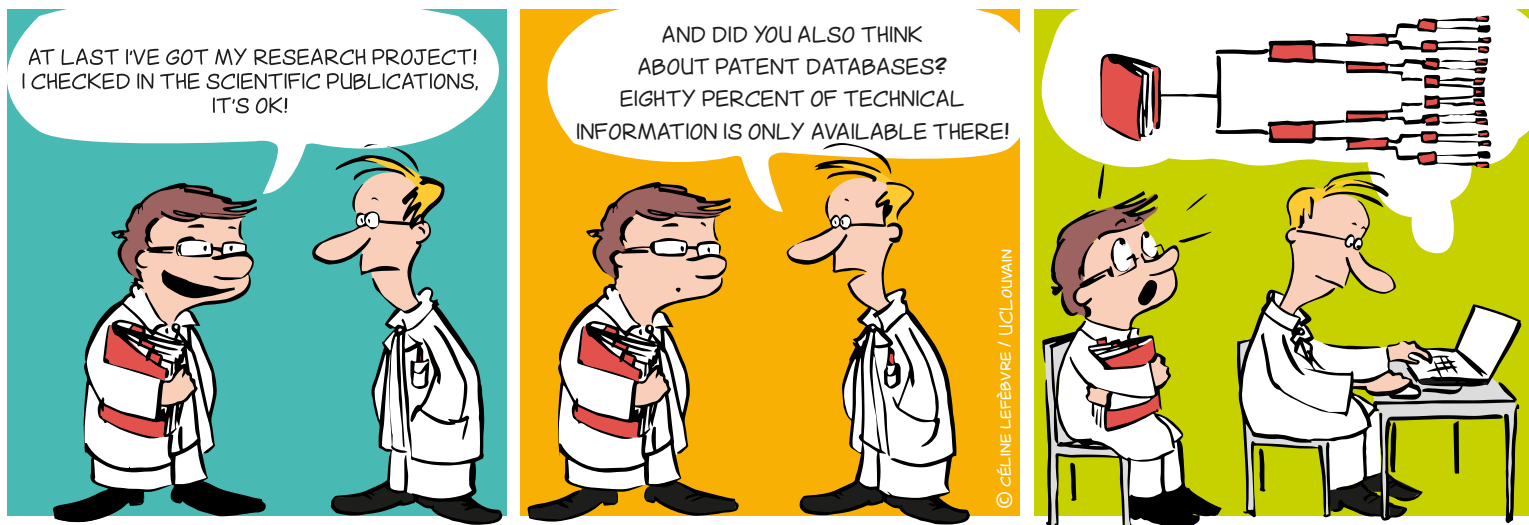


PRIOR ART SEARCHING

in patent databases

1/2



WHY?

To launch a research project, file a patent application, identify partners or competitors, and to assess freedom to operate.

WHAT IS A PATENT?

A patent is a right of ownership granted by a public authority on a geographical territory and for a determined period.

This official right gives the patent owner the right to prohibit a third party from exploiting - in other words manufacturing, using, marketing and/or importing - the protected invention without the owner's authorization.

Patent = technical solution to a technical problem

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR AN INVENTION TO BE PATENTABLE?

- ➔ Novelty
- ➔ Inventive step
- ➔ Industrial applicability

WHAT IS PRIOR ART SEARCHING?

Prior art searching involves determining the **state of the art**, in other words all the information, patents or other publicly available sources before the filing date of an application.

Given that patents (currently several tens of millions of applications) contain a large amount of technical information that cannot be found anywhere else, patent databases are essential tools for effective state of the art analysis.

80% of the world's technical information is only to be found in patents !

HOW?

1) Conduct a prior art search BEFORE filing a research project or patent application.

2) Define the technical problem you want to resolve.

3) Stay alert to everything that is/has been published by third parties or by inventors themselves! (patent application, scientific article, presentations by public speakers, article in non-specialist journal, invention exhibition at a trade show, commercialization of inventions, etc.) since these form part of the state of the art and are therefore likely to kill the novelty and/or inventiveness of an invention.

4) Know the state of the art in the field in question so that you can distinguish what is commonly known from what will be innovative.

5) Prepare your research strategy by combining various search parameters: key words, classification codes, names of applicants (partners, competitors) or of inventors and citations. **Adapt it** using an iterative process based on documents found. **Document it** so that you don't lose the main thread!

6) Use public databases that are free to use (or free in part) as a first line approach.

→ **PatentInspiration**

<http://www.patentinspiration.com>

→ **Esp@cenet**

<http://worldwide.espacenet.com>

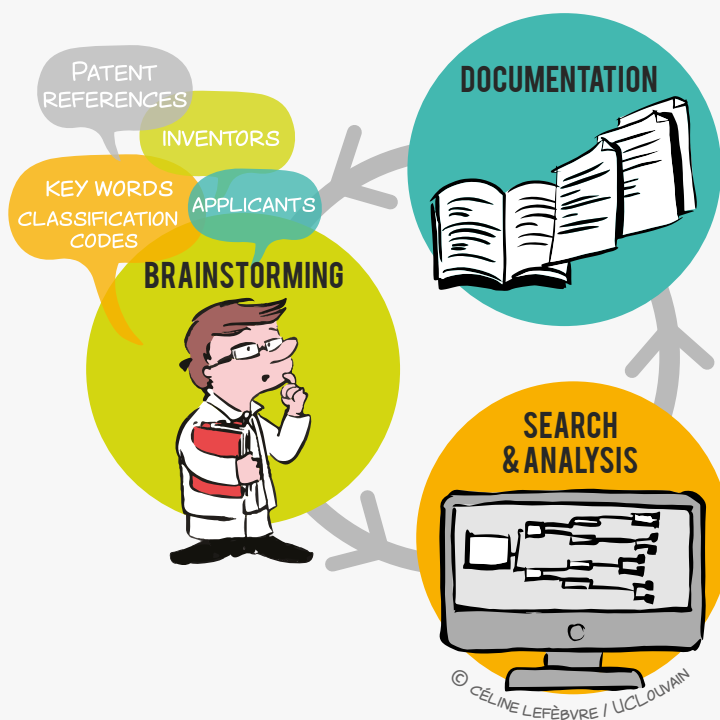
→ **Google Patents**

<https://patents.google.com>

→ **PatentScope**

<http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/search/en/search.jsf>

7) Complete the information with the help of an advisor or specialist organization such as PICARRÉ.



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