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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
UNITED INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX FOR THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

**INTERIM COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION
STANDING SUBCOMMITTEE**

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MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION: ABSTRACTING AND TRANSLATION
SERVICES FOR PATENT DOCUMENTS

Report by the International Bureau

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Introduction

1. The ready availability of abstracting and translation services for patent documents is of particular importance for the work of the prospective International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities (hereinafter referred to as "prospective Authorities"). Any prospective Authority can attain the necessary high quality of search and preliminary examination more easily if access to patent documents printed in languages other than its official language or languages is facilitated by abstracts or translations of the said documents established in a language which it uses. Moreover, Rule 34.1(e) of the PCT Regulations provides that any International Searching Authority whose official language, or one of whose official languages, is not Japanese or Russian is entitled not to include in its documentation those patent documents of Japan and the Soviet Union, respectively, for which no abstracts in the English language are available. Full coverage of the patent documents of the said two countries by English abstracting services is therefore a necessary condition for their full inclusion in the PCT minimum documentation.

2. For the above reasons, the Interim Committee for Technical Cooperation decided at its first session (February 1971) that:

"The International Bureau, under the guidance of the Interim Committee and with the advice of the Standing Subcommittee of that Committee, should:

...

(iii) carry out a survey of existing abstracting and translation services of patent documents likely to be of direct usefulness to the prospective Authorities (the survey should encompass, irrespective of geographical location, government-operated services, services offered for sale to the general public, and services which are private and restricted) and recommend measures to fill any gaps by the time the Patent Cooperation Treaty comes into effect;

(iv) study the possibilities of coordination and cooperation among the abstracting and translating services referred to in the preceding subparagraph, as well as the possibilities for the use of such services by the prospective Authorities; ..."

(document PCT/TCO/I/6, paragraph 25)

3. For the purposes of this report, the expression "abstracting service" is taken to include all services which publish--either as their only activity or as one of their activities--abstracts of patent documents in the English, French, German, Japanese or Russian languages, covering one or more countries and some or all fields of technology. Such services are included even if they also cover non-patent literature.

4. For the purposes of this report, the expression "translation service" is taken to include all services which keep--either as their only activity or as one of their activities--collections of translations of patent documents or their abstracts in the English, French, German, Japanese or Russian languages, covering one or more countries and some or all fields of technology. Such services are included even if they also cover non-patent literature or more than the above-mentioned languages. On the other hand, services making translations but not maintaining a collection of such translations to be placed at the disposal of their customers are not included.

5. It is recalled (see document PCT/TCO/SS/I/3, paragraph 3) that "patent documents" means patents, inventors' certificates, utility certificates, their respective published applications and like documents. "Non-patent literature" is understood here in its broadest sense: it includes but is not limited to periodicals containing articles or abstracts of articles of scientific or technological content in fields in which inventions of a patentable kind are usually made.

6. As a first step, the International Bureau is attempting to identify the existing patent abstracting and translation services, the volume of documents covered and the possible growth of that volume. In a later stage, the possibilities of coordination and cooperation among the different services will be examined, as well as the possibilities of using such services on the part of the prospective Authorities.

7. The present report contains the information which has been assembled so far: first, in respect of abstracting services; secondly, in respect of translation services. Finally, some provisional conclusions are drawn. Annexes I to IV give a detailed account of the information collected.

8. The main purpose of this report is to invite discussion on the scope of the proposed survey and to prompt members of the Standing Subcommittee to bring to the attention of the

International Bureau those abstracting and translation services which are known to them and which the survey should cover.

Abstracting Services

9. Three different types of abstracting services can be identified:

- (a) official services exclusively concerned with patents;
- (b) private services exclusively concerned with patents;
- (c) official or private services not exclusively concerned with patents.

10. Official abstracting services exclusively concerned with patents are operated by certain national patent offices. The abstracts are usually published in their official Gazettes. Annex I summarizes the characteristics of the abstracts contained therein.

