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IPC/WG/8/4

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: November 15, 2002

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

**SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)**

IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

Eighth Session

Geneva, November 25 to December 5, 2002

REARRANGEMENT OF SUBCLASS INDEXES

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. During its seventh session, held in June 2002, the IPC Revision Working Group had, on June 19, 2002, informal discussions of the task concerned with the rearrangement of subclass indexes in the IPC. The Working Group agreed to request the International Bureau to prepare a summary of these discussions that would provide a basis for detailed discussions of the matter at its eighth session.
2. Annex I to this document contains the Summary of Discussions by the IPC Revision Working Group of the Rearrangement of Subclass Indexes in the IPC.
3. Annex II to this document contains a list of the IPC subclasses to be used for the distribution between industrial property offices of work relating to the rearrangement of the indexes for the whole IPC.
4. *The Working Group is invited to take note of the contents of the Annexes to this document.*

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX I

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS BY THE IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP
OF THE REARRANGEMENT OF SUBCLASS INDEXES IN THE IPC

1. During its seventh session, the IPC Revision Working Group had, on June 19, 2002, informal discussions of the task concerned with the rearrangement of subclass indexes in the IPC. The reason for having informal discussions of this issue was that the rearrangement of subclass indexes was not included as a separate item on the agenda of the seventh session of the Working Group since the preparation of such indexes had just started and the experience already accumulated was not considered sufficient for arriving at definite conclusions.
2. Although some delegations preferred to have the results of the discussions reflected in the formal report of the session, the majority of delegations agreed that informal discussions would be more efficient with a view that the International Bureau prepare a summary of discussions that would provide a basis for detailed discussions of the matter at the next session of the Working Group. The International Bureau explained that it would prepare a draft summary of discussions, publish it on the IPC revision list server and invite comments on the draft. Upon approval of the summary by electronic correspondence, it would be published as a preparatory document for the eighth session of the Working Group.
3. The International Bureau outlined the objective of the task by recalling the decision of the IPC Committee of Experts taken at its thirtieth session. At that session, the Committee of Experts adopted the recommendation that the presentation of main groups in the standardized sequence (approved by the IPC Reform Working Group; see Annex IV of document IPC/REF/4/4), in parallel with their current presentation in the IPC, was possible to achieve by rearranging subclass indexes in the IPC according to the standardized sequence. This would allow, at the choice of the user, display of main groups in the sequence currently present in the IPC or in the standardized sequence.
4. The Committee of Experts decided that the IPC Revision Working Group should start, as soon as possible, the rearrangement of subclass indexes according to the standardized sequence and creation of subclass indexes using the standardized sequence in subclasses where they are missing.
5. It was noted that the preparation of the rearranged subclass indexes had started in the framework of the classification definition task and that approximately 20 rearranged indexes had already been prepared. The International Bureau pointed out that, according to the IPC reform implementation plan, rearranged subclass indexes should be prepared, by the year 2005, for all subclasses of the IPC and that careful planning of this work would be necessary.
6. Several delegations indicated that existing subclass indexes represented a useful information tool facilitating overview of subclasses and questioned whether the project of the rearrangement of subclass indexes intended to provide a new way of accessing the IPC for certain users or an alternative way of the presentation of the IPC which would only be confusing for the users.

7. The International Bureau explained that the intention of the Committee of Experts was not to abolish the existing subclass indexes but to provide an alternative way of accessing the IPC in the standardized sequence of main groups. While only the existing subclass indexes would appear in the paper version of the reformed IPC, two types of indexes—traditional subclass indexes and subclass indexes rearranged according to the standardized sequence—would be available in the electronic version. The users would be able to view main groups in the existing sequence by the default display or in the standardized sequence by activating the secondary sorting key.

8. The Delegation of the United States of America explained that the number of users of the IPC would increase in the future, by including many US users and that these users would need to view the IPC from the perspective known to them from the US Patent Classification, that is in the standardized sequence of classification units.

9. The Working Group then held a discussion on a set of the rearranged subclass indexes prepared by several industrial property offices and made available by the Delegation of Sweden, in order to compile provisional conclusions for the future work on the project.

10. It was suggested that the presentation of the rearranged subclass indexes should be characterized by the following features:

- (a) in contrast to the traditional subclass indexes, the rearranged indexes should contain exact titles of main groups;
- (b) subheadings covering similar subject matter could be provided;
- (c) reasons for selecting a specific rearrangement of indexes should be given where necessary.

11. It was suggested that the US Patent and Trademark Office as having rich experience in creating of classification schemes in the standardized order of subject matter might take leadership in this project and provide useful guidance to other participating industrial property offices. The Delegation of the United States of America agreed to prepare and submit as soon as possible the guidelines on the rearrangement of subclass indexes in the IPC.

