

Future Patent Tools

Evolution and Revolution

John Bambridge EPO ICIC 2008 Oct 20th 2008





An examiner view of the problem

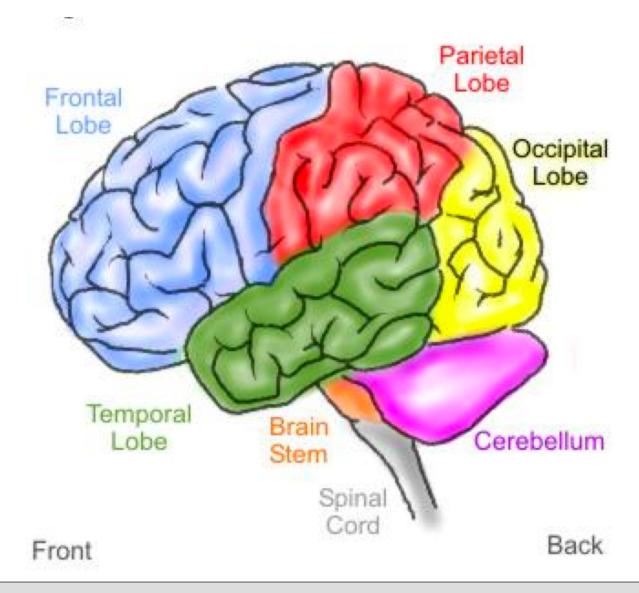


The cost of doing nothing

is unacceptable



Examiner Support Today



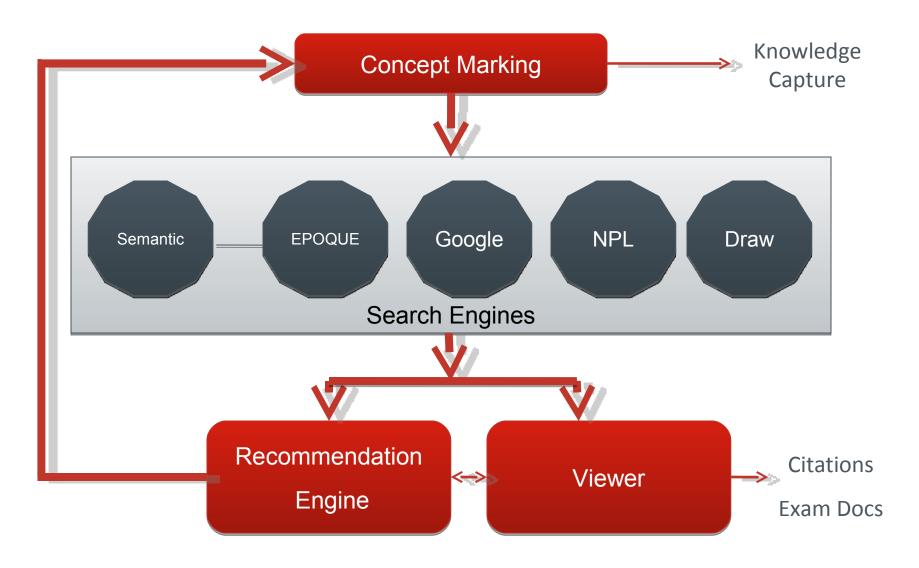


Capturing Concepts

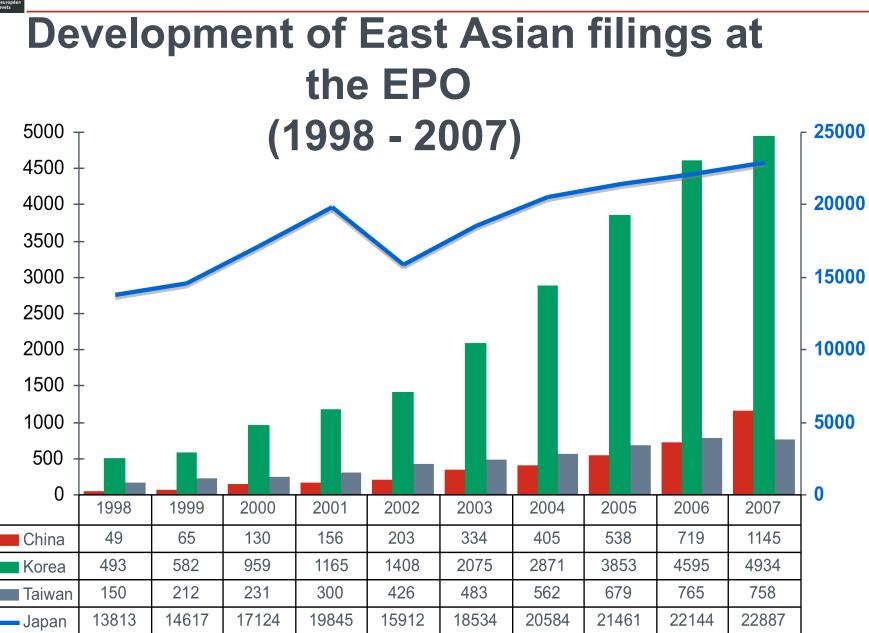
No	Fig	Class	Concept			
1		-	Cat, Feline, 4 legged mammal,			
2		A61F9/06	Collar, Band			
3	Head Shoulder Waist Strike Peint Head Clapper	G10K	Alarm, Noise maker			



