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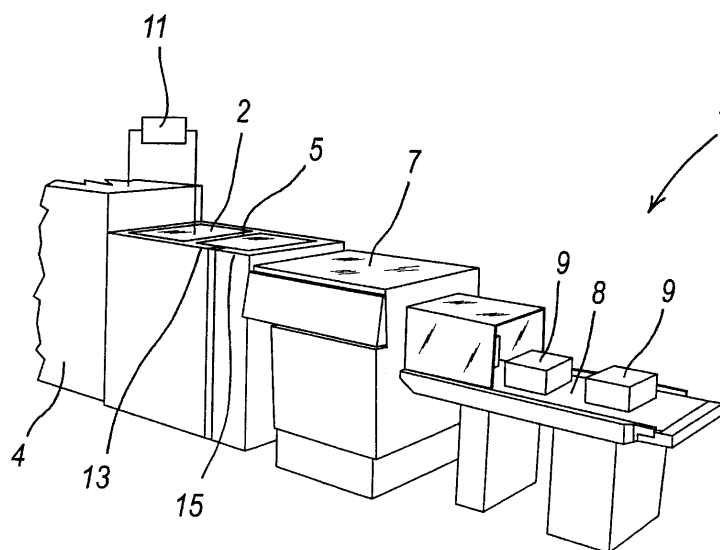
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(54) **Sheet handling device and process**

(57) The sheet handling device (1) comprises a connection module for transporting sheets (3) from a printer (4) to a cutter (5) for cutting the sheets (3) to define documents (3a,3b), and a receiver (7) for receiving the documents (3a,3b) from the cutter (5) and for feeding them to a discharge device (8). The receiver (7) is directly connectable in line to the printer (4), such that documents (3a,3b) are printed by the printer (4) and are subsequently

handled while maintaining the sequence in which they were printed. The sheet handling process consists of cutting the sheets (3) to separate the documents (3a,3b), collecting the cut documents (3a,3b) and making them available for subsequent processing. The sheets are directly fed from the printer (4) to the device (1) in line to the printer (4), such that documents (3a,3b) are printed by the printer (4) and are subsequently handled while maintaining the sequence in which they were printed.



**FIG. 5**



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 07 10 0381

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>Munich</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>20 February 2008</b>	Examiner <b>Pollet, Didier</b>
<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 &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 07 10 0381

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>Munich</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>20 February 2008</b>	Examiner <b>Pollet, Didier</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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 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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C01)



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### CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:
- ☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B**

Application Number

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-13,19-28

A sheet handling device and process comprising a connection module for transporting sheets to a cutter for cutting the sheets to define documents, and a receiver directly connectable in line to a printer for receiving the documents from the cutter and for feeding them to a discharge device.

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2. claims: 1,14-18,29-33

A storage element for temporary storing documents having a closed path and arranged to receive and store documents and release them on request, and a sheet handling device comprising such a storage element.

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 07 10 0381

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

20-02-2008

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