

Why Priority Claims?

The Main Problem: publishing “journal standard articles” takes long time, effort and resources

Scientists and creators often come up with valuable ideas (e.g. explanations, proposals for experiments, strategies, solutions to problems, etc.) which they would like to publish in journals. However, journals do not publish “single ideas” but require relatively “complete studies”. In most fields, journals require that ideas and discoveries disclosed in an article are supported by experiments, data, rigorous theoretical argumentation, studies, citations, etc. As a result, writing a “journal standard article” takes long time, lots of effort, and resources (e.g. money, facilities, laboratory, equipment, etc.). Further, publishing in journals often requires securing the collaboration of parties controlling access to research facilities, data and studies (e.g. laboratory managers). Less-influential scientists, such as junior scientists and students, are seldom successful at securing collaboration of such parties.

Many valuable ideas are lost because the creators do not have the time to engage in the sustained effort needed to write an article (they keep postponing until they lose motivation) or they do not have access to the resources needed to perform the experiments and studies required to support the core ideas.

There is a need for a quick (1-2 hours!) and effective way for publishing & asserting priority for ideas, discoveries & professional achievements.

The solution: publishing short (but explicit & clear) priority-claims

The Repository of Priority-Claims allows innovators to:

- quickly publish their ideas and discoveries (1-2 hours!)
- explicitly assert priority for their ideas & discoveries via **publishing priority-claims** (analogous to “patent claims”) on a CENTRALIZED DATABASE
- Have their ideas & discoveries reviewed by their peers (“crowd sourced peer review”)

Similar to the claims in patent applications,¹ the role of priority-claims is to make the innovator specify “explicitly, distinctly and clearly the ideas & discoveries for which innovator claims priority (his/her novel contribution)”. The priority-claims should start with an “**explicit claim of priority**” such as:

- I claim priority for the first performance of the following surgical procedure: ...
- I claim priority for the following financial strategy: ...

Claims allow the public and examiners to quickly evaluate the priority assertions of the innovator (separate the new features from the old contextual features). Claims make it easy to search the database for similar ideas and discoveries.

¹ **The role of “claims” in patent applications** - in early 1800s examiners at the US Patent Office where faced with the following problem – they would often receive long patent applications (e.g. 100 pages) describing in detail a large number of features of a complicated machine (e.g. an engine). However, the applications did not explain with clarity which of the many features described were actually new (i.e. invented by the applicant) and which features were just contextual information. Thus, the examiners (and the public) had a hard time separating the few novel features (i.e. the invention) from a large number of old features presented as contextual information. In order to separate the novel features from the old ones, the Patent Act of 1836 introduces the requirement that applications set forth “formal (numbered) claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the inventor regards as the invention”.