

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Sixth Session
Geneva, October 15 to 19, 2018

REPORT ON TASK NO.52 BY THE PUBLIC ACCESS TO PATENT INFORMATION TASK FORCE

Document prepared by the Public Access to Patent Information Task Force

BACKGROUND

1. The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), at its reconvened fourth session held in March 2016, noted the request and information provided by the Patent Documentation Group (PDG) concerning the requirements for national and regional patent registers. The CWS agreed, in particular, to collect industrial property offices (IPOs) practices on content, functionalities and future plans with respect to their patent registers (see Annex III to document CWS/4BIS/6).
2. The CWS, at its fifth session held in Geneva from May 29 to June 2, 2017, created a new Task No. 52: "Survey on content and functionalities of systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of industrial property offices, as well as future plans with respect to their publication practices; prepare recommendations for systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of industrial property offices" (see paragraphs 94 to 96 of document CWS/5/22).
3. The CWS also established the Public Access to Patent Information (PAPI) Task Force to carry out Task No.52, and designated the International Bureau of WIPO as the Task Force leader. The CWS requested the established Task Force to take into account the knowledge gathered during the maintenance of the Patent Register Portal and the results of the work of the Legal Status Task Force. (See paragraphs 97 to 100 of document CWS/5/22.)

4. The PAPI Task Force commenced its business from September 2017 and currently 32 experts nominated by the following Industrial Property Offices (IPOs): CL, CN, DE, GB, IB, IN, JP, KR, RU, SK and UA, and industry groups, i.e., Confederacy of European Patent Information User Groups (CEPIUG) and Patent Documentation Group (PDG), participate in the Task Force.

DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SURVEY

5. In accordance with the decision by the CWS, the PAPI Task Force carried out five rounds of discussions to prepare a proposal for the questionnaire on the content and functionalities of systems for providing access to publicly available patent information. The final draft of the questionnaire is reproduced as Annex to this document for consideration and approval by the CWS.

6. The proposed draft questionnaire consists of six components:

- (a) contact details of the respondent;
- (b) how users can access the IPOs' patent information (systems);
- (c) what contents are available through patent information (systems);
- (d) functionality of the systems that the IPO provides and wish to use from other IPOs' systems;
- (e) users' support, and
- (f) the IPO's future plan regarding patent information (systems) and expected area of WIPO recommendations.

WORK PLAN

7. The Task Force proposes the following work plan to carry on Task No. 52:

Action	Expected Result	Planned Date
Present progress report, including a final draft questionnaire regarding systems for publically available patent information at the sixth session of the CWS	It is expected that the CWS will review and approve the draft questionnaire and approve it at this session.	October 2018
Conduct the survey with the approved questionnaire <i>[Note : the Secretariat will investigate a possibility of using online survey tool]</i>	The Secretariat will issue a circular inviting IPOs to participate in the survey	December 2018
Collect and analyze the survey responses	IPOs will respond the survey; and the Task Force will analyze survey outcome.	March 2019
Prepare a report on the result of survey	The Task Force will prepare a summary of the survey result and propose further action required for consideration at the CWS/7.	CWS/7

8. *The CWS is invited to:*

(a) note the content of the present document;

(b) consider and approve the draft questionnaire, as reproduced in Annex to the present document; and

(c) request the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting IPOs to participate in the survey, referred to in paragraph 7 above.

[Annex follows]

**DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE CONTENT AND FUNCTIONALITIES OF SYSTEMS
FOR PROVIDING ACCESS TO PUBLICLY AVAILABLE PATENT INFORMATION**

CONTACT DETAILS

Name _____

Title _____

Country/Organization and the corresponding WIPO ST.3 code _____

E-mail address _____

Telephone _____

ACCESS TO THE SYSTEM

Q1. What is the name and URL(s) of the system(s) for providing access to patent information issued by your Office (the system)?

Q2. Does the system(s) indicated in Q1 provide access to legal status information?

- Yes/No

Q3. Does your Office have a separate online system providing access to legal status-specific information, which is issued by your Office with effect in your jurisdiction? If so, please list its name and URL?

Q4. How can a user access the system?

- No login required (free access)
- Guest login. Please give details _____
- Subscription or even contract required. Please explain the conditions

Q5. Fees required for particular services. Please indicate for which services and explain the payment procedure

Q6. Do the systems, indicated in Q1 and Q3, have several languages available for interfaces and search? If so, are the various language interfaces synchronized? Please list all language system interfaces and indicate the reference language and differences (for example, in the frequency of updates, coverage, search tools, etc.), if any.

a. Patent information in general(Q1, e.g. patent database)

b. Legal status-specific information (Q3, e.g. patent register)

Q7. Please answer the following question if your Office publishes the Official Gazette. Is the Official Gazette accessible via the system and if not, how can it be obtained by users?

