

**IPC REVISION PROJECTS/  
PROJETS DE RÉVISION DE LA CIB**

**ELECTRICAL FIELD/  
DOMAINE DE L'ÉLECTRICITÉ**





IPC/C 420/98  
ORIGINAL: English/French  
DATE: May 16, 2003

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE**  
GENEVA/GENÈVE

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION**  
**COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC**

**IPC REVISION PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE RÉVISION DE LA CIB**

<b>PROPOSAL BY:</b> <b>PROPOSITION DE :</b>	<b>REVISION OF IPC AREA:</b> <b>RÉVISION DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :</b>
SE	G 06 K
<b>KIND OF REVISION:</b> <b>TYPE DE RÉVISION :</b>	Creation of subgroups Création de sous-groupes

<b>ANNEX/ ANNEXE</b>	<b>CONTENT/CONTENU</b>	<b>ORIGIN/ ORIGINE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
1	Revision request with detailed proposal / Demande de révision avec proposition détaillée	SE	12.98
2	Comments / Observations	SE	05.99
3	Comments / Observations	CA	05.99
4	Comments / Observations	EP	05.99
5	Comments / Observations	RO	05.99
6	Comments / Observations	DE	05.99
7	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	SE	09.99
8	Comments / Observations	EP	11.99
9	Comments / Observations	JP	11.00
10	Comments / Observations	JP	11.00
11	Decision of the Working Group / Décision du groupe de travail	WG	01.01
12	Proposal / Proposition	EP	11.02
13	Comments / Observations	CA	05.03
14	Comments / Observations	FR	05.03
15	Comments / Observations	GB	05.03

**RAPPORTEUR : SE      TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : M**

ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
16	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	SE	05.03



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Project Number: C 420

Date: April 7, 2003

Class/Subclass: G06K

Page 1 of 1

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CA is in favour with the rapporteur's proposal of the wording of the 11/22.

CA agrees with the proposal made by the EP to delete the proposed subgroups G06K 11/24 and 11/26. There is no need for 11/24 since the file size would be very minimal. CA also agrees with the argument made by the EP about optical mice and optical mouse pads being classified in 11/08 and therefore there is no need for new subgroup 11/26 and a reference to 11/08 would be sufficient.

CA puts forward the question that if optical mice and optical mouse pads are classified in 11/08 then why are light-pens classified in 11/18? A change in the wording of 11/08 and 11/18 is recommended with the following suggestion:

**G06K**

11/08 •• using opto-electronic means, e.g. optical mouse, light-pen

.  
. .  
.

11/18 •• Hand-held sensing devices, e.g. joystick, non-optical mouse, tracing ball.....

Hassan Bayaa

Projet IPC / C **420/98**  
Sous-classe **G06F**

Réf.: Annexes 1 à 12 du dossier de projet

Selon la plupart des observations liées à ce projet (voir annexes 1 à 9), il ressort la nécessité de créer une nouvelle entrée pour le classement des 'tapis de souris' ('mouse-pad'), et il est proposé une subdivision du sous-groupe G06K 11/18 comme endroit le mieux approprié.

Le projet a été suspendu (cf. IPC/WG/5/3) et une nouvelle proposition de l'OEB (annexe 12) (au nom des Offices de la Trilatérale) soumet comme entrée pour ces tapis, un classement en G06F3/0331 (sous-groupe à trois points du G06F3/033).

Actuellement, la ligne de démarcation entre les groupes G06F3/033 et G06K11/18 n'est pas clairement définie, en effet :

- dans la classification CIB, les documents de brevets (EP, PCT, FR) relatifs aux 'tapis de souris' sont classés en G06F3/033 ou G06K11/18 ou dans les deux endroits.
- dans la classification ECLA, deux subdivisions existent pour les 'tapis de souris' : G06K11/18A1 et G06F3/033Z8A1.

Nous ne sommes pas en faveur de la proposition de création du sous-groupe G06F3/0331 qui implique en plus une modification du libellé du G06F3/0333 (ajout de mouse, trackball ; Accessories therefor), alors que les termes 'mouse, trackball' sont déjà introduits [5] dans le sous-groupe G06K11/18.

Il faudrait plutôt poursuivre l'étude de ce projet dans le sens des observations des annexes 1 à 9.

