Common misconceptions of interpreting patent data

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Informatics Economist
Growth in patent research
The disconnect
Misconceptions
Shape thought
Our aim – The Handbook
Our aim – The Handbook

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TM and design rights
Misconception – What is a patent?
What is a patent?

“Patents protect features and processes that make things work”
The ideal

T. A. EDISON.
Electric-Lamp.


Inventor.
Thomas A. Edison

Witnesses

Google patents US 223898 A
The actual
The messy
The importance of defining what a patent is?
Innovation

“It’s not about money. It’s about the people you have, how you’re led, and how much you get it.”

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Importance of innovation

Images courtesy of Editorsthocp and Tango! Project/Wikipedia commons
Patents as a proxy for innovation
Patents as a proxy for innovation
Patents as a proxy for innovation
Misconception – Nationality vs Jurisdiction vs Residency
Nationality
Jurisdiction
Jurisdiction
Residency - reporting

1 Patent for every 4281 citizens

1 Patent for every 217 citizens
Misconception – Citations
Who cites a patent?

Applicant

Examiner
Who cites a patent?

Applicant
## Citations - Examiner

### UK Patent Application GB 2 406 537 A

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Document No.</th>
<th>Date of Filing</th>
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<th>Inventor(s)</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Agent</th>
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### Abstract

A blade unit for a safety razor has a plurality of blades 7, 8, 9 with cutting edges 10, 11, 12 positioned between first guard and cap surfaces 26, 29 at an upper face of the unit, and a further blade 36 with a cutting edge 37 positioned between guard and cap surfaces 33, 34 at a rear face of the unit. The further blade at the rear face is intended for shaving skin areas, such as directly below the nostrils or in front of the ears, to which access is restricted. A rinsing passage 35 connects a gap between the cutting edge 37 of the further blade 36 with an opening 38 at the bottom face of the blade unit for clearance of shaving debris and soap from the underside of the further blade 36 to the underside of the blade unit.

![Fig. 2](image_url)
58 examiner cited

31 applicant cited
### Citations – Types of prior art

**GB2465435**

**WO2010061270 (A1)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Type</th>
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<td><strong>US 2002/148104 A1</strong> (SLIFE RUSSELL P [US] ET AL)</td>
<td>17 October 2002 (2002-10-17) paragraphs [0016], [0060] - [0066]; claims 1,5-11; figures 7,10,12-14</td>
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<td><strong>EP 1 961 979 A2</strong> (SAINT GOBAIN PERFORMANCE PLAST [GB])</td>
<td>27 August 2008 (2008-08-27) paragraph [0024] - paragraph [0041]; figures 1-6,10,11</td>
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Citations in a non patent context

SUCCESS

Image courtesy of Lite/Wikipedia commons
Misconception – Claims
What is a claim?
What is a claim?
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Misconception – Quality
Perspectives of quality

Quality
Perspectives of quality

Quality
Perspectives of quality
Perspectives of quality
Perspectives of quality
Perspectives of quality
Misconception – Value
The most valuable patent in history

The 105 billion dollar patent
Value – the razor

Image courtesy of Johan/Wikipedia commons
Value - the mobile phone
Value
Misconception – Matching to other data
Data matching at the IPO
The Handbook