

Espacenet - Guide to keyboard accessibility

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1. Introduction

Whether as a personal preference, for ergonomic reasons or due to a physical impairment, it is very important for some users to be able to use the keyboard instead of the mouse to navigate through Espacenet.

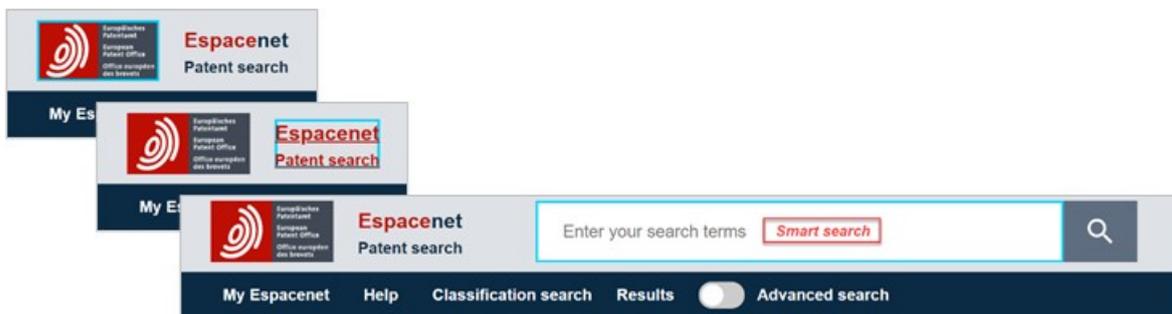
This guide explains in detail how to use the main functionalities of Espacenet without a single mouse-click.

2. Standard keys

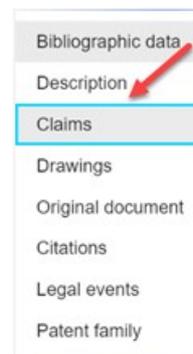
You can navigate through the different interface elements (e.g. links, buttons, search fields) using the standard keys shown below. Keyboard accessibility in Espacenet complies with the recommendations of the W3C's [WAI-ARIA 1.0 Authoring Practices](#).

- Use the **Tab** key  to move to the next element and **Shift**  + **Tab**  to go back.

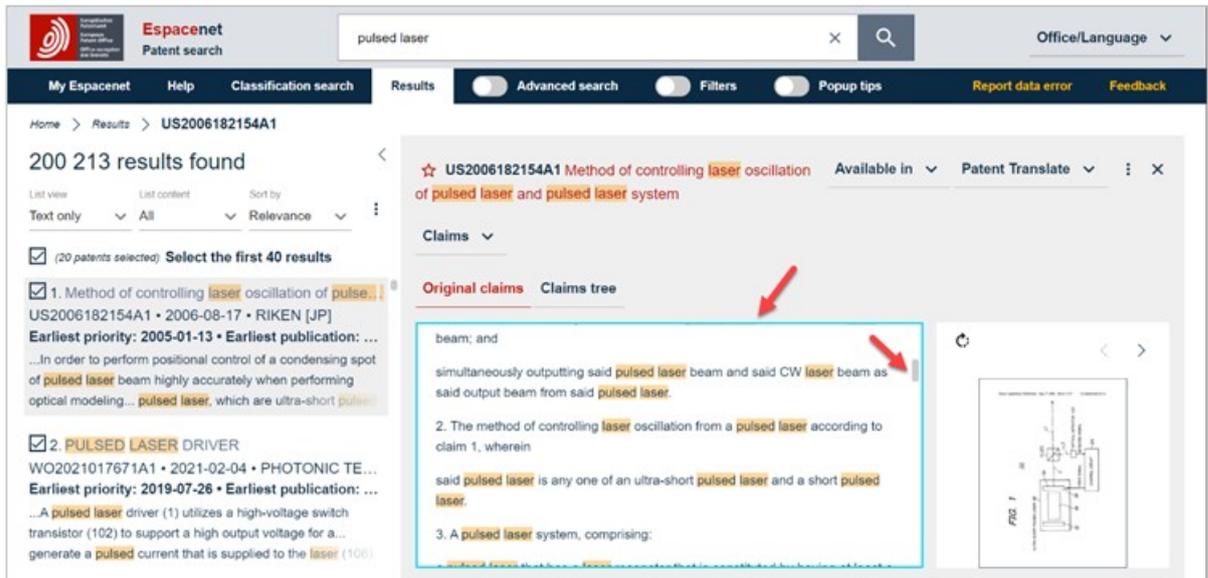
The element your keyboard focus is on at any given time is visually highlighted. Google Chrome, for instance, uses a blue border for this.



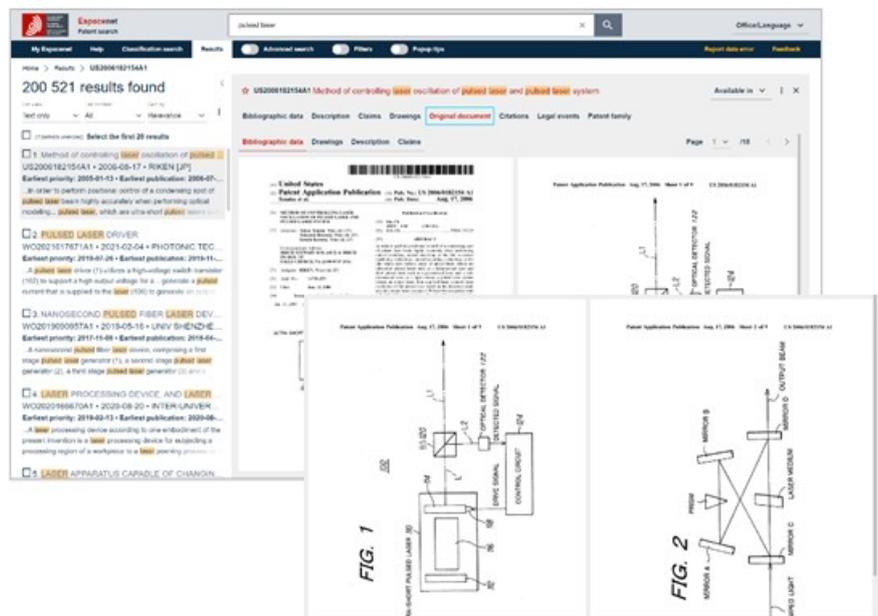
- Press **Enter**  (or the **Space** bar ) to activate a link or button or to open or close a drop-down menu. For example, if your focus is on an element that has a  or  symbol, pressing Enter or the Space bar will open the related drop-down menu.
- Use the **Down**  and **Up**  arrow keys to move through the menu items. Hint: another way to go to a menu item is to type its first letter.



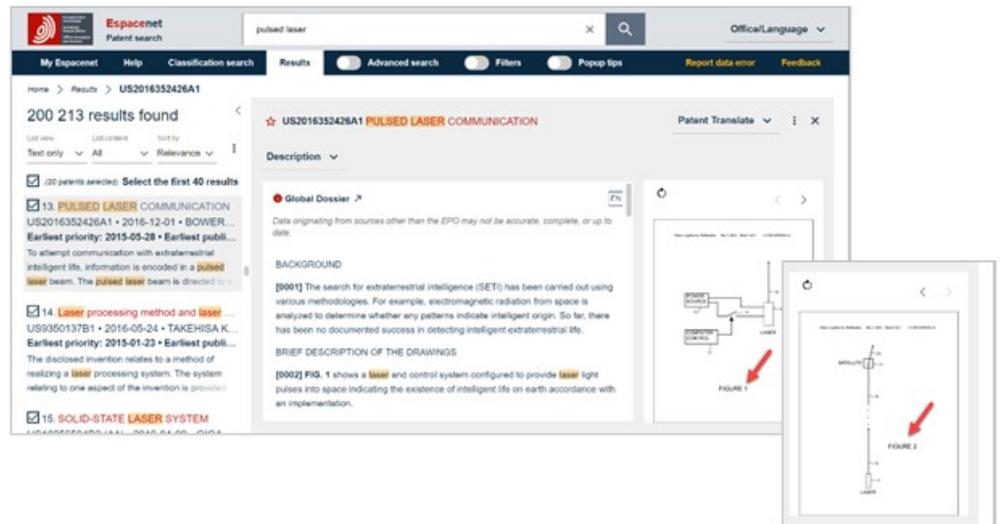
- Use **Esc**  to close a popup (i.e. works the same as clicking the **Close** button  in the top right-hand corner).
- Use **Page down**  (or the **Space bar** ) and **Page up**  (or **Shift**  + **Space** ) to move the scrollbar and navigate up and down through the section you are viewing.