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**UK Patent Office****Date: 8 May 2003**

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**Comments on Project C420 , Subclass G06F**

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We have something of a can of worms here! We have identified a number of major questions raised by the project and by certain comments, and deal with each of these questions in turn.

**\$ Provision for mouse mats under G06F 3/033 or G06K 11/18?**

Mouse mats, and other mouse-related technology, clearly need to be provided for in the IPC. The question is where? Some countries, notably EP from their proposal of Annex 12, argue for provision under G06F 3/033, while others seem to prefer provision under G06K 11/18. *Our experts do not really mind as long as (a) there is only one place, and (b) it is clear where that place is.*

We note that the EPO have unilaterally made major changes to ECLA in this area, in March 2003, by deleting their former provision for most of this technology (which was in subgroups of G06K 11/18, all of which are now deleted) and transferring it to the G06F 3/033 area. We therefore respectfully disagree with FR (Annex 14) that there are 2 subdivisions catering for mouse mats (G06K 11/18A1 and G06F 3/033Z8A1) - the first of these two has been deleted.

We think this is probably sensible since mice are data entry tools which seem to fit better in the G06F area, than in G06K which relates to graph-reading or converting a pattern of mechanical parameters into electrical signals.

A search on EPODOC shows that 20,516 documents were assigned the IPC mark G06F 3/033 (while G06K received far fewer documents, 767 for G06K 11/08 and 2918 for G06K 11/18). Meanwhile the EPSTA preparation shows that the vast majority of mouse mats are in G06F 3/033Z8A1 or other places under 3/033.

Therefore we tend to agree with the basic thinking behind the Annex 12 EPO proposal, that this technology should be placed under G06F 3/033.

**\$ Number of subgroups required.**

As shown above, the IPC term G06F 3/033 has received over 20,000 documents on EPODOC. ECLA has no fewer than 50 subgroups for this term. Why, therefore, does the Annex 12 proposal by the EPO only contain **one** subgroup for 3/033? This seems to be hopelessly insufficient.

The best way forward could well be an increased number of subgroups, based on those currently in ECLA. However, bearing in mind the time constraints this project is under, we doubt that the WG can agree to a large number of subgroups.

**\$ Optical/non-optical mice**



Separating these seems a sensible idea. AOld@ mice with a ball underneath are moribund technology, while optical ones without a ball are the real interest now. The complicating factor for devising a classification scheme is mice with a ball, the position of which is read by optical means.

Our experts seem to favour splitting mice into those which have a ball underneath, and Aball-less@ mice. We also agree with CA that light-pens should go with optical mice, since they are used for the same purpose as optical mice and use optical means.

#### **\$     References**

Assuming the WG agrees to mouse mats etc. being transferred to a place under G06F 3/033, we need to make clear that this transfer has taken place, and where this technology is classified. References need to be inserted in G06K 11/08 and 11/18.

#### **\$     Terminology**

The term normally used in the UK for the articles in question is Amouse mats@, and we think the IPC entry for it should feature this wording since the IPC is in UK English.

#### **\$     Conclusion**

We generally support the EPO proposal of Annex 12, but would like to see more subgroups if time permits, and references in G06K to make clear where this matter is classified.

Martin Price

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# **Swedish Patent and Registration Office**

**IPC Revision Project C420, subclasses G06F, G06K**

**May 13th, 2003**

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## **Rapporteur Report**

The Trilateral Offices have submitted a new proposal concerning the placement of mouse mats. This proposal is different from the original proposal where it was suggested that that two new groups were added in G06K11.

Instead, the Trilateral Offices have proposed adding additional text to G06F3/033 and adding a group G06F3/0331.

Only two comments have been posted after the new proposal, one from Canada and one from France. The Canadian comment discusses the old proposal and the French comment does not agree with the new proposal.

Rapporteur feels that there are not enough comments received to make a new proposal and wish for the other offices to make more comments.

However, Rapporteur agrees with France that this project ought to be discussed during the electronic session.

