

2022 Patent Infringement Risk Search - Biotech

INSTRUCTIONS

Prepare and conduct a search. Try as much as possible to describe the steps you take to acquaint yourself with the topic of such a search. Describe how you find and use the necessary information in developing the search query. Your reasons for NOT including certain aspects may also be of importance. Keep a record (history) of the search you conduct in the database of your choice. Explain any factors other than the technical topic that will have an effect on the search. Be as detailed as possible in describing your approach to the search including developing the search strategy, the choices you make in developing the strategy, the database syntax you use and what it means, and reasons for the results you pick.

The majority of the marks will be awarded for the explanation you provide about developing and finalising your search strategy. Do not stop if you find a seemingly perfect hit. By finishing early you might not earn enough marks to pass. There is no perfect set of results.

Notice about uploading documents

You can upload multiple files, but please be aware that you cannot upload more than a maximum of 10 Megabytes for all uploaded files in total. Should the total size of all your files exceed this limit, try to compress the files so that the total of all of the files to be uploaded is under 10 MB (please note zip files cannot be uploaded). Please make sure that your file is compatible with Word / Excel 2007 up to and including Office 365. For example, using Open (Libre-)Office there are options to save such a file as e.g. "Word 2007 – 365 (docx)". There are similar options in other text processing / spreadsheet programmes.

In the event that you experience difficulty in uploading your files, but only then, you may send them by email to exam@gpip.org with an explanation of the problem **WITHIN the allotted time**.

CASE STUDY

Bioleaching of copper-containing ore

Having retired from a large multinational, your old department occasionally sends you search requests when they are too busy to handle in-house.

An ex-colleague has sent you the following search and would like the results sometime in March. You know that she will provide further clarification if you feel the brief is unclear.

Please conduct a patent infringement risk search to cover Germany, France and the UK on the following:

Continuous bioleaching of copper-containing ore with a bacterium that oxidises sulphur.

The process is conducted at a temperature range of 60-80 degrees Celsius, under mechanically agitated conditions, and at a pH maintained at less than 2.5.

The pH is controlled by addition of alkaline earth metal carbonates.

The process can also include a separation step for iron from the ore.