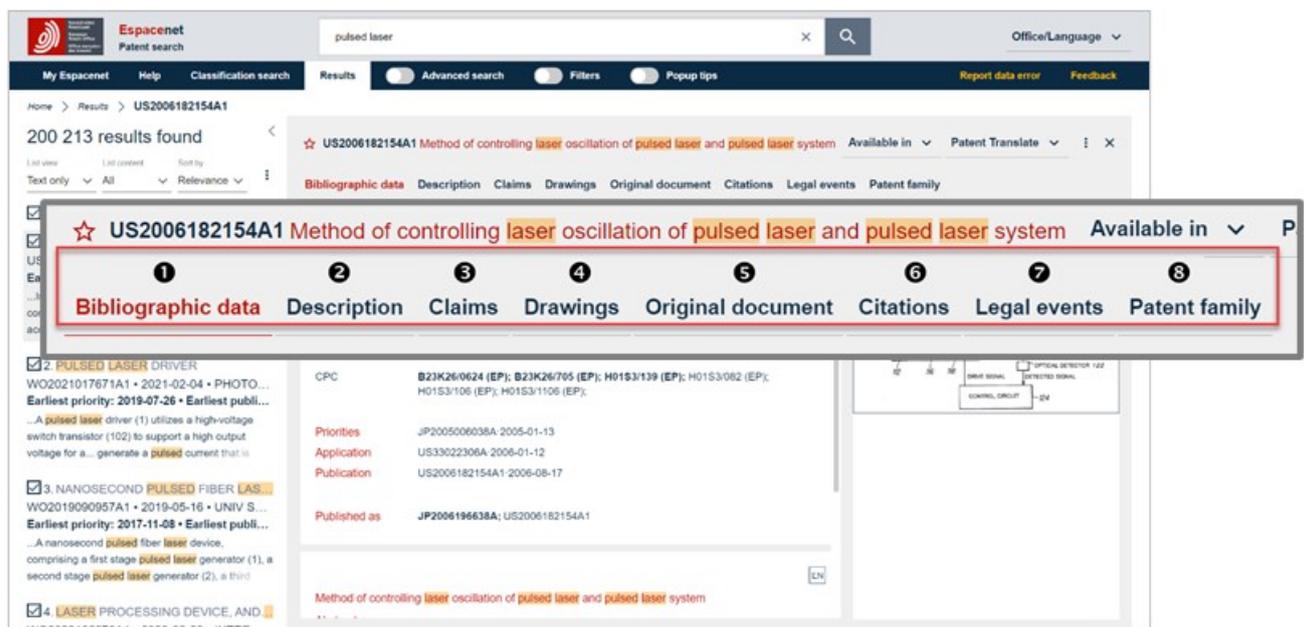
- Use the **Right**  and **Left**  arrow keys to go from one page to the next and back in the **Original document view** ...



... or from one drawing to another in the **Bibliographic data**, **Description** or **Claims** views

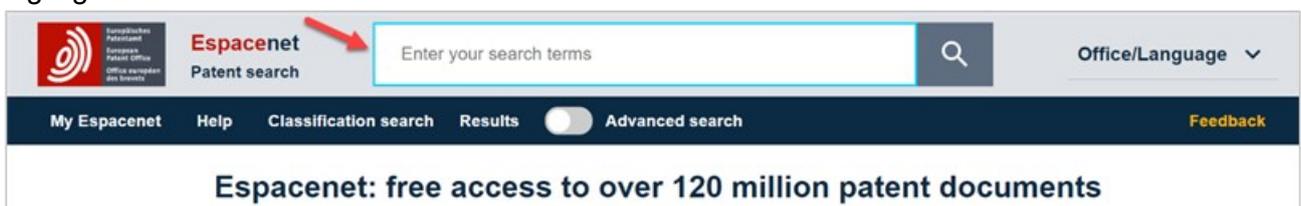


- Use the **numeric keys** to go to the various document views. The views are numbered in the order of display: **1 Bibliographic data**, **2 Description**, **3 Claims**, etc. Simply press the appropriate numeric key to go to the view you want.

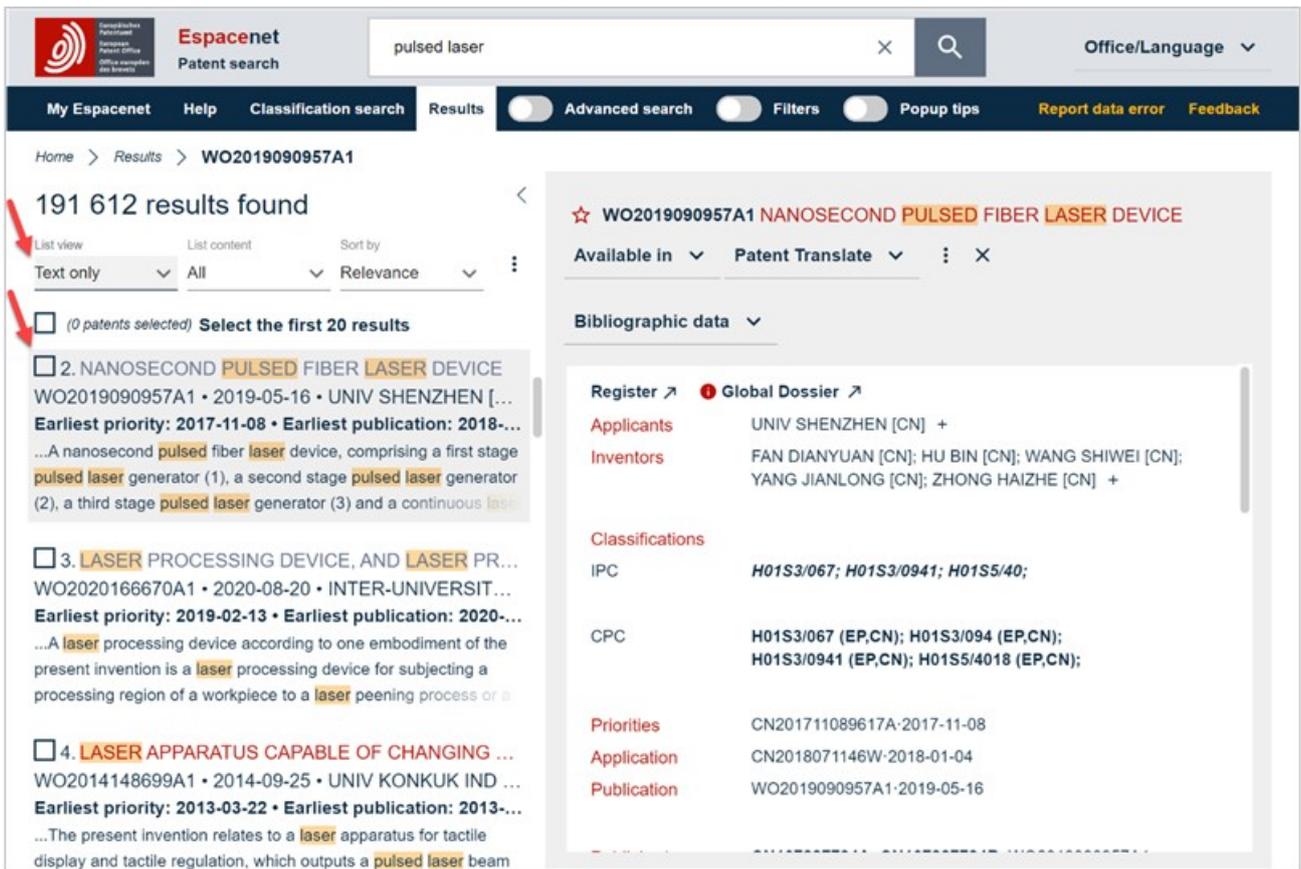


3. Focus

When an element (e.g. links, buttons, search fields) is accessed via keyboard navigation, it is identified by a "focus ring". In Google Chrome, for instance, focused elements are usually highlighted with a blue border.



