



Tips from FIZ Search Service

No 3 – NPL: A Hidden Treasure

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What is Nonpatent Literature (NPL)

Document types included in CAplus

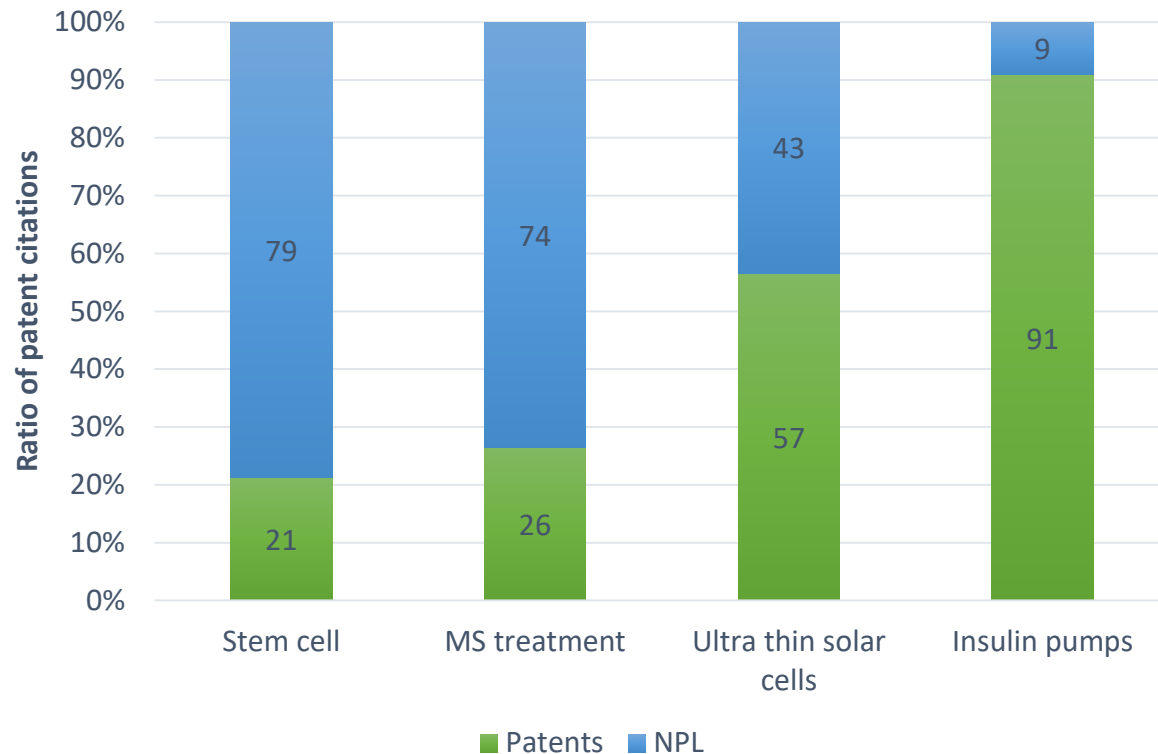


- Journal articles
- Electronic-only journals
- Conference articles
- Reports
- Reviews
- Books
- Dissertations
- Errata
- Web pre-prints
- Letters to the editor
- News announcements
- Product reviews
- Biographies
- Book reviews
- Editorials
- Miscellaneous items
- ...

