

Topic 14: Overview External Examination Work Products and Retrieval Options

Lutz Mailänder

Head, International Cooperation on Examination and Training Section

Pretoria 17 March 2016

Agenda

- Opportunities
- Types of results
 - Intermediary
 - PCT
 - final
- Overview of public resources for retrieval
- Issues



Opportunities through patent families

- If same or similar invention was filed in several IPOs
 - e.g. a PCT application entered several national phases, the results of substantive examination for these members of the patent family may be utilized
- Types of families
 - Simple family (usually same invention, most likely similar claims)
 - Extended family (at least similar invention, claims may differ)
 - Technical family
- Need for databases/platforms providing
 - Family information
 - Examination status; to check if examination is pending
 - File inspection; to access examination reports, rejections



Types of examination work products

- Intermediary or pre-grant work products
 - Search reports (basic; enriched, e.g. including search strategies)
 - List of citations
 - Written opinions, examination reports
 - Communications between applicant and examiner
 - Third party observations
- Final work products/results
 - Granted claims; claims after opposition
 - Rejections; withdrawals following substantive reports
- Post-grant work products/results
 - Additional prior art from opposition/re-examination
 - Amended claims
 - Communications between involved parties (3+)



Overview of different terminology

- Search reports (basic; enriched)/Citations
 - USPTO: "List of references cited by examiner", "List of references cited by applicant and considered by examiner"
 - JPO: "Search Report by Registered Searching Organization"
 - EPO: "European Search Report"
- Written opinions, examination reports
 - PCT: "Written opinions" = examiner statements before IPRP issuance (sent to applicant)
 - PCT: IPRP = Written opinion sent to designated/elected offices at the end of the international phase
 - EPO: "European search opinion", "Communication from the examining division" (subsequent written opinions during examination)
 - USPTO: "non-final rejections", "final rejections"
 - JPO: "Notification of Reasons for Refusal"



Main products of PCT international phase

- Publication of international application (bibliographic data, abstract, description, drawings, claimsw)
- International search report (ISR)
- Written opinion of ISA (WO-ISA)
 - prepared as part of international search, but deals in substance with examination matters
- (Where applicable) supplementary international search report (SISR)
- (Optional) informal comments by applicant on WO-ISA
- International preliminary report on patentability (IPRP)
 - IPRP (Chapter I) = WO-ISA plus cover sheet
 - IPRP (Chapter II) = international preliminary examination report (IPER)



International publications

- 18 month after filing/priority date: WO-A1 or WO-A2
- WO-A1: international application + international search report
- WO-A2: international application only if ISR not yet available
 - Front page, description, drawings, claims
 - Declaration that no ISR will be established (Article 17(2)(a))
- WO-A3: Later publication international search report + front page
- WO-A4: Later publication of amended claims and/or statement (Article 19)
- WO-A8: Republication front page with corrections
- WO-A9: Republication of full application or ISR with corrections, alterations or supplements



ISR

- Established by (selected) competent ISA
- Search based on claims as originally filed (Article 15)
- Search performed according to PCT examination Guidelines
- Prior art is everything made available to the public (Rule 33)
 - in written disclosure (may refer to oral disclosure, exhibition)
 - prior to the international filing date (ie priority is irrelevant, in case priority claims is invalid for certain subject matter)
- Not any written disclosure is to be searched: only PCT minimum documentation (Rule 34)
- In case of lack of unity, only "first" invention will be searched (Rule 40), unless additional fees are paid
- ISA can decline search of certain subject matter (Rule 39), namely subject matter that is often excluded from patentability in national laws (PCT does not define what is patentable!)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