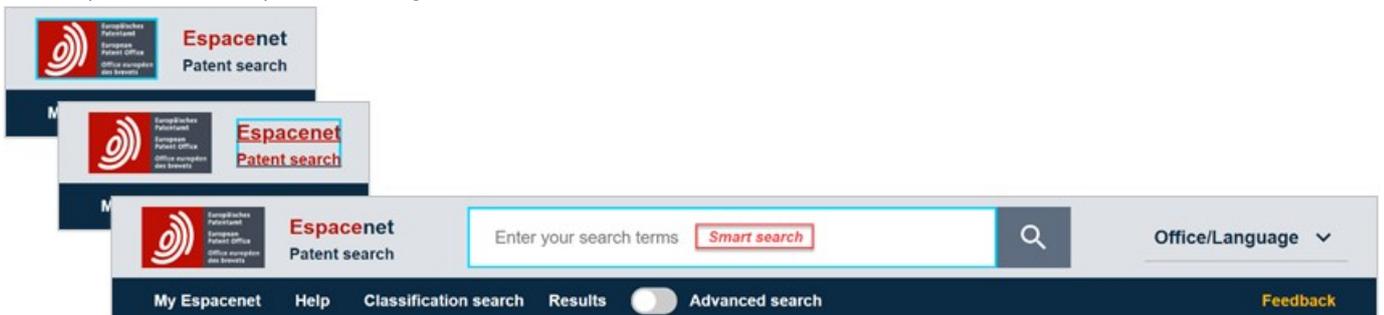
However, in the **Results** list and the document pane, some focused elements are identified by a greyed-out area instead, e.g. the result you are currently viewing and the toolbar elements which allow you to choose your display preferences.



4. Running a search

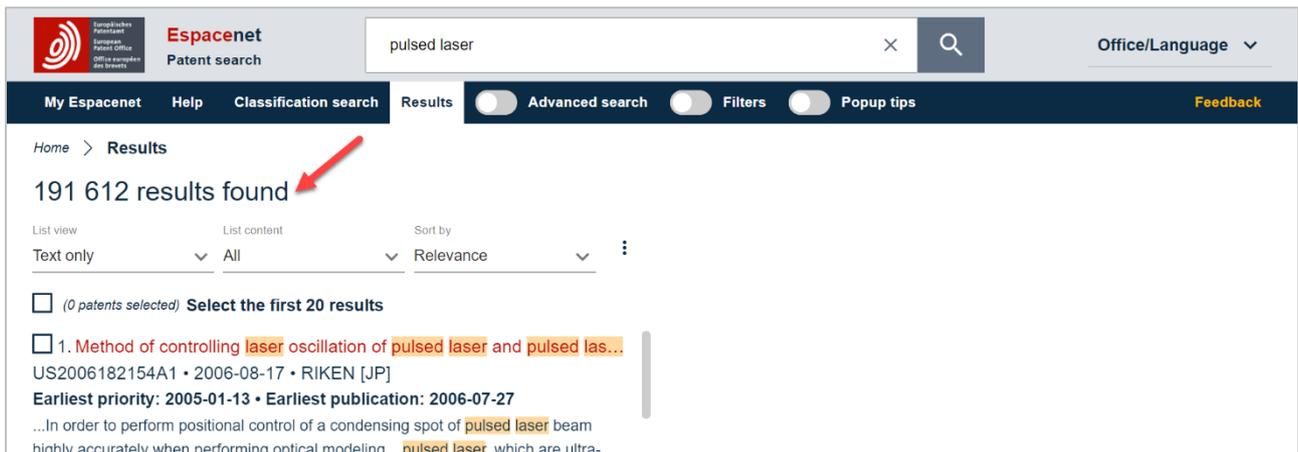
4.1. Smart search

Once you have opened Espacenet, press the **Tab** key as many times as needed to have your focus ("blue border") on the single-line search form, called **Smart search**.



Then enter your keyword(s).

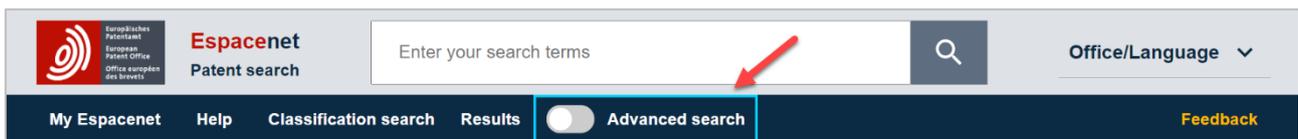




If you need to refine your search, i.e. add or remove search terms to/from your query, hold **Shift** and press **Tab** as many times as needed to go back to the **Smart search** form.

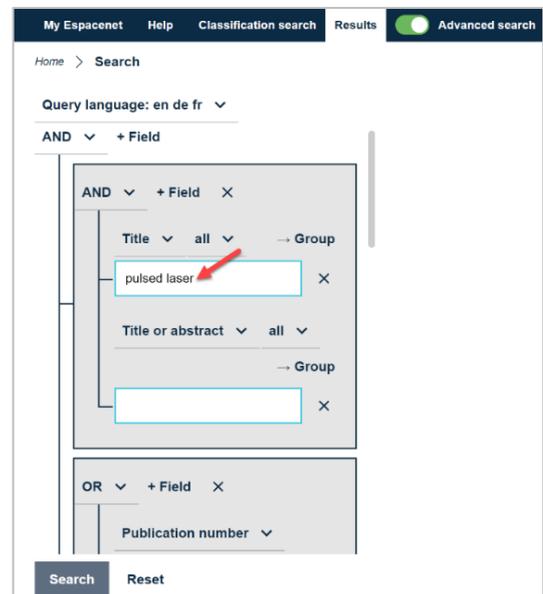
4.2. Advanced search

The principle is the same if you want to use the **Advanced search** form instead. Use **Tab** or **Shift + Tab** to move your focus to the **Advanced search** radio button (toggle) in the navigation bar.



Press **Enter** to open the **Advanced search** form.

Press **Tab** as many times as needed to move your focus to the search fields where you want to type in your keywords.



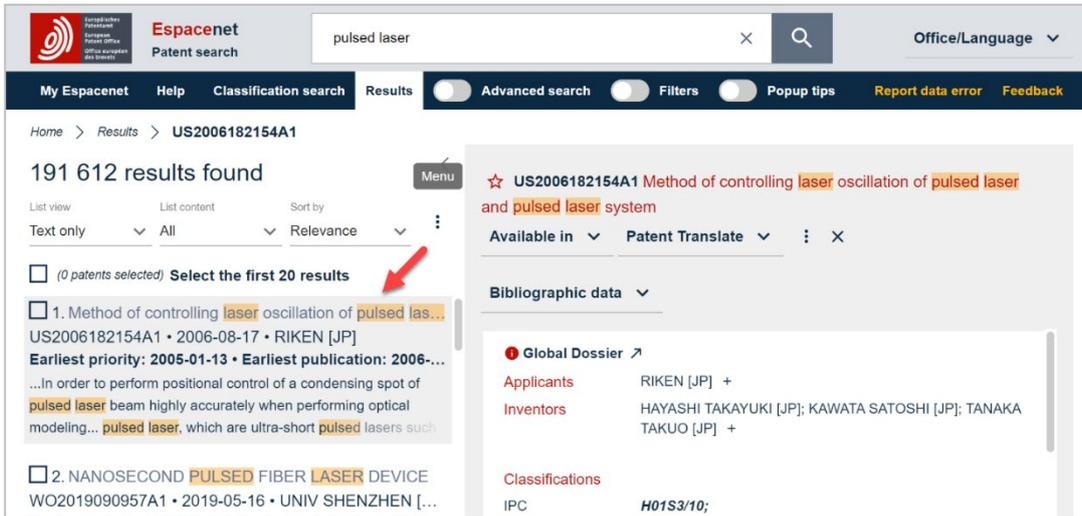
Then press **Enter** to run your search.

If you want, you can also add fields or groups, as well as change operators or search field types. The availability of drop-down menus is identified by a **:** or **v** symbol. To open them, press **Enter** when your focus is on the element next to which the symbol is displayed. You can then navigate through the drop-down menu using the **Down** or **Up** arrow or else you can access the menu item directly by typing its **first letter**. Pressing **Enter** will apply the selected item.

5. Using the Results list information

5.1. Navigating

To go straight to the first document in the list produced after running your search, simply press the **Down** arrow. The result you focus on is greyed out instead of being highlighted by a blue border.



The screenshot shows the Espacenet search results page for the query "pulsed laser". The search results list shows 191,612 results found. The first result is selected and highlighted in grey. A red arrow points to the "Select the first 20 results" button. The right-hand pane displays detailed bibliographic data for the selected patent, including the title, applicants, inventors, and classifications.

When you access the first result, the document pane containing detailed document information (**Bibliographic data, Description, Claims, etc.**) opens automatically on the right.

