = YES) is included in the priority picture of all simple family members. An inactive priority (PRA = NO) is not included in the priority picture. PRA = YES

Classification		
ICFA	IPC8 full level (additional information)	See IPC
ICFI	IPC8 full level (invention information)	See IPC
ICF	IPC8 full level	See IPC
ICMA	IPC8 main group level (additional information)	See IPC
ICMI	IPC8 main group level (invention information)	See IPC
ICM	IPC8 main group level	See IPC
IPCAD	IPC assignment date	Date of assignment of an IPC symbol to a patent document by a patent authority. IPCAD = 201602
CPCA	CPC (additional information)	See CPC
CPCI	CPC (invention information)	See CPC
CPCFS	CPC (first symbol)	See CPC With the introduction of the CPC International and due to the necessary de-duplication of CPC symbols, CPCFS should be used with caution
CPCAD	CPC assignment date	Date of assignment of a CPC symbol to a patent document by a patent authority. CPCAD = 201602 With the introduction of the CPC International and due to the necessary de-duplication of CPC symbols, CPCAD should be used with caution
CPCAO	CPC assigning office	Patent authority (office) assigning a CPC symbol to a patent document. CPCAO = EP GB

CPCV	CPC version	CPC version number. Format: YYYYMM CPCV = 201901
USC	US classification	USC = 002001000O 002001000P 002001000S 002001000X
JPFI	JP classification (FI)	JPFI = A01B000106 or A01B000108 or A01B000110
JPFT	JP classification (F-terms)	JPFT = 4J100DA30 or 4J100DA31 or 4J100DA32
NAT	National classification	All classifications that are not IPC, CPC or JP patent classifications – e.g. Locarno classification for designs, US classification for designs and plants or classification schemes that may no longer be in force. Note that the information “National classification” is stored in the EPO worldwide bibliographic data collection (DOCDB) as provided by patent authorities, i.e. without any standardisation effort. For example, the Locarno subclass 10-01 is sometimes available as “10-01” (e.g. for JP designs) or as “1001” (e.g. for US designs). NAT = “10-01” or 1001 NAT = "B7L L24 LCC" or "B7L L24 LCD" or "B7L L24 LCE" or "B7L L24 LCF"

Combination set		
CSET	Combination set	Combination set (set of CPC symbols – also called Combi-Set or C-Set). Search publications by CPC symbols included in their combination set(s). The search scope is different compared with searches carried out with the search criterion CPC. CSET = "C10M173/00 C10M101/02 C10M107/02" Retrieves all publications including all listed symbols, in the same order, in one of their combination sets. CSET = "C10M173/00 C10M101/02 C10M107/02"~ Retrieves all publications including all listed symbols, whatever the order, in one of their combination sets. Note the presence of a tilde after the closing double quote.
CSBS	C-Set base symbol	In a combination set the base symbol is the first symbol of the set. See CPC
CSAD	C-Set assignment date	Date of assignment of a CPC symbol in a combination by a patent authority. CSAD = 201602
CSAO	C-Set assigning office	Patent authority (office) assigning a CPC symbol in a C-Set to a patent document. CSAO = EP

Inventor		
INVD	Name (DOCDB)	Inventor name in DOCDB format. See also INV and NAME
INVDA	Name (DOCDBA)	Inventor name in DOCDBA format. See also INV and NAME
INVO	Name (original)	Inventor name in original format (as provided by the patent authority), e.g. name in non-Latin character set. See also INV and NAME
Applicant		
APPD	Name (DOCDB)	Applicant/proprietor name in DOCDB format. See also APP and NAME
APPDA	Name (DOCDBA)	Applicant/proprietor name in DOCDBA format. See also APP and NAME
APPO	Name (original)	Applicant/proprietor name in original format (as provided by the patent authority), e.g. name in non-Latin character set. See also APP and NAME

Title		
TIXX	Other language (not DE, EN, FR)	Words in titles which are not in one of the following languages: English, French, German, Chinese, Japanese. TIXX=INSTALACION and HIDROELECTRICA See also recommendations for ABEN
Abstract		
ABXX	Other language (not DE, EN, FR)	Words in abstracts which are not in one of the following languages: English, French, German, Chinese, Japanese. ABXX = polimerização +1W aniónica See also recommendations for ABEN
ABSDE	Source (DE)	ABSDE = TRANSLATION
ABSEN	Source (EN)	ABSEN = PAJ
ABSFR	Source (FR)	ABSFR = EPO
ABSXX	Source (other language)	ABSXX = "NATIONAL OFFICE"

