

# Inventors Guide to NYPL Resources

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Edwin Land learned about the crystal Herapathite, which he used to make Polaroid polarizer, in a book by Sir David Brewster that he read at The New York Public Library. Land went on to invent instant photography--

--McElheny, Victor K. *Insisting on the Impossible: The Life of Edwin Land*. Reading, Mass: Perseus Books, 1998.

--Brewster, David. *The Kaleidoscope, Its History, Theory and Construction with Its Application to the Fine and Useful Arts*. 2nd ed. London: J. Murray, 1858.

## Books for inventors

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Borrow books, DVDs, eBooks with a Branch Libraries Card. Find them online at: <http://leopac.nypl.org>

Davies, Eryl. *Pockets Inventions*. London: Dorling Kindersley, 1995.

Gibbs, Carroll R. *Black Inventors: From Africa to America: Two Million Years of Invention and Innovation*. Silver Spring, MD: Three Dimensional Pub, 1995.

Giscard d'Estaing, Valérie-Anne. *The Second World Almanac Book of Inventions*. 2nd ed. New York: World Almanac Publications, 1986.

Greenberg, Steve. *Gadget Nation: A Journey Through the Eccentric World of Invention*. New York: Sterling, 2008.

Ikenson, Ben. *Patents: Ingenious Inventions: How They Work and How They Came to Be*. New York: Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, 2004.

Kassinger, Ruth. *Build a Better Mousetrap: Make Classic Inventions, Discover Your Problem-Solving Genius*,

and *Take the Inventor's Challenge*. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons, 2002.

Mason, Stanley I. *Inventing Small Products: For Big Profits, Quickly*. Menlo Park, CA: Crisp Publications, 1997.

Monosoff, Tamara. *Secrets of Millionaire Moms: Learn How They Turned Great Ideas into Booming Businesses-and How You Can Too!* 1st ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2007.

---. *The Mom Inventors Handbook / How to Turn Great Idea into the Next Big Thing*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005.

Parks, Bob. *Makers: All Kinds of People Making Amazing Things in Garages, Basements, and Backyards*. 1st ed. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly Media, 2006.

Petroski, Henry. *Invention by Design: How Engineers Get from Thought to Thing*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1996.

Pressman, David. *Patent It Yourself*. 13th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo, 2008.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. *Toilets, Toasters & Telephones: The How and Why of Everyday Objects*. San Diego, Ca: Browndeer Press, 1998.

Schwartz, Evan I. *Juice: The Creative Fuel That Drives Today's World-Class Inventors*. Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 2004.

Wolfe, Maynard Frank. *Rube Goldberg: Inventions*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000.

## Funding & Licensing

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Berkery, Dermot. *Raising Venture Capital for the Serious Entrepreneur*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2008.

Lander, Jack, and Richard Stim. *All I need is money: how to finance your invention*. Berkeley, CA: Nolo, 2005.

Pearce, Rupert. *Raising Venture Capital. Wiley finance series*. Chichester, West Sussex, England: J. Wiley & Sons, 2006.

Stim, Richard. *License Your Invention*. Berkeley, CA: Nolo, 2004.

---. *Profit from Your Idea: How to Make Smart Licensing Decisions*. 6th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo, 2008.

## Nolo Press eBooks

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Download the full text of these books in Adobe Acrobat format using your Branch Library Card number. Read them on your computer screen or print pages. Many titles also available as physical books to borrow. <http://ebooks.nypl.org>

Grissom, Fred E., *Inventor's Notebook*. 5th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo, 2008.

Lo, Jack, and David Pressman. *How to Make Patent Drawings Yourself*. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2005.

Pressman, David, *Nolo's Patents for Beginners*. 5th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo, 2006.

---. *Patent It Yourself*. 12th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2006.

Stim, Richard, and OverDrive, Inc. *Patent Pending in 24 Hours*. 4th ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 2007.

## Inventor History

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McElheny, Victor K. *Insisting on the Impossible: The Life of Edwin Land*. Reading, Mass: Perseus Books, 1998.

Owen, David. *Copies in seconds: Chester Carlson and the birth of the Xerox machine*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004.

Seabrook, John. *Flash of Genius: And Other True Stories of Invention*. 1st ed. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2008.

Seifer, Marc J. *Wizard: The Life and Times of Nikola Tesla: Biography of a Genius*. Secaucus, N.J: Carol Pub, 1996.

## Magazines

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The library has print and electronic subscriptions to inventors' magazines. With an electronic subscription, the articles may be available from home through one of our databases. Even if you already have your own home/office subscription to a magazine such as

*Inventors' Digest*, electronic access lets you read older articles quickly.

## Inventors' Digest

Provides "idea people" with the answers they need to turn their new product dreams into realities.

<http://www.inventorsdigest.com>

## Entrepreneur

Articles, interviews, business profiles, financing, marketing, advertising and legislative news of note aimed at the small business owner or those planning to start a new or additional business.