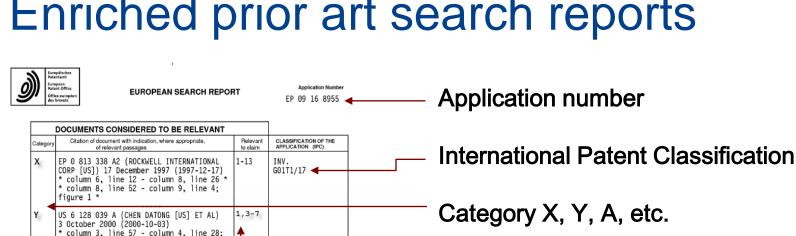
ORGANIZATION

ISR

- ISR is "enriched" search report as it includes
 - List of relevant prior art documents (citations): plus indications:
 - For which claims a document is relevant
 - Which parts of the document are relevant (eg. Line 5-6, page 7; drawing 6) for those claims
 - Why the document is relevant (challenging novelty, inventive step; describing background art)
 - IPCs of the claimed subject matter
 - Limited search strategy: technology areas (IPC) searched
- Includes observations regarding lack of unity, or whether no meaningful search could be performed (clarity of claims)



Enriched prior art search reports



US 6 163 029 A (YAMADA SHINICHI [JP] ET

FR 2 864 628 A1 (COMMISSARIAT ENERGIE ATOMIQUE [FR]) 1 July 2005 (2005-07-01) * page 4, line 18 - page 6, line 15;

WO 2004/064168 A1 (SCHERRER INST PAUL

BERND [CH) 29 July 2004 (2004-07-29)

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

23 March 2010

* the whole document *

[CH]; BROENNIMANN CHRISTIAN [CH]; SCHMITT

WO 2009/131151 A1 (HAMAMATSU PHOTONICS KK | 1 [JP]; MORI HARUMICHI [JP]; KYUSHIMA RYUJI [JP];) 29 October 2009 (2009-10-29)

AL) 19 December 2000 (2000-12-19) * column 15, line 30 - column 16, line 45;

figures 2,15,16 *

figure 3 *

* figure 12 *

The Hague

X : particularly relevant if taken alone

intermediate document

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category

1,3-7

1-13

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC

G01T

Wulveryck, J

T: theory or principle underlying the invention
E: earlier patent document, but published on, or

after the filing date
D : document cited in the application

L : document cited for other reasons

Relevant to Claim ...

Cited documents

Technical Fields Searched

Searching Authority

Date of Completion of the Search

Examiner



Categories of citations

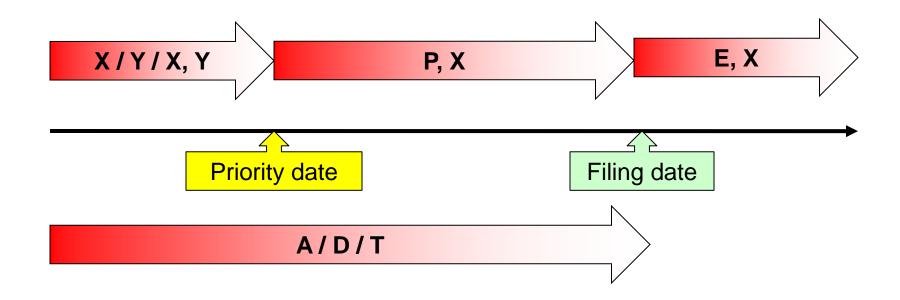
- X particularly relevant if taken alone (novelty)
- Y particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category (inventive step)
- A technological background
- O non written disclosure
- P intermediate document, i.e. published between the earliest priority date and the filing date
- T theory or principle underlying the invention
- E earlier document but published on or after the filing date
- D document cited in the application

See 16.59ff of the PCT Examination Guidelines



Prior art categories

Publication dates of prior art documents





US-PAIR: search report US examiner

		Notice of Reference	s Cited		Re			oplicant(s)/Patent Under eexamination OX ET AL.	
		Notice of Melerence	3 Cheu			Art Unit 1773	Page 1 of 1		
				U.S. P.	ATENT DOCUMENT	TS .	1773		
*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY			ame		Classification	
*	Α	US-4,662,516 A	05-1987	Baker et al. 206/363				206/363	
*	В	US-5,003,892 A	04-1991	Bricken, Jonathan				110/346	
	С	US-		Search reports are not					
	D	US-					•		
	Е	US-		enriched , i.e. no X,Y,					
	F	US-				no references to claims,			
	G	US-				no rere	rence	s to claims	
	Н	US-		no reference			rence	es to pages,	
	1	US-						'	
	J	US-		lines, drawin			qs,		
	К	US-				,			
	L	US-							
	М	US-							
				FOREIGN	PATENT DOCUM	ENTS			
*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	(Country	Name		Classification	

