

Ronald V. Simmer

Biography

Ron Simmer owns and operates PATEX Research and Consulting Ltd. providing professional patent and trademark search services under the PATSCAN brand. Ron has conducted IP research projects for the academic, research, legal and business community for the past 20 years. Ron performs international searches covering of a wide range of subjects from business methods to fuel cells. Currently, most of PATEX's clients are Canadian and US patent agents.

Skills & Experience Overview

I have operated my own patent research and consulting company (PATEX) for five years after heading the University of BC Library Patent Service (PATSCAN) for 16 years. During this time I performed thousands of patent searches and conducted a range of intellectual property related projects for companies and institutions, some of which are detailed below. I have helped entrepreneurs, inventors, professors, executives, patent agents, and university technology transfer officers to better understand the strategic position of a wide spectrum of technologies. I use state of the art commercial patent databases and data landscaping tools to provide targeted answers to questions regarding patentability, validity, and freedom to operate (infringement).

Professional Experience

In April of 2003 I launched PATEX Research and Consulting Ltd. after leaving the UBC Library. Subsequently PATEX purchased rights to the PATSCAN trademark from the University of BC. PATEX is now a thriving research service headquartered in Burnaby, BC.

1986 to 2003: Developed and operated the Library Patent Service program (PATSCAN) based at the University of British Columbia Library. Responsible for a \$225,000 yearly budget. Supervised a staff of two in conducting over 1,000 patent and trademark searches per year. Coordinated an extensive program of seminars, courses and lectures.

1985-1986: Self Employed Information Consultant in the Vancouver area. Database development and information retrieval for clients such as MacDonald Dettwiler Ltd.

1973-1985: Continuous employment as an information specialist with CanOcean Engineering/Lockheed Petroleum Services involving support of offshore

engineering, hardware design, oil well service, and consulting activities. Developed both engineering library and records management center, supervising a staff of three.

1972-1973: University of Natal Medical School, Durban. Assistant to the head medical librarian.

1971-1972: Capetown Public Library System, Capetown. Operated Green Point Branch Library.

1968-1969: York University Library, Toronto. Science Library Assistant, serials and microforms.

Professional Achievements Over 16 Years with the UBC Library

Developed PATSCAN, a patent depository and search house, serving all post-secondary educational institutions in B.C. to support technology transfer. PATSCAN also operated as a fee-based search service and consultancy to a world-wide private sector clientele.

Collaborated with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office to offer Intellectual Property management courses through the UBC Engineering Extension Service.

Developed teaching materials to support a credit course in IP management for the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

Wrote the quarterly PATSCAN newsletter for seven years, circulated to over 5,000 readers. Designed and provided content for the PATSCAN award-winning website, and created a spectrum of educational and promotional publications on the subject of intellectual property.

Raised over \$16,000 in funds to sponsor a series of Environmental Innovation Contests for post secondary students in British Columbia.

Initiated the continued funding of the UBC Library Patent Service through grants from the BC Ministry of Employment and Investment, totaling over \$1,000,000 to date.

Wrote a study report analyzing 400 patents involving 35 years of seabed mining technology for the International Seabed Authority. The study included creation of a Microsoft Access database to display trends and relationships found in the patent data. Link: ["Patents Issued for Deep Seabed Polymetallic Nodule Exploration and Mining \(1960-1998\)."](#)

Prepared a competitive intelligence report based on patents for Westport Innovations Inc., an engineering company performing research and development into gaseous fuel injection systems for diesel engines.

Conducted a technology licensing study for Dr. James McEwen, head of the B.C. Medical Device Development Center, on the subject of advanced communications and sensor applications for medical and surgical devices.

Generated patent data for UBC Commerce Professor Iain Cockburn for a research paper entitled "Do Patents Matter? Empirical Evidence After GATT", analyzing trends over a decade in international pharmaceutical patents for therapies of tropical diseases.

Business Experience

1981-1989: Owner/operator of "A" Licensed commercial salmon fishing vessel.

1999-2005: Developed and subdivided a land parcel in Mission BC.

Education

1965: B.A., University of British Columbia. English and French Literature.

1970: B.L.S., University of Ottawa. Library Science.

Courses in personnel management, educational communications, computer programming, and marketing.

Memberships

Executive committee, Licensing Executives Society (LES) Vancouver Chapter
Member, Patent and Trademark Association of BC
Assistant editor and board member, LES Canada Education Committee
Member, Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC)
Member, Patent Information Users Group (PIUG)

Personal

Born Winnipeg, 1943. Married, with one child. Enjoy skiing, kayaking, hiking, fly-fishing, sculpting.