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**PCT MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION; NON-PATENT LITERATURE**

**PAL SYSTEM MARK II**

**Proposals of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (INSPEC)**

This document contains the latest proposals of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (INSPEC), London, for the continuation of a Patent Associated Literature (PAL) Service: PAL System Mark II.

THE PATENT ASSOCIATED LITERATURE SERVICES OF INSPEC1. THE FULL-TEXT AND COMPOSITE SERVICES

In March 1974, INSPEC implemented its Patent Associated Literature services in the form of the Full-Text Copy Service. Thereafter, a Composite Service giving the same subject and publication coverage at a lower price was developed and introduced from March 1976.

These services were intended to provide the International Searching Authorities of the PCT and other patent Offices which required non-patent literature in their search files with suitable documentation classified according to the IPC.

1.1 Saving Effort by Centralised Processing

Both the Full-Text and Composite services were based upon the centralised processing of non-patent literature with the aim of saving effort and expenditure in individual patent Offices by freeing examining staff from the need to carry out this work. However, a number of patent Offices encountered insurmountable resistance to this suggestion and have found it necessary to allow their examiners to continue to review and process the non-patent literature.

1.2 Phased Improvement of Coverage

Although it had been agreed that the Patent Associated Literature services should be developed in three phases:

- (1) Physics and electrical subjects
- (2) Mechanical engineering
- (3) Chemistry,

it was found that patent Offices held conflicting views both on the need for this expansion of subject coverage and on whether only the 168 journals in the minimum documentation list should be covered. To resolve this, INSPEC proposed a basic service giving full subject coverage of the 168 minimum documentation journals together with optional services providing additional coverage in certain subjects. This met with opposition such

that the proposals had to be withdrawn in favour of continuing the coverage of physics and electrical subjects only. However, this decision was unsatisfactory for at least one of the subscribing patent Offices.

### 1.3 Withdrawal of the Full-Text and Composite Services

The number of patent Offices willing to subscribe to the Full-Text and Composite Services has fallen as the result of the above problems and now is insufficient to enable INSPEC to continue with either service. Consequently both services have been withdrawn.

## 2. NEW PATENT ASSOCIATED LITERATURE SERVICES

Clearly the circumstances which led to the withdrawal of the Full-Text and Composite services do not indicate a reduction of interest by the patent Offices in non-patent literature. Because of this and because also of an increasing awareness in industry and commerce of the value of such literature as a source of information on new technical advances, INSPEC is proposing new Patent Associated Literature services which are expected to be of interest to patent Offices and also to industry and commerce.

### 2.1 Proposals for the New Services

Having regard to INSPEC's past experience in providing information services for industry and commerce as well as in providing Patent Associated Literature services for patent Offices, it is proposed that the new Patent Associated Literature services should comprise a regular, e.g. monthly, abstract publication, possibly with an annual index issue, and a magnetic tape service.

### 2.2 Specification for the Proposed Abstract Journal

As already indicated, it is envisaged that such an abstract journal will comprise a monthly publication. Only physics and electrical subjects will be covered. Each issue will consist of main entries and cross-references all organised under descriptive subject headings corresponding to classes and sub-classes of the IPC Section G and H. Main entries will be numbered consecutively within each year of publication to facilitate their identification in the cross references and in all associated indexes.

A main entry usually will comprise the title, author, corporate author, pagination, language and an English abstract together with the title and issue details of the source publication. A cross-reference entry will comprise the title and the reference number of the corresponding main entry.

Each issue will include simple indexes in respect of all items included in the issue. These will comprise an author name index and patent classification indexes for both United States and IPC symbols. For each index the entries will be organised alphabetically (author name), alphanumerically (IPC) or numerically (US classification) with the appropriate main entry reference number or numbers against each entry.

### 2.3 Specification for the Proposed Magnetic Tape Service

The magnetic tape service will cover the same material as the abstract journal and is expected to be issued monthly. The tape service will incorporate the same data for each item as the corresponding main entry in the abstract journal. It will also include all assigned IPC and US classification symbols plus thesaurus-controlled and free-language subject indexing terms.

The magnetic tape service will use a record format which complies with ISO 2709 for bibliographic information exchange on magnetic tape and with corresponding standards developed by ANSI-Z39 and the British Standards Institution.

The tapes will be available in the following physical formats:

- 9 track, 1600 bpi, odd parity, industry-compatible
- 9 track, 800 bpi, odd parity, industry-compatible
- 7 track, 556 bpi, even parity, industry-compatible
- 7 track, 556 bpi, odd parity, for ICL 1900 Series computers.

#### 2.4 Subscription Prices

The annual subscription price for the proposed abstract journal is not expected to exceed US \$400, or US \$500 if an annual index issue is also provided. It is expected that special rates will be available for multiple subscriptions with delivery to a single address.

The annual subscription price for the magnetic tape service is expected to be US \$4000.

#### 2.5 Availability of the Proposed New Services

The availability of the new services will depend to a large extent upon the interest shown by patent Offices in the services. Therefore, INSPEC invites each of the patent Offices to indicate:

- (a) If it would expect to enter a subscription to the proposed magnetic tape service, and
- (b) If it would expect to subscribe to the proposed abstract journal and, if so, how many subscriptions it would be likely to enter.

INSPEC further invites each of the patent Offices to give its views, on the need for an annual index publication, on the particular indexes which should appear in such a publication and on any other matters relating to the proposed new services.

A decision to introduce the proposed new services cannot be made until the above information is received and therefore the patent Offices are requested to make this information available to INSPEC as quickly as possible and to indicate at least the extent of their interest in the new services by the 30th November 1977.

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