

WIPO



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GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION

(PCT UNION)

PCT COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Fifth Session

Geneva, November 29 to December 3, 1982

REPORT

adopted by the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation

INTRODUCTION

1. The PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") held its fifth session in Geneva from November 29 to December 3, 1982. Following the Decision Establishing the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information and Dealing with Related Matters, the session of the Committee was held jointly with the sixth session of the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information (hereinafter referred to as "the PCPI").

2. The following members of the Committee were represented: Australia, Austria, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Japan, Madagascar, Netherlands, Norway, Soviet Union, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, European Patent Office (EPO) (17). Spain was represented in its capacity as a special observer. Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Iran and Poland (5) were represented by observers. The Patent Documentation Group (PDG) was also represented by an observer. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

3. Mr. L.E. Kostikov, Deputy Director General, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director General of WIPO.

4. The session was presided over by the Chairman of the PCPI, Mr. L.G. Björklund (Sweden). Mr. P. Higham, Head, Developing Countries Section, Classifications and Patent Information Division, WIPO, acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Committee unanimously adopted the agenda which is attached as Annex II to this report.

CONCLUSIONS

6. As decided by the Governing Bodies of WIPO at their tenth series of meetings (see document AB/X/32, paragraphs 51 and 52), held from September 24 to October 2, 1979, the report of this session reflects only the conclusions (decisions, recommendations, opinions, etc.) of the Committee and does not, in particular, reflect the statements made by any participant, except where any reservation in respect of any specific conclusion of the Committee was made or repeated after the conclusion was arrived at.

7. The Committee based its conclusions upon the conclusions and recommendations of the PCPI Working Group on Planning (hereinafter referred to as "the Planning Group") at its ninth and tenth sessions, as set forth in documents PCPI/PLAN/IX/3 and PCPI/PLAN/X/5, respectively, upon the conclusions and recommendations of the PCPI Working Group on Special Questions at its first and second sessions, as set forth in documents PCPI/SQ/I/3 and PCPI/SQ/II/2, respectively, as well as upon the project files of projects P 39, P 41 to P 44, and P 225.

PCT MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION: "PATENTS"

Inventory 1920 to Date (Project P 39)

8. The Committee requested the International Bureau to update the existing inventories of patent documents falling within the minimum documentation period defined in PCT Rule 34.1(c)(i)-(v) so as to cover the years 1980, 1981 and 1982. The said inventory should be updated to also give the gaps in the said minimum documentation.

9. The Committee decided that the inventories of the patent documents of Japan and the Soviet Union should contain a reference to the inventories of the English-language abstracts of those documents which were being created as a result of work on Project P 42.

Sorted collections of patent documents according to PCT Rule 34.1(c)(vi) (Project P 41)

Inventories

10. The Committee noted that in early 1982 the International Bureau had distributed the inventories of Australian patent documents according to PCT Rule 34.1.(c)(vi) to those Offices who had requested them.

Proposal of the Soviet Union to modify PCT Rule 34.1(c)(vi)

11. The Committee based its discussions on Annex 15 of Project file P 41, and noted that the matter raised by adding at the end of PCT Rule 34.1(c)(vi) the wording "and also provided that these documents are classified according to the IPC" had been referred to it by the PCT Assembly.

12. As far as the study of the technical merits of the proposal was concerned, the Committee considered that the proposed change to the said PCT Rule could result in a lower cost burden on, and hence a higher efficiency for, the PCT International Searching Authorities (ISA's) in maintaining their search files, and that therefore on the practical level no problems would be encountered if the proposal would be adopted. When expressing this view, some members of the Committee nevertheless observed that the introduction of the above-mentioned amendment in PCT Rule 34.1(c)(vi) would, for the first time, give an obligation of having IPC symbols on a certain category of patent documents for them to fall within the PCT Minimum Documentation, and that this obligation might introduce a bias in favour of the IPC in the PCT which so far had been carefully avoided. The Committee unanimously agreed that if the amendment to the said Rule would be accepted, it should not be applicable to the backlog of the sorted collections of Austrian, Australian and Canadian patent documents; in this context it was noted that the proposed amendments appeared to be superfluous in view of the fact that all documents presently covered by Rule 34.1(c)(vi) or likely to be so covered already contained IPC symbols.

