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From Our IP Bookshelves

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It can be difficult to find good-quality books on patent topics that serve the needs of non-lawyers. The *Nolo* and *For Dummies* books are popular and accessible but do not include the recent changes in patent law and procedure. The wide-range of users served by Patent and Trademark Resource Centers also benefit from books that address the design thinking that is central to successful inventing and the range of IP protection and marketing needed for successful commercialization. These books may help you fill those needs.

A reliable source of patent information is the Intellectual Property Section of the American Bar Association. Although some topics are primarily of interest to practicing IP attorneys, I recommend reviewing their publications page from time to time to identify those with wider audiences. Publishers that serve the STEM community in academia and industry (e.g. CRC Press, Wiley; see below) are good sources for patent guides in biotechnology, chemistry, engineering, and computer science.

Adams, Dylan O. *Patents Demystified: An Insider's Guide to Protecting Ideas and Inventions*. Chicago: American Bar Asso., Intellectual Property Section, 2015. [$34.95]

The author is a practicing patent attorney, with a background in electrical engineering and biochemistry. The content is organized around the points at which consultation with a patent attorney is suggested/recommended. His description of patent searching does not reference PTRCs or preliminary patent search strategies. Inventors will benefit from his guidance on selecting and working with a patent attorney, as well as an introduction to the patent prosecution process. Adams has a blog associated with the book with some interesting (and sometimes amusing) posts, although none since 2015. –*BJH*

Adams, Stephen. *Information Sources in Patents*, 3rd. Rev. Ed. Munich: De Gruyter Saur, 2012. [$177.99]

Serious patent researchers, inventors, and entrepreneurs should be aware of the patent systems and records in countries around the world, as both potential markets and potential competitors. Adams covers the developed patent world (G7, Australia, EPO) and the emerging IP systems in Asia, India, BRIC nations, and elsewhere. The range of patent search and analysis strategies, including non-patent literature sources is explained. Appendices include classification systems used in different patent offices, glossaries of patent terms, abbreviations, and contact information for databases and libraries. Once you're acquainted with this

book, you'll want to hear Stephen Adams in person, a popular presenter at Patent Information User Group conferences. Well-indexed. –*BJH*

Beauchamp, Christopher. *Invented by Law: Alexander Graham Bell and the Patent That Changed America*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Pr., 2015. [$35.00]

Isaacson, Walter. *The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2014. [$35.00]

I've paired these books together to contrast the perspectives and features that distinguish two responses to a similar challenge in the scholarship and storytelling of invention and patent history. Everyone who has looked behind the headlines and history bullet points of innovation realize that the many layers, paths, links, conflicts and compromise on which the next inventive steps rest. It is a challenge for a researcher and writer to tease out these elements and present them in an accurate, clear, and engaging manner for the reader.

Prof. Beauchamp is a professor of intellectual property and legal history at Brooklyn Law School. His sources include both recent scholarship and archival materials, presented in extensive supporting endnotes, keyed to chapters and pages. Not surprisingly for a legal scholar, Beauchamp includes ample citations to statutes, and case law, as well as a full index column devoted to patent topics. His fluency with the intricacies of patent litigation of the past 200+ years allows him to trace the path of Alexandra Graham Bell's patent claims, including the strategies of his competitors, the evolution of the patent bureaucracy, and the scientific information communities of the time.

Mr. Isaacson, former CNN chairman and author of several popular history books on innovators (*Ben Franklin, Einstein, Steve Jobs, Kissinger)*, makes an even broader IP analysis of computer science, beginning with Ada, Countess of Lovelace, and Charles Babbidge in the 1800's, moving to the birth pangs of artificial intelligence in the twenty-first century.

The many interesting details of personalities and business are sourced in extensive footnotes. With my personal interest in education of the gifted and talented, I especially appreciated learning about the early educational experiences of these cornerstones of today's digital world. I was disappointed, however, with the gaps in content concerning some of today's most significant computer science topics. Linus Torvald's development of Linux, a successful alternative to Microsoft's operating system monopoly and the basis for Android-based cell phones and other technology. Likewise the birth of serious development efforts for artificial intelligence ("AI") occurred at the 1956 Dartmouth Artificial Intelligence Conference. Isaacson's index erroneously refers (briefly) to Dartmouth *University*. It is, since Daniel Webster's famous Supreme Court case, Dartmouth College. Likewise, John Kemeny, Dartmouth mathematics professor, is not mentioned as the developer of the BASIC computer language,

the tool which brought computer programming to all fields of research, not just software engineering.

