The Smithtown Library is an officially-designated Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC), part of a nationwide library network maintained by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). PTRCs disseminate patent and trademark information and support the public's diverse intellectual property needs. Smithtown Library staff are not able to conduct patent searches and cannot provide legal advice. The Library's staff can, however, assist patrons in performing their own patent searches and with finding and using other research materials.

As a PTRC, The Smithtown Library offers:

- Free access to patent and trademark documents in various formats.
- Access to the PubWest database for patent searching.
- Resources for historical patent research.
- Patent searching guides and other reference materials on intellectual property.
- USPTO-trained staff.

PTRC resources are located in the Main Building (Smithtown) only. An appointment is recommended. Call the Reference Department at (631) 360-2480 x128 to make an appointment.

Just getting started with patents?

Here are some useful websites, videos, and tools:

General Information Concerning Patents. This guide from the USPTO explains what a patent is and how to get one.

Conducting a Patent Search. A 50-minute presentation from the USPTO, explaining how to conduct a patent search and why it is important to be thorough. [Flash is required.]

Here's a shortcut to the USPTO's search page, where you can search patents from 1790-present and published applications from 2001-present. Google Patents can be another place to start.

Click here for pat2pdf.org, a free site that will create a .pdf file for any patent number.

Here are some shortcut links to patent fees and patent forms.

Looking for an attorney? Click here to search for attorneys and patent agents who are registered to practice before the United States Patent Office.

Just getting started with trademarks?

Basic Facts About Trademarks. This guide from the USPTO explains what a trademark is and how to get one.

Trademark Information Network. The USPTO has created a series of newscast-style videos to help you understand trademarks. Check them out!

These are shortcut links to trademark fees and trademark forms and filing.

Overview of Trademark Law. This overview from the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University included links to United States Codes as well as case studies.

International Patents and Trademarks

International Patent Protection. Links to information at the USPTO site about the Patent Cooperation Treaty, Common Application Format, and more.

Espacenet. Search patent documents worldwide from over 72 countries and regions.

WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) Intellectual Property Digital Library. Search international trademark registrations (Madrid system), international patent applications (PCT), and other databases; access guides, standards, laws, regulations, fees, statistics, FAQs, links, and more.