Citation		
CCAT	Category of citation	Category of search report citations. CCAT = X or Y andnot (P or E or D or A or L or O or T or I)
CPAT	Patent	Patent (application, publication) citations whatever their origin. Indexing rules for patent citations are identical to the rules used for publications, i.e. valid searchable terms for a patent identifier CCPNKC (country code + publication number + kind code) are PN, CC, CCPN, CCPNKC CPAT = US4836651 or EP0042920 or JP62044787 CPAT = US EP
CPAP	Patent (applicant)	Publication and application citations from applicants. See CPAT
CPAPP	Patent (applicant -publication)	Publication citations from applicants. See CPAT
CPAPA	Patent (applicant - application)	Application citations from applicants. See CPAT
CPSR	Patent (search report)	See CPAT
CPIS	Patent (international search report)	See CPAT
CPSS	Patent (supplementary search report)	See CPAT
CPEP	Patent (examination)	See CPAT
CPPE	Patent (international preliminary examination)	See CPAT

CPOP	Patent (opposition)	See CPAT
CPAP	Patent (appeal)	See CPAT
CPTP	Patent (third parties)	See CPAT
CNPL	NPL	Non-patent literature (NPL) citations whatever their origin. Query-building rules are identical to those for abstracts, titles, descriptions and claims, e.g. proximity search can be used. CNPL=Instrumentation and Astronomy CNPL = "Instrumentation in Astronomy" CNPL = Instrumentation +2w Astronomy
CNAP	NPL (applicant)	See CNPL
CNSR	NPL (search report)	See CNPL
CNIS	NPL (international search report)	See CNPL
CNSS	NPL (supplementary search report)	See CNPL
CNEP	NPL (examination)	See CNPL
CNPE	NPL (international preliminary examination)	See CNPL
CNOP	NPL (opposition)	See CNPL
CNAP	NPL (appeal)	See CNPL
CNTP	NPL (third parties)	See CNPL

Designated state		
DSP	Designated state (PCT)	Designated state (PCT) DSP=OA
DCS	Designated contracting state (EPC)	Designated contracting state (EPC) DCS=AT and BE and CH
DXS	Designated extension state (EPC)	Designated extension state (EPC) DXS=ME
DVS	Designated validation state (EPC)	Designated validation state (EPC) To date, validation state information is not yet available in DOCDB.
DS	All designations	Includes PCT and EPC designations.

Other		
DFE	Date of first exchange	Date the publication was exchanged for the first time, i.e. made available to the GPI processing line after extraction from DOCDB. It is usually a Thursday. DFE = 201908 – retrieves publications exchanged for the first time in August 2019 (monitoring of August carried out after the first Friday of September). **Note**: • The calculation of DFE is carried out in the GPI processing line, i.e. it is not a date available in DOCDB data, which does not record the whole exchange history of publications. • The calculation of DFE is based on rules using DAD and PUD. Therefore, publications without a publication date do not have a DFE. • DFE can be used for publications exchanged in DOCDB data after 2006 due to different DOCDB data exchange rules before and after 2006. • Even after 2006, there might be cases where the real date of first exchange is not the one calculated.
ISG	Is granted	Boolean value indicating whether the publication is a granted patent or not, depending on the data found in DOCDB XML data. Value is "YES" when a publication contains the elements `printed-with-grant` or `not-printed-with-grant`: • `printed-with-grant`: "*date of publication by printing or similar process of document on which grant has taken place on or before the said date*" • `not-printed-with-grant`: "*date of making available to the public by viewing or copying on request of a document on which grant has taken place on or before the said date*" ISG = YES In DOCDB XML data the above two elements are included in a parent element `dates-of-public-availability` which aims at categorising a publication. There are cases where the EPO cannot create content in this element, for example when there are unknown categories or missing publication dates in original bibliographic data. In other words, as a non-negligible number of documents do not have this information at the time of indexation and as there might be granted patents not properly categorised, ISG should be used with caution. More information about `dates-of-public-availability`, `printed-with-grant` and `not-printed-with-grant` can be found in the DOCDB user documentation available at this link.

