## Patent Public Search - Search results



**Quick Reference Guide 2023** 

Patent Public Search's Advanced Search interface offers a variety of options for displaying search results. Results can be tagged based on attributes you assign to documents or printed in a convenient summary chart.

## **Search results columns**

- 1. In the **Search** pane, enter a search query.
- 2. The **Search Results** view will return a list ordered from newest to oldest. Search terms will appear above the results horizontally; if single color or multi-color highlighting is turned on, they will appear in color. Twenty-nine default column headings appear in a horizontal row above the search results list. Only the left most columns appear immediately in view. Use the bottom sideways scroll to see all of the columns. The default column headings are (from left to right):
  - Select | + | Result# | X | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Document ID | Date Published | Family ID | Pages | Title | CPCI | CPCA | Inventor | Assignee | Application Number | Filing Date | Primary Examiner | Assistant Examiner | OR | X Ref | Notes | Notes/Tagged | Relevancy | C

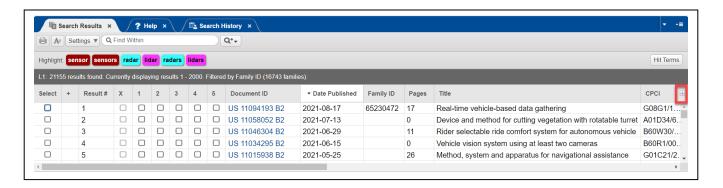


Figure 1. Search Results pane

3. **Selecting which columns to display:** When selected, the plus symbol "+" button to the far right of the column headings bar (indicated by a red rectangle in **Figure 1**) creates a pop-up window showing default column headings as well as additional optional column headings.

Checking will add a column heading. Removing a check will cause a column heading to disappear. See **Figure 2** where plus symbol "+" button is indicated by a red rectangle. Note that up to 26 tag columns may be selected indicated by a number from 1-26 in the column headings listing.

This pop-up window for selecting column headings can also appear by right clicking on any column heading.

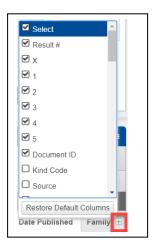


Figure 2. Column headings pop-up window

- 4. **Changing column location order:** To reposition a column, click on its heading and drag to the left or right. The column headings will realign based on the new position of the column you moved.
- 5. "Select" column: When you select a document ID number in the Search Results list, the entire row is highlighted, and the check box in the Select column is automatically checked. The selected document is viewable in the Document Viewer gadget pane. This document will default to text view; selecting the Text/Image View button will toggle from text view to image view; see Figure 3. Text/Image View button appears in the red square. Double-clicking the Select column heading will select all documents in the column.

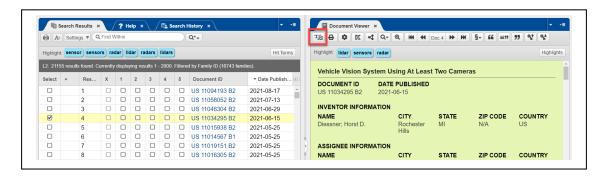


Figure 3. Selected document in Search Results pane appears in Document Viewer pane's text view

6. **Plus "+" column:** If there is an entry in this column, it will have a plus sign and number (e.g. "+2"). Selecting the plus button will insert the related family documents in the immediate row(s) below the document; see **Figure 4**.

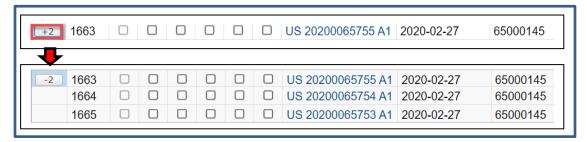


Figure 4. Documents with "+" number have family member(s) that can be displayed

- 7. **Tag columns:** Columns with headings numbered 1-5 are tag columns. You can attribute any characteristic to a particular tag column, then select the corresponding box for a document meeting that attribute. For example, if you want to attribute tag column "1" as "Documents to review further," then those documents receive your check. While column headings numbered 1-5 cannot be renamed in the column heading display, you can maintain a separate list of attributes each column number represents. While the default column display shows columns 1-5, the column headings pop-up window shown in **Figure 2** can be used to add additional columns from 6-26. (Tagged documents have additional useful features in Patent Public Search. See the Quick Reference Guide "Patent Public Search Tagging" for more details.)
- 8. **Order of documents in search results:** Each column in the **Search Results** pane can be resorted from the default order—documents from newest to oldest by date published. A user double-clicks on a column heading and an up or down arrow will appear by the heading. Double-clicking on the arrow will resort the documents in the column. Columns with textual information will be sorted alphabetically (ascending/descending). Columns with numerical information will be sorted numerically. Columns where criteria appear such as "Notes" will rearrange the order so that all selected documents for that column will appear together at the top or bottom of the list depending on the arrow direction.