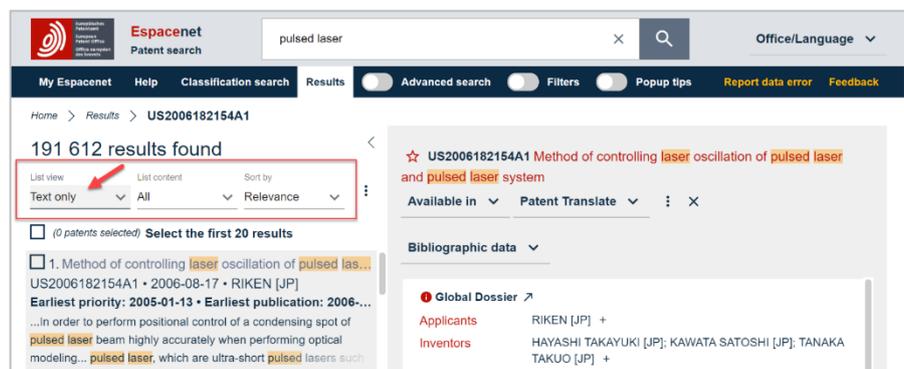
To browse the **Results** list, press the **Down** and **Up** arrow keys or, if you prefer, the **N** and **P** keys.

The **Results** list and the document pane are "sticky". This means that, as you navigate through the list, the detailed document information view in the right-hand pane will always correspond to the currently focused result.

5.2. Choosing your display

To access the various display options, i.e. for the **List view, List content** or **Sort by** elements, use **Tab** or **Shift + Tab** to move your focus to one of the displayed views (e.g. **List view – Text only v**). The focused element is identified by a greyed-out area. The v symbol shows that you can open a drop-down menu.

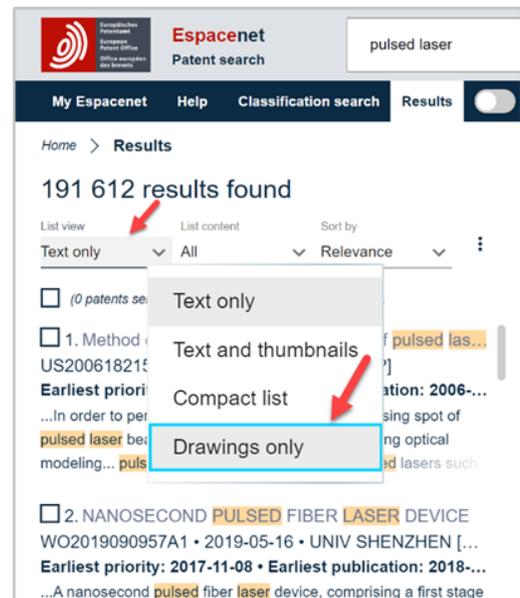
To open a drop-down menu, press **Enter**. To navigate in the menu, use the **Down** and **Up** arrows or type the first letter of the item that you want to select. To apply the selected display, press **Enter**.



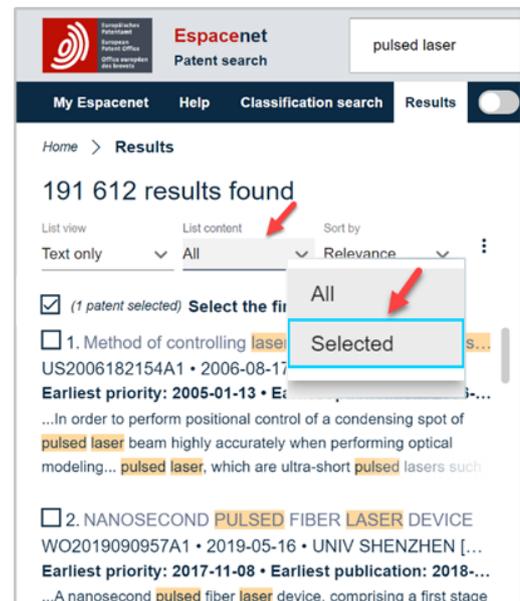
The screenshot shows the Espacenet search results page for the query "pulsed laser". The search results list shows 191,612 results found. The first result is selected and highlighted in grey. A red arrow points to the "List view" dropdown menu. The right-hand pane displays detailed bibliographic data for the selected patent, including the title, applicants, inventors, and classifications.

Display options:

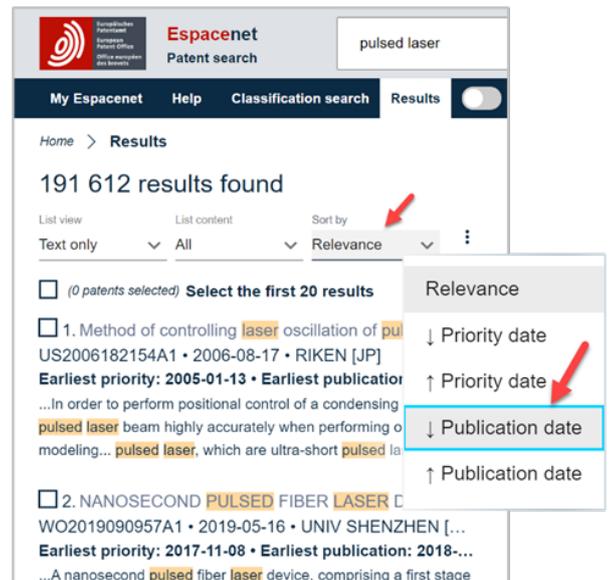
- **List view** – choose any of the following views: **Text only**, **Text and thumbnails**, **Compact list** or **Drawings only**



- **List content** - Select **All** hits or only the **Selected** ones



- **Sort by** - Sort the list by **Relevance**, descending or ascending **Priority date** or descending or ascending **Publication date**



5.3. Selecting specific results

To download or print specific result in the **Results** list or add them to **My patents**, you first need to select them. To select a result using the keyboard, navigate to it in the list using the **Down** or **Up** arrow and press **Enter** when your focus (greyed-out area) is on it.

A check will then appear in the box to the left of the selected result. You can select as many results as you want in the same way. If you want to deselect a result, press **Enter** again

The screenshot shows the Espacenet search results page for the query "pulsed laser". The page displays 191,612 results found. The second result, "2. NANOSECOND PULSED FIBER LASER DEVICE" (WO2019090957A1), is selected, indicated by a checked checkbox and a red arrow. The right-hand side of the page shows detailed bibliographic data for this patent, including applicants (UNIV SHENZHEN [CN]), inventors (FAN DIANYUAN [CN], HU BIN [CN], WANG SHIWEI [CN], YANG JIANLONG [CN], ZHONG HAIZHE [CN]), classifications (IPC: H01S3/067, H01S3/0941, H01S5/40; CPC: H01S3/067 (EP,CN), H01S3/094 (EP,CN), H01S3/0941 (EP,CN), H01S5/4018 (EP,CN)), and publication information (CN201711089617A-2017-11-08, CN2018071146W-2018-01-04, WO2019090957A1-2019-05-16).

Once you have selected all the results you want, you can download, print or add them to **My patents** via the *three dots* (⋮) (see 5.4 below).

5.4. Downloading, printing or using other features

To download and print results or access other features applicable to the **Results** list, go to the *three dots* (⋮) on the top right-hand side of the list.

When your focus is on the *three dots* (⋮) (using **Tab** or **Shift + Tab** to get there), press **Enter** to open the drop-down menu.

The following illustrates how to download the **Results** list in xlxs format.