FMDFE	Date of first exchange (family member)	For a given publication, DFE and FMDFE are identical. FMDFE = 202001 – retrieves publications which families have at least one family member exchanged for the first time in January 2020.
ISFMG	Is granted (family member)	Boolean value indicating whether the publication is a granted patent or not. For a given publication, ISG and ISFMG are identical. FMPUC = US with ISFMG = YES – retrieves publications which families have at least one family member that is a granted patent.
WBIB	Bibliographic data of the current week	Boolean value “YES” for limiting search scope to documents of current week. WBIB = YES and STA=C and CPC=H01B1
STA	Document status	The publication (bibliographic data) has the status "created" or "amended": • "Created" means the publication is new. • "Amended" means some data of the existing publication has changed. STA can be used in combination with WBIB for weekly monitoring: WBIB = YES and STA = C and CPC=H01B1
DAD	Date of addition (DOCDB)	Date the publication was added to DOCDB (not the date it was added to GPI). DAD = 2019/08
DLE	Date of last exchange (DOCDB)	Date the publication was last exchanged, i.e. made available to GPI for further data processing. It is usually a Thursday. DLE = 20190829
DPE	Date of previous exchange (DOCDB)	Date the publication was previously exchanged. It is usually a Thursday. DPE = 201908

WLEG	Legal events of the current week	Boolean value “YES” for limiting search scope to the most recent legal event data. WLEG = YES
EVSTA	Event status	Status (C for "created" or A for "amended") of a legal event. EVSTA = C
DLELS	Date of last exchange (INPADOC)	Date legal event data was exchanged, i.e. extracted from INPADOC and made available to GPI for further data processing (not the date it was added to GPI). The use of DLELS can be compared with the use of DLE “date of last exchange (DOCDB)”: using the most recent date of the index, DLELS allows the search to be focused on the most recent legal events. There is a one-week delay between INPADOC data and DOCDB data, i.e. the GPI database updated on Friday at 12.00 hrs CET contains bibliographic data of the current week and legal event data of the previous week. DLELS = 20140101

ANNEX 2

WITH OPERATOR USAGE

GPI document fields having search criteria which can be combined using WITH		
Field name	**Relevant criteria**	**Query example**
Priority	PRC PRN PRK PRD PRXK PRA	prc=us with prd=2000
Applicant	APP APPC	app=dupont with appc=fr
Inventor	INV INVC	inv=dupond with invc=fr
IPC 8 full level	IPC IC8 IPCAD ICF ICFA ICFI	ipc=a61k with ipcad=201601
IPC 8 main group level	IPC IC8 IPCAD ICM ICMA ICMI	ipc=a61k with ipcad=201601
CPC (source: *list of assigning offices*)	CPCA CPCI CPC CPCAD CPCAO CPCV	cpc=a61k with cpcao=EP
C-Set (source: *list of assigning offices*)	CSET CSBS CSAD CSAO	cset=a61k with csao=EP
Citation (applicant, search report, international search report, supplementary search report, examination, international preliminary examination, opposition, appeal, third parties)	CIT CAPP CCAT CPAT CNPL CPAP CNAP CPSR CNSR CPIS CNIS CPSS CNSS CPEP CNEP CPPE CNPE CPOP CNOP OPP CPAL CNAL CPTP CNTP THP	cpsr=us with ccat=x cnsr=WPI with ccat=x

INPADOC legal events	EVD EVCA EVCO EVDE EVED EVOW	evd=201810 with evca=C
DOCDB simple family (publication)	FMPUC FMPUN FMPUK FMPUD ISFMG FMDFE	fmpuc = US with isfmg = yes
DOCDB simple family (application)	FMAPC FMAPN FMAPK FMAPD	fmapc = US with fmapk = W

Notes:

- WITH is designed to be efficient (i) between search criteria of a given field, e.g. CPC symbols and related CPC assigning offices or assignment dates (and not between search criteria of different fields), and (ii) between terms of a given criterion listed above.

- A search will return 0 if it corresponds to a query including WITH (i) between criteria not listed above or (ii) between criteria of different fields listed above or (iii) between terms of a criterion not listed above.

ANNEX 3

RESULT LIST CONTENT DESCRIPTION

Most of the data that can be included in the result list are also displayed in GPI documents and are described in **Annex 4** "Document content description".

The following table describes data that are not fully or partially available as individual fields for display in GPI documents, or where clarification is required.

Column name[2]	Meaning
Inventor (DOCDBA)	Visible content when searching e.g. INVDA = *
Inventor (ORIGINAL)	Visible content when searching e.g. INVO = *
Applicant (DOCDBA)	Visible content when searching e.g. APPDA = *
Applicant (ORIGINAL)	Visible content when searching e.g. APPO = *
Oldest priority date	Visible content when searching e.g. PRD = 2013/01
Abstract source (EN)	Visible content when searching e.g. ABSEN = PAJ
Abstract source (DE)	Visible content when searching e.g. ABSDE = *
Abstract source (FR)	Visible content when searching e.g. ABSFR = *
Abstract source	Abstract source for abstracts that are not in EN DE FR (also not in Chinese, Japanese). Visible content when searching e.g. ABSXX = *
Citation category	Citation categories of all types of search reports. Visible content when searching e.g. CCAT = X or Y
Priority active indicator	Introduced in DOCDB for reasons of DOCDB simple family building. Visible content when searching e.g. PRA = YES

[2] The appearance of columns in the result list is a user preference - see **Preferences** menu, **Result list content**.

