Patents as Statistical Indicators of Science and Technology (OECD Patent Statistics Manual)

The statistical properties of patent data are determined by their legal characteristics and by their economic implementation, as these influence which inventions are protected, by whom, what information is disclosed (hence made accessible to statisticians), how important patents are for industries, etc. This chapter provides an overview of the legal and economic foundations of patents. It describes the basic concepts necessary for the use of patent as indicators of science and technology (S&T).

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