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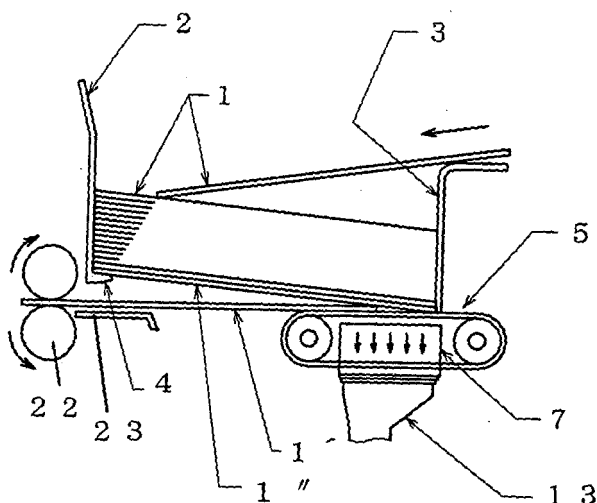
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(54) **Paper feeding method and apparatus**

(57) A method and apparatus are provided for feeding the bottommost paper sheet one by one to a succeeding paper-processing step such as printing as extracted from a stack of paper sheets (1). The paper stack is supported by a front guide (2) having a pawl (4) at the lower end and a back gate (3) as inclined toward the back

gate (3) and the bottommost paper sheet is attracted to a reversibly movable suction belt (5) while the remaining paper stack is pushed up by a lift table (15) to avoid contacting with the suction belt (5). Thus, one and only one paper sheet is extracted from the paper stack and conveyed by the suction belt (5) to be received by a pair of pinching rollers for feeding to the succeeding step.

FIG. 1





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		24 June 2008	De Rijck, Freddy
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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