While both books are engaging and useful, I find the footnotes and indexing of Beauchamp's book more complete and thus more valuable for the researcher. I suspect that the shortcomings of the Isaacson's index may be due to an ironic use of computerized indexing systems, or perhaps a generalist indexer unfamiliar with the people, places, and innovations relevant to his topic. –*BJH*

Davidson, Jeanne R., and Katherine O'Clair. *The Busy Librarian's Guide to Information Literacy in Science and Engineering*. Chicago: American Library Asso., Asso. of College and Research Libraries, 2012. [$32.00, pbk]

Although this book pre-dates AIA and patents are limited to a single chapter in the book, the instructional suggestions, both general and specific, are useful. –*BJH*

Dobyns, Kenneth W. *The Patent Office Pony: A History of the Early Patent Office*. Portsmouth, NH: Docent Pr., 2016. [$17.99, pbk]

Hot off the presses! A new imprint of this key resource for understanding the early history of early American patents, including Colonial-era patents, the evolution of the Constitutional patent system, the destruction and recreation of patent records by fire, the loss of the patent models, and even the Confederate Patent Office. Even if you already own a copy, you will want this nicely printed and softbound new edition. –*BJH*

Docie, Ronald L., Sr. *The Inventor's Bible: How to Market and License Your Brilliant Ideas*, 4th rev. ed. Ten Speed Press, 2015. [$24.99, pbk]

This kind of business advice, while outside the basic patent search, is often what inventors need to succeed with an invention. In 1976, the author invented a "blind spot mirror" for automobiles. The appendices include a list of PTRCs, with contact information, and Docie gives a good summary of the practical application of PTRC resources. He fails, however, to appreciate the rich sources available at libraries for non-patent literature searches. –*BJH*

Docie, Ronald L., Sr. *Dimwit Inventors Pack*. Athens, OH: Docie Development Corp., 2009 - http://www.integrityip.com/Patent_Library/Community/Other/Dimwitinventorpack.pdf

Many useful self-evaluation strategies for independent inventors are included in this online publication, although it pre-dates AIA. –*BJH*

Faux, David H. *Legal Guide to Fashion Design*. Chicago: American Bar Association, Forum on the Entertainment & Sports Industries, 2013. [$49.95]

If your institution serves designers, this resource helps navigate the challenges of intellectual property protection for fashion design. Design patents are an oft-overlooked category of patent. Fashion designers, graphic artists, and others whose original ideas focus on looks rather than function of a product are likely unaware of patents; if these creative artists are part of your user community, this book can a tool for PTRC outreach. –*BJH*

Goldstein, Rich. *ABA Consumer Guide to Obtaining a Patent: A Practical Resource for Helping Entrepreneurs and Innovators Protect Their Ideas*. Chicago: American Bar Association, Intellectual Property Section, 2016. [$19.95, pbk]

This is the most current and accurate guide for self-help for inventors, incorporating changes under the America Invents Act; the For-Dummies guides have not yet been updated. Also, it offers the insights of a patent attorney publishing through the American Bar Association's Intellectual Property Law Section. Explanations of patent law terms (patentable subject matter, non-obviousness, novelty, etc.) are written for the non-lawyer. Basics of prior-art searching are explained. Good index. –*BJH*

Grenier, Lori. *Invent It! Sell It! Bank It!: Make Your Million-Dollar Idea into a Reality*. New York: Random House, 2014. [$26.00]

A popular project for business students revolves around a study of a successful entrepreneur, and many look for a familiar business celebrity, with Lori Grenier (of TV's *Shark Tank* fame) among the most popular subjects. The book focuses on market research (almost exclusively using NPL), and says that it is "better to hire and expert [attorney]," because patents "are notoriously difficult to read and understand." While this is good, practical advice, it's unfortunate that Ms. Grenier does not introduce her readers to the resources of PTRCs. –*BJH*

Inventors and Discoverers: Changing our World. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 1988. [$35.00]

A timeless book, featuring essays about famous inventors written by notable authors. The stories are long enough to provide interesting and little-known details without devolving into clichés. It is extensively illustrated with the wonderful photographs we have come to expect from National Geographic. A great choice to add as a gift with a special bookplate commemorating an event or an accomplishment. –*JC*

