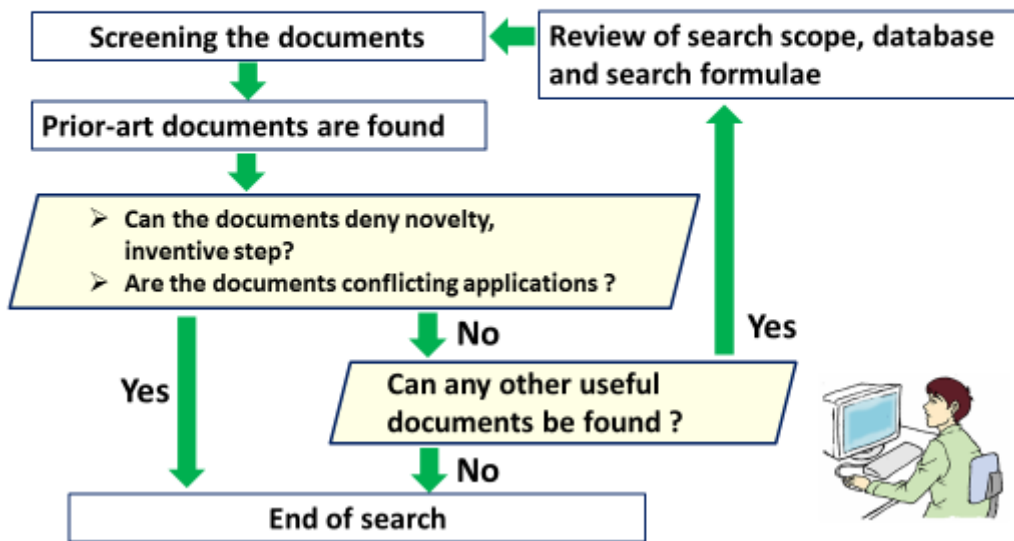


### E. Screening of search results - 1/3



19

--- (Slide 19) ---

Next, I will explain the screening.

After you have conducted the screening and found prior art documents, you are able to judge whether novelty or inventive step can be denied based on the documents, and whether the documents are conflicting applications.

If so, finish the search.

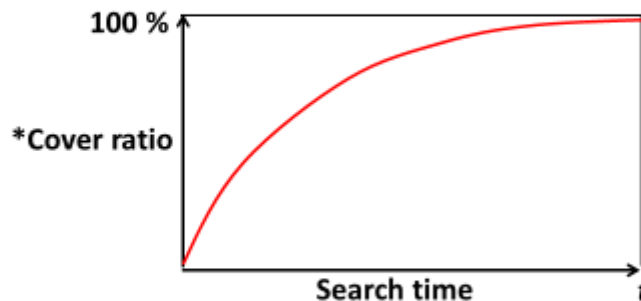
If not, you should judge whether you have already covered most of the relevant technical fields and whether it is likely that you will be able to find other useful documents.

If you have already covered most of the relevant technical fields to the invention and there is only a small possibility of being able to find other useful documents, finish the search.

If other useful documents are likely to be found, review the scope of search, database, search formula, and continue screening.

### E. Screening of search results - 2/3

~ When do you finish prior art search ? ~



**Cover ratio approaches 100 % as search time increases.**

**However, search time is limited for examiners...**



\*The percentage of documents you have searched within the outer border of the search scope

20

--- (Slide 20) ---

Next, I will explain when to finish the search.

This diagram shows that the more time you spend on the search, the higher the cover ratio gets.

The horizontal axis represents the time you spend on the search.

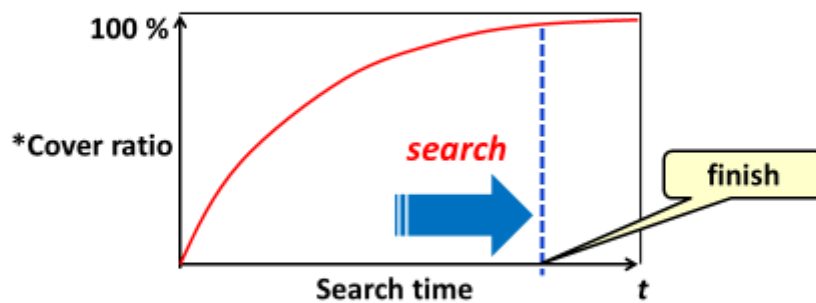
The vertical axis represents the cover ratio, which refers here to the percentage of documents that the examiner reviewed among all of the documents that fall within the outer border of the search scope.

The more time you spend on the search, the closer the cover ratio approaches to 100%.

However, the rate at which the ratio increases gradually goes down. This means that the more time you spend on the search, the lower the efficiency becomes. Ideally, the search cover ratio should be as close as possible to 100%, but to do so takes a tremendously long time.

### E. Screening of search results - 3/3

~ When do you finish prior art search ? ~



- Finish prior art search when an examiner judges that no more useful documents can be found.
  - ✓ The judgment is made based on the **examiners' knowledge and experience**.
  - ✓ Young examiners are recommended to consult with experienced examiners.

\*The percentage of documents you have searched within the outer border of the search scope 21

--- (Slide 21) ---

However, the time for an examiner to do the search is limited.

With that, when you decide that no more useful documents can be found you can end the search even if the cover ratio has not reached 100%.

The judgement as to whether or not you end the search is based on the examiner's knowledge and experience. If you are a less-experienced examiner, therefore, it might be beneficial to consult an experienced examiner.