

WIPO C.SCIT 2436 06

WIPO Task 18 of SCIT work program:

Annual Technical Reports on Industrial Design Information Activities in 1998

I Evolution of registration activities:

- Applications in 1998 were down 17% to 833 from 1003 in 1997. Registrations in 1998 were 8% down to 965 compared with 1152 in 1997.
- There were no changes in trends. Containers and building components predominated both years. Other major subjects for both years were vehicle parts, furnishings and furniture, kitchenware and other small appliances

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

- There were no changes from '97 to '98. The Office publishes only register data such as applicant number, applicant name, application date, priority date, applicant title, classification, agent, status of application or registration in its monthly Office Journal. The registered designs are available only in hard copy and are made available to the public by deposit in the Information Centre of the Intellectual Property Office. The Office produces documents informing applicants how to apply for and maintain design registration.
- Main types of announcements: in Patent Office Journal. A development in 1998 was the start of a regular Information for Clients listing changes and proposed changes to practice for processing designs, patent and trade marks.
- Mass storage: no change from '97 to '98. Storage on paper of applications, registrations and electronic storage of application data.
- Databases and Office automation. No change between 1997 and 1998. The Off is developing electronic filing, processing, storage and searching of designs, patents and trade marks.

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

- Classification: No change from '97 to 98. International classification (Locarno Classification) is used. There is a local division of classes 6.01 into 5 subclasses; 7.01 into 2 subclasses; 11.02 into 3 subclasses; 21.01 into 11 subclasses; 23.01 into 3 subclasses; 25.01 into 4 subclasses to ease searching as these classes are large.

- Bibliographic data: No change from '97 to '98. Examiners search publicly available search cards files showing design representations by class and confidential search cards of pending applications. The public use the same cards.

IV Search file establishment and upkeep: No changes from '97 to '98.

- Search card files updated monthly as designs are registered and made available to the public. Storage is on paper. Register data is recorded electronically and has been for several years, replacing paper registers. The UK and Australian design journals were kept in the Information Centre for public perusal, but there was no search facility to access contents, other than browsing. The Office has ceased (1999) obtaining documents from other offices. Past issues are now no longer publicly available.

V Activities in the field of computerised search systems for industrial designs. No change from '97 to '98:

- No computerised searching of representations available. Electronic database enables Examiners to produce reports by register data, e.g. applicant. The Office adheres to the principles of the changeover to electronic media and envisages a move to CD-ROM in the succeeding financial year.

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: No change

- Part of Information Centre. Managed by Information services. Publicly available inspection of paper register, electronic version over past seven years. Public search of card index of representations by classification. No remote searching possible. Assistance given in the Information Centre to help searchers use the card system and registers.

VII Matters concerning mutual exchange of industrial design documentation and information: No change

- Documentation is exchanged between the Office and the Australian and UK Offices by way of Office Journals. The Australian and UK design journals were made available to the public, but this ceased in 1999. The journals from overseas could only be browsed. No search was possible.

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

-Attendance at agricultural shows, seminars. No assistance to developing countries. Some assistance to Tonga in setting up an IP Office mainly relating to trade marks.

IX Other matters: No change.