

Patent Research Instruction Activity Example

Learning Outcome	Workshop attendees will be able to recall that patents typically don't describe inventions as they would appear in a store/on the market and establish beginning methods for approaching patent searching.	10 minutes
Teaching Strategy	<p>Explain the challenges of searching with descriptions and examples for the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Searching patents by their name rarely provides a direct path 2. Patents usually cover concepts and don't specify packaging. 3. Patents are legal documents written frequently by attorneys for patent examiners. The need to think about why the vocabulary used is important. 4. Patents are not peer-reviewed; not a true form of scientific literature. 	
Learning Activity	<p>Using examples of well-known(ish) products/software and provide participants with patent names. Have workshop participants try to guess what the named patent is commonly called. Review each patent with participants.</p> <p>An example would be to use "Liquid filled die agitator containing a die having raised indica on the facets thereof" with a link to US patent 3,119,621 - www.freepatentsonline.com/3119621.pdf</p>	
Comprehension Check	Ask workshop attendees what is surprising about this idea, what they learned from the activity, and what other vocabulary might have been used. Use this as a chance to answer initial questions regarding searching.	