

ARIPO Annual Technical Report on Patent Information Activities in 1998

I. Evolution of Patent Activities

- The number of patent application filings and grants in 1997 increased considerably as compared to 1998.
- There was an increase of filings in the field of pharmaceuticals (A61K) and genetic engineering (C12N)

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

- Granted patents are published in paper form.
- The quarterly journal contains bibliographic information of patent applications, patents granted and the status of most patents and patent applications.
- Word processing and WINISIS database were the main software used on PCs interconnected on a LAN.

III. Matters concerning abstracting, classifying, re-classifying and indexing of technical information contained in patent documents

- Abstracting, reviewing, translating:- No activity
- Classification and reclassification activities:-IPD 6th Edition was used to classify patents and patent related literature
- Coordinate indexing: No activity
- Hybrid system indexing:- No activity
- Bibliographic data and full text-processing:- Bibliographic data including abstracts are included in the AFPAT database. Full – text processing is not yet possible.

IV Search file establishment and upkeep

- File building:-200000 documents data were added to the ARIPO search files.
- Updating:- ARIPO patents and patents from the member states are updated daily
- Storage including mass storage media:-The collection of patent documents is about 3 million most of which are on CD-ROMs, streamer tapes and microfilms
- Documentation from other offices:- documents from the ARIPO member states, GB, CH, DE, EPO, US, OA, WO and JP bibliographic data were added to the ARIPO search files. Internet, particularly the EPO and IBM websites were also used for search purposes.

V. Activities in the field of computerized and other mechanized search systems:

- In-house systems (offline): The AFPAT database having bibliographic and legal status data is frequently used for search and management purposes.
- External databases: There is no interrogation of external databases with the exception of websites of the EPO and IBM.
- Administrative management systems: The AFPAT database is also used for administrative purposes e.g. actions due, fees due, etc.
- Equipment used:-PCs inter linked peer to peer in a local area net (LAN) using windows 95, MS Word, WINISIS and of course laser printers and photocopiers.
- Existing on-line thesauri:- No activity

VI Administration of industrial property office library and services available to the public (relating to facilities e.g. for lodging applications, assisting clients on search procedures, and obtaining official publications and registry extracts

- Information services are available to the public only on request.
- There is no public library as yet

VII Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documentation and information

- The EPO, GB, OA, WIPO, JPO ,USPTO and member states provide ARIPO with their patent documents on CD-ROM.
- Priority documents are still exchanged in paper format
- Filing documents are lodged on paper
- No changes as compared to 1997 with regard to electronic data carriers i.e. not yet implemented.

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

- ARIPO staff members are trained at the EPO, GB and WIPO and staff from member states are trained at ARIPO.
- WIPO, GB and the EPO facilitated many seminars, exhibitions and visits.