LIB 3010 Spring 2015: Students Choose an Image to Represent Patent Searching

Jan Comfort, *Clemson University*
I believe this pyramid represents patent searching because at first there is so much information to obtain. However using key words, classifications, and other specifications, the information can be methodically narrowed down to match what one is looking for.
From this class, I've learned that there are a lot of pieces that make up the field of intellectual property. If something is missed through the process, it could likely lead to critical setbacks. And similar to how a machine works, if one gear is missing problems will likely ensue as well.
This picture represents the modern way to search patents. You have to search through hundreds of thousands of relevant patents to find the right ones. Similar to how using a magnifying glass focuses in on a word out of thousands around it.
This tetris board represents patent searching because it is full of many pieces of different shapes and colors that fit together to make an image. Similarly, there are many different pieces of a prior art search, including keyword searching, classification searching, and other literature searches that all fit together to give an accurate picture of the IP field surrounding an invention.
I never realized how much knowledge and techniques go into proper patent searching and patent classification. It was eye-opening to see how beneficial the skill of patent searching is as far as making someone a better candidate for a job. And to see the various careers there are in the field of patents, and how useful patent searching is for engineering.
Preparing to patent a device makes me think of a very long staircase. There are many sites to search and documents to read. Each search gets you closer to your goal of patenting a device, but there are a lot of steps to take before it can be done.
I like to think that everything I've learned in this class can fit into an intellectual property tool box that I will carry with me into all future research and development endeavors. We've gained several important tools for searching databases as well as simply understanding the world that is IP, and even heard from expert handymen who use these tools on a daily basis.
“Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime.”
Patent searching seems to be an endless series of repetition. In order to be sure that your invention is novel and non-obvious, prior art must be examined over and over again.
My interpretation of searching for patents is like a pile of tangled wires. …

The more wires, the more difficult to untangle; especially with wires that look very similar.

… It can be a frustrating process but the results are rewarding and you always learn something new.
This represents the feeling you have when you finally find the patent that you were looking for. Without this class, we would never have the ability to finish the race, but now we are well prepared to successfully search for patents.
When effectively utilizing a wrench or even a patent-searching tool, one can be very satisfied with the completed task and I am happy to lay claim to the new tool in my skill-set acquired in this class.
"It's all made out of ticky tacky, it's all done the same." ... To me, this represents patent searching, because when you first look at these patents they all seem about the same. But when you get down into them there is something novel and different, just like in the houses each person is different. It's this difference you have to find, whatever is novel about the patent, to learn from or ensure you do not infringe on.
I took the LIB3010 because I am interested in becoming an inventor. ...Thomas Edison might be the most famous inventor of all time, designing things such as the lightbulb and the first alkaline batteries. To me, inventors and patents are inseparably connected.

“OUR GREATEST WEAKNESS LIES IN GIVING UP. THE MOST CERTAIN WAY TO SUCCEED IS ALWAYS TO TRY JUST ONE MORE TIME.”

THOMAS A. EDISON
Patent searching is about knowing the tools available to you, how to use them, and when to use them. ... So, I think this class was about learning how to use patent searching tools most effectively.
This goofy image reminds me of patent searching, because it is a combination of many generations of systems and techniques combined into one fairly atrocious mess that one must take a class to navigate.
Just as the reader uses this magnifying glass to scour through the thousands of words in this news article, we must use various techniques, databases, and search engines to highlight only a select few patents that we are searching to find amongst millions of them.
This picture reminds me of patent searching as it is looking for something specific within a vast group. ... Hopefully, like this albino turtle, your patent will too become its own unique wonder.
(Patent searchers’) brains get a rigorous work out when faced with coming up with creative strategies to find patents, applications, trademarks, prior art, etc....

I think if my brain had arms, they would be that muscular because I took patent searching!
Patent searching is like a key that has opened the door to my discovery of inventions. Like a key it is the perfect tool for the job, the only tool that truly works.