

Digitization Guidelines Survey

Response ID:141 Data

1. Identification page

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

LK - Sri Lanka

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".

National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka

2. General questions

3. 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.

Global Brands Database

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

For industrial design collections:

Paper

For patent collections:

Paper

For trademark collections:

Other (please specify): Paper

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

SI - Sinhala

EN - English

TA - Tamil

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

For industrial design collections:

Image-based

PDF

For patent collections:

PDF

For trademark collections:

Image-based

PDF

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

For industrial design collections:

PDF

For patent collections:

PDF

For trademark collections:

PDF

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

XML data used for dissemination and exchange is generated and managed through WIPO-supported systems. Validation controls are integrated into the system environment, and the Office does not currently undertake separate manual validation processes before publication.

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

No

3. Digitization activities

10. **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

- 10.1. **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.**

NIPO receives applications in paper and electronic formats. Paper records are scanned and converted into digital image files and PDF documents. Bibliographic data is captured and maintained in the IP administration system. Historical records are digitized through scanning, indexing, quality checking, and electronic storage for retrieval and dissemination.

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

NIPO has engaged external service providers and technical assistance projects where necessary to accelerate the digitization of historical records, improve data quality, and benefit from specialized expertise, equipment, and resources that were not available internally.

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

NIPO uses the WIPO IPAS platform and document management tools for managing digitized records and bibliographic data. The Office is also exploring the use of AI-assisted technologies for document processing, classification, indexing, and data extraction.

- 10.4. **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 of large volumes of historical paper records.

Poor quality or deteriorated documents affecting scanning and OCR accuracy.

Manual verification and correction of extracted bibliographic data.

Ensuring consistency and completeness of metadata.

Limited technical and human resources for large-scale digitization projects.

Integration of legacy records into modern electronic systems.

These challenges have been addressed through quality-control procedures, staff training, phased digitization activities, and technical support provided through WIPO digitization initiatives.

4. Digitization activities

11. **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.**

NIPO plans to continue the digitization of historical IP records and improve the quality of digital collections. The Office is interested in AI-based OCR solutions, intelligent document classification, metadata extraction, automated indexing, and quality-control tools. These technologies are expected to improve efficiency, accuracy, searchability, and access to intellectual property information while reducing manual processing effort.

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

NIPO would welcome additional capacity-building activities from WIPO, including training on digitization standards, WIPO Standards ST.96 and related XML technologies, OCR and AI-based document processing, metadata management, quality assurance, and best practices for large-scale digitization projects. Technical guidance, knowledge-sharing opportunities, and practical training would support the sustainable development of digitization capabilities within the Office.