

# WIPO



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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

**ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

**1999**

**ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES\***

submitted by

**NORWAY**

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

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\*  
– The term “patent” covers utility models and SPCs.  
– Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in the series of documents SCIT/ATR/ID.

# **Norwegian Patent Office (NPO)**

## **Annual Technical Report on Patent Information Activities in 1999**

### **I Evolution of patent activities**

In 1999 the number of patent applications increased to 6590 applications, from 6219 in 1998. Amongst these were 1335 applications filed by Norwegian residents. The biggest increase is in the field of "Human necessities (IPC-Section A), but the income according to IPC-Sections B, C, G and H is also increased.

### **II Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, distribution and use of primary and secondary sources of patent information.**

The Norwegian Patent Gazette (Norsk Patenttidende) is published once a week, and contains bibliographic information on new applications (A0), published patent applications (A-publications, 18 months from earliest priority date) and granted patents (B1, B2, B3). The patent Gazette is generated from our internal database with bibliographic information.

The NPO print and publish an abstract document containing bibliographic information, abstract and drawing or chemical formulae which is distributed to subscribers. The published patent applications are made available to the public for inspection at our study, or can be supplied as a photocopy on demand.

Granted patents are published and printed as B1 documents, or B2 in case of changes experienced during opposition procedure, or B3 in case of restrictions in a granted patent at the patentees request. The patents (B1, B2, B3) are produced as paper documents and microfiches, and distributed to subscribers.

Our internal database contains bibliographic information of patents, patent applications and SPC's including changes in legal status and other information.

The NPO uses Novell Network and TCP/IP communication. Client operating system is Windows 95. We are now using MS Office 2000, i.e. MS Word 2000 text processing.

### **III Matters concerning abstracting, classifying, reclassifying and indexing of technical information contained in patent documents**

The NPO uses the IPC for filing new paper documents – including US patent documents. We seldom reclassify foreign documents, but file according to the IPC classification allotted at first place on the document by publishing country. There is a more or less continuous activity to reclassify the Norwegian patents according to the latest IPC classification.

None of the Norwegian patents are translated by the NPO. Indexing of technical information are used to some extent in the chemical field. Patent applicants provide an abstract of the patent application which is published after approval of the examiner.

The NPO has an internal database which can be searched on bibliographic data, with legal status, on patents and patent applications from 1976 and onward. The database also includes SPC's from 1994 and onward.

#### **IV Search file and upkeep**

Most of the search files used by the examiners are stored on paper according to the IPC. Old files are not reclassified, that is, the examiners search the documents filed according to both present and previous versions of the IPC. US patents in the period of 1900 – 1980 is filed according to the US patent classification system, and other older patent documents are classified according to either the old German system, or the Dutch classification system. Most of the files are continuously updated.

During 1998 and 1999 the NPO stopped filing paper in some areas where online searching has replaced manual searching.

We have stopped filing paper on:

Countrycode	IPC-section
AT	G
CH	G
DE	C (some minor classes/sub-classes are kept in paper)
DE	G
DE	H
EP	C (some minor classes/sub-classes are kept in paper)
EP	G
EP	H
EP A3	All IPC-sections
FR	All IPC-sections
US	C (some minor classes/sub-classes are kept in paper)
US	G
US	H
WO	All IPC-sections

During 1998 the NPO established a jukebox solution or CD-ROM's which now contains approximately 4.400 CD's with US, EP-A, EP-B, DE and WO CD's. The examiners order their documents from their own PC, browse on the screen, and print out if necessary. We expect to increase the capacity in 2000 gradually when receiving CD-ROM's instead of paper documents under the exchange agreement. The jukebox solution may easily be upgraded to handle DVD's instead of CD-ROM's, and both CD's and DVD's can exist side by side in the system.

In 1999 we received about 281.000 new patent documents on paper, and almost 2900 CD-ROM's with patent publications. By the end of 1999/first part of 2000, the NPO established a solution for printing US and DE documents from CD-ROM's, for the use in technical fields which the are difficulties conducting online searching in a proper manner.

#### **VI Administration of the industrial property office library and services available to the public.**

Out Info Centre answers questions an inquiries and give general information concerning industrial property rights to the public (including assisting clients on searching procedures). Most of the inquires are legal information from the patent and trademarks registers.

The public can visit the Info Centre and use dedicated workstations for searching patent literature on several CD-ROM's (e.g. ESPACE ACCES, DEPAROM KOMPAKT) and Internet. They are also allowed to use the internal database for Norwegian patents and patent applications. The public can use a classified file of Norwegian patents, and to some extent the public are allowed to use the examiners classified on other countries.

The public has access to any numerical document or gazette within the industrial property, or they can order photocopies.

The Search and Advisory Service undertook approximately 1000 paid commissions to carry out searches and examinations in technical literature, and 480 bibliographic searches via inhouse and online database. In addition, approximately 400 trademark and design commission where carried out.

## **VII Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documentation and information**

The NPO exchange patent documents with about 20 patent offices and the EPO. Bibliographic data of Norwegian patents and patent applications are provided on a machine readable form to EPO, EPIDOS.

The only accepted medium at present for filing patent applications in Norway is paper. We will however in the future make possible electronic delivery of applications (se chapter IX)

For the time being, the NPO provides the Norwegian Patent Gazette on paper only, and the Norwegian patents on paper and microfiche. The NPO intends to change to an electronic data carrier, see chapter IX.

## **VIII Other relevant matters concerning education and training in, and promotion of, the use of patent information, including technical assistance to developing countries**

The NPO regularly organises internal courses for our own examiners and other office staff in both industrial property rights and online searching.

In 1999 we launched a promotion activity directed to 2 of our 21 counties, where we held lectures, arranges minor exhibitions and conducted visits to elected enterprises. We also participated in a couple greater exhibitions in Norway, in order to promote the field of industrial property rights (at one of these exhibitions we actually won the prize as best stand of the exhibition)

Our Course Service held courses in industrial property rights for the public. Mainly staff from the industry, staff from other government agencies working in this area and patent attorneys participate in these courses. The Course Service is given much backing, and there is a great demand for these courses.

I 1999 we continued to provide technical assistance to developing countries by giving novelty searches (state-of-the-art- searches) free of charge. The assistance is administered by WIPO.

## **IX Other relevant matters**

As brought up in our report for the year 1998, the NPO is preparing to introduce electronic casework, and is therefore about to make a comprehensive investment in IT, the SANT programme. The SANT programme were launched in October 1998, and are estimated to be completed by the end of the year 2001.

Using the SANT programme, the NPO wishes to introduce a system that will support the following functions:

- New receipt of applications function for industrial rights and ordinary correspondence, including the recording, scanning and OCR treatment of received material. The NPO must also have the facility for electronic submission of material.
- Electronic document archive with journal and archive management.
- Electronic casework system, including electronic work-flow and the facility for electronic checking of applications for previously registered rights.
- An Internet solution permitting casework-related information in the document archive and the casework system to be accessed by the general public.
- Electronic document exchange, including the transmission of Norwegian patents to patent offices in other countries, receipt of other countries' patents and also the transmission of applications for industrial rights through international applications systems.