11. At the present time, six private services exclusively concerned with patents have been identified: one each in France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and two in the United States. Annex II summarizes the characteristics of the abstracts offered by these six services.

12. So far, the International Bureau has identified almost 100 official or private abstracting services not dealing exclusively with patents. However, the data concerning many of them is still incomplete. A draft questionnaire to be addressed to those services and any others which may be identified in the meantime is attached to this report (Annex III).

13. The Standing Subcommittee is invited to examine and comment on Annexes I, II and III.

Translation Services

14. In recent months, the International Bureau has contacted several translation services in France, Germany (Federal Republic), Japan, the Netherlands, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Four

answers have so far been received. They are summarized in Annex IV. The survey is continuing.

15. Although the data so far received are not complete, the following general remarks may be made (but they may have to be reviewed in the light of further information received):

- (a) the services are not specialized in patent documents but translate patents among other documents;
- (b) the majority of the services are public or at least financed in part from public funds;
- (c) the services are generally reliable and, when copies of existing translations are required, their prices amount to less than it would cost to have the translation done again;
- (d) the services are generally faster in providing copies of their translations than the time it would take for a translation to be prepared again;
- (e) the services cover the languages of the major industrialized countries;
- (f) the majority of the translations available are in the English language;
- (g) the number of patent translations is growing fast, particularly those of Japanese patents;
- (h) cooperation exists between over 200 translation services, including in particular the National Translations Center, Chicago (USA) and the European Translations Center, Delft (Netherlands).

16. The Standing Subcommittee is invited to examine and comment on Annex IV.

Continuation of Survey and Study

17. The Standing Subcommittee is invited to make recommendations as to the orientation of the survey and study of abstracting and translation services.

/Annexes follow/

ABSTRACTS IN OFFICIAL GAZETTES

Country	Title of Publication	Language of Abstract	Publication Delay from Time of First Disclosure of Full Text of Document Abstracted	Publication Frequency	Number of Abstracts published in 1970	Average Number of Words in each Abstract	Form of Abstract	Elements Added					
	Name of Document Abstracted							Title	Drawing	Chemical Formula	Int. Patent Classification (IPC) Number	National Classification Number	Other Classification Number
UNITED KINGDOM	Patents for Inventions - Abridgements of Specifications	English	simultaneous	weekly	40,995	225	summary	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
	Abridgement of (Patent) Specification												
UNITED STATES	Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office	English	simultaneous	weekly	64,427	100	summary	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
	Patent Granted												

/End of Annex/

ANNEX II

ABSTRACTS OF PRIVATE SERVICES EXCLUSIVELY ON PATENTS

Name and Address of Abstracting Service: Name of Publication	Language of Abstract	Countries Covered	Publication Frequency	Type of Documents Covered and Basis of Abstract	Technological Field Covered (Classes When Avail- able)	(a) Number of Patent Documents Abstracted in 1970	Average Number of Words in each Ab- stract (not including bibliogra- phic data)	Elements Added							Available Format Paper(size)-P Microform- M Machine- Readable- MR	
			Publication Delay from Time of First Disclo- sure of Full Text of Document Abstracted	A (from abstract) C (from claims)		(b) Total Abstracted by End 1970		Title	Claim(s)	Summary of Disclosure	Mechanical Drawing	Chemical Formula	Int. Class. No.	Nat. Class. No.		Other Class.
1. WILA Verlag für Wirtschafts- werbung Wilhelm Lampl Landsbergerstr. 191a, München 12, Germany (F.R.): 1.1 Auszüge aus den Offenlegungs- schriften	German	Germany (F.R.)	weekly	C- Offenlegungs- schrift (unex- amined applica- tion) since October 1, 1968	all	(a) 90,000 (b) 230,000	200	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	P-A4 + A6 MR-Magnetic Tape
			1 week					yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	
			1.2 Auszüge aus den Patentan- meldungen	German	Germany (F.R.)	weekly	C- Auslegeschrift (examined applica- tion) since September 1, 1958	all	(a) 20,000 (b) 350,000	200	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
1 week	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes					yes	no				
1.3 Auszüge aus den Patentschrif- ten	German	Germany (F.R.)	monthly	C- Patentschrift (patent) since January 1, 1952	all	(a) 13,000 (b) 399,000	200	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	P-A6
8-12 weeks	yes	yes	no					yes	yes	yes	no					

