

# Patent Information from the EPO

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# Patent information

- Official EPO policy since 1988 (reformulated in 2007)
- Key elements
  - raw data and products available
  - EPO data
  - non-EPO data from EPO data collections included
  - dissemination via EPO member states
  - marginal cost (a trilateral initiative!)
  - new: barrier-free

# EPO data

- Publication server
  - A1, A2, A3 (~2500 docs per week)
  - B1, B2, B3 (~1100 docs per week)
  - A8, A9, B8, B9 documents
  - new docs online every Wednesday, 1400 hrs CET
- European Patent Register
  - all procedural steps after publication of the application
  - online file inspection ("file wrapper")
  - alert service
- Legal material
  - Board of appeal decisions
  - legal texts (EPC, Guidelines for Examination, Case Law, etc)

# non-EPO data

- bibliographic and family data (80 patent authorities)
- legal status data (45 patent authorities)
- citation data
- IPC data (the "MCD" Master Classification Database)
- full text (currently DE, FR, GB ...)

# channels

- esp@cenet
- ESPACE (CD-ROM, DVD, online)
- OPS ("Open Patent Services")
- raw data delivery
  
- dissemination via the EPO member states ...
- ... and internet ("fair use policy")

# future

## A barrier free access to Patent Information

- With regards to user-friendliness and ease of use
- With regards to languages
- With regards to technical possibilities (online instead of physical carriers)
- With regards to the pricing policy (free of charge or marginal cost)
- With regards to international access
- With regards to the data covered (no separate treatment of full texts etc.)
- With regards to the tools necessary to use the data