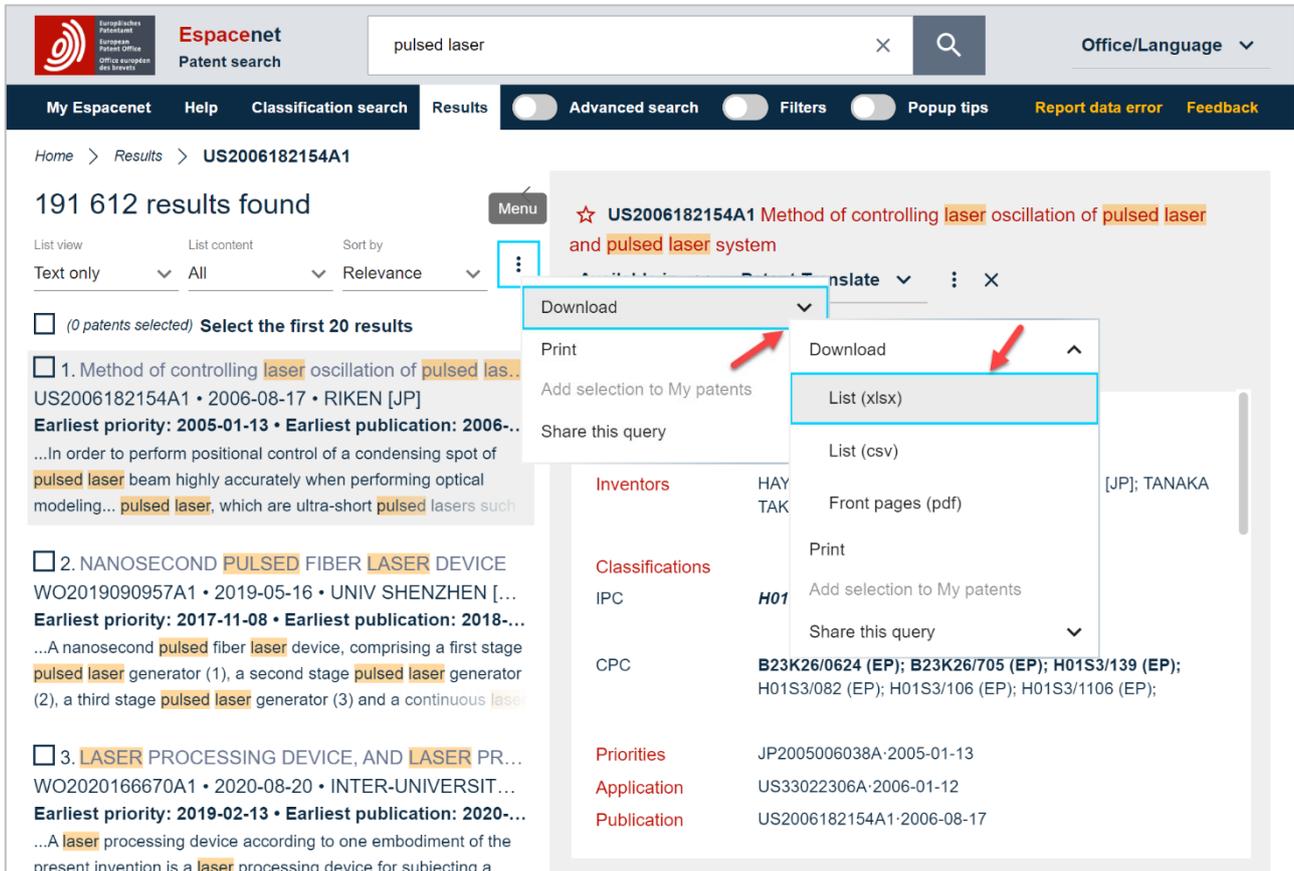
To select **Download**, press the **Down** arrow or type the **first** letter (Download).

The v symbol next to **Download** indicates that there is another drop-down menu to be opened.

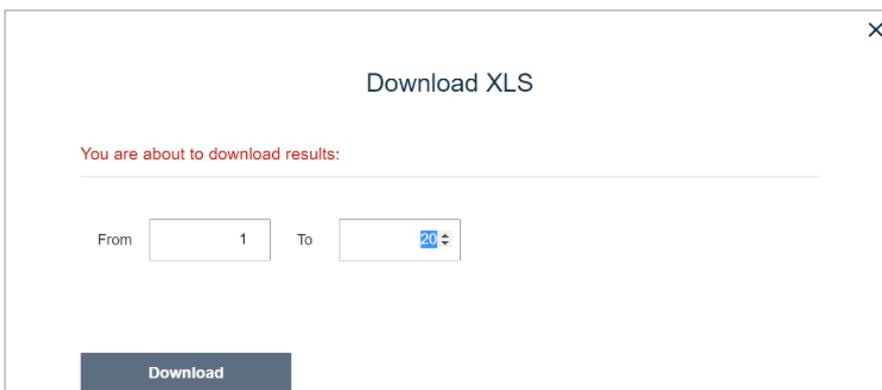
Press **Enter** to open it.

To select **List (xlsx)**, press the **Down** arrow again or type the **first** letter (List (xlsx)).

Press **Enter** to launch the download of the selected results in xlsx format.



Press **Enter** to open a popup which allows you to select the number of results you want to download. Then go to the **Download** button (using **Tab** or **Shift + Tab** to get there) and press **Enter** to launch the download action.



To exit the download popup, press **Esc**.

Note:

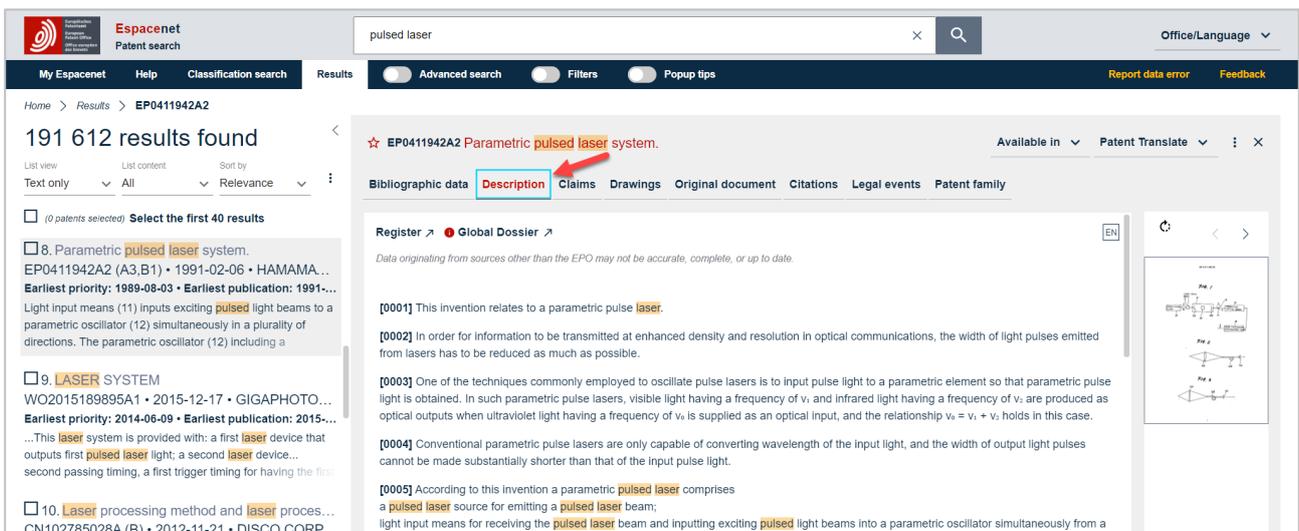
You can download a maximum of 500 results.

6. Using the detailed document information

6.1. Accessing a specific document view

Various document views can be displayed to the right of the **Results** list (**Bibliographic data**, **Description**, **Claims**, etc.). They can be accessed either via a navigation toolbar or a drop-down menu, depending on the device and zoom level used.

When the document views are accessible via a navigation bar, use **Tab** or **Shift + Tab** to move your focus to the view tab you want (e.g. **Description**) and press **Enter** to open the view.

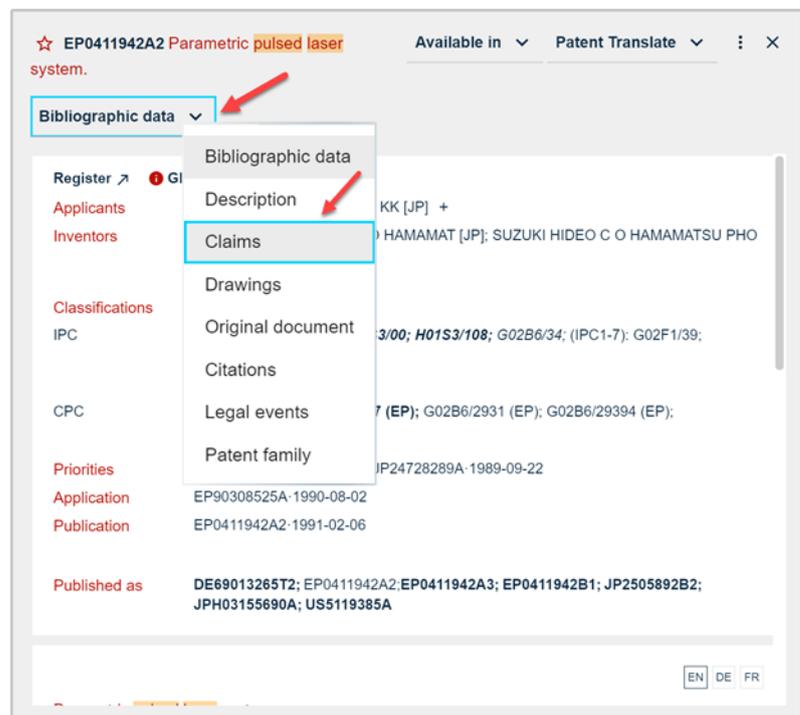


On certain devices or at higher zoom level, access via a navigation bar is replaced by access via a drop-down menu.