Jeter, Michael H. *20 Questions to Ask if You Have a Great Idea or Invention*. Franklin Lakes, NJ: Career Press, 2006. [$19.00, pbk]

Books about inventions are like patents themselves – sometimes the simplest ideas are the most effective. That is certainly true of this slim book. Readers will learn about the different ways to protect an invention, including some great

information on situations where a patent might not be appropriate. Although it was published prior to the AIA legislation, the purpose of the book is to determine how best to protect/pursue your idea, which minimizes that limitation. That said, I would be more likely to fork out the money for a new edition. *–JC*

Kane, Arti. *Crash Course on U.S. Patent Law*. Chicago: American Bar Asso., Intellectual Propert Section, 2016. [$60.00, pbk]

The focus of this book is the legal elements of patenting an invention: subject matter requirements, novelty, non-obviousness, claims drafting, and the patent examination process. This would be of interest to law students and to more sophisticated independent inventors. *–BJH*

Kanbar, Maurice. *Secrets from an Inventor's Notebook: Advice on Inventing Success*. San Francisco: Council Oak Books, 2014. [$24.95]

A successful inventor himself, Kanbar provides practical and strategic advice on alternative strategies for protecting intellectual property and commercializing its valued. Tips on patent searching and prosecution are complemented with tips on manufacturing, licensing, and marketing. Includes resource lists and a basic index. Final 50 pages are blank lined and graph paper for the inventor's own records. *–BJH*

Key, Stephen. *One Simple Idea: Turn Your Dreams into a Licensing Goldmine While Letting Others do the Work*. New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2015. [$25.00]

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The author is an experienced product developer who has had success licensing his inventions to companies such as Walmart, 7-Eleven, and Disney stores. His writing style is quite engaging, with anecdotes that are entertaining without being too preachy. Each of these books contains valuable lessons for the reader who is willing to perform an honest evaluation of their big idea. *–JC*

Khan, B. Zorina. *The Democratization of Invention: Patents and Copyrights in American Economic Development, 1790-1920*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005. [$98.00]

Prof. Khan, an economics professor, published her research on the evolution and effects of the early U.S. intellectual property system, as part the National Bureau of Economic Research's Series on Long-term Factors in Economic Development. She compare the experience in America with that in France and Britain. She presents substantial data analysis of patents, including distribution by region, gender, and occupation and evaluates the effect on patenting of various changes in the law. Prof. Khan concludes that American law "facilitated the entry relatively disadvantaged individuals into the field of technology, enabled them to

specialize in invention, mobilize resources to fund patenting, and commercialize their discoveries." She cites many other aspects of the American system that supported innovators; these are worthy of review in light of the changes in the patent world in the intervening decade. Research-quality footnotes and detailed index. *–BJH*

Lienhardt, John H. *The Engines of Our Ingenuity: An Engineer Looks at Technology and Culture*. New York: Oxford University Pr., 2003. [$19.95, pbk]

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---. *Inventing Modern: Growing Up with X-rays, Skyscrapers, and Tailfins*. New York: Oxford University Pr., 2005. [$33.95, pbk]

Lienhard is the creator and host of the long-running Public Radio International program, "Engines of Our Ingenuity," from the University of Houston. His engaging storytelling of inventive thinking carries through into these three books, where chapters draw together common threads of invention and problem-solving, including some patents. Sources are documented in endnotes; detailed index. *–BJH*

Moella, Arthur P., and Anna Karvellas. *Places of Invention: A Companion to the Exhibition at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Inst. Scholarly Pr., 2015. [$39.95]

A richly illustrated and sourced companion to the Smithsonian exhibit demonstrating the synergy between people, culture, places, and resources to create notable technological advances. An extensive bibliography is especially valuable for researchers of the locales and inventive subjects featured in the exhibition (Silicon Valley, CA; Bronx, NY; Seattle, WA; Medical Valley, MN; Hartford, CT; Peoria, IL; Hollywood, CA; Pittsburgh, PA). If these communities are near yours, check to see if a museum is co-hosting a local exhibit in collaboration with the Smithsonian. Good index. *–BJH*

Parthasarathy, Shobita. *Patent Politics: Life Forms, Markets, and the Public Interest in the United States and Europe*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2017. [$25.95]