Search Process







(Source: Annual Reports of EPO)



Asian Coverage in EPO databases



Biblio: JP-A...C 10.2 million / JP-Y 3.7 million
Abs(EN): all kind codes 8.4 million (WPI: 6.7 million)
Image: all kind codes 27.7 million
Full text: JP-A/JP-B 2.5 million (3rd party data, 11-2002 ... 04-2008)



Biblio: KR-A./B 1.2 million / KR-U/Y 213 000
Abs(EN): all kind codes 432 000
Image: all kind codes 1.1 million
Full text: not yet available in internal databases



Biblio: CN-A..C 1.2 million / CN-U/Y 1.1 million
Abs(EN): all kind codes 650 000 (WPI: 1.3 million)
Image: all kind codes 2.3 million
Full text: CN-U/Y 3 500 (test data)



Ranking of country codes for EP search report citations

		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	1	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US
	2	EP	EP	EP	ΕP	EP	EP	EP	EP	EP	EP	ΕP
	3	DE	DE	DE	DE	DE	DE	DE	wo	wo	wo	wo
JP	4	JP —	JP	JP	JP	wo	wo	wo	DE	DE	DE	DE
	5	wo	WO	wo	wo	JP	JP	JP	JP	JP	JP	JP
	6	GB	GB	GB	GB	GB	GB	GB	GB	GB	GB	GB
	7	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR
	8	СН	СН	СН	СН	СН	СН	СН	СН	СН	СН	СН
	9	SU	NL	NL	NL	NL	SU	SU	CA	NL	NL	KR
	10	NL	SU	SU	SU	SU	NL	NL	NL	CA	CA	NL
	11	BE	BE	BE	DD	DD	CA	CA	SU	SU	KR	CA
	12	DD	DD	DD	BE	BE	BE	BE	BE	BE	BE	CN
	13	AU	CA	CA	AT	CA	DD	DD	AT	AU	SU	AT
	14	AT	AT	AT	CA	AT	AT	AT	DD	AT	CN	BE
	15	CA	AU	AU	RU	AU	AU	AU	CN	CN	AU	AU
	16	RU	CN	CN	AU	RU	RU	KR	AU	DD	AT	SU
	17	LU	RU	RU	CN	CN	CN	CN	KR	RU	DD	DD
CN	18	CN	LU	SE	ES	ES	KR	RU	RU	KR	RU	RU
	19	SE	SE	LU	IT	KR	ES	ES	ES	ES	ES	ES
	20	IT	ES	IT	KR	IT	SE	IT	SE	SE	IT	SE
	21	ES	IT	ES	LU	SE	IT	SE	IT	IT	SE	IT
	22	CS	KR	CS	SE	LU	LU	RO	Tw	T VV	Tw	TW
KR	23	RO	CS	KR	RO	RO	BR	LU	LU	LU	LU	PL
IVIX	24	KR	HU	BR	ZA	FI	RO	FI	FI	FI	PL	cz
TIA	25	PL	RO	RO	FI	HU	HU	TW	DK	RO	FI	LU
TW	26	TW	PL	NO	TW	IE	FI	CS	CS	ZA	CS	HU
	27	ZA	TW	PL	cs	ZA	TW	HU	PL	DK	GR	CS
	28	ни	ZA	ZA	HU	BR	DK	BR	RO	CZ	RO	FI
	29	FI	BR	FI	DK	CS	ZA	ZA	BR	GR	HU	BR
	30	BR	FI	HU	BR	DK	CS	CZ	HU	HU	IE	DK
	31	DK	NO	GR	PL	FW CZ	GR	DK	cz	BR	BR	GR
	32	CZ	DK	IE	IE	CZ	PL	GR	IE	IE	NO	ZA
	33	NO	IE	CZ	CZ	GR	NO	IE	ZA	CS	ZA	NO
	34	GR	cz	DK	GR	PL	cz	PL	GR	PL	CZ	RO
	35	IE	GR	W.T	NO	NO	IE	NO	NO	NO	DK	IE