Why NPL and when to use it



NPL Citations in Patents

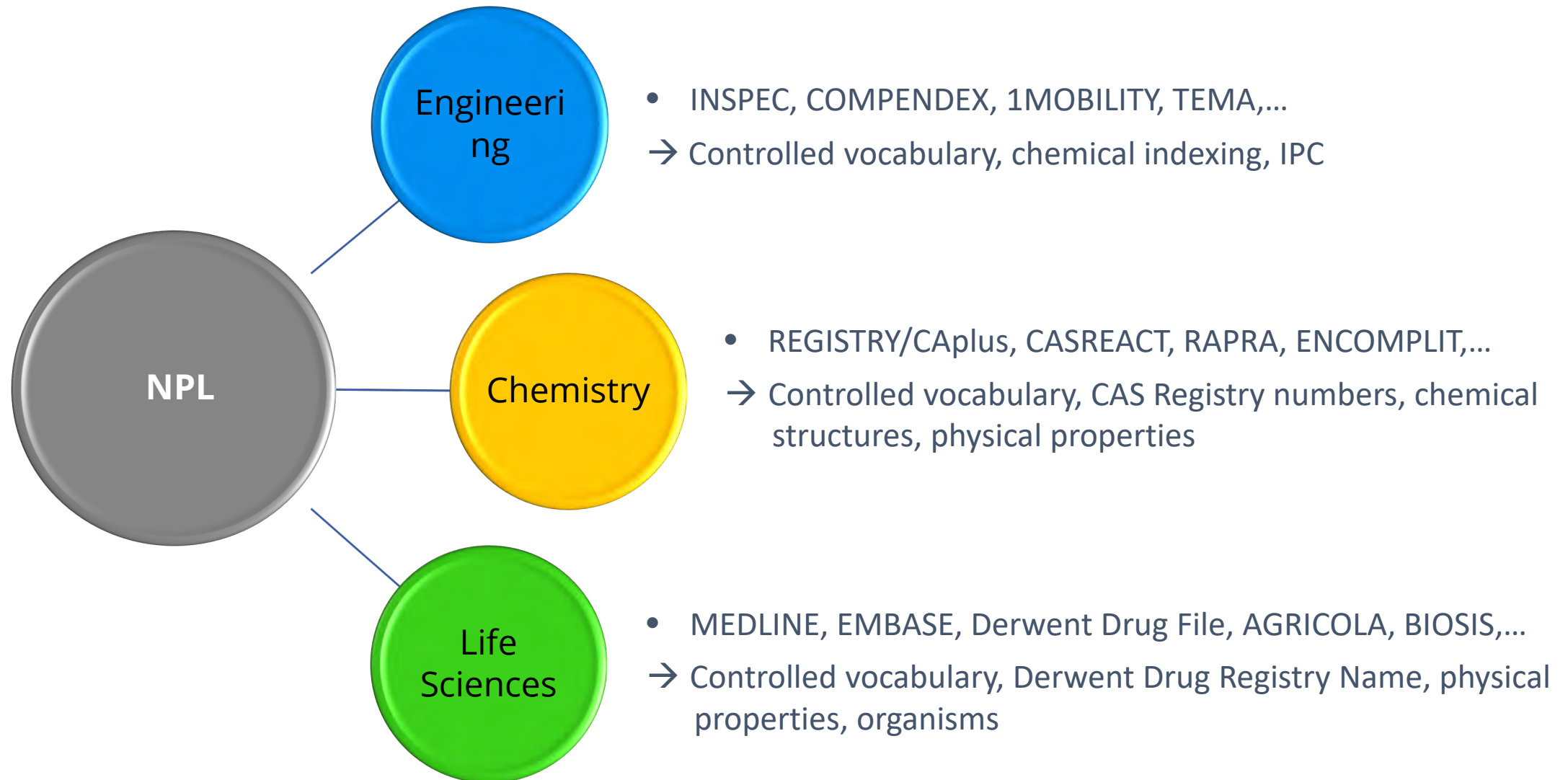


The portion of cited NPL is dependent on a variety of factors, e.g.

- Topicality
- Applicability
- Fundamental vs applied research
- Market establishment

Source: Patent citation search for different scientific and technological areas on STN in DWPI und DPCI for patents with a priority date after 01.01.2010.
Search: October 2020.

NPL – Subject Coverage on STN



NPL search on STN – Medicine

Example: Insulin pump

To many results in EMBASE?

=> FILE EMBASE

=> S INSULIN PUMP

L1 8751 INSULIN PUMP

=> S INSULIN PUMP/CT

L2 7458 INSULIN PUMP/CT

=> S *INSULIN PUMP/CT

L3 2461 *INSULIN PUMP/CT

Use major term (*) to refine your search results to a main aspect



"A Good Diabetic Number Too" by cogdogblog is licensed under CC BY 2.0

EMBASE is extensively indexed. Controlled vocabulary can help to focus your search.