Written Opinion (WO) & IPRP (chapter I)

- WO is established together with ISR but not published with ISR
- Deals in substance with examination matters; Initial preliminary nonbinding opinion on:
 - novelty (not anticipated)
 - inventive step (not obvious)
 - industrial applicability
- Relevant date for prior art is priority date!
- Provided to applicant with ISR
- WO is converted to IPRP (chapter I) if no chapter II preliminary examination is requested, and communicated to DO (30 months) together with any informal comments of the applicant on WO-ISA
- Made publicly accessible (file inspection) after 30 months (Rule 44ter), e.g. in
 - Patentscope, EP-Register
 - not yet CCD



PCT - WO

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes: Claims No: Claims 3, 19 1, 2, 4-18, 20

Inventive step (IS)

Yes: Claims

No: Claims

1-20

Industrial applicability (IA)

s: Claims

Claims

Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Form PCT/ISA/237 (April 2007)

Statements (Rule 70.6)

Explanations (Rule 70.8)

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)

International application No.

PCT/US2010/020787

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

- Reference is made to the following documents:
 - D1 US 2002/186921 A1 (SCHUMACHER LYNN C [CA] ET AL) 12 December 2002 (2002-12-12)
 - D2 WO 2007/136816 A2 (MASSACHUSETTS INST TECHNOLOGY [US]; BULOVIC VLADIMIR [YU]; KYMISSIS IO) 29 November 2007 (2007-11-29)
- The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1, 4-15, 17-18, 20 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
- 2.1 D1 discloses

an optical fiber capable of being diagnosed non-invasively comprising an optical fiber (12) for conveying a light beam; said optical fiber comprising a first end for receiving said light beam and a second end opposed thereto, a core (14) comprising an inner wall, and a cladding (16) surrounding said core,

said optical fiber further comprising at least one uncladded portion comprising a plurality of quantum dots (26) dispersed in a medium,

wherein said quantum dots become activated by evanescent wave coupling resulting from total internal reflection of said light beam contacting said inner wall of said optical fiber core and wherein said activation results in emittance of light from said quantum dots (Fig. 2c; paragraphs [0033], [0045]).

Therefore, the subject-matter of present claim 1 is not novel over the teachings of D1.

2.2 D1 also discloses

ORGANIZATION

Access to Citations and Search Reports



Summary: Access to prior art citations

Regular patent document publications:

- Publications of search reports (EP-A1/A3, WO-A1/A3)
- Front pages of publications of granted patents, republications after opposition (EP-B1/B2..)

Other access options per application

- Search reports accessible through file inspection (US-Pair, AIPN, KPION...)
- Prior art citations lists in registers (e.g DE or EP Register)
- Lists of forward and backward citations in patent databases, e.g. Espacenet, commercial providers,...

Other access options per family:

- CCD
- Forward citations: only Espacenet (per document, not per family)

Citations only, e.g. EP-B1

Patent literature

References cited: GB-A- 2 131 952

> THE MARCONI REVIEW, vol. XLIII, no. 218, 1980, pages 156-175, Rugby, GB; R.M. LANG-DON: "Vibratory process control transducers"

IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INSTRUMENTA-TION AND MEASURMENT, vol. IM-32, no. 3, September 1983, pages 434-437, IEEE, New York, US; E. STEMME et al.: "Measuring liquid density with a tuning-fork transducer"

I.S.A. TRANSACTIONS, vol. 20, no. 3, 1981, pages 67-75, Research Triangle Park, NC, US; B.W. BALLS: "A new on-line density meter for viscous liquids and slurries"

rannam ouney(GD)

Representative: Stoole, Brian David et al Schlumberger Electronics (U.K.) Limited 124 Victoria Road Farnborough Hampshire GU14 7PW (GB)

Non patent literature

(ii) Priority: 11.03.87 GB 8705757 may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the Euro oned statement. It shall not be dee

282

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid (Art. 99(1) European patent convention).

