

Timely, Comprehensive Search
-what applicants need but do not
have

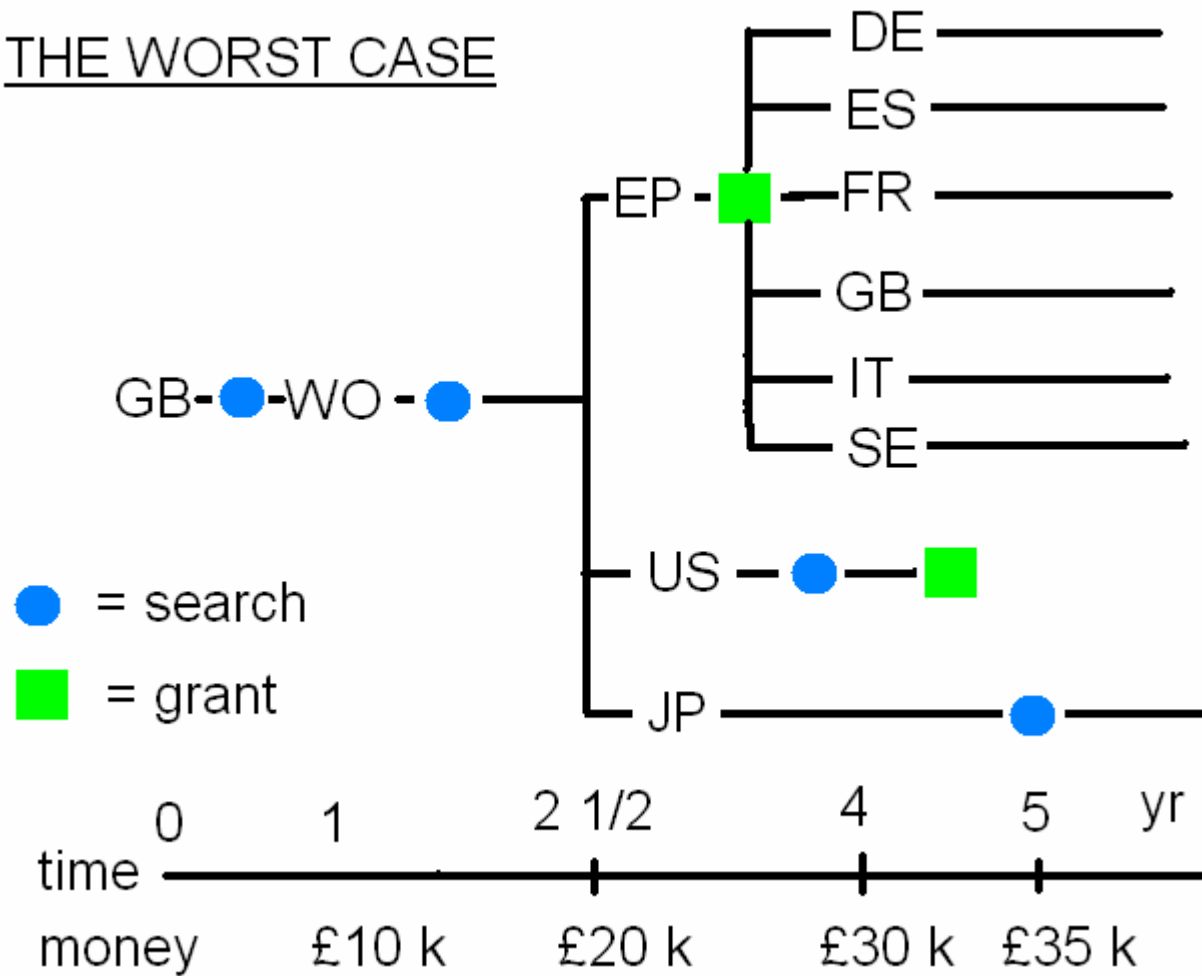
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THE WORST CASE



A representative sample of 6 inventions was searched by GBPO, EPO, USPTO, & JPO

Invention No. 2: **some** correlation between searches.

Invention No. 5 & 6: only **weak** correlation.

Invention Nos 1, 3, 4: **no** correlation, with, in each case, two or three Patent Offices (not the same ones) doing poor searches.

(Of course, citation of “equivalents” was treated as positive correlation.)

Invention No 1

CITATION	GBPO	EPO	USPTO	JPO	
CITATION NO 1	No Citations	A			
CITATION NO 2		A			
CITATION NO 3		A			
CITATION NO 4				X	
CITATION NO 5				A	
CITATION NO 6				A	
CITATION NO 7					X

Invention No 3

CITATION	GBPO	EPO	USPTO	JPO
CITATION NO 1	A			No citations
CITATION NO 2	A			
CITATION NO 3	X			
CITATION NO 4		A		
CITATION NO 5			X	
CITATION NO 6			A	
CITATION NO 7			A	
CITATION NO 8			A	

Invention No 4

CITATION	GBPO	EPO	USPTO	JPO
CITATION NO 1	No citations	A		No citations
CITATION NO 2		A		
CITATION NO 3		A		
CITATION NO 4		A		
CITATION NO 5		A		
CITATION NO 6			X	
CITATION NO 7			X	
CITATION NO 8 -26			A	

Conclusions

- (a) The identity of the best-performing Patent Office varies from one invention to another.

(JPO, however, is always best at finding Japanese-language citations.)

- (b) To avoid wasting money on securing invalid patents, applicants need the results of the EPO, USPTO, and JPO searches as soon as possible.

Conclusions cont'd

(c) I regret that the proposal for supplementary searches of PCT applications (first made in the seventh session of the Working Group on Reform of the PCT in 2005) has not been implemented.