Nina Ödling



IPC/C 424/02  
ORIGINAL: English/French  
DATE: May 22, 2003

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE**  
GENEVA/GENÈVE

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION**  
**COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC**

**IPC REVISION PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE RÉVISION DE LA CIB**

<b>PROPOSAL BY:</b> <b>PROPOSITION DE :</b>	<b>REVISION OF IPC AREA:</b> <b>RÉVISION DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :</b>
EP	G 06 F
<b>KIND OF REVISION:</b> <b>TYPE DE RÉVISION :</b>	<b>Creation of subgroups</b> <b>Création de sous-groupes</b>

<b>ANNEX/ ANNEXE</b>	<b>CONTENT/CONTENU</b>	<b>ORIGIN/ ORIGINE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
1	Decision of the Working Group / Décision du groupe de travail	WG	02.03
2	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	EP	04.03
3	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	EP	04.03
4	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	EP	04.03
5	Comments / Observations	GB	05.03
6	Comments / Observations	RO	05.03
7	Comments / Observations	SE	05.03
8	Comments / Observations	FR	05.03

**RAPPORTEUR : EP      TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : E**



EXCERPT FROM DOCUMENT IPC/WG/8/8/  
EXTRAIT DU DOCUMENT IPC/WG/8/8

Project C 424 (electrical) – the Working Group noted that a revision proposal relating to business methods was under elaboration by the Trilateral Offices and would be submitted before the next session of the Working Group.

Projet C 424 (électricité) – le groupe de travail a noté qu'une proposition de révision ayant trait aux méthodes commerciales est en cours d'élaboration par les offices de la coopération trilatérale et sera présentée avant la prochaine session du groupe de travail.

Project: C 424      Subclass: G06F

Ref.: IPC/WG/8/8

### Introduction

At the last meeting, the Working Group noted that a revision proposal relating to business methods was under elaboration by the Trilateral Offices and would be submitted before the next session of the Working Group.

### Trilateral Experts Meeting

Last February, experts from the Trilateral Offices met in EPO The Hague and worked together for a whole week. Major result of this workshop was the agreement on a broad subdivision of group G06F17/60 into the following areas:

- Administration & Management
- Electronic Commerce
- Finance & Insurance
- Specially adapted for functions in specific business sectors

This is the basis for the Rapporteur Proposal, hereby attached.

### Scope of places & Statistics

The following is a list of subject matters that the experts agreed to collect under the four general headings, together with some statistics about populations. Example documents are listed in Annex 1.

- Administration & Management (~ 10000 docs)
  - *Human resources, Employee training, Scheduling (includes scheduling for reservations), Inventory management, Asset management, Enterprise planning, Enterprise Accounting, Project management, Business Office automation, Optimising, Legal issues / Negotiations / Contracts*
- Electronic Commerce (EPO, USPTO: ~ 9000 docs; JPO: ~ 20000 docs)
  - *Marketing, Shopping, Auctions (except stock exchange), Advertising, Price determination, Invoicing, Leasing/Renting, Reservations (for E-commerce)*
- Finance & Insurance (EPO, USPTO: ~ 3500 docs; JPO: ~ 12000 docs)
  - *Investment, Exchange of stocks and other securities, Foreign exchange, Fund Managing, Loans/credit, Tax, Financial assessment, Banking, Financial institute accounting, Insurance*
- Specially adapted for functions in specific business sectors (EPO, USPTO: ~ 1500 docs; JPO: ~ 40000 docs)
  - *Health care, Primary (agriculture, forestry, fishery), Manufacturing, Construction/building, Utility, Shipping, Real estate/housing, Travel, Restaurant/bar*

### **Intended use of the proposed places**

Experts agreed that the fourth group has a certain affinity to an indexing scheme but that, considering the population statistics (especially the high number of JP documents), it would nevertheless be desirable to have it as a group.

Because of the different nature of the first three subdivisions as opposed to the fourth one, a classification practice should be established by which documents should receive (at least) one of the first classes, possibly followed by one application class.

### **Proposals**

Rapporteur submits two proposals.

#### Proposal A

This proposal merely envisages a further subdivision of G06F17/60 along the lines discussed above.

#### Proposal B

This proposal, favoured by the Trilateral Offices, goes a step further by suggesting also the creation of a completely new subclass. This is motivated by the very high activity shown by this technology area in recent years and by similar forecasts for the future. By comparison, the population and activity of some G06 subclasses (apart of course from G06F) are merely a fraction of what now is G06F17/60.

A new subclass would further allow a more precise definition of scope by avoiding the restrictions imposed by the scope of G06F.

Comments are invited on the attached Proposals.