WIPO

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

Citations

- Patent examination compares the invention with prior art
 - non-patent literature
 - other patents describing similar technologies/solutions
- Patents
 - can cite other patents as prior art (backward citations)
 - can be cited by other patents (forward citations)

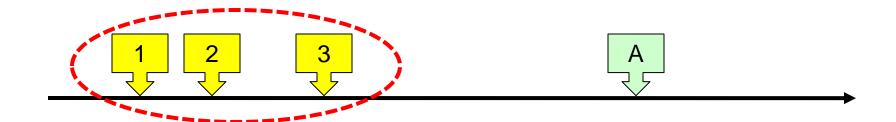


Backward and forward citations

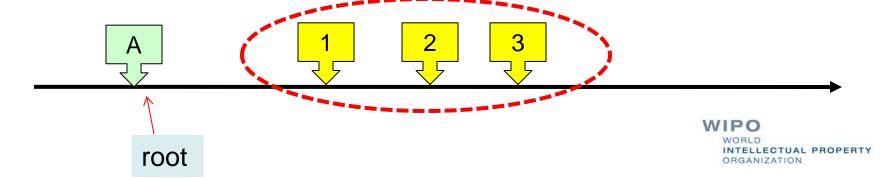
For any publication A:

Time dimension

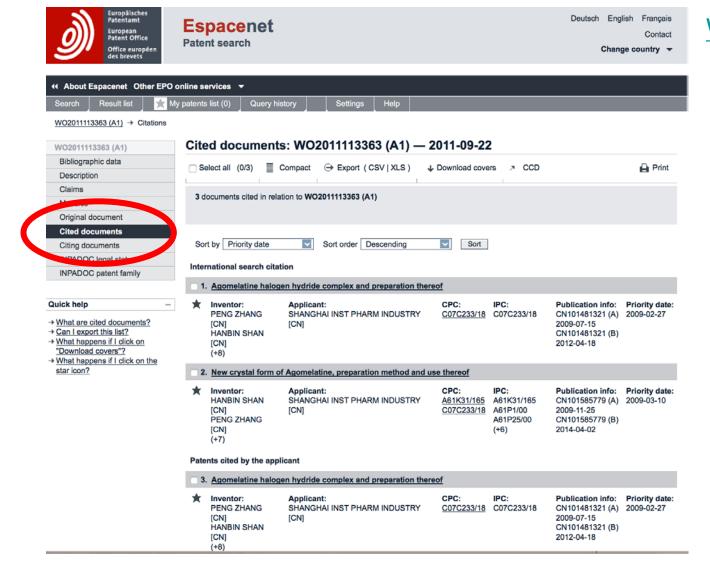
Publications cited in A → Backward citations of A



