

## INDEX for evaluating databases and searches

The INDEX command is a cost-effective way to determine which STN databases contain the information you need. With INDEX, you can efficiently:

- Find the databases that cover your search topic
- Rank databases according to relevance to your search topic (the greatest number of hits)
- Enter and search the databases with the greatest number of hits

### Find databases that cover your search topic.

- 1 Use INDEX to enter the databases or clusters that contain information about your topic.

The databases in this index are listed.

- 2 Search your strategy.

Each database in the index list is scanned.

The number of databases with one or more answers is listed, as well as the number of answers found.

A query L-number is created.

=> INDEX PATENTS

```
INDEX 'CAPLUS, CASREACT, CROPU, DGENE, ENCOMPPAT,
      ENCOMPPAT2, EPFULL, FRANCEPAT, FRFULL, FSTA,
      GBFULL, IFIPAT, IMSPATENTS, INPADOCDB, INPAFAMDB,
      JAPIO, KOREAPAT, LITALERT, NTIS, PAPERCHEM2,
      PATDD, PATDPA, PATDPAFULL, PATDPASPC, PCI,
      PCTFULL, PCTGEN, ...' ENTERED AT 14:12:55 ON 12
      JUN 2008
```

43 FILES IN THE FILE LIST IN STNINDEX

Enter SET DETAIL ON to see search term postings or to view search error messages that display as 0\* with SET DETAIL OFF.

=> S SILICON MATRIX AND GENERAL ELECTRIC/PA

```
      5 FILE CAPLUS
     17 FILE EPFULL
      6 FILE GBFULL
     22 FILE IFIPAT
      8 FILE INPADOCDB
      6 FILE INPAFAMDB
  23 FILES SEARCHED...
     0* FILE PATDPASPC
      5 FILE PCI
      1 FILE PCTFULL
     59 FILE USPATFULL
     11 FILE USPAT2
     18 FILE WPIDS
     18 FILE WPINDEX
```

12 FILES HAVE ONE OR MORE ANSWERS, 43 FILES SEARCHED  
IN STNINDEX

L1 QUE SILICON MATRIX AND GENERAL ELECTRIC/PA

**Rank databases according to relevance to your search topic.**

- 1 Use *D RANK* to order the databases by number of answers.

Each database with answers is given an *F-number* with *F1* being the database with the most answers.

```
=> D RANK
F1          59  USPATFULL
F2          22  IFIPAT
F3          18  WPIDS
F4          18  WPINDEX
F5          17  EPFULL
F6          11  USPAT2
F7           8  INPADOCDB
F8           6  GBFULL
F9           6  INPAFAMDB
F10         5  CAPLUS
F11         5  PCI
F12         1  PCTFULL
```

**Enter and search databases with the greatest occurrence of hits.**

- 1 Use the *F-numbers* from *D RANK* in the *FILE* command to quickly create a multifile environment.

- 2 Enter *SET MSTEPS ON* to create an *L-number* for a search in each database in the multifile search.

- 3 Search the query.

```
=> FILE F1-F2, F4-F11
FILES 'USPATFULL, IFIPAT, WPINDEX, EPFULL, USPAT2,
INPADOCDB, GBFULL, INPAFAMDB, CAPLUS, PCI' ENTERED AT
14:14:55 ON 12 JUN 2008

10 FILES IN THE FILE LIST

=> SET MSTEPS ON
SET COMMAND COMPLETED

=> S L1
L2          59  FILE USPATFULL
L3          22  FILE IFIPAT
L4          18  FILE WPINDEX
L5          17  FILE EPFULL
L6          11  FILE USPAT2
L7           8  FILE INPADOCDB
L8           6  FILE GBFULL
L9           6  FILE INPAFAMDB
L10         5  FILE CAPLUS
L11         5  FILE PCI

TOTAL FOR ALL FILES
L12         157 L1
```

**For more information**

Enter *HELP INDEX* at an arrow prompt.



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