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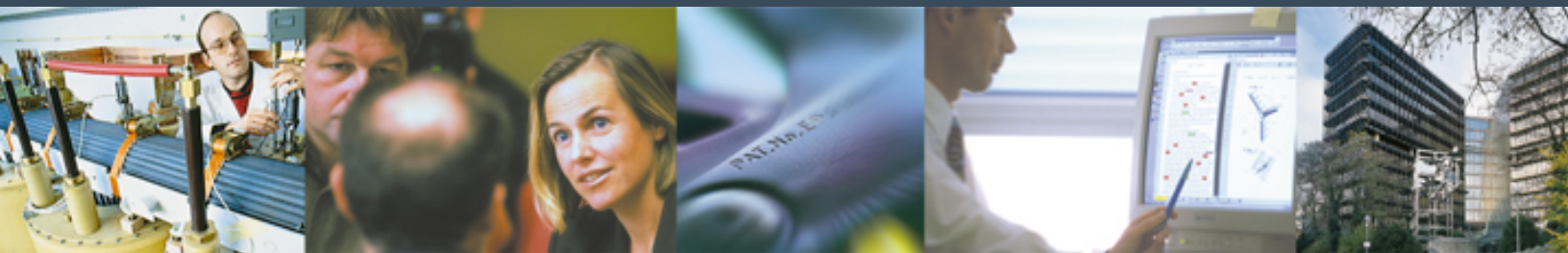


PCT Minimum Documentation

EPO views on a new definition

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*WIPO, Geneva
21-02-2005*



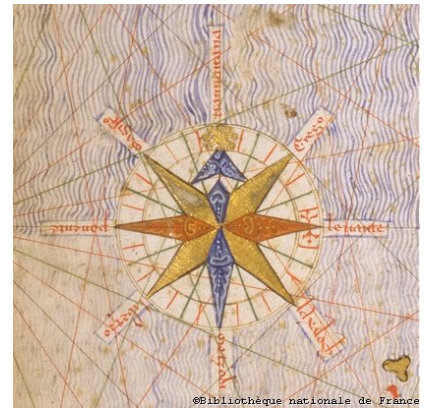


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Roadmap
Objectives
The Concept
Some facts
New approach

Roadmap

- What are the objectives of a documentation?
- Why do we need a revision of the minimum PCT definition?
- Some facts
- New approaches
 - Patents
 - NPL





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Roadmap
Objectives
The Concept
Some facts
New approach

Objectives of the documentation in the context of the patent grant procedure.

- Retrieve all relevant prior art disclosed to the public to maximise the value of the granted patent.
- Reducing the risks taken by the applicant in the innovation process.
- “The International Searching Authority referred to in Article 16 shall endeavor to discover as much of the relevant prior art as its facilities permit, and shall, in any case, consult the documentation specified in the Regulations.”



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The minimum PCT documentation

- An international standard defining the minimum search collection coverage.
- Covering both Patent and Non Patent Literature.
- Regularly updated
- Based on a “paper collection” approach.



Roadmap
Objectives
The Concept
Some facts
New approach



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Reasons for revisiting the minimum PCT definition

- Discrepancies between what is actually searched by Patent Offices and what should minimally be searched.
- New areas appearing: Traditional Knowledge, Open Access publications in the NPL field.
- The electronic availability of documents has radically changed the technical information landscape:
 - A fast moving environment.
 - Huge amount of data available.

Roadmap
Objectives
The Concept
Some facts
New approach

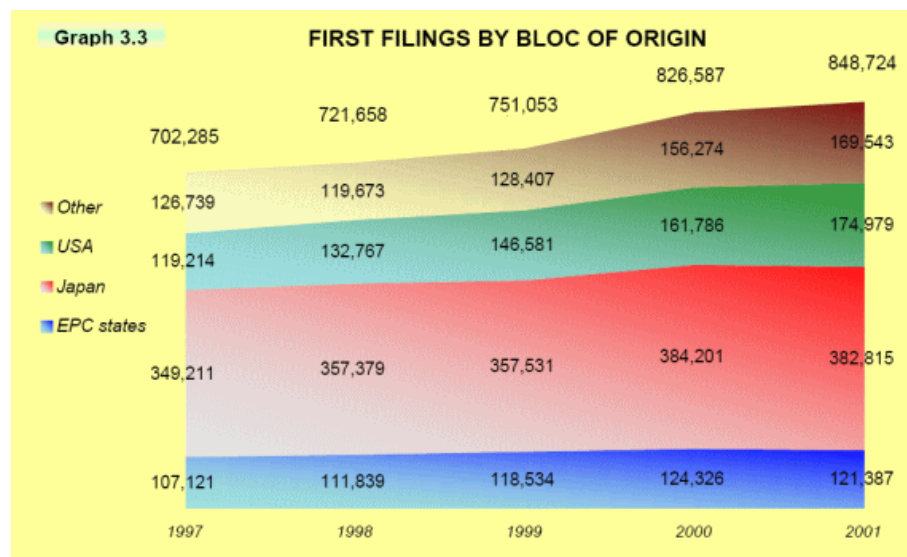


Patent System

- The system depends on:
- A strong Prior Art assessment
- Confidence of Applicants
- Confidence of the Public
- Collect all relevant STM information
- Support development for all countries