For example, selecting the down or up arrow in the "Date Published" column heading reverses the order of documents from oldest to newest; see **Figure 5**.

Select	+	Res	Document ID	▲ Date Published	Title
✓		1	US 3076189 A	1963-01-29	Multiple-sensor airborne reconnaissance systems
		2	US 3093822 A	1963-06-11	Electronic visual cue generator
		3	US 3095560 A	1963-06-25	Method and apparatus for determining collision courses
		4	US 3115628 A	1963-12-24	Barometric-radar altitude indicating system
		5	US 3117312 A	1964-01-07	Vertical scale condition indicator

Figure 5. Search Results reordered from oldest to newest date published.

Note arrow symbol in Date published column heading.

9. **Relevancy column:** With the "Relevancy" column, double-clicking the column heading will produce a down arrow. Double-clicking on the arrow will resort the listed documents in order from most relevant to least relevant, a useful feature in keyword searching; see **Figure 6**. Relevancy is based on how many times search terms appear in a document based on an algorithm. Double-clicking on the arrow again will reverse the order of documents by relevancy.

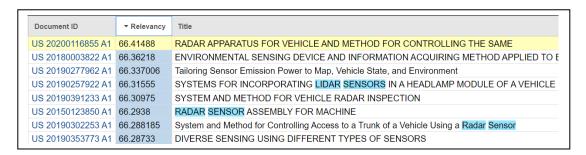
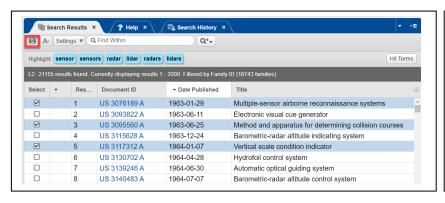


Figure 6. Search Results reordered from most relevant to least relevant. Relevancy column heading is moved to be adjacent to Document ID column in this example.

## Printing search results in a list chart

10. **Printing search results chart:** Any selected documents checked in the "Select" column can be printed as an entry in a list chart by selecting the "Print" button above the results. See **Figure 7** for "Print" button in red square; see **Figure 8** for the resulting printed list chart. Currently, columns in the list chart cannot be modified. (Individual documents cannot be printed from the **Search Results** pane. To print an individual document use the "Print" button above the displayed document in the **Document Viewer** gadget pane.)



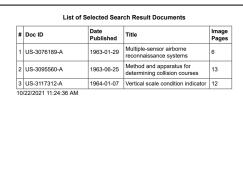


Figure 7. Selected documents in Search Results pane

Figure 8. Printed list chart

## Copying search results to a spreadsheet

11. You can highlight any column in your search results by clicking on a column heading. Holding down the CTRL (Control) key, you can move to any other column. Again, double click on a column heading to select another column; see **Figure 9(a)**. Once you have highlighted all of the columns you want to display in your spreadsheet, right click inside one of the highlighted columns. Select "Copy;" see **Figure 9(b)**. Open up a new blank spreadsheet using spreadsheet software (it is not provided with Patent Public Search). Select a cell; right click and select Paste. See **Figure 9(c)**. The contents of your selected search results columns will appear in the spreadsheet. You can drag the column dividers to make the spreadsheet more readable; see **Figure 9(d)**.

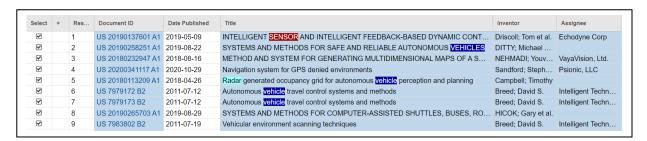


Figure 9(a). Selecting columns.

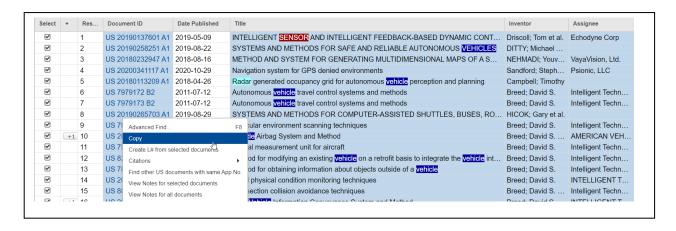


Figure 9(b). Place cursor in a selected column; right click and select Copy.

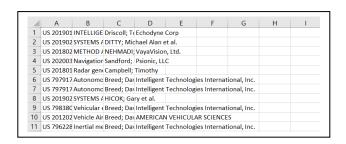


Figure 9(c). Select "Paste" in a new spreadsheet.

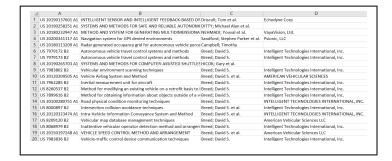


Figure 9(d). Drag column dividers to display text.