### **G06F Indexing Scheme**

With reference to Project H034, indexing codes G06F 151:00 to 157:00 can be deleted due to the fact that their scope is fully covered by the new groups proposed in this project.

Pasquale Foglia

#### Enclosures:

Annex 1: Example documents

Annex 2: Points of further discussion

Proposal A (file: 424P0303.doc)

Proposal B (file: 424P1303.doc)

Project: C 424

Annex 1

**Example documents**

**Administration & Management**

- EPO: EP1246097, EP1271379, EP1278148, EP1276069, EP1233359
- USPTO: US 6,405,173 B1
- JPO: JP2002-041732A (US2002-10609A); JP2002-092156A (DE010135138A, FR002814832A); JP2000-513489A (WO98/53416A); JP2002-099712A (US2002-035550A, EP01193628A); JP2000-041729A (EP1178425A, US2002-019766A); JP2002-544601A (WO00/68865A); JP2001-250023A (GB2365173A); JP1999-184837A (US6356911B)

**Electronic Commerce**

- EPO: EP1209603, EP1265180, EP1172748, EP1202196, EP1241643, EP1246095
- USPTO: US 6,484,150 B1
- JPO: JP2002-513488A (WO98053415A); JP2002-041612A (EP1168210A, US2002-002525A); JP2002-133062A (US2002-038819A1); JP2001-201314A (WO01014994A); JP2001-195511A (WO01050372A)

**Finance & Insurance**

- EPO: EP1220131, EP1215635, EP1179793, EP1246111, EP1262894, EP1258826
- USPTO: US 6,510,419 B1; US 6,526,386 B1
- JPO: JP1999-501423A (WO96/18162A); WO02/25524A; JP1994-096359A (EP0512702A); JP2002-511160A (WO98/03925A); JP1997-502819A (WO95/06294A)

**Application-related**

- EPO: EP1265168, EP1246094, EP1244038, EP1211658, EP1246102
- USPTO: US 6,463,417 B1
- JPO: JP2002-015043A (US2002-042734A); JP2001-290866A (US2001-027407A); JP2001-154722A (WO01040886A); JP2002-092098A (US2002-035496A); JP2002-128279A (US2002-052670A1); JP2000-132623A (EP0996075A)



Project: C 424

Annex 2

### **Other Points**

For completeness of information, Rapporteur includes the following non-exhaustive list of subjects currently under discussion among the Trilateral Offices.

#### Further subdivisions

The proposed broad scheme leads to the creation of rather large groups. The list of topics falling under each heading may already hint to the need for/the possibility of a deeper subdivision. The Trilateral Offices (and possibly other Offices) are invited to comment on this point and possibly come up with proposals, preferably on the basis of population statistics of each possible three-dot group.

#### Payments and Settlements

Both JPO and USPTO practices are to classify this subject matter under group G06F17/60. That's why they both proposed to create a fifth subdivision of 17/60 to accommodate Payments and Settlements.

The EPO has traditionally classified Payments under G07F19 (Complete banking systems), so an immediate agreement on this point could not be reached. The adoption of this further group would involve a substantial (administrative) reclassification and possibly some organisational changes in the EPO, but this Office is currently investigating the feasibility of such change.

A provisional list of subjects falling into the scope of such a place would include:

- Overall scheme (e.g. pre-authorization -- purchase(s) -- settlement)
- Specific actions (e.g. authorization, confirmation, cancellation, etc.)
- Related activities (e.g. escrow service, aggregator, etc.).

JPO provided population statistics (~4500 documents) and example documents: JP2002-543541A (WO00/67216A); JP1999-511882A (WO96/36934A); WO99/22291A; JP1999-503541A (WO96/31965A).

#### Reservations

Reservations, seen as optimisation processes, appear to be well placed under the "Administration & Management" heading.

EPO expressed some doubts about Reservations for E-commerce. In order to clarify this point, JPO stated that there seem to be many documents related to this matter. G06F17/60,322 (JPO FI) contains 620 documents only from 2001 to 2002 (for example, WO1095183A1, WO1082159A1). Anyway, in case only one place should be decided upon, the "Administration & Management" heading would be satisfactory for JPO.

#### Point-of-sale terminals

Such devices should not be classified under G06F17/60. However, invention drawn to "the data processing of sales" might still belong in E-commerce.