Date of first exchange	Date the publication was exchanged for the first time, i.e. extracted from DOCDB and made available to GPI for further data processing. It is usually a Thursday. The dates of further possible exchanges are stored in “Date of last exchange (DOCDB)” – criterion DLE, and “Date of previous exchange (DOCDB)” – criterion DPE. Visible content when searching e.g. DFE = 201601 **Note**: • The calculation of DFE is carried out in the GPI processing line, i.e. it is not a date available in DOCDB data which does not record the whole exchange history of publications. • The calculation of DFE is based on rules using DAD and PUD. Therefore, publications without a publication date do not have a DFE. • DFE can be used for publications exchanged in DOCDB data after 2006 due to different DOCDB data exchange rules before and after 2006. • There can be a number of cases where the real date of first exchange in DOCDB data is not the one calculated.
Is granted	Boolean value indicating whether the publication is a granted patent or not, depending on the data found in DOCDB XML data. Value is "YES" when a publication contains the elements `printed-with-grant` or `not-printed-with-grant`: • `printed-with-grant`: "*date of publication by printing or similar process of document on which grant has taken place on or before the said date*" • `not-printed-with-grant`: "*date of making available to the public by viewing or copying on request of a document on which grant has taken place on or before the said date*" In DOCDB XML data the above two elements are included in a parent element `dates-of-public-availability` which aims at categorising a publication. There are cases where the EPO cannot create content in this element, for example when there are unknown categories or missing publication dates in original bibliographic data. In other words, as a non-negligible number of documents do not have this information at time of indexation and as there might be granted patents not properly categorised, ISG should be used with caution. More information about `dates-of-public-availability`, `printed-with-grant` and `not-printed-with-grant` can be found in the DOCDB user documentation available at this link Boolean value (Y or N) indicating whether the document corresponds to the publication of an application or a granted patent. Visible content when searching e.g. ISG = YES

Date of first exchange (family member)	For a given publication, DFE and FMDFE are identical. See column “Date of first exchange” Visible content when searching e.g. FMDFE = 201912
Is granted (family member)	Boolean value indicating whether the family member is a granted patent or not. For a given publication, ISG and ISFMG are identical. See column “Is granted” Visible content when searching e.g. ISFMG = YES
Date of addition (DOCDB)	Date the publication was added to DOCDB (not the date it was added to GPI). Visible content when searching e.g. DAD = 2000/07/31
Date of last exchange (DOCDB)	Date the publication was last exchanged, i.e. extracted from DOCDB and made available to GPI for further data processing. It is usually a Thursday. Visible content when searching e.g. DLE = 2013.12.19
Date of previous exchange (DOCDB)	Date the publication was previously exchanged, usually a Thursday. Visible content when searching e.g. DPE = 20130613
Document status	Reason for exchange of the publication (values are C for "created", and A for "amended"). Visible content when searching e.g. STA = C
Is family representative	Boolean value (Y or N) indicating whether the publication is the DOCDB simple family representative or not. Visible content when searching e.g. ISFR = YES **Not** all DOCDB simple families have a family representative, even if the family is limited to a single application.
INPADOC legal events	Include event dates, categories, codes and titles. Visible content when searching e.g. EVCA = K
Owner mentioned in the event record	Name included in the INPADOC legal event field “Owner name”. Visible content when searching e.g. EVOW = SIEMENS
Date of last exchange (INPADOC)	Date legal event data was exchanged, i.e. extracted from the legal event database INPADOC and made available to GPI for further data processing (not the date legal event data was added to GPI). Visible content when searching e.g. DLELS = 2018/06

Family ID	All documents belong to a DOCDB simple family identified by a unique identifier (ID). Visible content when searching e.g. FID = 42575793 **Not** all DOCDB simple families have a family representative, even if the family is limited to a single application.
Family size (publications)	Number of publications in the simple family.
Family size (applications)	Number of applications in the simple family.