Publications citing A → Forward citations of A



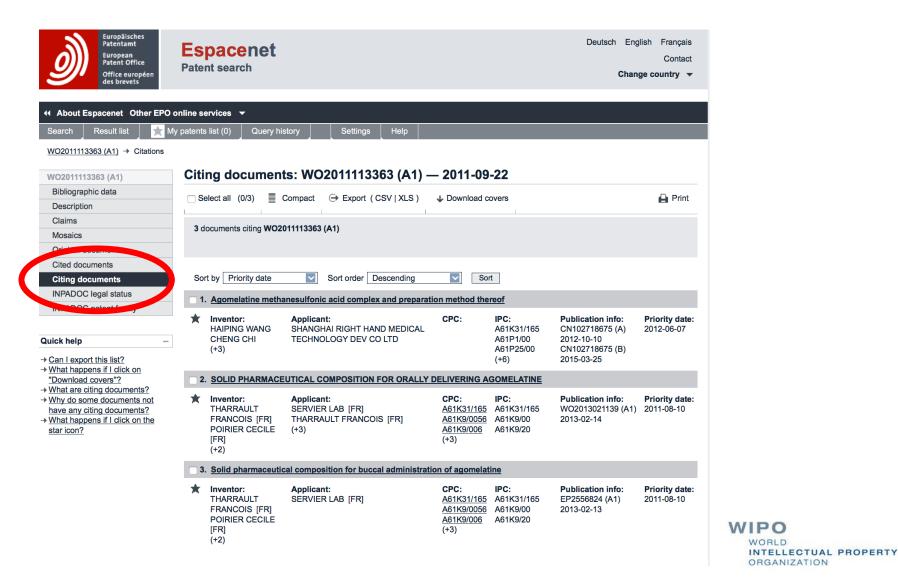
Espacenet: Backward Citations



WO2011113363



Espacenet: Forward Citations



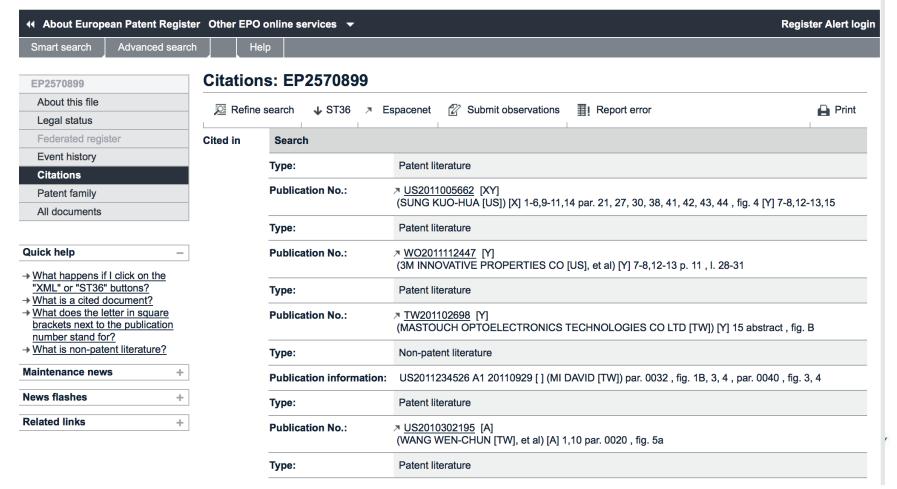
Citations (enriched) in EP-Register



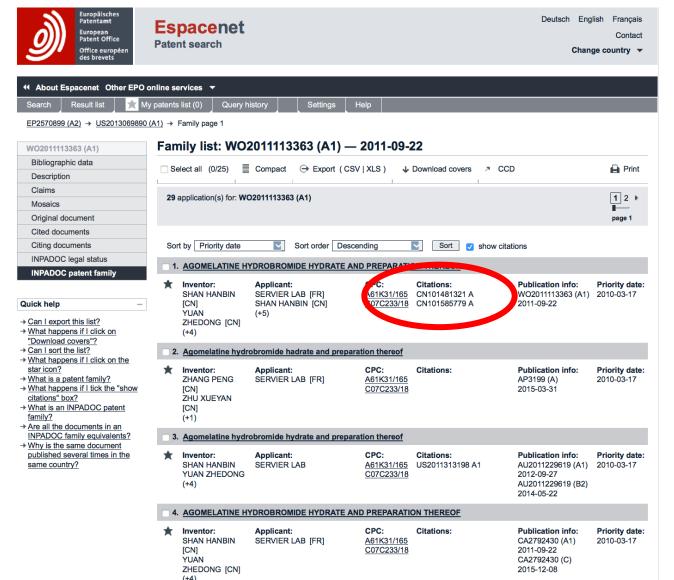
European Patent Register

Deutsch English Français

Contact



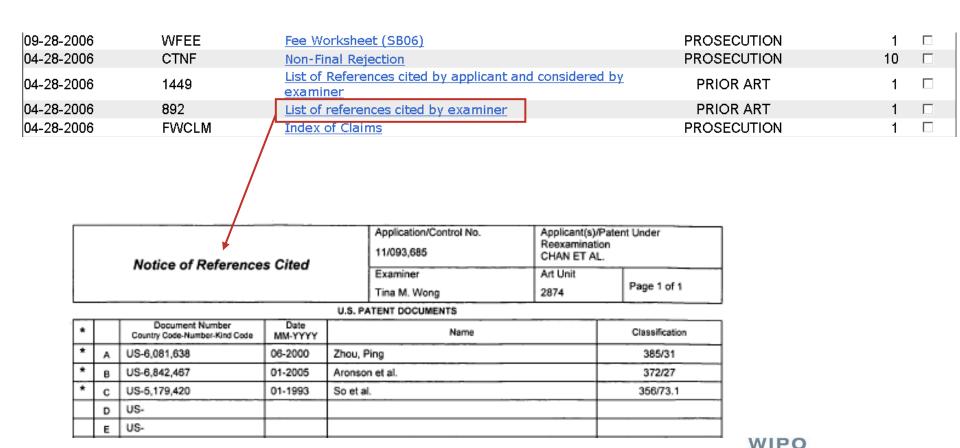
Citations in Inpadoc family list





US-PAIR: prior art in image file wrapper

"Image File Wrapper" contains search and examination reports



WORLD

ORGANIZATION

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

US-PAIR: prior art tab

_11/689,638	Heat Processing Systems, A	Apparatuses, and Methods for Co. tion and Disposal of Infectious and Medical Waste
Select Applicatio New Case Data	n Transaction Image File Cont History Wrapper Da	inuity Published Address & Display ata Documents Attorney/Agent References
Reference Forms		
Mail Room Date ↓↑	Document Code	Document Description 🛂
02-24-2011	892	List of references cited by examiner
09-16-2010	1449	List of References cited by applicant and considered by examiner
08-16-2010	IDS	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Form (SB08)
06-23-2009	892	List of references cited by examiner
06-23-2009	1449	List of References cited by applicant and considered by examiner
09-12-2007	IDS	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Form (SB08)
