

Digitization Guidelines Survey

Introduction

Background

At the thirteenth session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), the International Bureau presented document CWS/13/28 reporting on challenges that Offices were experiencing in the digitization of their IP documentation. The International Bureau also noted the result of a previous survey of CWS Members on the problems experienced in exchanging IP data where Offices indicated that digitization of their IP document was one of the major obstacles in improving data exchange with other Offices.

Specific challenges noted in the CWS working document included poor OCR quality, poor layout detection and badly tagged information when producing instances compliant with WIPO Standards ST.36 and ST.96. However, it was acknowledged that this was a non-exhaustive list.

As a means to have a more comprehensive picture of the challenges experienced by Offices when digitizing their IP documentation, the CWS agreed that the International Bureau conduct a survey by issuing a joint CWS and PCT Circular, inviting the members of both bodies to provide their responses to the questions provided.

Purpose

The purpose of this survey is to gather feedback regarding the challenges experienced during digitization of industrial property (IP) document collections. Based on the feedback received in response to this survey, an initial draft of a set of guidelines will be produced by the International Bureau. So we actively encourage your participation.

To review the survey content prior to completion, please download a blank copy [here](#).

You are kindly invited to respond to this survey by **June 5, 2026**. We expect one collective response from your Office or Organization.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to send an email to cws.surveys@wipo.int. If you require training assistance with WIPO Standards, you can contact us at standards@wipo.int.

Identification page

1. Please enter the ST.3 code of the member state or inter-governmental organization you represent. *

Start typing your state or organization name and select from the choices that appear. Only items from the list of ST.3 codes are accepted.

If your state or organization is not in the list, please select **Unknown - XX** and write your state or organization name below.

Note: country names are only available in English due to limitations of this survey platform.

2. Please enter the name of the Office or Organization you represent. For instance, International Bureau of WIPO.
If your organization name is the same as your ST.3 code name, you may put "n/a". *

3. Name and position of contact person. *

VALIDATION %s format expected

4. Please enter your email address so we can contact you if we have questions about your response. *

General questions

5. Is your national patent collection part of the PCT minimum documentation or does your Office contribute your IP documentation to one of WIPO's databases? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Patentscope
- ☐ Global Brands Database
- ☐ Global Design Database
- ☐ PCT minimum documentation
- ☐ Other (please specify)

*

6. What file or document format(s) does your Office accept at filing for IP applications? Please select all that apply. *

For industrial design collections: *

- ☐ XML
- ☐ PDF
- ☐ Image-based
- ☐ JSON
- ☐ Media-based formats (e.g., MP3)
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Other (please specify)

*

- ☐ Not applicable

For patent collections: *

☐ XML

☐ JSON

☐ PDF

☐ Image-based

☐ DOCX

☐ Paper

☐ Other (please specify)

☐ Not applicable

For trademark collections: *

☐ XML

☐ JSON

☐ PDF

☐ Image-based

☐ Media-based formats (e.g., MP3)

☐ 3D formats

☐ Other (please specify)

☐ Not applicable

7. In what language(s) do you publish your IP documents in? Please provide a full list of 2-letter language codes.

8. In what format(s) do you publish or disseminate your IP collection? Please select all that apply. *

For industrial design collections: *

☐ WIPO Standard ST.96

☐ WIPO Standard ST.86

☐ Image-based

☐ 3D formats

☐ PDF

☐ Media format (e.g., MP3)

☐ Other (please specify)

☐ Not applicable

For patent collections: *

☐ WIPO Standard ST.36

☐ WIPO Standard ST.96

☐ PDF

☐ Plain text

☐ JSON (e.g., WIPO Standard ST.97)

☐ Other (please specify)

☐ Not applicable

For trademark collections: *

☐ Image-based

☐ WIPO Standard ST.66

☐ WIPO Standard ST.96

☐ Media formats (e.g., MP3)

☐ 3D formats

☐ PDF

☐ Other (please specify)

☐ Not applicable

9. In what format(s) does you Office publish the bibliographic data associated with the format(s) indicated in question 8?
Please select all that apply. *

For industrial design collections:

☐ XML

☐ PDF

☐ JSON

☐ Plain text

☐ Other (please specify)

*

☐ Not applicable

For patent collections:

☐ XML

☐ PDF

☐ JSON

☐ Plain text

☐ Other (please specify)

*

☐ Not applicable

For trademark collections:

☐ XML

☐ PDF

☐ JSON

☐ Plain text

☐ Other (please specify)

*

☐ Not applicable

10. If your Office produces XML or JSON instances and does not validate these instances before publication, please provide your reasoning below.

11. Does your Office publish the color drawings they receive, if they are permitted during the filing of a patent application? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable

Digitization activities

LOGIC Show/hide trigger exists.

12. Does your Office perform digitization of documents you receive before publication or data dissemination, for one or more IP rights, or has experience of digitization of documents associated with IP rights? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

LOGIC Hidden unless: #12 Question "Does your Office perform digitization of documents you receive before publication or data dissemination, for one or more IP rights, or has experience of digitization of documents associated with IP rights?" is one of the following answers ("Yes")

12.1. How are or were these documents or associated data transformed from the format you received? e.g., paper document manually scanned and OCR'd **or** DOCX converted to XML.

LOGIC Hidden unless: #12 Question "Does your Office perform digitization of documents you receive before publication or data dissemination, for one or more IP rights, or has experience of digitization of documents associated with IP rights?" is one of the following answers ("Yes")

12.2. If you rely or relied on a third party to perform the digitization of your documents, why did you reach this decision?

LOGIC Hidden unless: #12 Question "Does your Office perform digitization of documents you receive before publication or

data dissemination, for one or more IP rights, or has experience of digitization of documents associated with IP rights?" is one of the following answers ("Yes")

12.3. Does your Office use or did you use any IT tools, in particular AI tools, in the digitization process that you find particularly useful?

LOGIC Hidden unless: #12 Question "Does your Office perform digitization of documents you receive before publication or data dissemination, for one or more IP rights, or has experience of digitization of documents associated with IP rights?" is one of the following answers ("Yes")

12.4. What are or were the biggest technical challenges you have experienced in digitizing your documents? e.g., extracting drawings or chemical formulae from a patent application. Please provide further details in the comments box below, including how you overcame these challenges and the relevant IP right type.

Digitization activities

13. If your Office is considering future digitization activities, please provide details regarding the tools you are considering, in particular AI tools, and include your reasons for selecting them for potential use in digitization.

14. Please provide any other feedback regarding capacity building for the digitization of IP document collections.

Response Country Code: [question('value'), id='st3code']

You may download a copy of your answers:

Thank You

Response Country Code: [question('value'), id='st3code']

Thank you for taking the survey. Your response is very important to us.

A copy of your responses has been emailed to [question('value'), id='respondentemail'].

Please contact cws.surveys@wipo.int if you have any questions.

Regards,
CWS Surveys

Thank You

You may now close this window.
