

# Review of: "How to search for patents on the recovery of rare earth metals from electronic waste"

Tomasz Niedoba<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> AGH University of Science and Technology

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper deals with the problem of recovering rare earth metals from electronic wastes. Author showed how to search for patents on it.

The paper is divided into parts. The first one is Introduction. It introduces what rare earth elements are and show what methods of their recovery are in use. Author checked how many scientific articles are published considering this topic.

Next, the methodology proposed by the Author was introduced. Author used Espacenet database and Orbit Intelligence patent databases. According to the paper, the concepts of rare earth metals, recycling and electronic waste need to be combined.

The chapter with results showed the search strings used to retrieve the patent data. It allowed to evaluate the trends of filling, priority and publication of patent applications. The work ends with short conclusions.

Generally, the paper is quite interesting, but requires corrections. First, the English language is not perfect and supposes to be verified and validated. I suggest the help of English native speaker in this matter. Second, some phrases are very short and are written as a separated section. In my opinion, it is not the best way of writing – I think that more explanations and less “dry” phrases should be used. Furthermore, edition of the text is also required, as there are many places which are not formatted. Also, the number of references should be higher than it is provided.

After a major revision is done the paper can be published as a scientific paper.