

Patent and trademark information: Uses and perspectives.

Ed. Virginia A Baldwin.

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The book is written by dynamic, professional and knowledgeable people. It covers a wide range of issues related to patent and trademark accessibility in the international arena and interestingly in Africa. It provides a useful framework and pathway for researching for these invaluable information sources which, due to their nature and form, have been classified as unconventional literature. Because this type of literature is known for its inaccessibility, the book sets a tone for more similar publications addressing the lack of standard bibliographic control in the international community and more especially in underdeveloped countries.

The book does not only provide the historical perspectives, understandings and appreciations of the unconventional literature in the international arena, but also maps out distinct pathways for global accessibility. It adds value to the principles of globalisation by deepening the processes of information navigation and sharing. Due to its simplistic and yet radical presentation it will not only appeal to information practitioners but to all those interested in navigating global information on patents and trademarks.

The language and form of presentation is extremely professional, informative and simplistic.

The first part of the book provides a general overview on patents. It covers the following areas:

- disseminating enemy technical information during World War II
- the seven basic novelty steps applicable to patent searching
- using patent information for historical or genealogical research
- esp@cenet: Europe's network of databases
- how regional patent systems challenges the international searcher
- patent data for technology assessment. Included here are applications, patent databases, retrieval methods and examination of trends in GPS technology.

The second part of the book focuses on trademarks. Firstly, it maps out a pathway in the trademark information maze. Secondly, it focuses on the importance of searching state trademarks and provides web addresses for state company databases in Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

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