

Conference Redux

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Jorge Luis Borges wrote (with Adolfo Casares) a story, "Del Rigor en la Ciencia," or "On Exactitude in Science," about a perfect map that's as big as the kingdom which it depicts

1. “Digital stuff”

- (Extremely) pronounced scale economies; Network externalities
- Two- and multi-sided markets; Importance of standards
- “tipping-over” phenomena, lock-in, hold-ups...

- a regulator's nightmare

2. Enter patents

- Patents, breadth and scope; costs; definition of rights, litigation
- Standards
- Complementarities among patents (as in, patent aggregation, non-practicing entities, etc.)

- Conceptually, a “double nightmare” to disentangle

3. What's at stake?

- “It's the economy, stupid!” certainly, but there is more to it. Also, national security: EU “can't be left out of it”
- Access, by whom? Small players? Non-discriminatory?
→ competition policies, but also, regional policies!
- The media. Intersection between the “double nightmare”, and issues of “gatekeeping”. The overall “democratic echo-system” is affected

4. Evidence-based policies

- We need to increase our understanding. Research *is important*.
- *Evidence* means *data*: a “European Research Cloud” for Patents as “linked open data”?