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Patents from Latin America and Spain with Latipat: Country coverage and ability to search for emerging topics like Nanotechnology

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ABSTRACT

The Latipat project unifies patent information from 20 Ibero-American countries making this content available and free of cost via several major public patent search systems: namely Espacenet, Patentscope and Invenes. These different accesses are presented and their data coverage is analysed. A comparison showed that, although the patent information comes from the same origin, the country coverage and actuality of the patent information varies substantially in the three compared search systems. Regarding the technology coverage, an exemplary search for nanotechnology patents revealed different results depending on the keyword and classification support of each search system.

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1. Introduction

The Ibero-American countries form an area of great interest to industry. On one side stands Latin America, a market with over 580 million people and growing economies that actively promote policies to stimulate innovation [9]. On the other side lies the countries of the Iberian Peninsula which, despite their economical crisis, remain important markets due to their cultural and linguistic connection to Latin America and consequent position as a gateway between the European and Latin American markets and vice versa [2,3].

For innovative companies wishing to invest in this region, having access to patent information of these countries is essential – not only in order to avoid patent infringements but also to monitor, discover and exploit new technological opportunities. Taking the latter into account, the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (SPTO), the European Patent Office (EPO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and patent offices from 19 Latin American countries[1] created the Latipat project in 2003. The aim of this project was to offer the public a centralized and free access to Ibero-American patent information in Spanish and Portuguese languages [15].

By taking part in this project, under the lead of the SPTO, the participating patent offices committed themselves to convert their patent information to a unified data format[2] and regularly send it to a central database, the *Latipat Central Repository* [1]. As visualized in Fig. 1, this data is then integrated by WIPO in their patent search system Patentscope and by EPO in their master documentation database *Docdb* (accessible publicly via the Espacenet-Worldwide database) and to a dedicated server administered by the SPTO (Espacenet-Latipat database). Furthermore the STPO imports the Latipat data into their own patent search system Invenes (Invenes-Latipat database).

Therefore the Latipat patent information is made available by the patent authorities WIPO, EPO and SPTO via the following databases:

- Patentscope (https://patentscope.wipo.int)
- Espacenet-Worldwide (http://worldwide.espacenet.com)
- Espacenet-Latipat (http://lp.espacenet.com)
- Invenes (http://invenes.oepm.es)

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[1] Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

[2] WIPO standards ST32, ST33 und ST36.

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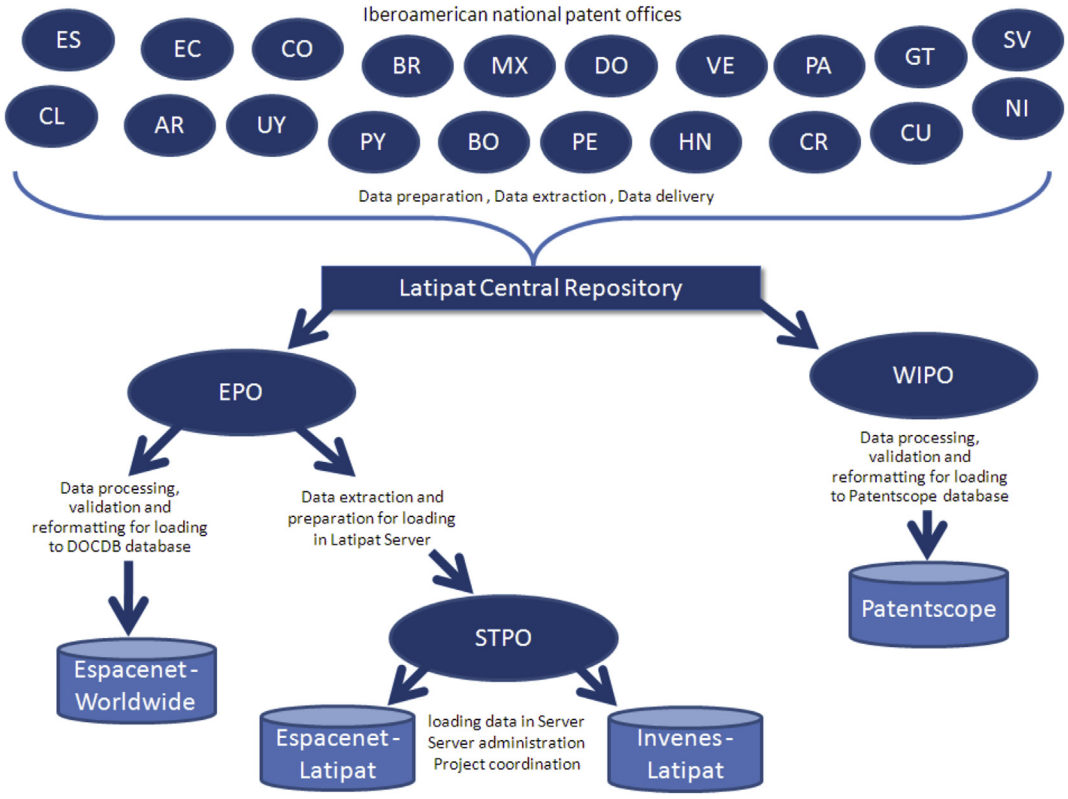

Fig. 1. Latipat Data flow.

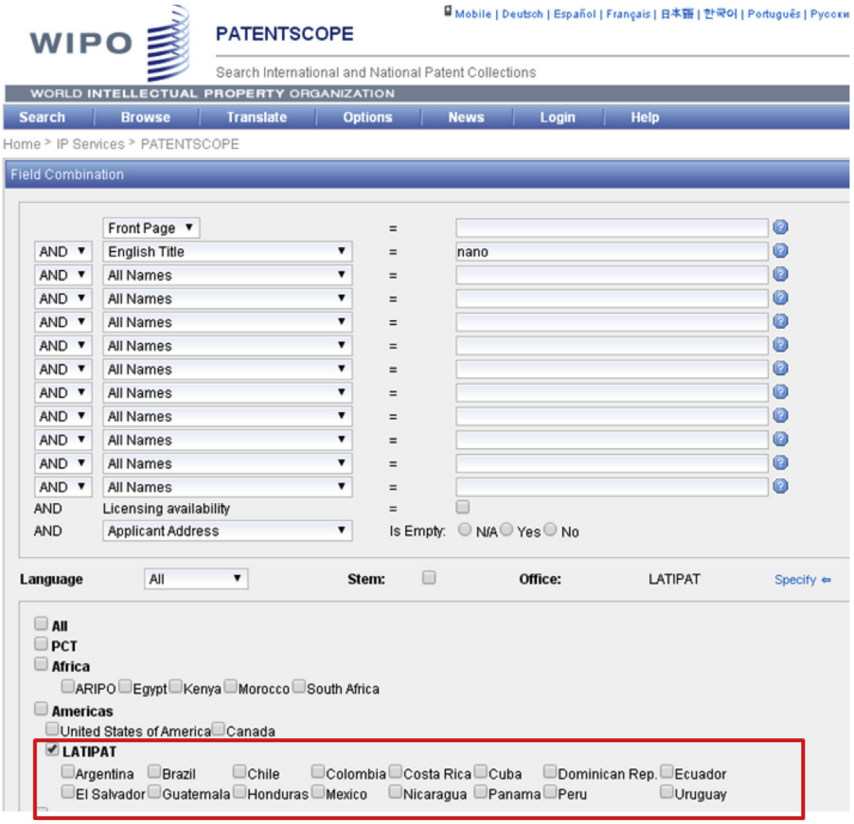

Fig. 2. Latipat via patentscope screenshot.

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