CONTENT

Q8. Is the data regarding the following types of patent documents or information accessible online?

	From	To	Not available
Published ¹ applications			
Granted patents			
Corrections			
Priority information			
Patent family information			
File inspection			
Court decisions			
Reassignments			
Licensing information			
Other: _____			

Q9. Does the system contain full texts (searchable, character coded) of patent documents? Are they available for download and, if so, in what format?

Q10. Does the system provide access to the latest versions of patent documents (“as granted” as opposed to “as filed”)? If so, for which parts of patent documents: claims, description, complete document, etc.

¹ In line with Part 8 of the WIPO Handbook, entry “Publication” (<http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/pdf/08-01-01.pdf>), the terms “publication” and “published” are used in the sense of making available

- a patent document to the public for inspection or supplying a copy on request;
- multiple copies of a patent document produced on, or by, any medium (e.g., paper, film, magnetic tape or disc, optical disc, online database, computer network, etc.).

Please provide date (at least the year) information in the column “From” and “To”.

Q11. Does your Office/Organization make authority files of published patent documents available as per WIPO Standard ST.37?

Q12. Are there any significant gaps in coverage? Please specify, for example time frames / reasons.

Q13. Is the following legal status information available in the system:

- whether the patent is granted
- whether the patent is currently in force
- PCT national phase entry date
- fee payments
- change of ownership
- pre- and post-grant events, including those following court decisions. Which ones?

-
- other, please specify _____

Q14. Is the event history (list of relevant publications) for a given document available in the system?

FUNCTIONALITY

Systems provided by your Office/Organization

Q15. How often is the content updated in the system?

For full descriptions: _____

For legal status information: _____

Q16. Are the following features implemented in the system in question?

	For full descriptions	For legal status
Basic search		
Advanced search		
Field combination search		
Semantic search		
Priority search by date		
Priority search by number		
Bibliographic search in English (or Latin character set)		
Search by applicant or inventor name (please specify which one or if both are supported)		
Search by PCT application number		
Machine translations		

Q17. For machine translations, please indicate which languages are used and in which sections of the document: title, abstract, description, claims

Q18. What is the format of application or publication numbers to be used for the search by number? In particular, if the WIPO ST.3 country code or WIPO ST.16 kind-of-document code should be added to the number? Please provide examples of the numbers accepted by the system.

Q19. Does the system have a single interface for different types of patent documents? For example, for published patent applications, granted patents, patent term extensions, fee payments. If there are separate websites or portals, please list them.

Q20. Does the system have a single interface for different types of industrial property rights? For example patents for inventions, plant patents, design patents, inventors' certificates, utility certificates, utility models, patents of addition and others. If there are separate websites or portals, please list them.

Q21. Does the system contain information regarding documents issued under international or regional IP protection systems, which have (potential) effect in your jurisdiction? If so, what types of documents are available, e.g. translations? Is this data searchable in the same database as national documentation, in a separate database or is there an external link to the database of the relevant organization?

Systems provided by other Offices/Organizations

Q22. What functionality would you like to see in the systems provided by other Offices?

	For full descriptions	For legal status
Possibility to translate content into other languages		
Search by bibliographic data fields		
Full text search		
Possibility to download documents in various formats		
Alerting		
Other. Please specify		

Q23. What is the desired update frequency:

	For full descriptions	For legal status
Immediate publication of all changes		
Daily updates		
Weekly updates		
Other. Please specify		

Q24. Should the system support machine to machine communication?

For full descriptions: _____

For legal status information: _____

Q25. Should the system provide search capabilities for national data sets and data published by other Offices (with an interface in the national language)?

For full descriptions: _____

For legal status information: _____

USERS' SUPPORT

Q26. Is there a general or field search user guide available in the system?

Q27. Is there an email address where users can send their feedback regarding the content and functionality of the system?

Q28. Is there a dedicated phone contact to help users in case of questions concerning search and content?

Q29. Is there a clear indication of which information the official publication is issued by your Office/Organization or a disclaimer indicating the contrary?

FUTURE PLANS

Q30. Please briefly describe the future plans with respect to the system, its content and functionality.

Q31. In which of the following areas are WIPO recommendations the most needed and/or most effective:

	For full descriptions	For legal status
Composition of published information		
Frequency of updates		
Availability of information and/or interfaces in other languages		
Information retrieval functionality		
Other. Please specify		

[End of Annex and of document]