

What is a Patent?

A patent is an intellectual property right granted by the Government of the United States of America to an inventor “to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States or importing the invention into the United States” for a limited time in exchange for public disclosure of the invention when the patent is granted.

There are three types of U.S. patents:

Utility patents may be granted to anyone who invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, article of manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof.

Design patents may be granted to anyone who invents a new, original, and ornamental design for an article of manufacture.

Plant patents may be granted to anyone who invents or discovers and asexually reproduces any distinct and new variety of plant.

What is a Trademark?

A trademark is a word, phrase, symbol, or design, or a combination thereof, that identifies and distinguishes the source of the goods of one party from those of others.

Where is the PTRC?

The UMass Amherst PTRC Librarian and materials are located in the Science & Engineering Library located in the Lederle Graduate Research Center (LGRC) Lowrise on the north end of the UMass Amherst campus.

Directions:

<http://www.umass.edu/visitorsctr/directions>

LGRC = Lederle Graduate Research Center



Utility Patents

- Machine
- Process
- Article of Manufacture
- Composition of Matter

- Novel
- Useful
- Not Obvious



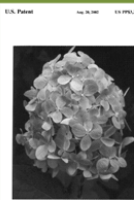
Design Patents

Ornamental design for an article of manufacture



Plant Patents

Asexual reproduction of any distinct and new variety of plant*



Patent and Trademark Resource Center @ UMass Amherst Libraries

UMassAmherst Libraries



The UMass Amherst Libraries
is an officially-designated
Patent and Trademark
Resource Center (PTRC)

What is a Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC)?

Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRCs) are a nationwide network of public, state, and academic libraries designated by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to disseminate patent and trademark information and to support the diverse intellectual property needs of the public. The PTRC Program began in 1871 when federal statute (35 USC 12) first provided for the distribution of printed patents to libraries for use by the public.

UMass Amherst Libraries is one of only two designated PTRCs in Massachusetts (along with Boston Public Library) and one of about eighty in the entire United States.

PTRC Librarians answer specific questions regarding the patent and trademark processes and can help you learn about patent and trademark searching.



What services does the PTRC provide?

The PTRC Librarian can assist with the following:

- Explain where and how to search depending on the level of authority required
- Demonstrate how to use search tools to conduct a patent or trademark search
- Explain the three different types of U.S. patents—Utility, Design, and Plant Patents
- Direct you to information and explain the application process and fee schedule
- Provide access to PTRC location-specific resources such as PubEAST and PubWEST, examiner-based search systems
- Offer assistance on how to do historical patent research
- Provide access to printed color plant patents

PTRC Librarians are not able to provide legal advice, conduct specific patron searches, or help fill in any application forms.

When may I access the PTRC services?

The UMass Amherst Libraries are open to the public for public use.

The Science and Engineering Library is also open to the public for public use.

For library hours visit the UMass Amherst Libraries homepage at: www.library.umass.edu

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Help by the UMass Amherst PTRC librarian is available by appointment only.

I will be on sabbatical focusing on patent and trademark outreach February 1 - July 31, 2016 but would be happy to meet you at your local public library for an appointment.

Email pborrego@library.umass.edu