Role of Tools & Technologies in Patent Grants

Whether you're an inventor or an examiner at the patent office, having a little help to check for novelty doesn't hurt. As an inventor, you may have hundreds of ideas but not as much resource as you need to back them all. As an examiner, there are thousands of applications waiting for your approval to be patents. How much prior art can you comb through alone?

This need for a resource saving tool is real. Inventors recognize it, and so do patent offices around the world.

Patent Offices the world over has begun taking the assistance of AI to help through the patent examination process. Patent examiners at the USPTO take on average about 22.5 hours to go through a patent application. The USPTO is bringing AI into the fold in a big way. The hope is that effective man hours per application is reduced. They are not the first to the AI party though!

Here's how Patent Offices around the world have made AI a part of their process.

Patent Office	Use of AI
IP Australia	Patent Auto Classification (PAC) tool which aims to analyze the contents of patent applications and predict relevant technology groups enabling prioritization and allocation to appropriate patent examiner sections.
Canadian Intellectual Property Office	Commercially available semantic search tools for assistance in prior art searches and citations
European Patent Office	Have developed business solutions using machine learning and AI for patent classification at various degrees of implementation for patent classification and prior art search
Japan Patent Office	Using text data of examined patent documents and the retrieval history of search queries used in the examinations, to suggest keywords and patent classifications that should be included in search queries
Intellectual Property Office Singapore	Exploring the use of NLP powered AI to run prior art searches in the patent examination process
UK Intellectual Property Office	Small scale trials using commercially available patent search tools including Derwent Innovation

	Experimenting with and developing AI to help in
USPTO	reducing human interference in the patent process.

Here's some free resources and tools available for you as an inventor to help with prior art searches and novelty checks.

Database	Features
Google Patent	Familiar interface, like google search
Espacenet	Easy to create complex search strings with simple inputs
PQAI	AI powered, natural language input with top ten results.
Novelty Checker	Visual representation of ideas and suggestions for idea development.
Patent scope	Authentic access to PCT applications
Freepatentsonline	Unique categorization and listing for patent searches

Some of these tools have become a favorite at patent offices. With you running your ideas through these tools you not only save time and money (read Attorney Fee), but with the patent offices joining the AI bandwagon, they may even tell you how likely you are to get that patent!

Author
Ritu Nichani