ANNEX 4

DOCUMENT CONTENT DESCRIPTION

GPI documents displayed in the UI comprise the following sections:

- **Biblio** (mainly DOCDB bibliographic data)
- **Description**
- **Claims**
- **Drawings**
- **Search report**
- **Legal events** (INPADOC data)

This Annex includes a description of fields available in section **Biblio**

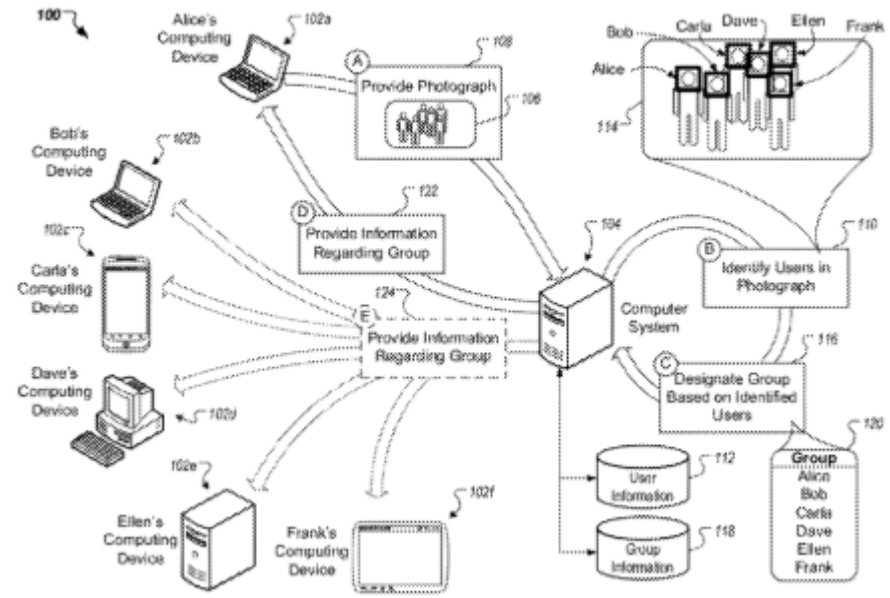
Field name[3]	Meaning / Example
Title (EN)	Title in English. Visible when searching e.g. TIEN =nano* +1w particle* Available as individual column for result list.
Title (DE)	Title in German. Visible when searching e.g. TIDE = * Available as individual column for result list.
Title (FR)	Title in French. Visible when searching e.g. TIFR = nano* +1W particule* Available as individual column for result list.
Title	Title in a language that is not FR EN DE. Visible when searching e.g. TIXX = polimerização +1W aniónica Available as individual column for result list (only titles that are indexed).

[3] Fields are visible where data is available, and provided they have not been removed in the user preferences.

Publication	Publication identifier in DOCDB format including: • country code • publication number • kind code • publication date • publication language (non-PCT documents only) This field is always visible (all documents available in the database have a publication identifier), sometimes without publication date. Examples: **EP 0400192 B1 19950222 (DE)** **SI 20001 A 20000229** **IT CT20000020 U4** Link to the full document, if available, in Espacenet. Available without publication language as default column in the result list. Publication language and date are available as individual columns for the result list.
Preceding publication in same application	Date of preceding publication in same application. Visible when searching e.g. DPP = 2010 Available as individual column for the result list.
Coming into force	Date of coming into force - "Bekanntmachungstag" of DE utility models. Also currently used by some documents in IT ES BG HU GR NL CH SI OA. Visible when searching e.g. DCF = 01/2013 Available as individual column for the result list.

Application	Application identifier in DOCDB format including: • country code • application number • kind code • application date • filing language (PCT documents only) Visible when searching e.g. APC = NO Examples: NO 2007000277 W 20070803 (EN) RO 11775085 A 19850225 Link to: • European Patent Register for EP applications • PATENTSCOPE for PCT applications • Global Dossier for CN applications filed as of 2010/02/10, JP applications (patents and utility models) filed as of 2005/01/01, KR applications (patents and utility models) filed as of 2000/01/01 and US applications filed as of 2003/01/01 Available without filing language as individual column for the result list. Filing language and date available as individual columns for the result list.
Priority	Priority identifier in DOCDB format including: • country code • priority number • kind code • priority date Visible when searching e.g. PRC = US - an active priority (PRA = YES) is included in the priority picture of all simple family members and an inactive priority (PRA = NO) is not included in the priority picture. Example: • US 98046904 A 20041103 • EP 9700523 W 19970204 Available as individual column for the result list. Priority dates and oldest priority available as individual columns for the result list.

