



European  
Patent Office



# Global Patent Data Coverage

**A comprehensive overview of the  
coverage of the worldwide patent database  
managed by the European Patent Office**

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## Foreword

### **A collection open to the world**

The EPO holds one of the largest digital repositories of public knowledge in the world. This vast store is accessed daily by thousands of users and its usage is constantly increasing.

The EPO is always in close contact with its users and guards this vast technical asset with great care. In 2004 about 37 Terabytes, the equivalent of 37 million books, were downloaded from the EPO search collection both by internal and external users. This figure is a perfect illustration of EPO's contribution to the knowledge economy.

This report provides you with a comprehensive view of our main patent database coverage.

I am looking forward to your comments to help us improving the quality of this database.



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a.i.

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