#### Postage meters and Transportation, e.g. fares, tolls, parking lots, parking meters, taximeters

JPO see these subject matters as suitable for classification under group G06F17/60.

EPO see them as specialised equipment that should better be placed under G07B and G07C. In particular:

- Postage meters (under franking apparatus) G07B17/00
- Fare and Toll collecting apparatus G07B15/00
- Parking meters G07C1/30
- Taximeters G07B13/00.

#### Voting systems

JPO and USPTO agree that functional aspects of voting systems should go under the Administration & Management heading, whereas e.g. "voting systems for elections" may receive a class under the Application-related heading.

At present, EPO practice is to classify such systems under G07C13/00 (voting apparatus). Nevertheless, considering that modern voting systems involve the use of secure transaction /

protocol technology, and are not just based on stand-alone machine anymore, some changes may be considered.

Patent publications with weak technical content

The Trilateral experts acknowledged that, in recent years there has been a stream of applications characterised by weak or inexistent technical features.

The experts agreed that, in relation to the total documentation in this field, only a very small fraction (<5%) may be considered of this nature, and that the subdivision as proposed provides a good basis also for classifying documentation with weak technical content.

Independently from patentability issues (which differ according to national patent legislations, and may evolve in time), a place must nevertheless be provided for such publications.

Project: C 424      Subclass: G06F

Proposal A

- 17/00                    *Digital computing or data processing equipment or methods,  
specially adapted for specific functions*
- C    17/60    .        *Administrative, commercial, financial, managerial, supervisory or  
forecasting purposes (- - -)*
- N    17/62    . .        Administration; Management
- N    17/64    . .        Electronic Commerce
- N    17/66    . .        Finance; Insurance
- N    17/68    . .        Specially adapted for functions in specific business sectors

P. Foglia

Project: C 424      Subclass: G06F

Proposal B

*Proposal for a new subclass*

- N G06Q      Data processing equipment or methods, specially adapted for administrative, commercial, financial, managerial, supervisory or forecasting purposes
- N    1/00      Administration; Management
- N    3/00      Electronic Commerce
- N    5/00      Finance; Insurance
- N    7/00      Specially adapted for functions in specific business sectors
- D            G06F17/60 (transferred to G06Q)
- C 17/00      - - - functions (*Data processing equipment or methods, specially adapted for administrative, commercial, financial, managerial, supervisory or forecasting purposes G06Q*)

P. Foglia

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**UK Patent Office****Date: 12 May 2003**

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**Comments on Project C424 , Subclass G06F**

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Comments were invited by the EPO on their proposals outlined in Annexes 2-4 of the project file. An edited compilation of the comments made by our experts appears below.

**Comments**

Generally the new subclass G06Q is favoured over new subgroups of G06F 17/60, mainly for the adaptability of the key for future revisions.

When searching we use the ECLA key heavily and find those divisions useful, and there is inevitable concern over the divergence of the 2 keys (ECLA and IPC) if they are divided along different lines. A division of the IPC would be considered useful but only if the division is a logical one.

The four proposed groups are considered to be a good start but there is concern that there is too much overlap or lack of uniqueness between the groups, such as especially 3/00 and 5/00. Also it would seem that 7/00 is merely a catch-all group. Alternatively this could be merely due to a poor description of the groups. There still seems to be uncertainty whether this is a function- or application-based key.

There were some other suggestions that perhaps a hierarchical structure might be useful, such as 3/00, 5/00 and 7/00 being subgroups of 1/00 for example. Also questions regarding indexing versus classifying.

Although life is never like this, it would be nice if when classifying, the case fell easily into one and only one group, thus making the reciprocal searching easier. If due to a poor division of the key cases get filed in multiple groups, the whole exercise becomes a little pointless.

Regarding the other points of Annex 2, there was a comment about payments and settlements, which is that I don't really have any strong feelings as to whether this stuff should stay in G07F or move to somewhere in G06F/G06Q - and I certainly don't envy anyone the task of reclassifying it all!

Another comment, this time about postage meters, fare and toll collecting apparatus etc, was that we generally agree with the EPO's classification practice in these areas. Since such apparatus is specifically provided for somewhere in the IPC, there should be no need to dump them in G06F 17/60 and thereby scatter the documentation. Perhaps references should be inserted into G06F 17/60 (or G06Q) to point out where these things go?