Caution: Using [controlled vocabulary \(/CT\)](#) restricts your search but may not be sufficient.

NPL search on STN – Medicine

Example: Insulin pump

Combine controlled terms for more precise searching: Linking terms (L-terms)

=> FILE EMBASE

AM: Adverse device effect

=> S INSULIN PUMP+NT/CT(P) AM/CT

L4 82 INSULIN PUMP+NT/CT(P) AM/CT

For L-terms the proximity operator (P) is used.



"Regular insulin and a syringe from ampoules and vials of medicines" by wuestenigel is licensed under CC BY 2.0

L4 82 ANSWERS EMBASE COPYRIGHT (c) 2020 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved on STN

TI Review of a commercially available hybrid closed-loop insulin-delivery system in the treatment of Type 1 diabetes.

CT

- *i n s u l i n p u m p : A M , a d v e r s e d e v i c e e f f e c t ; a p p e n d i c i t i s
- *i n s u l i n p u m p : A M , a d v e r s e d e v i c e e f f e c t ; b a c t e r i a l a r t h r i t i s
- *i n s u l i n p u m p : A M , a d v e r s e d e v i c e e f f e c t ; h y p e r g l y c e m i a
- *i n s u l i n p u m p : A M , a d v e r s e d e v i c e e f f e c t ; r a s h

. . .

NPL search on STN – Numeric Property Search (NPS)

=> FILE COMPENDEX

=> S ULTRA THIN(2A) SOLAR CELL (25A) LEN<=300 NM

L1 13 ULTRA THIN(2A) SOLAR CELL (25A) LEN<=300 NM

=> D KWIC

L1 ANSWER 1 OF 13 COMPENDEX COPYRIGHT 2020 EEI on STN.

AB . . . However if the solar cells absorber thickness is simply reduced, the end-of-life (EOL) performance advantage of ultra-thin cells compared to bulk counterpart will only happen at very high fluences. By combining thinner absorber with efficient light trapping structures, **ultra-thin solar cells** can have superior EOL performances (efficiency, W/kg, W/msup2) at moderate fluences. Recent advances have shown that ~ **200nm** thin GaAs cells with a nanostructured back mirror can reach ~ 20% BOL efficiency. . . .

Here the length (/LEN) field* is used to search for the thickness of ultra-thin solar cells (≤ 300 nm).

Proximity operators can be used just like in a typical text search.

*Size (/SIZ) may also be used as a synonym for Length (/LEN).

NPL search on STN – Numeric Property Search (NPS)

=> **FILE COMPENDEX**

Flexible search input options

=> **S ULTRA THIN(2A) SOLAR CELL (25A) LEN<=300 NM**

L2 13 ULTRA THIN(2A) SOLAR CELL (25A) LEN<=300 NM

=> **S ULTRA THIN(2A) SOLAR CELL (25A) LEN<=0.0000003**

The base unit for length is meter.