Some facts: NPL vs Patent documents



–Patent first filings: **850.000** in 2001

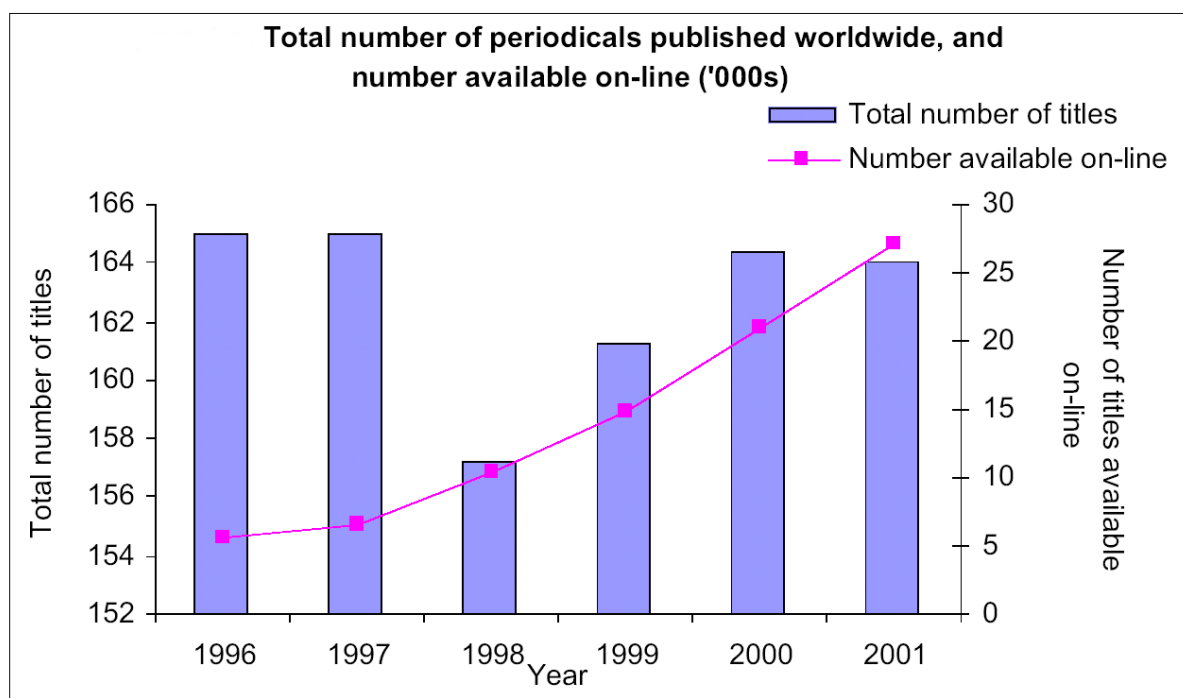
–Yearly 2000 STM produces **1.200.000** peer reviewed articles



Number of periodicals

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Roadmap
Objectives
The Concept
Some facts
New approach



