

cycle will introduce deeper communization of information/knowledge, in which the starting point of a next cycle is at a level higher than one before by adding up the newly obtained tacit knowledge, thereby reducing the time period required from the creation of an invention to the application thereof, and obtaining further solid contents to be applied for.

Those intellectual property department member, who have a wide knowledge and ability to comprehensively grasp matters are expected to play an important role in the “fields”. It is expected that, the concept of this knowledge creation cycle and “fields” may produce further solid and high quality intellectual property activities.

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Creation and Evaluation of a Test Collection for Evaluating Patent Retrieval Systems

— Collaboration with the National Institute of Informatics —

The Second Subcommittee,
Intellectual Property Information Search Committee

In order to further the research and development of patent information retrieval systems using natural language, the creation of a test collection for evaluating the systems is required. In Japan, the National Institute of Informatics (NII) has been creating test collections of newspapers and other articles using natural language in the NII Test Collection for Information Retrieval Systems (NTCIR) project. In the most recent work, the JIPA collaborated with NII in creating the patent test collection NTCIR3.

The paper reports findings concerning the creation of retrieval subjects and the evaluation of their suitability.

This test collection is for investigations of technological trends wherein patents are handled not as legal rights, but as technical data. In the technological trend investigation, the following two formats are set; (1) retrieval after input of natural phrases used in inquiries (searching the “XX” portion in “I want to investigate about XX”); and (2) retrieval of patents for a technology described in a newspaper article; and the construction of a test collection that is usable in both formats was attempted. The conventional test collection is designed for the above (1), and the test collection created is the very first patent test collection of its kind in the world, and it is also the first in the world to have a function for search of data scanning across different types of documents. Accordingly, it is expected to contribute to a great extent to the efforts for improvement of future retrieval systems.

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