Foreign Patent and	Non-Patent Documents	3
Mail Room Date	Document Code	Document Description 🖟
08-16-2010	NPL	Non Patent Literature
08-16-2010	NPL	Non Patent Literature
08-16-2010	NPL	Non Patent Literature
08-16-2010	NPL	Non Patent Literature
09-12-2007	FOR	Foreign Reference
09-12-2007	FOR	Foreign Reference
09-12-2007	FOR	Foreign Reference



Access to Opinions

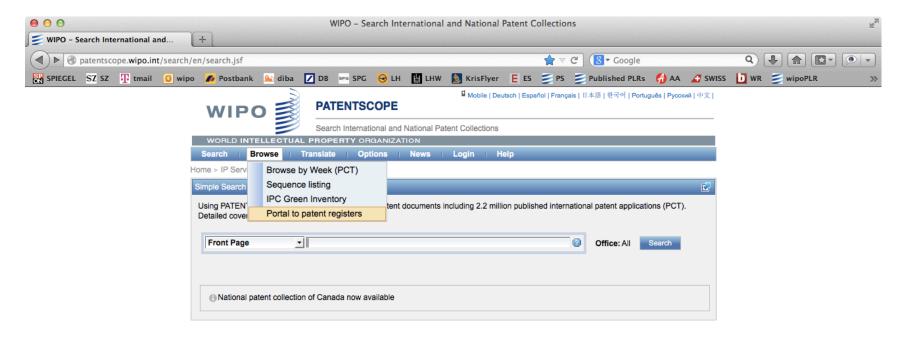
Summary: Access to written opinions, etc

- File inspection gives access to all communications between applicant and office/examiner, in particular
 - E.g. examination reports/written opinions which are not published like search reports
 - Amended claims
 - Final rejection rulings, grant decisions
- Possible usually through authoritative registers; e.g., at Patentscope, EP-Register, US-PAIR, AIPN, DPMA Register
 - Provide also up-to-date legal status information, i.e. whether
 - Application/examination is pending
 - Patent is in force, lapsed, ...
- For availability of online access see WIPO register portal (see browse tab of Patentscope) or at:

 http://www.wipo.int/branddb/portal/portal.jsp

WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

WIPO patent register portal



http://www.wipo.int/branddb/portal/portal.jsp



Saudi Arabia

also part of <u>Patent Office of the</u> <u>Cooperation Council for the Arab</u> <u>States of the Gulf (GCC)</u>