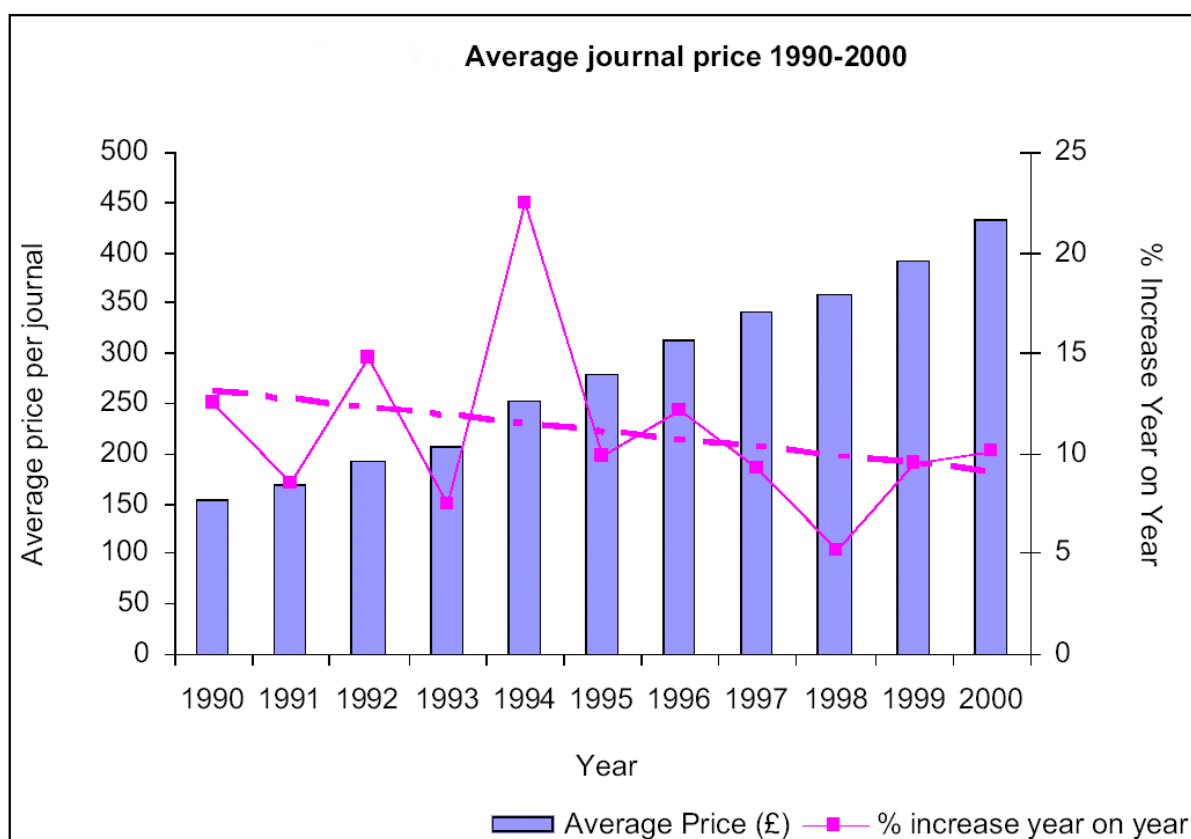
Source: Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory in LISU Annual Library Statistics 2002



Average price rising

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Roadmap
Objectives
The Concept
Some facts
New approach



Source: Blackwell's Periodical Price Indexes in LSIU Annual Library Statistics 2002



Search in abstracts databases

Roadmap

Strategy

Search
Retrieval

DOI

Trends

–More than 50 million Internal abstracts

•INSPEC	9 million	
•COMPENDEX		6 million
•FSTA		0.6 million
•BIOSIS	15 million	
•MEDLINE	15 million	
•EMBASE	10 million	

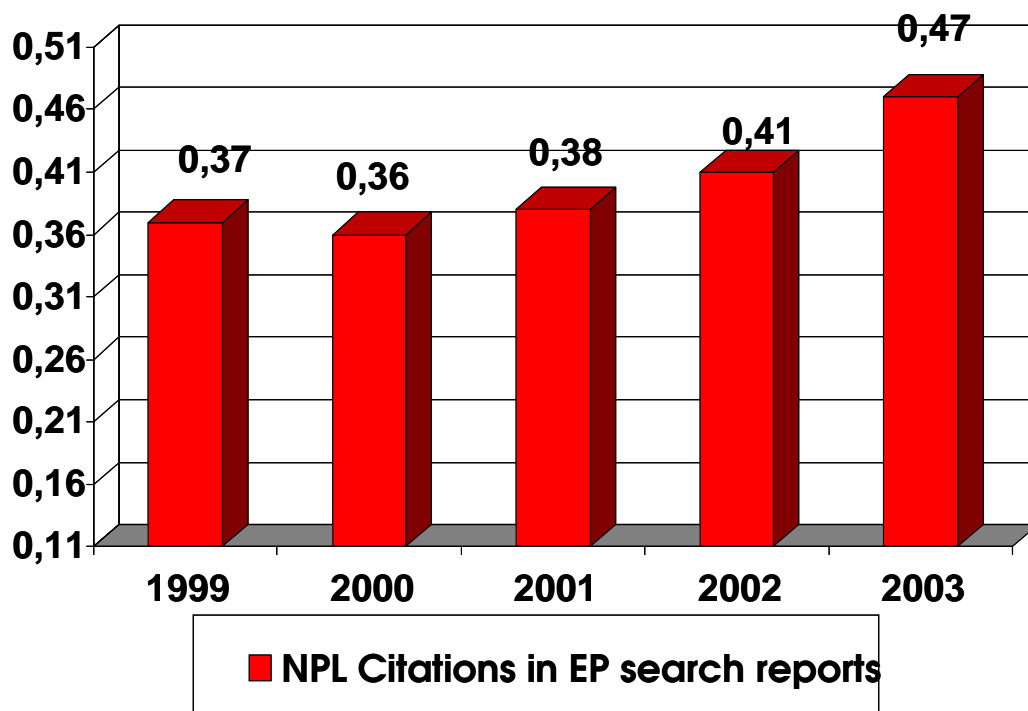
- + Networked CD-ROMS (Pesticide Manual...)
- + Hosts (Chemical Abstracts)
- + Internet Databases (TEKPAD, FRIDOC)