Work-sharing

Understanding

•Re-doing

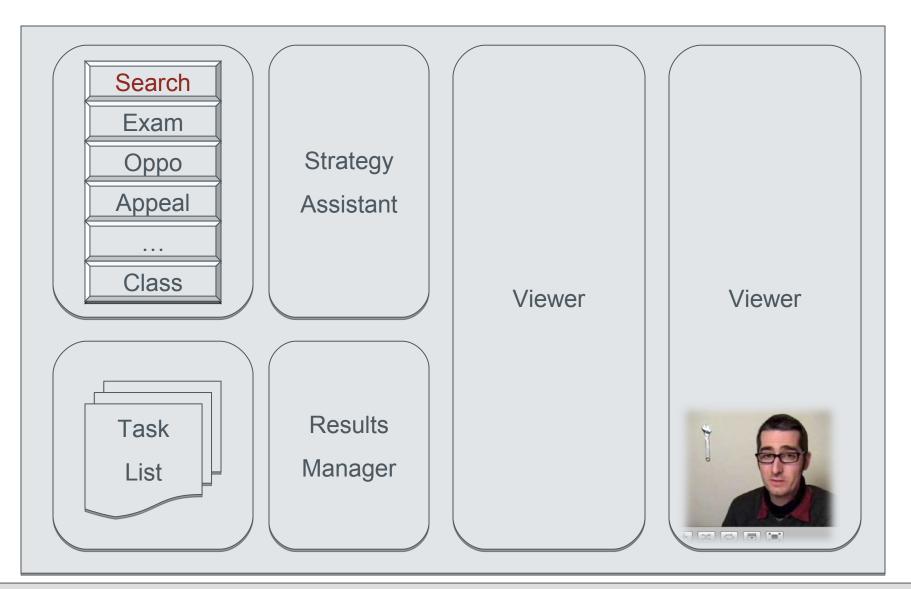
•Comparing

•Re-using





Patent Workbench





Where's the Efficiency?

20%

80%

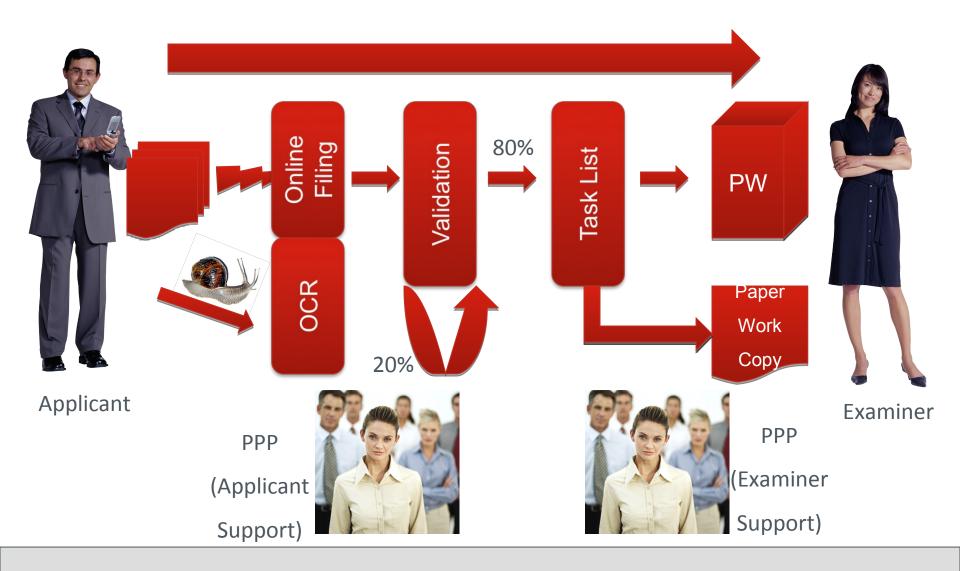
If it's not broke - don't touch it

Focus support on adding value

•One Application for all

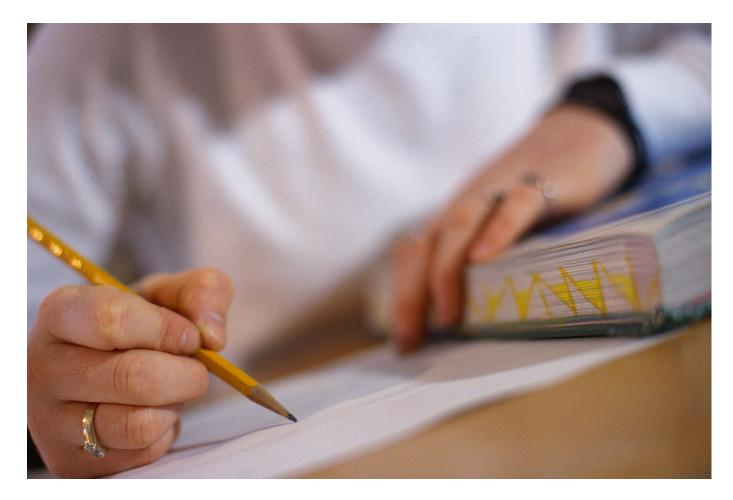


Incoming





Only print documents for study



Paper Working Copy



What's in it for the users

- Ergonomic, task driven workbench
- Proposals at every stage
- An electronic environment that is better than paper alongside the paper
- Focus on the intellectual work
- An objective basis for Utilisation and Worksharing
- Common communication basis between colleagues and with applicants



LEAN and Agile

- Focus on
 - Muda ($\Box\Box$)
 - Mura (\Box)
 - Muri ($\Box \Box$)
- Small steps guided by the vision



Next Steps

- Sep Dec
 - External Business Case and IT validation
 - Set-up Detailed Planning for 2009
 - Explore partnerships
- Nov 2008
 - Internal Approval
- Launch
 - 3 month Tranches
 - Iterate