



Assignment Guide for: **MECT 3341** **“Patents and Standards” assignment**

Part I: Find a patent from the last five years and summarize.

What are patents?

A patent for an invention grants a property right for that invention to the inventor. This right is the right to exclude others from making or selling the invention, and it must be enforced by the patent holder.* Patents are public records, which means you can look at them for free, and these days there are ways to find them online. (See below.)

How to find patents:

US Patent and Trademark Office (www.uspto.gov)

Search US Patents (full text available after 1976) and US patent applications. Requires special TIFF reader for images. This is the *official* source for patents and patent information.

Google Patent Search (www.google.com/patents)

Full text search of US Patents, but no access to patent applications. Patent documents shown as PDF, complete with images. Patents are public records, so Google can do this, and you can trust the information.

**paraphrased from the USPTO website FAQ*

Part II: Find a drafting standard that contains two digits in your social security number and summarize.

What are document numbers?

Standards documents put out by standards-granting organizations, such as ANSI, ISO, and ASME, use a classification system to let you know what topical category that standard relates to. Standards documents are labeled according to this system, and that label is the standard's "document number." Most standards related to drafting will have a document number that starts with Y14, since that's the classification given to the drafting category.

Why can't I find standards documents in the library?

Standards documents are not free. Companies and libraries must pay to have the actual standards documents. Standards can be rather pricy, and they are frequently updated as technologies change. Because of these reasons, the library does not own very many actual standards documents.

What can I do instead?

Even if you can't get hold of original standards documents, there are lots of places where you can find summaries of standards or explanations of the standards and descriptions of how they are applied. *For the purposes of your assignment, this is all you're expected to do. And yes, the standards descriptions are supposed to be really short.*

How to find descriptions of standards:

Modern Drafting Practices and Standards Manual (library call number TK 431 .M62 2004)

Published by Genium Publishing, an offshoot of GE. Contains explanations and descriptions of the standards, arranged by topic, complete with relevant diagrams. You can use the manual's section numbers for meeting the social security number requirement above.

NSSN: Search Engine for Standards (www.nssn.org)

Powered by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Search by document number for "Y14" to see drafting standards. View descriptions (called "scope" on the site) without fee.