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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
GENEVA

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

**ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

**2001**

**ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES<sup>1</sup>**

submitted by

**AUSTRALIA**

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

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<sup>1</sup> – 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.

**ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON  
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES**

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I. Evolution of registration activities:

- **Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants (registrations) with respect to the previous year;**

For 2000

Design applications filed = 4255    Design applications granted = 3108

For 2001

Design applications filed = 4119    Design applications granted = 3761

- **Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year.**

No significant trends in filings - only a small reduction (3%).

Relatively large increase in design registrations (21%) due to greater examination output.

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

- **Publishing, including printing, copying techniques and electronic printing;**

- Number of design registrations published in 2001 was = 3761

- **Electronic Journals**

From June 2002 onwards, the Australian Official Journal of Designs will be available through electronic means using web services. Value-add services will be provided over the coming 6 months.

– **Mass storage media and microforms used;**

Australian registered designs are published in the Australian Official Journal of Designs and on microfiche (historical).

Bibliographic data and images for specific number ranges of registered designs are also available on the Australian Designs Data Search (ADDS) system on the internet.

– **Databases and office automation. Word processing and office automation.**

The Office has a Local Area Networks (LAN) interconnected via bridges and routers. The LAN is also connected to a remote IBM mainframe computer and has a gateway to the Internet. The Office continued to add IBM compatible microcomputers to the LAN. TN 3270 terminal emulation packages provide access to the mainframe. Microsoft Word 97 for Windows, Microsoft Excel 97 for Windows and Lotus Notes are the Office's standard word processing, spreadsheet and e-mail packages.

**Techniques used for the generation of design information**

The Office's publication system is partially mainframe based. The mainframe provides the following functions using "XICS" typesetting software:

- production of camera ready copy of the Australian Official Journal of Designs;
- production of design certificates and original register entries; and
- production of notices for design applicants or their agents.

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of industrial design information according to the classification systems applied:

Designs applications are classified into the International Designs Classification. Active IDC sub-classes are further classified into internally defined subdivisions

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

The Designs Office maintains and updates a search file system using the abovementioned IDC subdivision of current applications, previously registered designs in Australia and maintains a store of current local and international publications.

V. Activities in the field of computerized search systems for industrial designs:

Designs bibliographic data can be searched through a web browser application (ADDS – Australian Designs Data Searching) on IP Australia's web site. Designs representations for registrations from 1 February 2001 are currently available on ADDS and further back-file images will be included in ADDS in the future.

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

In addition to ADDS, Designs bibliographic data remains available through IP Australia's web site on Desadmin, the mainframe based Designs administration computer system.

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

- International or regional cooperation in the exchange of industrial design information, e.g., in the form of official gazettes;

Copies of the Australian Official Journal of Designs are sent to 13 countries.

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

- **Promotional activities (seminars, exhibitions, visits, advertising, etc.);**
- **Training courses for national and foreign participants;**
- **Assistance to developing countries (sending consultants and experts, receiving trainees from developing countries, etc.).**

In June 2001 IP Australia provided assistance to the Indian Patent Office to modernise its Designs Wing. This required the provision of technical and administrative input on the Designs Act 2000 and the Designs Rules 2002 to assist in making the Act and Rules operational. Examiners were trained and an outline of a manual of practice and procedure for the Designs Wing of the Indian Patent Office was prepared.

In August 2001 IP Australia assisted in an expert mission to Indonesia to provide training in Industrial Designs to the Directorate General of Copyrights, Patents and Trademarks.

IX. Other relevant matters.

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