Patent documents in the Spanish language

13. The Committee based its discussions on Annex 16 of Project file P 41 and noted that the PCT Committee for Administrative and Legal Matters had referred this question to it for consideration of the technical questions involved with the proposed amendments of PCT Rules 34.1(c)(vi) and 34.1(e).

14. The Committee noted with satisfaction a declaration by the Special Observer of Spain, in respect of paragraph 4 of Annex 16, that his Office had for several years distributed and exchanged copies of its currently issuing patent documents in the form of microfiches. It was further noted that Spain had microfilmed its whole backlog from 1968 in this form.

15. The Committee noted that if the proposed amendments to Rules 34.1(c)(vi) and 34.1(e) were adopted, the increase in the number of documents was likely to be relatively small vis-à-vis the yearly total of patent documents falling within the PCT Minimum Documentation*. Some of the delegations expressed the view that the inclusion of Spanish language documents could lead to an increase in quality of the results of the international search and also make the PCT system more attractive for Spanish speaking countries. It was felt, however, that only the documents published after the date of entry into force of the amendments to the said Rule, or published at the earliest two years before that date, should become part of the PCT Minimum Documentation, which would be in line with earlier decisions of the PCT Interim Committees in respect of the application of the Rule in similar cases.

16. The Committee agreed that if the proposed amendments to Rules 34.1(c)(vi) and 34.1(e) were adopted it would be necessary that the countries in question, i.e. Spain or the Spanish speaking Latin American countries, would make the sorted collections of Spanish language documents available in the form of one paper copy for insertion in the search files and one copy for the numerical collections which could be a copy in microform. The paper copy should be accompanied by an English language abstract. It was noted however that at present very few (approximately 200) English language abstracts of Spanish patent documents were generally available in any given year.

17. The Special Observer of Spain said that it was the intention of his Office to prepare the sorted collections in exactly the way explained above i.e. one paper copy of each of its patents in which no priority is claimed, together with an English language abstract prepared by it and a numerical collection in the form of microfiches. The Committee noted this declaration with great interest.

18. As far as the proposal to insert in Rule 34.1(c)(vi), after the words "in which," the words "or from which" is concerned it was observed that it was practically impossible for any Office to know at the time of publication whether further members of the same patent family existed. Later filings in other countries could be identified only two or three years later.

Machine Readable Inventories of English Language Abstracts of Patent Documents according to PCT Rule 34.1(e) (Project P 42)

Inventories

19. The Committee agreed that:

(a) the inventories of patent documents published both by the Soviet Union and by Japan should be distributed in early 1983 to those Offices who had requested them and in the form they had requested them so that Offices, particularly the PCT ISA's whose working language is not Japanese or Russian, can be given information necessary to improve their access to patent documents written in those languages;

* Note by the International Bureau. According to the statistics of the years 1979, 1980 and 1981, the increase in the number of documents that would fall within the PCT Minimum Documentation if the proposed amendment to PCT Rule 34.1(c)(vi) would be adopted would be no more than 5,000 per annum. This is less than one percent of the annual increase of the number of patent documents that fall within the PCT Minimum Documentation as presently defined by PCT Rule 34.1(c).

(b) yearly updates should be secured from the Japanese Patent Office, Derwent Publications Ltd., and Chemical Abstracts Service and distributed;

(c) the International Bureau should report regularly, e.g. every two years, to the Committee on this question.

English Language Abstracts of Patent Documents in the Spanish Language

20. The Committee noted that if the proposed amendments to PCT Rules 34.1(c)(vi) and 34.1(e) were adopted (see paragraphs 13 to 18 above) an inventory of the English-language abstracts of the Spanish language documents which constitute the PCT Minimum Documentation would have to be prepared in addition to the existing inventories of English language abstracts of Japanese and Soviet Union patent documents.

Bringing Forward the Cut-off Year "1920" Specified in PCT Rule 34.1.(c)(i) (Project P 225)

21. Discussions were based on Annexes 3 to 13 of Project file PCPI P 225.

22. The Committee noted that all ISA's except Australia had stated that they could not support at present a proposal for bringing forward the cut-off year "1920". In addition, Finland and Norway had stated they were against the proposal although Hungary had stated they were in favour of the proposal. Accordingly, the Committee decided that this matter should not be further pursued and that project P 225 should therefore be considered terminated.

23. It was felt however, that any ISA who had at its disposal or would complete further studies on this subject, should bring them to the attention of the other ISA's and the International Bureau.

