
To compile patent statistics, certain methodological choices have to be made. The challenge faced by statisticians is to select the relevant variables for compiling statistics among many alternatives. The methodological choices made significantly influence the statistics derived and their interpretation. Patent statistics can only be meaningfully interpreted if there is adequate knowledge of the criteria and methodologies used to compile them.

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  patent data [4]
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  triadic patents [6]
  arts [7]
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  patent offices [9]
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Links