ANNEX II

ABSTRACTS OF PRIVATE SERVICES EXCLUSIVELY ON PATENTS

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Name and Address of Abstracting Service: Name of Publication	Language of Abstract	Countries Covered	Publication Frequency	Type of Documents Covered and Basis of Abstract	Technological Field Covered (Classes When Available)	(a) Number of Patent Documents Abstracted in 1970	Average Number of Words in each Abstract (not including bibliographic data)	Elements Added							Available Format Paper(size)-P Microform- M Machine-Readable- MR	
			Publication Delay from Time of First Disclosure of Full Text of Document Abstracted	A (from abstract) C (from claims)		(b) Total Abstracted by End 1970		Title	Claim(s)	Summary of Disclosure	Mechanical Drawing	Chemical Formula	Int. Class. No.	Nat. Class. No.		Other Class.
2. Derwent Publications Ltd. Rochdale House 128 Theobald Rd. London WC 1 U.K.:	E	U.K.	weekly	FT-Accepted Complete Specifications since 1951	all	(a) 40,995 (b) 650,000	150	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	P-A4
			3 weeks													
			weekly	A-Abregés and abstracts as published in official gazettes since 1961		Chemistry Pharmaceutical		(a) 20,000 (b) 100,000	150	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	
2.2 French Patents Abstracts	E	France S. Africa India	4 weeks													
			weekly													
2.3 German Patents Abstracts	E	Germany (F.R.)	weekly	FT-Auslegeschrift (published examined application) since 1953	all	estimated (a) 30,000 (b) 180,000	150	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	P-A4

ABSTRACTS OF PRIVATE SERVICES EXCLUSIVELY ON PATENTS

Name and Address of Abstracting Service: Name of Publication	Language of Abstract	Countries Covered	Publication Frequency	Type of Documents Covered and Basis of Abstract FT (from full text) A (from abstract) C (from claims)	Technological Field Covered (Classes When Avail- able)	(a) Number of Patent Documents Abstracted in 1970	Average Number of Words in each Ab- stract (not including bibliogra- phic data)	Elements Added							Available Format Paper(size)-P Microform- M Machine- Readable- MR	
			Publication Delay from Time of First Disclo- sure of Full Text of Document Abstracted			(b) Total Abstracted by End 1970		Title	Claim(s)	Summary of Disclosure	Mechanical Drawing	Chemical Formula	Int. Class. No.	Nat. Class. No.		Other Class.
4. Chemical Abstracts Service Ohio State Univer- sity Columbus Ohio 43210, USA	E	26 countries	bi-weekly	patents (since 1967)	Polymer Chemistry	(a) 9,000	50	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	P-A4 approx. MR-Magnetic Tape
4.1 Polymer Science and Tech- nology (POST-P)			3 months			(b) 36,000										
5. Société Française pour la Gestion des Brevets d'Applica- tion Nucléaire 25 rue de Ponthieu Paris 8e, France	F	Australia Austria Belgium Canada Denmark Finland France Germany D.R. Germany (F.R.) Israel Italy Japan Luxembourg Norway Spain Sweden Switzerland U.K. U.S.A. U.S.S.R.	bi-monthly	A-patents and applications for patents (since 1958)	Nuclear Technology	(a) 3,600	100	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	P-A4
5.1 La Propriété Industrielle Nucléaire (Brevatome)			6 months			(b) 50,000										

ANNEX III

Questionnaire to Private Abstracting Services
Including But Not Exclusively Dealing With Patent Documents

Definition: For the purposes of this questionnaire, "patent documents" means patents, inventors' certificates (Soviet Union), utility certificates (France), published patent applications and like documents.