Online National Register



English Interface

Υ

Inventor Search

Υ

PCT Search

N

PCT National Phase Entry

N

Fee Payment

N

Most Recent Legal Status

Y E.g, 'Lapsed' for application number 1210694

File Inspection

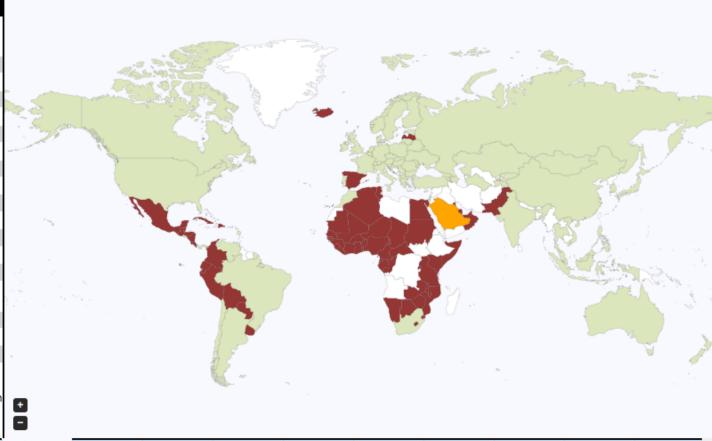
N

Full Publications

Y Documents are available in radnom manner, e.g. for application number 5260065: Open the link behind the title and select whether you want to see the publication of the application or the

Jurisdiction

African Intellectual Property
Organization (OAPI)
African Regional Intellectual
Property Organization (ARIPO)



Online National Register	English Interface	Inventor Search	PCT Search	PCT National Phase Entry	Fee Payment	Most Recent Legal Status	File Inspection	Full Publications	Online Gazette
<u>N</u>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	N
<u>N *</u>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N	N



Selected online resources

- European Patent Register (EP)
 - https://register.epo.org/espacenet/regviewer
- Common Citation Document (Pilot)
 - http://www.trilateral.net/ccd
- Patentscope
 - http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/search/en/search.jsf
- Public Pair (US)
 - http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair
- AIPN (JP)
 - http://aipn.ipdl.inpit.go.jp/
- K-PION (KR)
 - http://kposd.kipo.go.kr:8088/up/kpion/
- DPMAregister (DE)
 - http://register.dpma.de/DPMAregister/Uebersicht?lang=en



Online resources

- European Patent Register (EP)
 - EP applications: enriched SR, ER, examination status, file wrapper)
 - Global Dossier (CN file inspection)
- Common Citation Document
 - SRs for EP, JP, US, WO,.....
- Patentscope
 - WO applications: enriched SR, ER, file wrapper
- Public PAIR (US)
 - US applications: file wrapper with SR, ER, examination status
- AIPN (JP)
 - See topic 6 presented by JPO
- K-PION (KR)
 - See topic 6 presented by JPO
- DPMAregister (DE)
 - DE applications: SR, examination status (file wrapper from Q3/2013)

Issues with final results

Utilization of final results (grants/refusals)

- Requires identical/similar invention (simple family)
 - E.g. if original claims are similar

For grants:

- Requires cooperative lawyers/applicants that agree to use/submit the claims granted abroad
- Requires those claims to be compatible with national law, e.g. exclusions
- Requires confidence in the work of other IPOs
- Results from different IPOs may be different (see exercises)
- Implies considerable delay because final results have to become available



Further secondary access platforms

"One-stop shop" file inspection platforms

- Global Dossier
- E.g.
 - EP2570899
- = IP5 One Portal Dossier
- WIPO CASE



Global Dossier in Espacenet



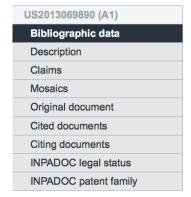


Deutsch English Français Contact

Change country ▼

 ← About Espacenet Other EPO online services ▼
 My patents list (0) Query history Settings Help

EP2570899 (A2) → US2013069890 (A1)



Quick help

- → What is meant by high quality text as facsimile?
- → What does A1, A2, A3 and B stand for after a European publication number?
- → What happens if I click on "In my patents list"?
- → What hannens if I click on the





