Classifying Patents by Different Criteria (OECD Patent Statistics Manual)

Many uses of patent data for research and policy analysis require relating them to a meaningful unit of analysis or classifying them according to particular criteria. By relating or classifying patents in this manner, information can be obtained on these specific units or on the economic or social relevance of certain variables. Analysis may require relating patents to the entity that filed them, to the individual who made the underlying invention, to a particular field of technology, a particular industry, a particular region or a particular institutional sector.

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