Abstract (EN)	Abstract in English. Visible when searching e.g. ABEN = expansible +1W (covering* or coating*) In order to enhance document search ability, the following rule is used at indexation time: If a publication has no English abstract, then the abstract of the DOCDB simple family representative is indexed (or the first one found in the family members if there is no English abstract in the representative). In that case, the publication providing the English abstract is displayed between square brackets at the beginning of the abstract, and can be clicked to access the document in GPI: [origin: CA1111159A1] The disclosure describes a method for producing expansible coverings or coatings, having the ability to re-contract, for filling joints and cracks in facings, walls, ceilings and roofs of old and new structures, industrial surfaces, and structures embedded in the ground. This is done by using a coating agent which can be applied, with existing coating equipment with a brush, roller, or spatula, or by spraying or rolling, and then dried. The coating agent comprises an aqueous emulsion and/or ... A document may have multiple English abstracts from different sources (transcript, translation, etc.). Available as individual column for the result list.
Abstract (DE)	Abstract in German. Visible when searching e.g. ABDE = * Available as individual column for the result list.
Abstract (FR)	Abstract in French. Visible when searching e.g. ABFR = nano* +1W particule* Available as individual column for the result list.
Abstract	Abstract in a language that is not FR EN DE. Visible when searching e.g. ABXX = polimerização +1W aniónica Available as individual column for the result list.

Representative image	Image of a patent document first page accessed via the OPS web service. The underlying image database contains a maximum of one image per DOCDB simple family for the following countries: WO, EP, DE, FR, GB, CH and US. Once a document is published, it usually takes several weeks to produce representative images and make them available across OPS. **Note**: as of 2021, representative images are produced for countries in addition to the ones listed above. If a publication has no representative image, then the application tries to get the image of the family representative. In that case, the family representative publication providing the image is displayed between square brackets above the image, and can be clicked to access the document in GPI: [origin:US2012328163A1] 

Inventor	Inventor data including: • name (DOCDB format) • country of residence Visible when searching e.g. INV = * and INVC = * Examples: MARIANOWSKI LEONARD GEORGE MARIA DE FATIMA BUGALLO DAVIS (CU) Inventor name and country of residence available as individual columns for the result list.
Applicant	Applicant/proprietor data comprising: • name (DOCDB format) • country of residence Visible when searching e.g. APP = * and APPC = * Examples: HONDA MOTOR CO LTD MO ENERGETICHESKIJ INSTITUT (SU) Applicant/proprietor name and country of residence available as individual columns for the result list.
IPC 1-7	Main classification symbols displayed in bold; further and additional classification symbols not displayed in bold. Symbols are links to the WIPO IPC web application. Visible when searching e.g. IC17 = * Example: **A62C2/02**; A62B3/00; E04B1/94; E06B5/16; E06B9/08 IPC 1-7 main and IPC 1-7 further/additional available as individual columns for the result list.

IPC 8 full level	IPC 8 classification symbols – strictly speaking, symbols corresponding to the reformed IPC, i.e. the IPC edition 8 does not exist as such. Invention information displayed in bold; additional information not displayed in bold. All symbols in italics. Symbols are links to the WIPO IPC web application. Visible when searching e.g. ICFI = * and ICFA = * ICF = * Example: **C09K 11/06 (2006.01)**; **H01L 51/50 (2006.01)**; C07D 491/147 (2006.01); C07D 491/16 (2006.01) Invention and additional information available as individual columns for the result list.
IPC 8 main group level	IPC 8 classification symbols – strictly speaking, symbols corresponding to the reformed IPC, i.e. the IPC edition 8 does not exist as such. Invention information displayed in bold; additional information not displayed in bold. Symbols are links to the WIPO IPC web application. Visible when searching e.g. ICMI = * and ICMA = * ICM = * Example: **C07D 249/00 (2006.01)**; **C07D 295/00 (2006.01)**; A01P 21/00 (2006.01); A61K 31/00 (2006.01) Invention and additional information available as individual columns for the result list.

CPC (source: *list of assigning offices*)	Cooperative Patent Classification assigned by CPC assigning offices; invention information displayed in bold, additional information not displayed in bold. **This field is visible for documents available in GPI as of week 36/2019, i.e. in the week of availability of CPC International in DOCDB.** Invention information displayed in bold; additional information not displayed in bold. Symbols are links to the EPO CPC web application. Visible when searching e.g. CPC = * Example (case of a simple family member with CPC symbols assigned by the EPO, KIPO and USPTO, i.e. the simple family includes at least one EP, one KR and one US family members): CPC (source: EP KR US) **C09G 1/02** (2013.01 - EP US); **C09K 3/1436** (2013.01 - KR US); C09K 3/1445 (2013.01 - EP KR) Invention information, additional information and assigning offices are available as individual columns for the result list.
C-Set (source: *list of assigning offices*)	Combination sets assigned by assigning offices. **This field is visible for documents available in GPI as of week 36/2019, i.e. in the week of availability of CPC International in DOCDB.** See Search with combination sets for more information and search examples. Visible when searching e.g. CSET = * Example (case of a simple family member with C-Sets assigned by the EPO, CNIPA and USPTO, i.e. the simple family includes at least one EP, one CN and one US family members): C-Set (source: CN EP US) CN **C08F 220/06** + **C08F 2222/1013** + **C08F 2222/1026** EP US 1. C08F 220/06 + C08F 2222/1013 + C08F 2222/108 + C08F 2222/1026 2. **A61L 15/60** + **C08L 33/02**
US classification	Symbols are links to the USPTO classification web application. Visible when searching e.g. USC = * Example: 073/864010P; 156/256000S; 206/216000S; 206/571000S Available as a column for the result list.