A v symbol is then displayed next to the name of the currently displayed document view (e.g. **Bibliographic data**).

When your focus is there (using **Tab** or **Shift + Tab** to get there), press **Enter** to open the drop-down menu.

Use the **Down** or **Up** arrow or type the **first** letter of the view's name to select the tab you want (e.g. **C**laims) and then press **Enter** to open it.



You can also access and open the document views directly using the numeric keys:

- Press **1** for **Bibliographic data**
- Press **2** for **Description**
- Press **3** for **Claims**
- Press **4** for **Drawings**
- Press **5** for **Original document**
- Press **6** for **Citations - Cited documents**
- Press **7** for **Legal events**
- Press **8** for **Patent family – Simple family**

Elements in these views which enable further action (e.g. links, extended information via a + symbol, access to other language tabs) can then be accessed and activated using the standard keys.

6.2. Navigating through drawings in the Bibliographic data, Description and Claims views

When you select a document in the **Results** list and look at the **Bibliographic data**, **Description** or **Claims** view, the drawings are displayed either to the right or at the bottom of the document pane, depending on the device or zoom level used.

To go to the next or previous drawing, use the **Right** or **Left** arrow key on your keyboard.

Another – but slower – way to do this is to use **Tab** or **Shift + Tab** to move your focus to the right > or left < arrow displayed on the screen and then press **Enter** (illustration below for the **Bibliographic data** view).

6.3. Navigating through the drawings in the Drawings view

When multiple drawings are displayed in the **Drawings** view and you need to use the scrollbar to view them all, you can move the scrollbar using **Page down** and **Page up**.

But you first need to focus on one of the drawings by using the **Tab** key.

The screenshot shows the Espacenet patent search interface. The search term is 'pulsed laser'. The results page shows 200,008 results found. The selected patent is US2006182154A1, titled 'Method of controlling laser oscillation of pulsed laser and pulsed laser system'. The 'Drawings' tab is active, displaying two technical diagrams: FIG. 1 (Ultra-short pulsed laser) and FIG. 2 (Resonator). A red arrow points to the scrollbar on the right side of the drawing area.

6.4. Navigating in the Description and Claims views

You can move the scrollbar to go down or up in the **Description** or **Claims** views by using **Page down** and **Page up**.

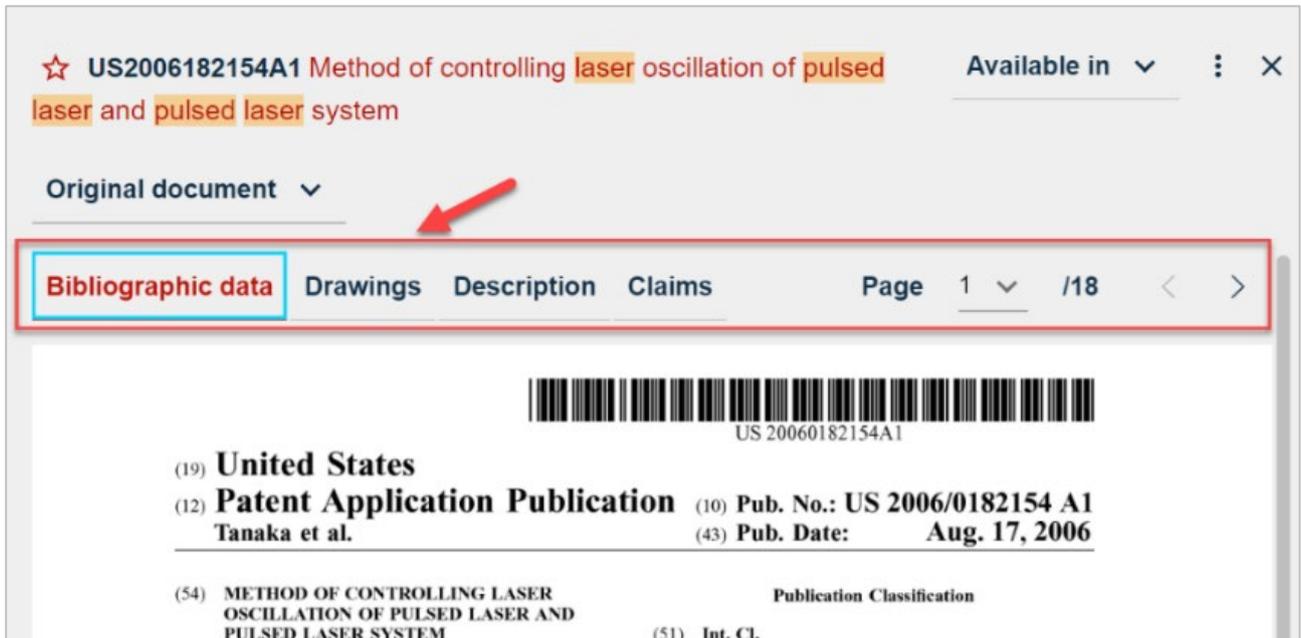
But you first need to focus on the **Description** or **Claims** text by using the **Tab** key.

The screenshot shows the Espacenet patent search interface. The search term is 'pulsed laser'. The results page shows 200,008 results found. The selected patent is US2006182154A1, titled 'Method of controlling laser oscillation of pulsed laser and pulsed laser system'. The 'Description' tab is active, displaying the 'Global Dossier' section. A red arrow points to the scrollbar on the right side of the description text.

6.5. Navigating in the Original document view

You can go down or up in the **Original document** view by using the **Page down** and **Page up** keys (same effect as moving the scrollbar).

But you first need to focus on the sub-navigation bar in the **Original document** view (e.g. **Bibliographic data** tab) by using the **Tab** key.



There are two ways to go to the next or previous page.

One way to move through the pages is to use the **Right** or **Left arrow** on your keyboard.

Another – but slower – way to do this is to use **Tab** or **Shift + Tab** to move your focus to the right > or left < arrow displayed on the screen and then press **Enter**.



6.6. Downloading a document view or sharing the document link

The **Description**, **Claims**, **Original document**, **Citations**, **Legal events** and **Patent family** views can be downloaded via the *three dots* (⋮) displayed at the top right-hand side of the document pane.



When your focus is on the *three dots* (⋮) (using **Tab** or **Shift + Tab** to get there), press **Enter** to open the drop-down menu.

The following illustrates how to download the original document.

To select **Download**, use the **Down** arrow or type the **first** letter (Download).

The v symbol next to **Download** indicates that there is another drop-down menu to be opened.

Press **Enter** to open it.

To select **Original document**, press the **Down** arrow again or the **first** letter (Original document).

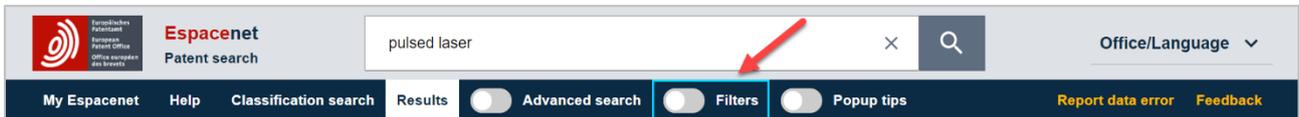
Press **Enter** to launch the download of the original document.



