



# Access to Non-Patent Literature Resources in the EPO

European Patent Office



# Why do we need NPL ?

- 1 Search Report out of 5 cites NPL
- In new technology fields (Biotechnology, Telecommunications) NPL contains more Prior Art than patents
  - ⇒ in Biochemistry, 50% of citations are NPL



# Search databases

- Abstract databases (internal, external)
- Full text databases (internal, external)
- Bibliographic databases



# Abstract Databases

## ⇒ Internal

- ✧ INSPEC 6.5 million abstracts in El / Phys
- ✧ COMPENDEX 4 million abstracts in El / Phys
- ✧ FSTA 550.000 abstracts in Food Science
- ✧ BIOSIS 6 million abstracts in Biotechnology
- ✧ BEILSTEIN 8 million compounds 10 million reactions
- ✧ MEDLINE (soon) 7 million abstracts
  
- ✧ Networked CD-ROMS (Pesticide Manual...)



# Abstract Databases

⇒ External

✧ via Hosts (STN, DIALOG, QUESTEL)

- Chemical Abstracts
- Embase
- Cancerlit...

✧ on Internet (EVL)

- IEL
- ACM
- WILEY



# Full text Databases

- Internal

- ✧ Present

- ELSEVIER                      180.000 full articles in Elec. / Phys
    - IBM TDB                        80000 Disclosure Bulletins

- ✧ To come

- IEE, AIP (text delivered by Publishers)
    - IEEE Conference Proceedings ( OCR by EPO)

- External

- Computer Select: 200 full text publications in computers and telecommunications



# Bibliographic Databases

- 1,15 million records of articles in NPL database
- 720.000 internally classified articles
- 250.000 NPL records cited in 100.000 patents



# EPO Virtual Library

- 440 Journals
- 651 Proceedings
- 30000 Standards:
  - ✧ IEEE (875 in Electricity)
  - ✧ ITU and EIA/TIA (8900 in Telecommunications)
  - ✧ ETSI
- Dictionaries, Encyclopedias...





# Examples of Search in NPL



# Abstract Search

- In Inspec under Epoque:
  - ⇒ (Hybrid w Vehicle?) and (fuel w cell?) : 34 results
    - ✧ 2 in NPL: look up facsimile in BNS
    - ✧ 16 from IEEE or IEE: look up PDF on Internet (EVL)
    - ✧ 16 to be ordered
- Advantages: search in controlled terms;  
possible refining
- Drawbacks: missing information



# Full text Search

- Ex: In XPESP (Elsevier) under Epoque:
  - ⇒ (Hybrid w vehicle?) and (fuel w cell?) : 26 results
    - ✧ all facsimile in BNS
- Advantage: retrieve “hidden” features
- Drawbacks: noise, overflow



# Indexed Search

- In NPL under Epoque:
  - ⇒ B60L11/18R= Electric Vehicles having Fuel Cells  
20 results
- Advantage: no noise
- Drawbacks: heavy investment; refining search only possible by crossing to abstract or fulltext DBs



# JOPAL SEARCH

- Indexed search  
⇒ On basis of IPC
- Keyword Search  
⇒ In titles of articles
- Author search



# JOPAL versus NPL database

- JOPAL
  - ⇒ Starts in 1981
  - ⇒ Covers PCT Minimum Documentation
  - ⇒ IPC and Bibliographic identification data
- NPL database
  - ⇒ Starts in 1989 with back file extension per field
  - ⇒ Covers EPO 's NPL including PCT Min. Doc.
  - ⇒ ECLA and Bibliographic identification data



# NPL on esp@cenet

- Current status
  - ⇒ Only XP number linked to ECLA symbol
- Request e.g. from industry
  - ⇒ Give access to the NPL database
- Approval of management not yet given
- Alternative for JOPAL



The End

Thank you  
Questions ?