JP classification (FI)	Visible when searching e.g. JPFI = * Example: A61K 49/00; A61K 49/00 A; G01N 33/50 T; G01N 33/50 Z Available as a column for the result list.
JP classification (F-terms)	Visible when searching e.g. JPFT = * Example: 2G045/AA13; 2G045/AA25; 2G045/AA26; 2G045/AA29; 2G045/AA37; 2G045/BA11; 2G045/BB54 Available as a column for the result list.
National classification	All classifications that are not IPC, CPC or JP patent classifications – e.g. Locarno classification for designs, US classification for designs and plants or classification schemes that may no longer be in force. Note that the information “National classification” is stored in the EPO worldwide bibliographic data collection (DOCDB) as provided by patent authorities, i.e. without any standardisation effort. For example, the Locarno subclass 10-01 is sometimes available as “10-01” (e.g. for JP designs) or as “1001” (e.g. for US designs). Visible when searching e.g. NAT = “10-01” or 1001 Example: 1001; D10 96; XD15150 PLT 681 B5B B200 47; B5B B209 47; B5B B35Y 47; B5B B350 47 Available as a column for the result list.

Citation (applicant)	Citations (patent + NPL) made by the applicant. Patent documents listed (in DOCDB format) are links to the corresponding documents in GPI. In contrast to patent publications, patent applications cited by applicants do not link to any publications, as shown in the fictitious example below, where US96663497A is an application number and the other is a publication. Visible when searching e.g. CPAP and CNAP = * Example: • EP 0812089 A2 19971210 - LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC [US] • US 96663497 A 19971110 • R. BRADEN ET AL.: 'RFC', September 1997, NETWORK WORKING GROUP page 2205 Patent citations and NPL citations are available as individual columns for the result list. Application and publication citations are available as individual columns for the result list.
Citation (search report)	Citations (patent + NPL) of the search report, including citation categories. Patent documents listed (in DOCDB format) are links to the corresponding documents in GPI. Visible when searching e.g. CPSR and CNSR = * Example: • [AD] WO 03051934 A2 20030626 - BOREALIS TECH OY [FI], et al • [AD] WO 0148034 A2 20010705 - BASELL POLYPROPYLEN GMBH [DE], et al • [X] DATABASE WPI Week 200351 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; AN 2003-535793 XP002416786 & JP 2002 363356 A (GRAND POLYMER KK) 18 December 2002 (2002-12-18) Patent citations, NPL citations and citation categories are available as individual columns for the result list. For a given document, the content of the citation categories column cumulates all categories of all kinds of search report.

Citation (international search report)	Citations (patent + NPL) of the international search report, including citation categories. Patent documents listed (in DOCDB format) are links to the corresponding documents in GPI. Visible when searching e.g. CPIS and CNIS = * Example: • [XP] KR 20070011532 A 20070124 - CORNING INC [US] • [A] PFEFFER S. ET AL.: 'Viruses, microRNAs and cancer' ONCOGENE vol. 25, no. 46, 09 October 2006, pages 6211 - 6219, XP008112494 Patent citations, NPL citations and citation categories are available as individual columns for the result list. For a given document, the content of the citation categories column cumulates all categories of all kinds of search report.
Citation (supplementary search report)	Citations (patent + NPL) of the supplementary search report, including citation categories. Patent documents listed (in DOCDB format) are links to the corresponding documents in GPI. Visible when searching e.g. CPSS and CNSS = * Example: • [XP] KR 20070011532 A 20070124 - CORNING INC [US] • [A] PFEFFER S. ET AL.: 'Viruses, microRNAs and cancer' ONCOGENE vol. 25, no. 46, 09 October 2006, pages 6211 - 6219, XP008112494 Patent citations, NPL citations and citation categories are available as individual columns for the result list. For a given document, the content of the citation categories column cumulates all categories of all kinds of search report.