TOUCH DISPLAY DEVICE AND A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

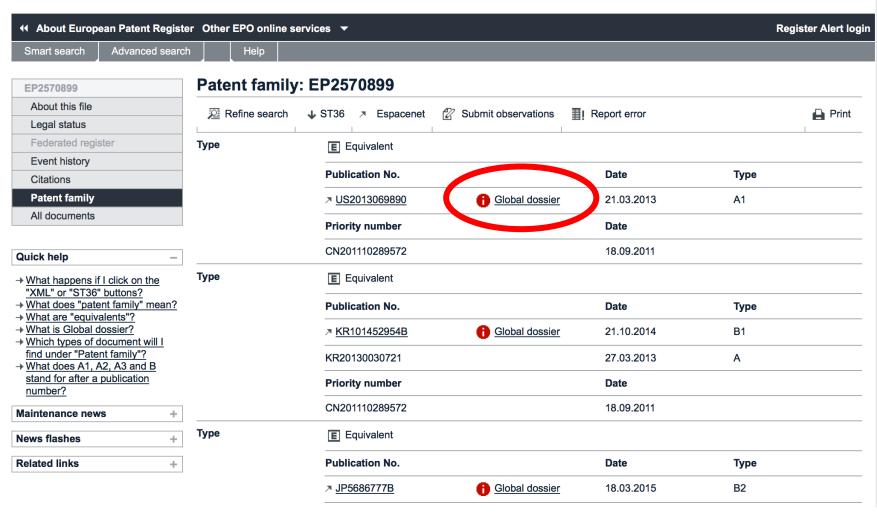
US2013069890 (A1) - TOUCH DISPLAY DEVICE AND A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME
LEE YUH-WEN [TW]; JIANG YAU-CHEN [TW]; HUANG PINGPING [CN]; LUO JIANXING [CN] ±
LEE YUH-WEN [TW]; JIANG YAU-CHEN [TW]; HUANG PINGPING [CN]; LUO JIANXING [CN] ±
- international: B32B37/06; B32B37/12; G06F3/041
- cooperative: <u>G06F3/041</u> ; <u>G</u> 06F2203/04103; <u>Y</u> 10T156/10
US201213559532 20120726
CN20111289572 20110918
□ EP2570899 (A2) □ EP2570899 (A3) □ TWM440475 (U) □ TW201314522 (A) □ KR20130030721 (A) → more

Global Dossier in EP-Register



European Patent Register

Contact



Issues with final results

Utilization of final results (grants/refusals)

- Requires usually identical/similar invention (simple family)
 - E.g. if original claims are similar
 - Granted claims within initial disclosure?

For rejections:

- Requires access to file wrapper (file inspection) to see rejection ruling
- Rejection ruling only applicable if claims to be rejected are similar



Issues with intermediary results

- Implies some but smaller delay than waiting for final results
- Searches are based on claims: the foreign search results may be incomplete/inappropriate if claims are different
- Requires checking whether same priorities
- Different priorities and priority dates can lead to different claims or prior art
- Usually no problems if simple family
- Using results for members of extended family which are not in same simple family may be problematic (compare claims!)



Retrieval options

- Active retrieval by examiner, i.e. research family information and research examination status and retrieve results from online resources
 - Not all family members may be recorded
- Request applicant to submit information; some legislations provide for a respective obligation

Article 124 EPC

- (1) The European Patent Office may, in accordance with the Implementing Regulations, invite the applicant to provide information on prior art taken into consideration in national or regional patent proceedings and concerning an invention to which the European patent application relates.
- (2) If the applicant fails to reply deemed to be withdrawn.
- Can you trust the applicants? Better check



Checklist for using external examination poducts

- Research family information and
- Check examination status and
- Retrieve available results from online resources, or request applicant to submit information
- Carefully check whether external work products are applicable:
 - Same or similar claims (claim correspondance table)?
 - Claims within initial disclosure?
 - Compatible with your exclusions from patentability,...?
 - Is priority valid?
 - New search needed, e.g. if claims were not searched by ISA?
 - Are the results of other IPOs consistent?
 - Can or should you await further results from other IPOs?



REMINDER: National sovereignty

Paris Convention:

- No obligation to use results of others, or to follow their conclusions
- IPO has obligation to observe national legislation
- IPO has responsibility/liability for quality patents



Thank you

lutz.mailander@wipo.int

