STN® Quick Reference Card

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.