Citation (examination)	Citations (patent + NPL) produced during the examination phase. Patent documents listed (in DOCDB format) are links to the corresponding documents in GPI. Visible when searching e.g. CPEP and CNEP = * Example: • US 5921633 A 19990713 - NEIBLING PETER [DE], et al • See also references of WO 2007052805A1 Patent citations and NPL citations are available as individual columns for the result list.
Citation (international preliminary examination)	Citations (patent + NPL) of the international preliminary examination phase, including citation categories. Patent documents listed (in DOCDB format) are links to the corresponding documents in GPI. Visible when searching e.g. CPPE and CNPE = * Example: • US 5921633 A 19990713 - NEIBLING PETER [DE], et al • See also references of WO 2007052805A1 Patent citations and NPL citations are available as individual columns for the result list.
Citation (opposition)	Citations (patent + NPL) produced during the opposition phase. Patent documents listed (in DOCDB format) are links to the corresponding documents in GPI. Visible when searching e.g. CPOP and CNOP and OPP = * Example: Opponent : BASF COATINGS GMBH • US 5997627 A 19991207 - BAEBLER FRIDOLIN [US] • US 5378274 A 19950103 - YOKOYAMA SEIICHIRO [JP], et al • "Beschichtungsstoff" / "coating material", DIN EN ISO, vol. 4618, pages 2015 – 01 • KORRELATION VON HANDELSPRODUKTNAMEN ZU GENERISCHEN C.I.-PIGMENT- BEZEICHNUNGEN Patent citations and NPL citations are available as individual columns for the result list.

Citation (appeal)	Citations (patent + NPL) produced during the appeal phase. Patent documents listed (in DOCDB format) are links to the corresponding documents in GPI. Visible when searching e.g. CPAL and CNAL = * Example: • WO 9728273 A1 19970807 - NORTH AMERICAN VACCINE INC [US] • WO 9629412 A1 19960926 - IAF BIO VAC INC [CA], et al Patent citations and NPL citations are available as individual columns for the result list.
Citation (third parties)	Citations (patent + NPL) provided by third parties. Patent documents listed (in DOCDB format) are links to the corresponding documents in GPI. Visible when searching e.g. CPTP and CNTP and THP = * Example: Third party : Brandstock Legal • US 6013342 A 20000111 - NETO RAFAEL LETTIERE [BR] • EP 1854663 A1 20071114 - POLYMER TEC HALBZEUGE GMBH [DE] Patent citations and NPL citations are available as individual columns for the result list.
Cited by	List of citing patent documents (forward citations) in DOCDB format; it is the result of a hidden search carried out on-the-fly, i.e. citing patent documents are not searchable per se. Each patent document listed is a link to the corresponding document in GPI. Example: US7128061B2; WO2005042924A2

Designated state (PCT)	Visible when searching e.g. DSP = * Example: EP AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IE IT LU MC NL PT SE AU BR CA CN JP KR MX NZ Available as a column for the result list.
Designated contracting state (EPC)	Visible when searching e.g. DCS=* Example: AT BE CH DE ES FR GB IT LI NL SE Available as a column for the result list.
Designated extension state (EPC)	Visible when searching e.g. DXS=* Example: AL BA HR MK YU Available as columns for the result list.
Designated validation state (EPC)	To date, validation state information is not yet available in DOCDB.

DOCDB simple family (publication)	Publications in the simple family. The DOCDB simple family is a concept that groups publications of similar technical content together on the basis of identical priority pictures. A simple family comprises (in DOCDB format): • when available (i.e. ISFR=YES), the DOCDB family representative(s) in bold - more than one if there are several publications for the same application • family members Each patent document listed is a link to the corresponding document in GPI. This field is always visible (all publications belong to a simple family). Example with a DOCDB family representative (in bold): **WO 03046438 A1 20030605**; DE 10158425 C1 20030911; DE 50211573 D1 20080306; EP 1448934 A1 20040825; EP 1448934 B1 20080116; US 2005109215 A1 20050526; US 7325481 B2 20080205 DOCDB family representatives and family members (publications) are available as individual columns for the result list. A significant number of simple families do not have family representatives.
DOCDB simple family (application)	Applications in the simple family. This field is always visible (all applications belong to a simple family). Example (same family as above): **EP 0213508 W 20021129**; DE 10158425 A 20011129; DE 50211573 A 20021129; EP 02785416 A 20021129; US 49722104 A 20040528 DOCDB family representatives and family members (applications) are available as individual columns for the result list. A significant number of simple families do not have family representatives.

INPADOC extended family	Data accessed via the OPS web service, i.e. not searchable. The INPADOC extended family is a concept that groups publications of similar technical content together on the basis of priority pictures where patent documents have at least one priority in common. The publications of an INPADOC extended family are displayed in DOCDB format. Each publication is a link to the corresponding document in GPI. Example: EP0727574A1; AT171760T; DE69600700D1; DE69600700T2; DK727574T3; EP0727574B1; ES2122760T3; JP8338294A; NL9500154A; US5657732A