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Roadmap
Objectives
The Concept
Some facts
New approach

NPL Citations per EP search report





The Open Access move

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Roadmap
Objectives
The Concept
Some facts
New approach

- An answer to the position of traditional commercial publishers.
- A movement attracting a lot of attention from governmental and public bodies.
- Compilation of OA sources already available:
 - Directory of Open Access Journals
 - Public Library of science





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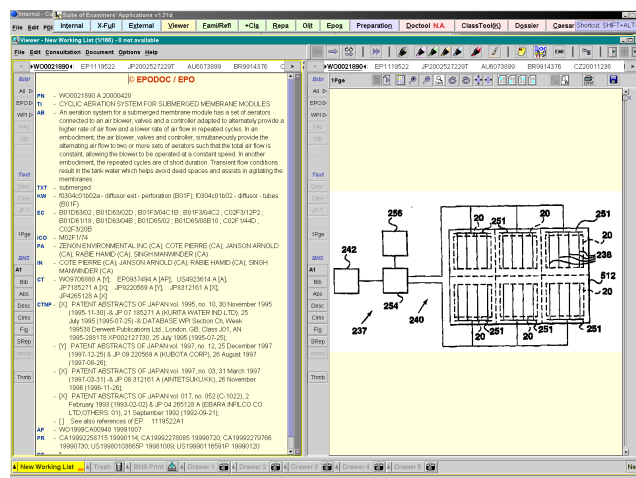
Roadmap
Objectives
The Concept
Some facts
New approach

New approach: Patent Documents

–All documents
available in
electronic form to
be included. No
time limitation.

–All patent documents
for which an
English abstract
exists.

–New countries





Extended Cooperation: Requirements for Patents

- KR,
- CN, TW,...

- Regular, timely data deliveries
- Bibliographic data
- Images
- Full Text searchable data
- Other data
- Ftp

- IPC advanced level
- Abstracts in English
- Automated Translation programme?



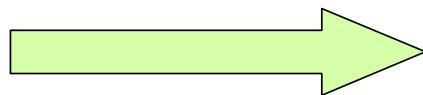
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Roadmap
Objectives
The Concept
Some facts

New approach

New approach: Non Patent Literature

- A limitation to Scientific, Technical and Medical literature.
- All publications available in electronic form can be considered.
- Free of charge sources: Open Access publications, public research results, Internet sources.
- Field specific sources: software, biotechnology.
- New sources: Traditional Knowledge.



NPL



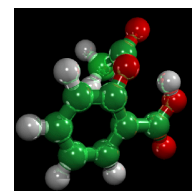
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Roadmap
Objectives
The Concept
Some facts
New approach

New approach: Specialised Databases

–Specialised databases
necessary for some
fields:

–Chemical structure.



–Genetic sequences.

```
ATACTTCCTC  GTGTTGATAA  
ACCTGCAGTA  AAGAATTTAA  
ATAATCACT   CTATTAAAGT  
TTGGTATTAG  GAACCAAAGT  
GCTTCACCTA  AAAACGTAAA
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Roadmap
Objectives
The Concept
Some facts
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Copyright issues

- WIPO Working Group in place: several scenarios envisaged.
- Find a solution not hindering Patent Office activities





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Roadmap
Objectives
The Concept
Some facts

New approach

Approaching STM publishers

- Collective and global agreements to be sought.
- Deal with copyright issues collectively to obtain a patent office copyright regime:
 - To exchange freely cited articles between patent offices.
 - To store articles in electronic form for internal use.





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Roadmap
Objectives
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New approach

Summing up

- A needed revision.
- A strong common effort is necessary.
 - Sensible issues:
 - Distribution and access to all patents available in an electronic form
- Coping with the NPL coverage
- Contact with NPL commercial publishers
-
- Open Access and Internet sources
- New forms of Information



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Thank you

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