

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

1999

ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by the

**AFRICAN REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
(ARIPO)**

An annual series of reports on the industrial design information activities
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

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- The expression “industrial design” covers designs and models.
- Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in this series of documents.

ARIPO Annual Technical Report on Industrial Design Information Activities in 1999

I Evolution of Registration Activities

- There were fewer filings and registration of designs in 1999 as compared to 1998;
- Most of the designs concerned the home industry and hand crafts fields.

II Matters concerning the generation, reproduction and distribution of industrial design documents and secondary sources of industrial design information i.e. official gazettes:

- Industrial Designs were treated the same way as patents with the exception that the design diagrams could not be included in the AFPAT database.

III Matters Concerning Classifying, Reclassifying and indexing of Industrial Design Information according to the classification systems applied:

- Industrial Designs were classified only according to the Locorna Agreement. There were no reclassification activities.
- All bibliographic data with the exception of diagrams were included in the AFPAT database used for search purposes. They were also stored in paper form.

IV Search File Establishment and Upkeep:

In accordance with ARIPO Regulations and Administrative Instructions, Industrial Designs are only registered and not examined. Therefore there is no need for search files as yet. However, the AFPAT database could be used as search files.

V Activities in the Field of Computerized Search System for Industrial Designs

- The in-house system is used only for administration. There was no interrogation of external industrial design database;
- AFPAT database and MSWord processing were used for administration and management.

- The WIPO, WIPONET project has enabled the procurement and networking of PCs using Windows NT and constant access to Internet;
- Equipment used was the same as in patents and was procured through the WIPONET Project.

VI Administration of services available to the public (relating to facilities e.g. for lodging applications, registrations designs, assisting clients with search procedures, obtaining official publications and registry extracts)

- Information was available to the public on request, exhibitions, Trade fairs and through brochures;
- ARIPO has no public library as yet.

VII Matters concerning mutual exchange of industrial design documentation and information.

- Registered industrial designs are only provided to the member states of ARIPO on hardcopy and AFPAT database;
- Industrial designs on CD-ROM from USPTO were received.

VIII Matters concerning educational and training including technical assistance to developing countries:

- ARIPO undertook training seminars and fairs were undertaken in most of its member states.
- Training of staff of ARIPO, and the staff of member states has always been a priority. WIPO, EPO and UK Patent Offices have facilitated most training seminars.