

Annex 1. Patent search as part of literature review

Literature review is indispensable for confirming the **novelty of your research**.

- ✓ **Search academic papers** for confirming that prior articles do not cover the issue that you are going to discuss. Use of **Google Scholar** is recommended.
- ✓ Check existing technologies through **patent search**, in order to avoid using time and resources for developing the same technology that others have already invented.

How to search patents?

Visit US PTO Website:

<https://www.uspto.gov/patents-application-process/search-patents>



Go to “Quick Search”

Searching Full Text Patents (Since 1976)

Customize a search on all or a selected group of

- [Quick Search](#)
- [Advanced Search](#)
- [Patent Number Search](#)



Put your “research key words” for searching patent applications of similar technologies.

(Add more key words, if the result shows too many)

Repeat until the result shows 10 or less and check each application.

The screenshot shows the USPTO Patent Full-Text and Image Database search page. At the top, there are navigation buttons: Home, Quick, Advanced, Pat. Num, Help, and View Cart. Below these, it states "Data current through November 26, 2019." The search form includes a "Query" field with a "Help" link, two "Term" input fields with "Field 1" and "Field 2" labels, and a dropdown menu for "All Fields". There is also a "Select years" dropdown menu with "1976 to present" selected and a "Full-text" checkbox. A "Search" button and a "リセット" (Reset) button are at the bottom. A small red text note at the bottom of the form reads: "Patents from 1790 through 1975 are searchable only by Issue Date, Patent Number, and Current US Classification. When searching for specific numbers in the Patent Number field, utility patent numbers are entered as one to eight numbers in length, excluding commas (which are optional, as are leading zeroes)."



Analyze results

- ◆ If you find a similar technology, reconsider your research plan.
- ◆ If you cannot uncover any similar technology, start your research.