



THE
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Press
Release

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Got a Bright Idea? Free Library Patent Classes, Inventor Marketing Forums, and Inventor Council to Assist Cincinnati Inventors

Have you been curious about advertisements for invention promotion firms? The Federal Trade Commission frequently warns that many inventors pay thousands of dollars to promotion firms promising to evaluate, develop, patent and market inventions. Regrettably, many of these firms do little or nothing for very high fees. John Schlipp, Patent & Trademark Librarian in the Main Library's Public Documents & Patents Department, said that "a few local inventors have reported spending as much as \$4,000 with these questionable firms obtaining only a \$75 Provisional Patent Application, a simple preliminary patent search, and a sketchy marketing report, all which the inventor could have done for free at the Library!"

To arm you with questions to ask and determine if a firm is legitimate, the Public Library offers a free United States Patent & Trademark Office guide on invention promotion firm fraud. This free guide may save you thousands of dollars! In addition, the Library regularly offers free programs such as *The Power of Patents* and *From Dreams to Dollars* to help inventors research and market their products.

Additionally, the Inventors' Council of Cincinnati meets at the Main Library on the first Tuesday of each month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The Council is another reputable Cincinnati-area organization that guides inventors. Andrea Brady, president of the local Inventors' Council, said that "the Council helps independent inventors and entrepreneurs learn more about the product development process to get their inventions to market successfully." These free monthly meetings offer local inventors the opportunity to network with other area inventors and learn more about inventions and patents.

All Library inventor programs are free to attend and presented by the Library's Public Documents & Patents Department. These programs are held at the Main Library and some branches. For questions or registration details, contact the Library at (513) 369-6971, email pdpat@cincinnati-library.org, or visit the Public Documents & Patents Department at the Main Library downtown.

The Power of Patents at the Main Library, Meeting Room 3A, 2:30-5:00 p.m.

- Saturday, March 12, 2:30–5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 21, 2:30–5:00 p.m.

From Dreams to Dollars: How to Make Money with Your Invention (all 6:30-8:30 p.m.)

- Thursday, March 17: Hyde Park Branch Library, 2747 Erie Avenue, 369-4456
- Thursday, March 24: Forest Park Branch Library, 655 Waycross Road, 369-4478
- Thursday, April 21: Loveland Branch Library, 369-4476

Check Out The Cincinnati Inventors Database

Celebrating its one-year anniversary in March, *The Cincinnati Inventors Database* is notably one of the Library's first locally produced databases. This is an example of the many innovative programs and resources provided by the Library's Public Documents & Patents Department for local inventors, entrepreneurs, and historians. The Library is one of approximately 80 Patent & Trademark Depository Libraries in the nation, providing virtually all of the same patent library resources as the Patent & Trademark Office in Washington, D.C.

Cincinnati has long been a center of manufacturing and inventing activity. During the 19th century, everything from candles and soap to locomotive engines and furniture were manufactured in the city's bustling factories. Cincinnati is also the home of pioneering inventors such as Granville Woods, the "Black Edison" of the 19th century. Granville's first patent, an Improved Steam Boiler Furnace, is one of the 2,600 patents indexed in this database. The earliest recorded Cincinnati patent is for inventor P. Sarchet in 1814 and his Method of Manufacturing Salt. Mary Jane Pulte's 1862 patent appears to be the first patent granted to a Cincinnati woman, for her Improved Composition of Cleaning Gloves. Procter & Gamble received one its first patents in 1841 for James Gamble's candle molding machine.

The Cincinnati Inventors Database provides an index of United States patents issued to inventors in Hamilton County through the 1880s. Genealogists, historians, students, antique collectors, inventors and others can search for inventors or inventions by keyword, or browse by inventor or invention name. The index citations then link directly to the patent page of the United States Patent & Trademark Office website. See the *Cincinnati Inventor Database* FAQ

web page or the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office website at <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/help/images.htm> for more information.

✓ **Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 513-369-4406 (TDD 369-4409).**

✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.**