12. The Working Group agreed that the preparation of the rearranged subclass indexes should be continued, until its next session, in the framework of the classification definition task, according to the procedure for discussion and adoption of definition projects (see Annex F to document IPC/WG/5/3). The rapporteurs for definition projects should summarize their experience in the rearrangement of subclass indexes.

13. The Working Group requested the International Bureau to prepare, in time for its next session, a list of all subclasses in the IPC, with the indication of subclasses for which the rearranged subclass indexes had already been prepared. This list would be used for the distribution of work relating to the rearranged indexes for the whole IPC between industrial property offices.

14. The International Bureau stated that IT support for the preparation of the rearranged subclass indexes would be provided under the CLAIMS project.

[Annex II follows]

ANNEX II

LIST OF IPC SUBCLASSES FOR REARRANGEMENT OF SUBCLASS INDEXES

This list is intended to be used for the distribution of work relating to the rearrangement of subclass indexes in the IPC. For the subclasses having a definition project, the Rapporteur is indicated. An asterisk indicates that for that subclass a proposal has already been prepared.

Subclass	Rapporteur
A01B	
A01C	
A01D	
A01F	
A01G	
A01H	SE
A01J	
A01K	
A01L	
A01M	
A01N*	US
A21B	
A21C	
A21D	
A22B	
A22C	
A23B	
A23C	
A23D	
A23F	
A23G	
A23J	
A23K	
A23L	
A23N	
A23P	
A24B	
A24C	
A24D	
A24F	
A41B	
A41C	
A41D	
A41F	
A41G	
A41H	
A42B	

Subclass	Rapporteur
A42C	
A43B	
A43C	
A43D	
A44B*	US
A44C	
A45B	
A45C	
A45D	
A45F	
A46B	
A46D	
A47B	
A47C	
A47D	
A47F	
A47G	
A47H	
A47J	
A47K	
A47L	
A61B*	US
A61C	
A61D	
A61F	
A61G*	US
A61H	
A61J	
A61K*	EP
A61L	
A61M	
A61N*	US
A61P*	EP
A61Q*	EP
A62B	
A62C	
A62D	

Subclass	Rapporteur
A63B	
A63C	
A63D	
A63F	
A63G	
A63H	
A63J	
A63K	
B01B	
B01D	GB
B01F	
B01J	
B01L	
B02B	
B02C	
B03B	
B03C	
B03D	
B04B	
B04C	
B05B	
B05C	
B05D	
B06B	
B07B	
B07C	
B08B	
B09B	
B09C	
B21B	
B21C	
B21D	
B21F	
B21G	
B21H	
B21J	

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Subclass	Rapporteur
B21K	
B21L	
B22C	
B22D	
B22F	
B23B	
B23C	
B23D	
B23F	
B23G	
B23H	
B23K	
B23P	
B23Q	
B24B	
B24C	
B24D	
B25B	
B25C	
B25D	
B25F	
B25G	
B25H	
B25J	
B26B	
B26D	
B26F	
B27B	
B27C	
B27D	
B27F	
B27G	
B27H	
B27J	
B27K	
B27L	
B27M	
B27N	
B28B	
B28C	
B28D	
B29B	
B29C	
B29D	
B29K	
B29L	
B30B	
B31B	
B31C	
B31D	

Subclass	Rapporteur
B31F	
B32B	EP
B41B	
B41C	
B41D	
B41F	
B41G	
B41J	
B41K	
B41L	
B41M	
B41N	
B42B	
B42C	
B42D	
B42F	
B43K	
B43L	
B43M	
B44B	
B44C	
B44D	
B44F	
B60B	
B60C	
B60D	
B60F	
B60G	
B60H	
B60J	
B60K	
B60L	
B60M	
B60N	
B60P	
B60Q	
B60R	US
B60S	
B60T	GB
B60V	US
B61B	
B61C	
B61D	
B61F	
B61G	
B61H	
B61J	
B61K	
B61L*	US
B62B	

Subclass	Rapporteur
B62C	
B62D	
B62H	
B62J	
B62K	
B62L	
B62M	
B63B	
B63C	
B63G	
B63H	
B63J	
B64B	
B64C	
B64D	
B64F	
B64G	
B65B	
B65C	
B65D	
B65F	
B65G	
B65H	
B66B*	US
B66C	
B66D	
B66F	
B67B	
B67C	
B67D	
B68B	
B68C	
B68F	
B68G	
B81B*	US
B81C*	US
B82B*	US
C01B	
C01C	
C01D	
C01F	
C01G	
C02F	
C03B	
C03C	
C04B*	EP
C05B	
C05C	
C05D	