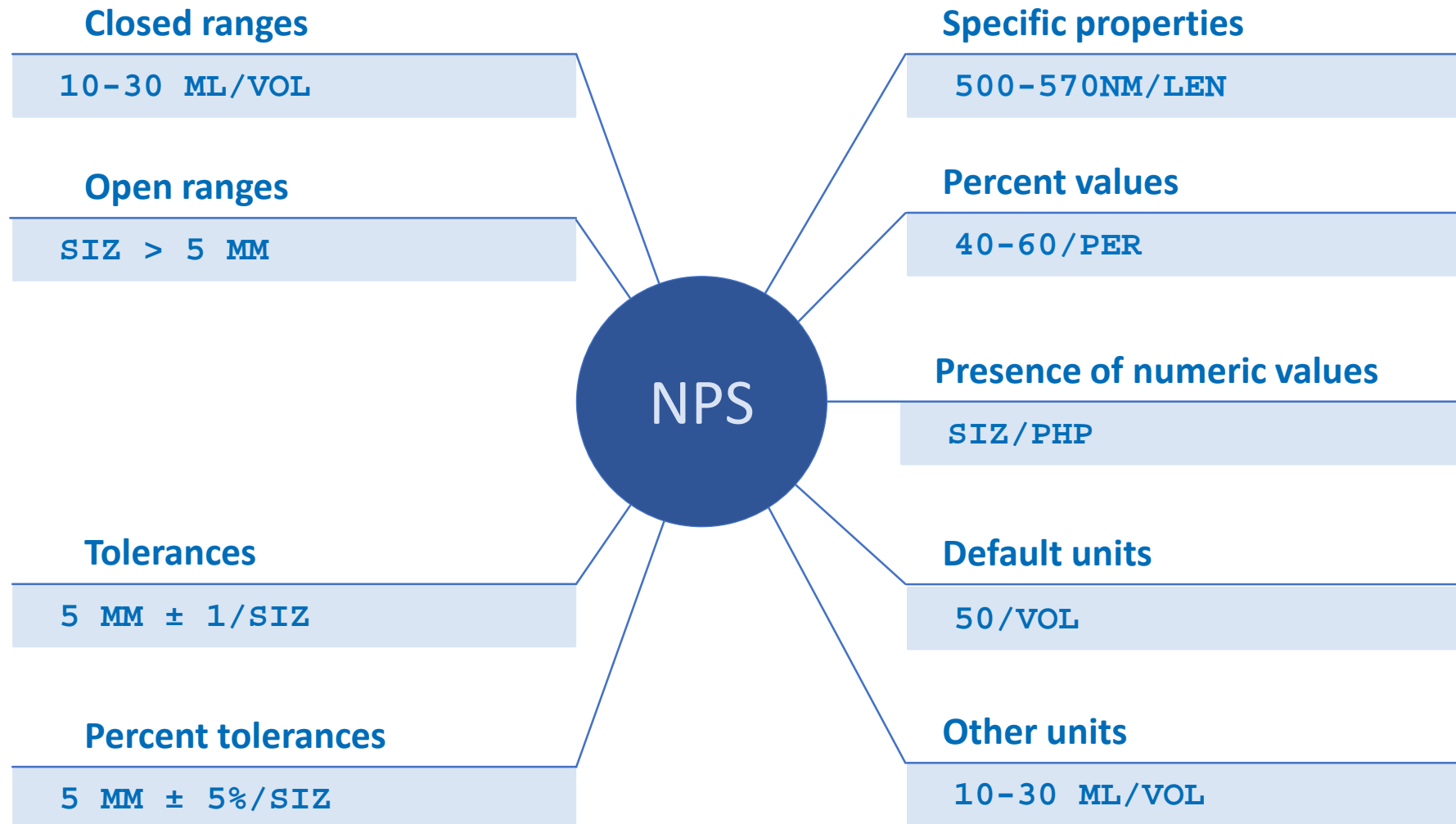
L3 13 ULTRA THIN(2A) SOLAR CELL (25A) LEN<=0.0000003 M

=> **S ultra thin(2A) solar cell (25A) LEN<=3.0e-7 M**

Scientific notation is supported.


L4 13 ULTRA THIN(2A) SOLAR CELL (25A) LEN<=3.0E-7 M

NPL search on STN – NPS expressions



Key takeaways

- **Don't underestimate the importance of NPL!**
 - Importance of NPL: relates to timeliness and applicability
 - High quality NPL databases on one platform
 - Broad and deep content coverage
 - Database-specific features for precise searching
- **NPS – an awesome to have feature**
 - Search for specific units, percentages or numeric values within text
 - 27 databases with NPS on STN available
 - Precise searching by combining NPS and keyword search



When in doubt ask our
Helpdesk.
Or assign searches to the FIZ
Search Service.

FIZ Search Service Team



- Scientists with several years of search experience
- We offer all kinds of patent and literature searches on STN and PatBase
- Structure searches in REGISTRY/CAPLUS, MARPAT, DCR/DWPI and DWPIIM/DWPI

Thank you for your attention
and have a nice day!

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www.fiz-karlsruhe.de/en/search-service.html

 **FIZ Search Service**

FIZ Karlsruhe – Leibniz Institute for Information Infrastructure

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