To summarise, a division of G06F 17/60 would be nice but these four proposed subgroups are of limited usefulness either in their definition or scope, and finer divisions along the lines of ECLA would inevitably be needed.

Martin Price

**STATE OFFICE FOR INVENTIONS  
AND TRADEMARKS**

Date : 14 May 2003

Page: 1

**RO COMMENTS**

PROJECT :C 424

Class/Subclass : **G06F**

*Comments were invited by the EPO on their two proposals for the business methods project, see the annex 3-4 of the project file.*

We consider important the presentation of the business methods in a new subclass for the adaptability of the key for future revisions.

We would prefer the EP proposal **B** with a new subclass **G06Q** AData processing equipment or methods, specially adapted for administrative, commercial, financial, managerial, supervisory or forecasting purposes@.

We think that in the proposal **B** perhaps a hierarchical structure might be useful.(for example 3/00, 5/00 and 7/00 being subgroups of 1/00 )

Lavinia Cornea

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# Swedish Patent and Registration Office

IPC Revision Project C 424, subclass G06F

May 19th, 2003

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## COMMENTS relating to Annex 1

SE is in favour of proposal B, the creation of a new subclass.

However, SE would like to make further divisions of the subclass. Considering the great number of documents present in G06F17/60, it seems justified to make further specifications. In the rapporteur report there are several areas mentioned and SE suggests that groups are created based upon these (for example G06Q3/02 – Electronic Auctions). Otherwise, SE is concerned that the borderline between in particular “Electronic Commerce” and “Finance and Insurance” could be unclear. Also, SE feels that “Electronic commerce” is a bit unclear since it gives associations to just E-business (i.e. buying and selling over the Internet), and we would prefer renaming it to commercial purposes.

Further, SE is concerned that some areas which are now classified in G06F17/60 are not mentioned in the new proposal. This particularly concerns centrally controlled vending machines. Also, SE examiners currently use index codes 151:00, 153:00 and 155:00 and we would like to have the content of these index codes as groups as well. Especially betting (155:00) is not mentioned in the new proposal and we feel that it should be included.

Indexing codes 151:00 to 157:00 also relate to G06F19/00. However, SE examiners usually use these codes in relation with G06F17, so we do not see a problem with removing them if their content is moved to the new subclass.

One further comment SE would like to make is that the new subclass still concerns “data processing equipment or methods”. One big problem existing today is to classify methods concerning for example business methods which lack technical features. They are in fact in many cases unclassifiable. We would prefer to create a separate place for classifying these applications, rather than mixing them with the computer area. An alternative could be to very clearly point out in a note that “information processing”, even though “information” is defined in Note (3) after class G06 as a synonym to “data”, should be regarded in widest possible way.

Nina Ödling

Projet IPC / C N°424  
Sous-classe **G06F**

**OBSERVATIONS SUR LA PROPOSITION DE L'OEB**

(ref : annexes 2 à 4 du dossier de projet IPC/WG/8/8)

Nous sommes d'accord avec la proposition B de l'OEB de créer une nouvelle sous-classe G06Q pour les méthodes commerciales.

Le groupe principal G06F17/60 de la CIB ne comporte actuellement aucune subdivision. Un grand nombre de documents est classé à cet endroit, et ce nombre augmente rapidement avec le développement du commerce électronique.

Dans la nouvelle sous-classe proposée, certains groupes principaux sont à préciser pour éviter tout risque de chevauchement.

En utilisant la structure hiérarchique du G06F17/60 dans ECLA comme base de départ et en tenant compte du libellé de la nouvelle sous-classe, il faudrait créer :

- un groupe principal relatif au traitement de données dans un cadre administratif,
- un groupe pour les transactions commerciales,
- un groupe relatif aux finances et assurances,
- un groupe relatif à l'organisation, la gestion ou la planification, et
- un groupe pour la prévision ou la surveillance.

Un renvoi de priorité du groupe G06F 19/00 vers G06Q semble nécessaire.

Il est important de tenir compte dans l'élaboration de la nouvelle sous-classe G06Q, de la conversion prévue dans la prochaine édition de la CIB, des schémas d'indexation (codes d'indexation G06F 151 :00 à 161 :00) en schéma de classement.