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Subclass	Rapporteur
C05F	
C05G	
C06B	
C06C	
C06D	
C06F	
C07B	
C07C	US
C07D	
C07F*	RU
C07G	
C07H	
C07J*	RU
C07K	SE
C07M	
C08B	
C08C	
C08F	
C08G	
C08H	
C08J*	SE
C08K	
C08L	
C09B	
C09C	
C09D	
C09F	
C09G	
C09H	
C09J	
C09K*	EP
C10B	
C10C	
C10F	
C10G	
C10H	
C10J	
C10K	
C10L*	EP
C10M	
C10N	
C11B	
C11C	
C11D	
C12C	
C12F	
C12G	
C12H	
C12J	
C12L	

Subclass	Rapporteur
C12M	
C12N*	US
C12P*	US
C12Q	
C12R	
C12S	
C13C	
C13D	
C13F	
C13G	
C13H	
C13J	
C13K	
C14B	
C14C	
C15B*	GB
C21B	
C21C	
C21D	
C22B	
C22C	
C22F	
C22K	
C23C	
C23D	
C23F	
C23G	
C25B	
C25C	
C25D	
C25F	
C30B	
D01B	
D01C	
D01D	
D01F	
D01G	
D01H	
D02G	
D02H	
D02J	
D03C	
D03D	
D03J	
D04B	
D04C	
D04D	
D04G	
D04H	

Subclass	Rapporteur
D05B	
D05C	
D06B	
D06C	
D06F	
D06G	
D06H	
D06J	
D06L	
D06M	
D06N	
D06P	
D06Q	
D07B	
D21B	
D21C	
D21D	
D21F	
D21G	
D21H	
D21J	
E01B	
E01C	
E01D*	US
E01F	
E01H	
E02B	
E02C	
E02D	
E02F	
E03B	
E03C	
E03D	
E03F	
E04B	
E04C	
E04D	
E04F	
E04G	
E04H	
E05B	
E05C	
E05D	
E05F	
E05G	
E06B	
E06C	
E21B	
E21C	

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Subclass	Rapporteur
E21D	
E21F	
F01B	
F01C	
F01D	
F01K	
F01L	
F01M	GB
F01N	
F01P	
F02B	
F02C	
F02D	
F02F	
F02G	
F02K	
F02M	
F02N	
F02P	
F03B	
F03C	
F03D	
F03G	
F03H	
F04B	
F04C*	EP
F04D	
F04F	
F15B	
F15C	
F15D	
F16B	
F16C	
F16D	
F16F	
F16G	
F16H	
F16J	
F16K	
F16L	
F16M	
F16N	GB
F16P	
F16S	
F16T	
F17B	
F17C	
F17D	
F21H	

Subclass	Rapporteur
F21K	
F21L	
F21M	
F21P	
F21Q	
F21S	
F21V	
F21W	
F21Y	
F22B	
F22D	
F22G	
F23B*	SE
F23C*	SE
F23D	
F23G*	SE
F23H	
F23J	
F23K	
F23L	
F23M	
F23N	
F23Q	
F23R	
F24B	
F24C	
F24D	
F24F	
F24H	
F24J	
F25B	
F25C	
F25D	
F25J	
F26B	
F27B	
F27D	
F28B	
F28C	
F28D	
F28F	
F28G	
F41A	
F41B	
F41C	
F41F	
F41G	
F41H	
F41J	
F42B	

Subclass	Rapporteur
F42C	
F42D	
G01B	DE
G01C	DE
G01D	
G01F	
G01G	
G01H	
G01J	
G01K	
G01L	
G01M*	RU
G01N*	EP
G01P	US
G01R	
G01S	DE
G01T	SE
G01V	DE
G01W	
G02B	
G02C	US
G02F	
G03B	
G03C	
G03D	
G03F	
G03G	
G03H	
G04B	
G04C	
G04D	
G04F	
G04G	
G05B	
G05D	
G05F	
G05G	
G06C	
G06D	
G06E	
G06F	
G06G	
G06J	
G06K	
G06M	
G06N	
G06T	
G07B	
G07C	

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Subclass	Rapporteur
G07D	
G07F	
G07G	
G08B	
G08C	
G08G	
G09B	
G09C	
G09D	
G09F	
G09G	
G10B	
G10C	
G10D	
G10F	
G10G	
G10H	
G10K	
G10L	
G11B	
G11C	
G12B	
G21B	
G21C	
G21D	
G21F	
G21G	

Subclass	Rapporteur
G21H	
G21J	
G21K	
H01B	
H01C	
H01F	
H01G	
H01H	EP
H01J	
H01K	
H01L*	DE
H01M	
H01P	GB
H01Q	
H01R	
H01S	
H01T	
H02B	
H02G	
H02H	
H02J	
H02K	
H02M	
H02N	
H02P	
H03B	

Subclass	Rapporteur
H03C	
H03D	
H03F	
H03G	
H03H	
H03J	
H03K	
H03L	
H03M	
H04B*	RU
H04H	
H04J	
H04K	
H04L	SE
H04M	
H04N	
H04Q	
H04R	
H04S	
H05B	
H05C	
H05F	
H05G	
H05H	
H05K	

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