<http://www.entrepreneur.com/>

## Reference Books: open shelf

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*These items are on open shelves in the reading room for quick use any time. For even more books in SIBL's closed book stacks, see <http://catnyp.nypl.org>*

Fishman, Stephen. *What Every Inventor Needs to Know About Business & Taxes*. 2nd ed. Berkeley, CA: Nolo, 2005. Call # \*R-SIBL KF3131 .Z9 .F57 [Main work]

Lo, Jack. *How to Make Patent Drawings*. 5th ed. Berkeley: Nolo, 2007. Call # \*R-SIBL T223.U3 L6 2007

Monosoff, Tamara. *The Mom Inventors Handbook / How to Turn Great Idea into the Next Big Thing*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005. Call # \*R-SIBL HD62.5 .M655

## Videos/DVDs

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DVDs to borrow may be ordered from the online catalog for collection from any Branch Library.

*Accidental Inventions 10 Inventions, 10 Extraordinary Stories*. United States: Jumbo Bay Studios, 2004.

Chip Taylor Communications, and TVOntario. *Engineers Everyday Heroes*. Derry, NH: Chip Taylor Communications, 2004.

Goldhil Entertainment (Firm). *Inventions That Changed Our Lives*. Camarillo, CA: Goldhil Entertainment, 2007.



Chester Carlson got his idea for xerography from reading a paper by Albert Einstein at The New York Public Library, giving birth to the Xerox Corporation and providing the principle for every laser printer and copier in the world.

## Inventors' Associations

### **United Inventors' Association**

National 501(c)3 not-for-profit members' association for inventors, established in 1990. Provide information and advice, and act as umbrella organization for local chapters, including the Inventors' Association of Manhattan (below). Inventor service companies and agents can be members and are closely monitored for their ethical standards, although no guarantees can be given. <http://www.uiausa.com/>

### **Inventors' Association of Manhattan**

Established in 2007 as a venue for inventors and professional service providers. The IAM is the local chapter of the United Inventors Association, dedicated to invention education and support. Every month, the IAM features a guest speaker, lively discussions and a post-meeting networking session. Members share stories and helpful tips in a professional, trusting atmosphere. (membership fee and signup to MeetUp.com required to attend) <http://innovation.meetup.com/46/>

### **New York Society of Professional Inventors Inc.**

Non-profit networking association for inventors in and around Farmingdale,

Long Island, New York  
<http://www.geocities.com/nyspi2001/>

## Business Databases at SIBL

**MarketResearch.com Academic** contains hundreds of Market Research Reports available for free to NYPL users with a one-year post-publication delay. Many of these are book-length PDF documents, originally costing thousands of dollars (and usually available in their most recent editions now at that price). For example, *The 2007-2012 World Outlook for Biotechnology* 185 pages long, was published in June 2006 for \$800 and is now free at SIBL.

### **ReferenceUSA.com**

Make your own mailing list based on state, city, zip code, and yellow page headings, sales, and more based on over 14 million companies, including small businesses.

### **Plunkett Research Online**

Industry trends, market research and trends organized in 32 industry research centers. Find statistics, industry data, company contacts, organizations, market trends and more.

## Technology Databases

The library subscribes to specialist magazines and journals in applied science, either in electronic format or as print copies. Do your original research or check for prior art. Databases available at SIBL include:

**Compendex** index of more than 8 million technology articles

**Nature** magazine (full text)

**Web of Science**

Even from your office or home, with a NYPL Branch Library card, you'll have access through the library's website to quality databases, including:

**Academic Search Premier**

**Business & Company Resource Center**

## SCORE Volunteers

SCORE is a volunteer, non-profit association providing free, individual, in-depth counseling onsite at SIBL and training to small businesses and those starting a business.

## Smallbiz.nypl.org

Comprehensive resource site for setting up and running a business in New York City. Download business plans, watch videos on marketing, find service providers and grants in the City. Submit business questions to a librarian. Includes Business Owners' Manual, schedule of talks and events, such as "Free Money for Your Business"

<http://smallbiz.nypl.org>

## Inventors Trade Show

### **Yankee Invention Exposition**

Three-day meeting and exhibition for inventors, engineers, businesses and professional service providers. Held every October since 1995 in downtown Waterbury, Conn.

<http://www.yankeeinventionexpo.org>

## Patents

SIBL is an original depository library for the US Patent Office, a special status that means it holds many patents in print or microfilm and has access to information and USPTO training for librarians. Patents and other information are available on these web sites:

### **US Patent & Trademark Office**

Search patents, learn about applications, check complaints against service providers. Inventors' resource page: <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/iip/>

### **Espacenet**

Download complete PDF full text of European, US and Japanese patents <http://ep.espacenet.com/>

### **Google Patents**

Use the acclaimed search engine to find patents (hint: choose 'advanced search') <http://www.google.com/patents>

## Free Classes at SIBL

Classes run in a bi-weekly cycle; consult the SIBL web site for current schedule. Hands-on teaching using computer classrooms on SIBL's lower level.

### **Introduction to Patents**

General overview of patents and patent resources at SIBL. Covers basic steps in conducting a patent search at SIBL.

### **Engineering Research with Compendex**

Covers special features and search strategies of the best interdisciplinary engineering database in the world.

### **Introduction to Trademarks**

Overview of trademarks and trademark resources at SIBL: steps for conducting a trademark search at SIBL; registering a trademark with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office.

## Wireless Internet

Connect your portable computer to the library's wireless or Ethernet networks in the Salomon Reading Room, access both the Internet and subscription databases at the same time. For communication settings, please visit the reference desk for a guide sheet. Download articles to your own hard drive at the same time as keeping in touch by email and the Internet.

Science, Industry and Business Library  
The New York Public Library  
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<http://www.nypl.org/research/sibl/science>

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