

The Finnish Patent Database, 1842-1940

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The paper presents the Finnish Patent Database 1842-1940, which aims at creating a database with information on all patents granted in Finland between 1842 and 1940 (c. 19000 patents). Patents are useful data for approaching a wide range of questions in social science history including economic development, the movement of people and technology, history of industries or businesses. In Finland, the historical patent data has been previously only partially available: the project fills this gap and collects, combines, and enriches data from different historical sources into a uniform research database. The database will consist of information about the patents and the related actors, and the links to the digital versions of the original patent records. Moreover, the records are linked to external databases such as GettyTGN, the Ontology of Finnish Historical Occupations (AMMO), and the Swedish historical patents (1746-1945) database. The database model is event-based, and it allows to study chronologies related to patents and the actors. The project employs the database for researching economic and technological development in Finland and the Nordic region, in particular transnational interactions and the role of human capital.