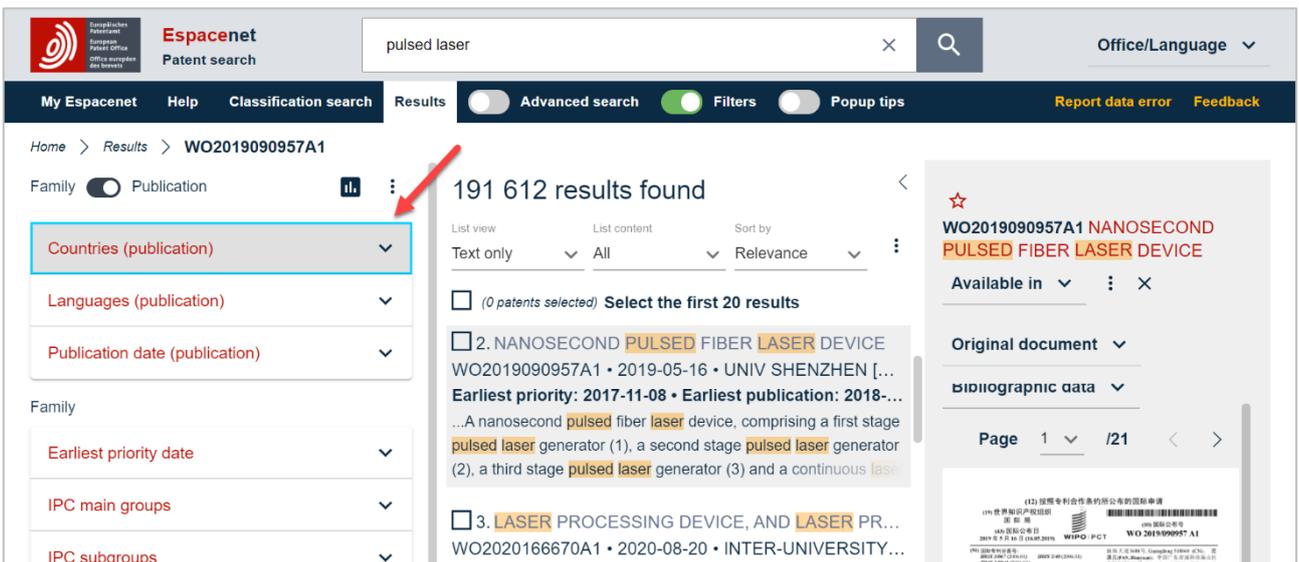
7. Using the Filters

Espacenet allows you to filter your search results by various categories, such as *countries, languages, publication and priority dates, classification, applicants, inventors and their countries of residence*.

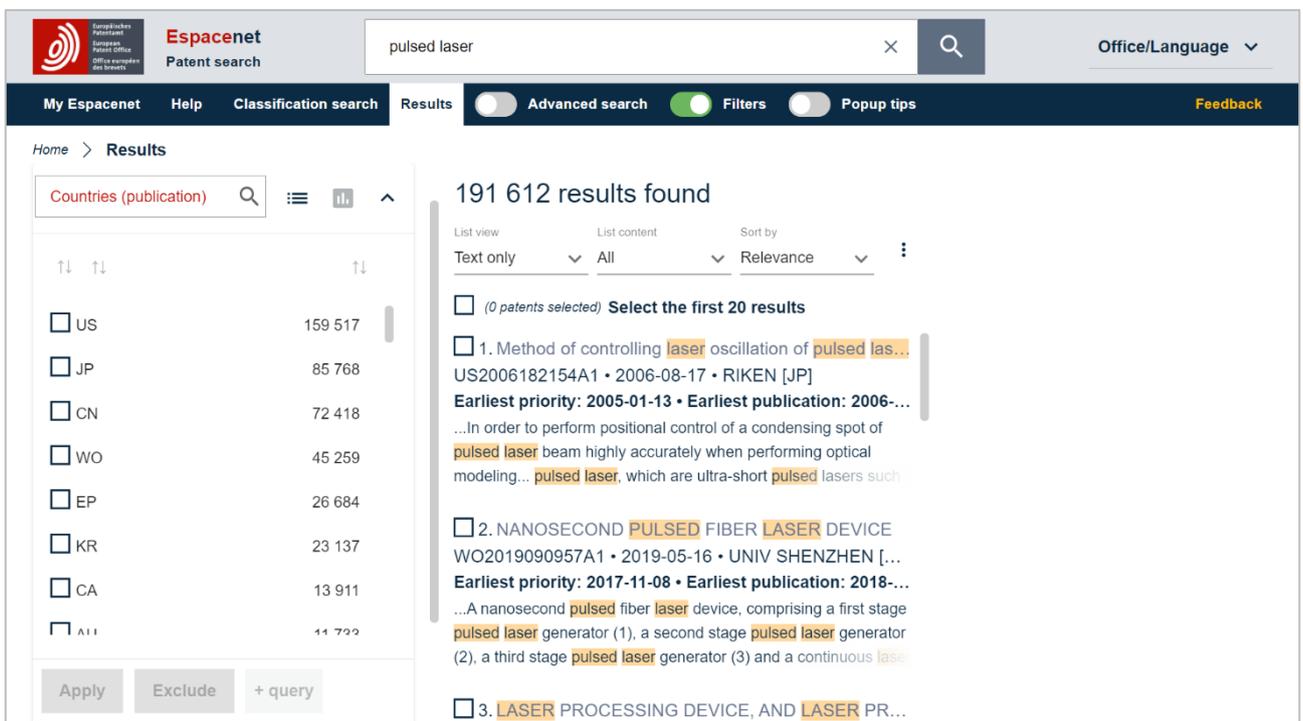
Use **Tab** or **Shift + Tab** to move your focus to the **Filters** radio button (toggle) in the navigation bar.



Press **Enter** to open **Filters** and use **Tab** to move your focus to the filter you want. The screenshots below illustrate how to use the **Countries (publication)** filter.

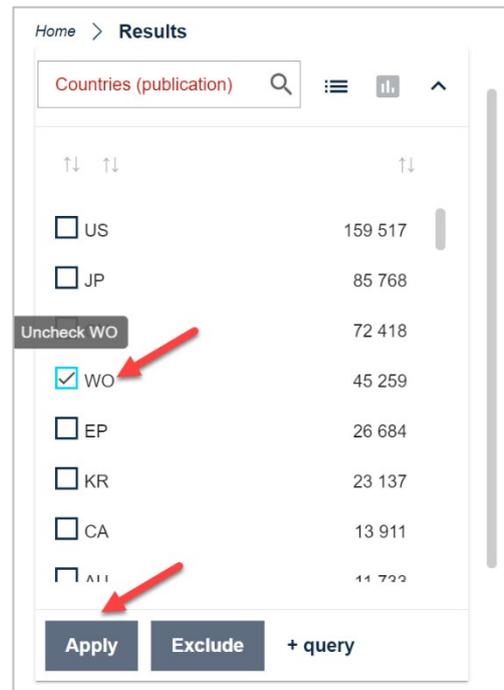


Press **Enter** to open the drop-down menu.



Use the **Down** or **Up arrow** to select e.g. **WO**.

When your focus is on the **Apply** button (after having used **Tab** or **Shift + Tab** to get there), press **Enter** to apply selected the filter.



Please note that the filters do not show all items but only the most frequently used ones. For example, the **CPC subgroups** filter will show only the 150 CPC codes most frequently used at the subgroup level.

8. Help

Support is provided via tooltips or popup tips, a patent information glossary and supporting documents that can be accessed via links in the main Help view.

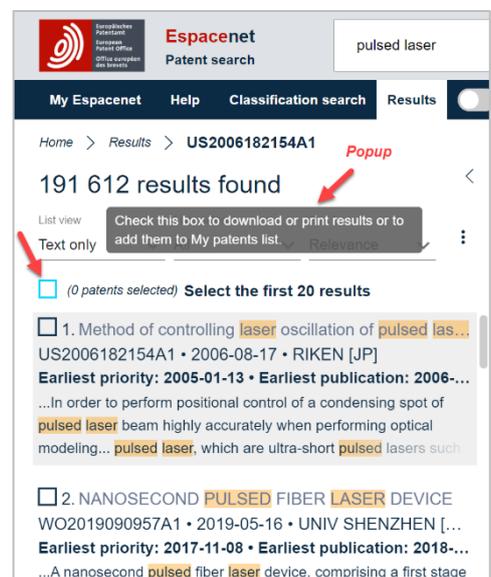
You can also use the contact form to ask the Espacenet team any questions you may have.