I am unsure if this recently published book is representative of the topic, but it is an interesting read. The book focuses on policies surrounding genetically modified organisms, human genes, and stem cells. The author ascertained that there were very few political histories of the US or the European patent systems, so he undertook his own study. He also notes that some of the sources he used have never been analyzed by humanists or social scientists, and might therefore be useful for future analysis. I look forward to reading more on the topic from this author and others. *–JC*

Petroski, Henry. *The Evolution of Useful Things: How Everyday Artifacts – From Forks and Pins to Paper Clips and Zippers – Came to Be as They Are*. New York: Vintage Books, 1994. [$24.00]

Although this book doesn't instruct on patent searching or business plans for inventors, it illustrates the "fix-it" inspiration of many patents. When existing technology frustrates users, an innovator finds a solution. Not everything here relates to patents, but many patented items are identified and discussed in the context of technological evolution. Sources are documented in endnotes; detailed index. *–BJH*

Pursell, Carroll W., ed. *Technology in America: A History of Individuals and Ideas,* 2d ed. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1990. [$35.00]

These essays, written for the American Bicentennial, celebrate the innovators who created many iconic American technologies, as well as the American culture. Several behind-the-scenes innovators. Because these were originally presented as radio broadcasts, there are few internal citations, but there are primary source quotations and patent citations, as well as a bibliography suggested for further reading. *–BJH*

Rimai, Donald S. *Patent Engineering: A Guide to Building a Valuable Patent Portfolio and Controlling the Marketplace*. Beverly, MA: Scrivener Publishing, 2016. [$150.00]

The author is an inventor and intellectual property manager who has recently retired from Eastman Kodak. He has a unique perspective on how to use efficiencies in the patenting process to gain a competitive edge in the marketplace. This book could be subtitled "the rule of fives" because he describes "Five Patent Commandments" and "Five Patent Strategies" in addition to reviewing the role of the patent engineer, and the patent application process. The section on prior art searching is somewhat vague, and he does not mention PTRCs. Each chapter has notes and/or references, although the index to the eBook was incomplete. *–JC*

Rockman, Howard B. *Intellectual Property Law for Engineers and Scientists*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2004. [$129.98]

As the title suggests, this book provides an overview of the areas of intellectual property law most relevant to scientists and engineers. If you can get past the initial "witty" depictions of lawyers, it provides good basic content, including references to major patent cases. At the end of each chapter is a brief profile of an important inventor. There is a bibliography to lead the interested reader to detailed information on listed topics. I see no indication that a new edition is forthcoming, but it would be welcome. Especially for collections that do not support a law school. *–JC*

Schox, Jeffrey. *Not So Obvious: An Introduction to Patent Law and Strategy*. 4th ed. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2015. [$19.95, pbk]

I love this book! It is short and sweet and very easy to read. Concepts are supported with really great examples of relevant case law. As a bonus it even includes information about the AIA, and a useful glossary. *–JC*

Stern, Brett. *Inventors at Work: The Minds and Motivation behind Modern Inventions*. Apress, 2012. [$24.99, pbk]

The author, himself an inventor and industrial designer, reports his interviews with 23 inventors of modern technology. Some are known to the general public: Steve Wozniak, Lonnie Johnson, Tim Leatherman, Ron Popeil. Others are known by their inventive concepts: fuel cells, fiber optics, seed genomes, CMOS active pixel image sensor. This last one is of special interest for me, as the inventor, Eric Fossum attended the Talcott Mountain Science Center, the same STEM education center that two of my children also enjoyed, and he now teaches at Dartmouth College, the *alma mater* of my husband and my son. Interviews with John Calvert and Elizabeth Dougherty (USPTO Office of Innovation and Development) acknowledge the value of support for inventors at the patent office. Stern explores inventors' struggles and paths of education, inspiration, development, patenting, business management, and success, subjects of interest to hopeful inventors and entrepreneurs and also educators and investors. His interview questions emanate from his intimate knowledge of the invention and patent world. Well-indexed. *–BJH*

Szycher, Michael. *Commercialization Secrets for Scientists and Engineers*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2016. [$59.95]

Although written for scientists and engineers, this book presents information that will benefit students, independent inventors, and entrepreneurs as well. It is well organized and thorough, including a large number of helpful figures and charts. The author takes the reader through the myriad steps associated with commercialization. There are chapters on risk; funding; grants; marketing; types of IP; and launching a new product (among others). The chapter on launching a medical device product is especially relevant for senior design students in Bioengineering, with whom I work extensively. Includes an extensive glossary of terms, but no Index. *–JC*