1. Which patent documents from what countries does your service abstract?
2. Are the abstracts of patent documents made on the basis of:
 - (i) the full text of the original patent document?
 - (ii) a text which is already an abstract or an abridgement of the patent document?
 - (iii) the claim(s) appearing in the patent document?
3. As far as patent documents are concerned, which technological fields are covered by your service? (Please specify and, if possible, indicate also in terms of the classes of the International Patent Classification and/or other patent classification system used.)
4. What is the average length of each abstract of a patent document (without counting the bibliographic data)? (Please express the length in number of words.)
5. What bibliographic data does each abstract of a patent document contain?
6. Do the abstracts of patent documents contain any classification symbols? If so, what kind(s)?
7. Do the abstracts of patent documents contain, where relevant:
 - (i) chemical formulae?
 - (ii) drawings, diagrams or the like?

8. How many abstracts of patent documents were published by your service:
 - (i) in 1970?
 - (ii) since the creation of your service?
9. In what language(s) are the abstracts of patent documents published?
10. How soon are the abstracts of patent documents published after the first publication of the patent documents of which they constitute the abstracts? (Please specify the shortest and longest periods differentiating among the various countries if terms vary.)
11. What is the frequency of publication of your service?
12. Are abstracts of patent documents published separately from or together with abstracts of non-patent literature items?
13. What are the subscription fees of the different formats (see below) of your services (per year, per field, other possibilities)? Please distinguish between:
 - (i) paper copies (specify size),
 - (ii) microfilm, microfiche, other microform (specify),
 - (iii) magnetic tapes or other machine readable form (specify).
14. Is it expected that the coverage of your service will be increased in the near future as far as patent documents are concerned? If so, please specify.

/End of Annex/

ANNEX IV

TRANSLATION SERVICES

Name and Address of Service	Name of Publication Listing Available Translations	Language(s) of Original Document(s)	Language(s) of available Translation(s)	Country of Patent Documents	Translation of Patent Documents		Available Format Paper (size)
	Frequency of Publication				Number of Translations Available	Yearly Increase of Available Translations	
European Translations Centre (ETC) 101 Doelenstraat Delft, Netherlands	World Index of Scientific Translations	Japanese Russian some others	English French German	Japan USSR others Total	1,137	500	P-A4
	monthly				602		
National Translations Centre (NTC) The John Crerar Library 35 West 33rd St. Chicago, Ill. 60616 U.S.A.	Translations Register Index	French German Japanese Russian some others	English	Austria Belgium France Germany (F.R.) Japan Switzerland U.S.S.R. others Total	450	4,000	P-A4
	semi-monthly				3,300		

Note: The N.T.C. includes among the number given as the number of available translations also the English-language corresponding U.S. patents. The E.T.C. and the N.T.C. already cooperate among themselves.

ANNEX IV

TRANSLATION SERVICES

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Name and Address of Service	Name of Publication Listing Available Translations	Language(s) of Original Document(s)	Language(s) of available Translation(s)	Country of Patent Documents	Translation of Patent Documents		Available Format Paper (size)
	Frequency of Publication				Number of Translations Available	Yearly Increase of Available Translations	
* National Lending Library for Science and Technology Walton Boston Spa Yorkshire LS237BQ United Kingdom	N.L.L. Translations Bulletin	all	English	France	1,200	800	P-A4
	monthly			Germany	2,400		
				Japan	1,600		
			U.S.S.R.	1,600			
			others	1,200			
			Total	8,000			
** Universitätsbibliothek und TIB Technische Universität, Welfengarten 1B 3 Hannover 1, Germany (F.R.)	<u>none</u>	Japanese Russian some others	German	Japan	236	30	P-A4
				U.S.S.R.	115		
			others	38			
				389			
* This service announces its acquisitions through the European Translations Centre							
** This service is a member of the European Translations Centre and announces its acquisitions through that Centre.							
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