8.1. Tooltips and popup tips

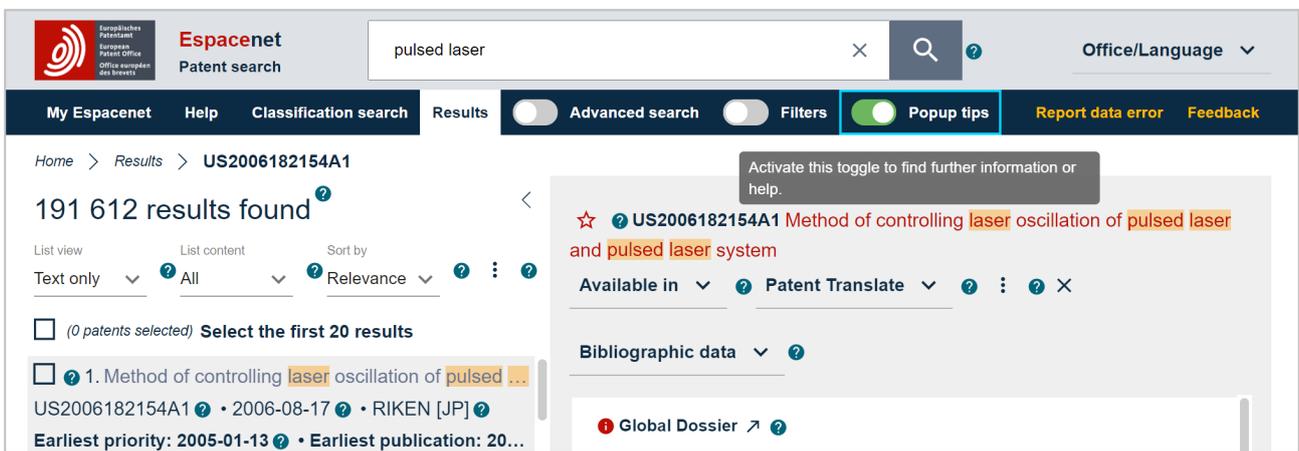
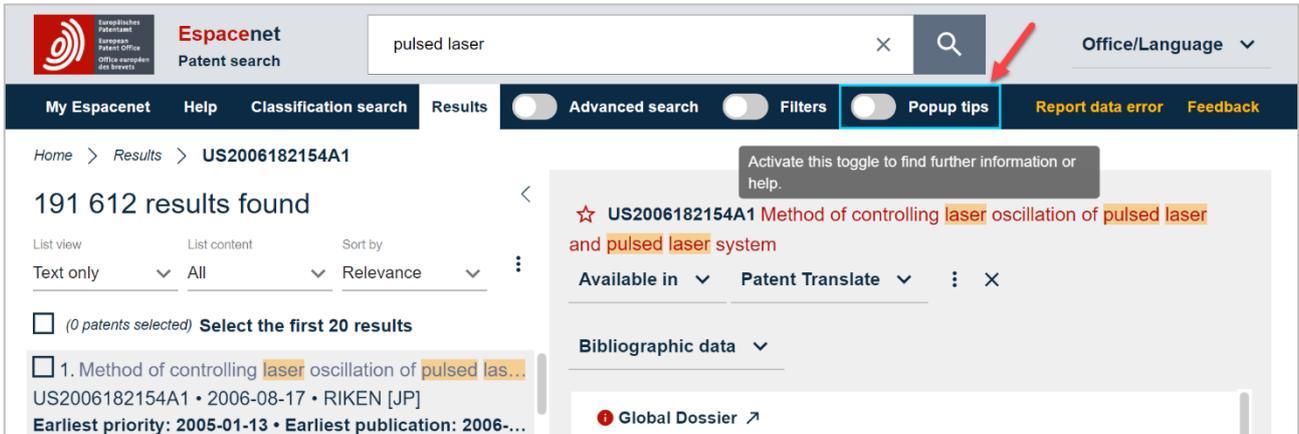
Some elements in the user interface have a short tooltip explaining what the feature is about.

For mouse users, tooltips normally open on hovering the mouse cursor over them.

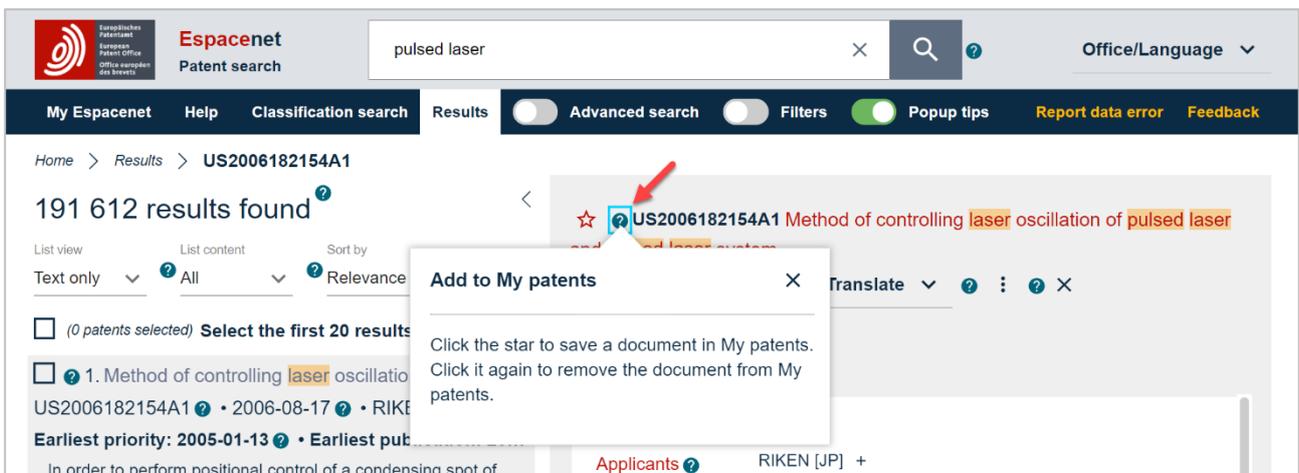
For those navigating with the keyboard, these tooltips automatically open when the focus is on the related element.



However, to prevent too many distractions for Espacenet users, only a limited number of tooltips are displayed automatically. You can activate the others by selecting the **Popup tips** radio button (using **Tab** or **Shift + Tab** to get there and then pressing **Enter**). *Blue question marks* will then appear beside the various interface elements. Most of these tips are linked to the **Glossary**, while others explain the available feature.



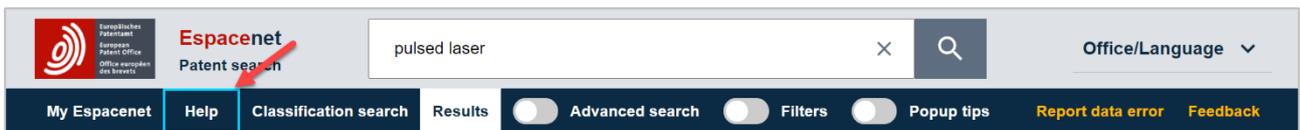
Once your focus is on the *blue question mark* you want, the popup will open automatically.



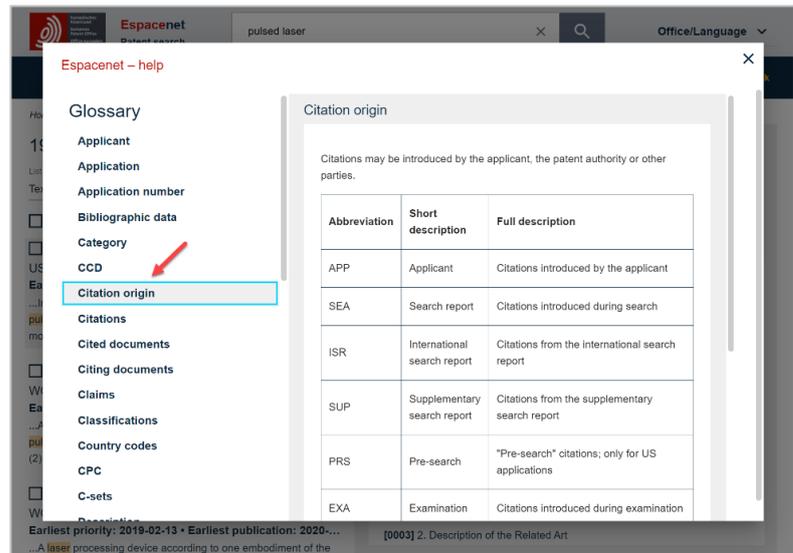
To deactivate the **Popup tips** radio button, move your focus back to it and press **Enter**.

8.2. Help view

When your focus is on **Help** in the navigation bar (using **Tab** or **Shift + Tab** to get there), press **Enter** to open the view.



When your focus is on a **Glossary** term, press **Enter** to display its definition.



To close the **Espacenet - help** popup, press **Esc**.

9. Any more questions?

Feel free to post in the Espacenet [forum](#) or contact us via our [contact form](#) if you have any questions or suggestions.