PCT MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION NON-PATENT-LITERATURE

List of Periodicals Established Under PCT Rule 34.1(b)(iii) (Project P 43)

24. Discussions were based on Annexes 29 to 44 of Project file P 43.

25. The Committee agreed that the following seven periodicals, identified by their PCT identification number, presently on the list of periodicals established under PCT Rule 34.1(b)(iii) should be deleted from the list, namely, numbers 6, 46, 111, 123, 146, 162, 167. In respect of the other candidates for deletion given in Appendix I to Annex 44 of Project file P 43, the Committee considered the deletion of PCT periodical numbers 12, 105, 153 but could not come to a unanimous decision. Accordingly, the Committee requested the PCPI Working Group on Special Questions to recommend whether or not they should be deleted and also to consider the deletion of any other periodicals given in the said Appendix.

26. On the question of possible additions to the said list, the Committee considered the periodicals given in Appendix II to Annex 44 of Project P 43 proposed for addition to the said list by members of the Committee, as well as a further five periodicals earlier proposed for addition to the said list by the United States (see Annex 15 to the Project file). The revised list of periodicals proposed for addition to the said list is given as Annex III to this report. The Committee requested the PCPI Working Group on Special Questions to consider that list and to make recommendations thereon to the Committee for its next session, and drew the attention of the said Working Group to the view of the Committee that close regard should be had to those periodicals proposed by more than one member for addition to the said list and also to those periodicals proposed as replacements for periodicals already on the said list on the basis of their similar characteristics and their higher value for the content of the PCT Minimum Documentation.

27. Finally, the Committee requested the International Bureau to ask members of the Committee, by means of a Circular, for comments by March 31, 1983 on the matters discussed in paragraphs 25 and 26 above.

Journal of Patent-Associated Literature (JOPAL) (Project P 44)

28. The Committee considered the study prepared by the International Bureau on the advantages and disadvantages of the possible courses of action that presented themselves to ensure the publication of JOPAL in the long term. With reference to the decision taken at its third session held in October 1980 concerning the implementation of the one year trial project of cooperation in selecting articles from PCT Minimum Documentation periodicals, the Committee agreed that after the present trial period which should end within one year, it should decide on the final outcome of the project.

29. In reaching the above decision, the Committee noted statements by several Delegations that the present form of publication prevented efficient utilization of the JOPAL information within their Offices. The following suggestions were made for improvement:

- (a) the production of a cumulative index;
- (b) the provision of data in machine-readable form;
- (c) the production of special JOPAL prints of the selected articles for one journal or for each issue of a given journal;
- (d) the modification of the layout of JOPAL in order to facilitate its use in search files.

30. The Committee felt that the project should primarily serve its first aim, namely to help the ISA's and other contributing Offices in their selection and classification of journal articles from the list of PCT Minimum Documentation periodicals. Therefore, the needs of the said Offices should foremost be kept in mind, whereas the involvement of the International Bureau should be kept to a strict minimum.

31. In order to prepare for its decision referred to in paragraph 28, the Committee requested the International Bureau to seek the views of its members, particularly the contributing Offices, on the use made of JOPAL and the usefulness of the publication for the management of their search documentation and their further internal operations. Accordingly, the Committee requested the PCPI Working Group on Special Questions to consider this matter at their session in May 1983.

32. This report was unanimously adopted by the Committee at their closing meeting on December 3, 1982.

[Annexes I to III follow]

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS/
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

(in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States)/
(dans l'ordre alphabétique anglais des noms des Etats)

I. MEMBER STATES/ETATS MEMBRES

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Mr. V.I. BLINNIKOV, Director, VNIIGPE, USSR State Committee for Inventions and Discoveries, Moscow

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Mr. G.L. SKILLINGTON, Legislative and International Affairs Specialist, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, Washington D.C.

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GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC/REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE D'ALLEMAGNE

Mr. H. KONRAD, Scientific Counsellor, Office for Inventions and Patents, Berlin

IRAN

Mr. A. HASHEMI, Director, Iranian Industrial Property and Legislative Office, Téhéran

POLAND/POLOGNE

Mr. Z. SOBCZYK, Vice-président, Office des brevets, Varsovie

Mr. M. SWIECHOWSKI, Directeur, Centre Information, Office des brevets, Varsovie

V. OBSERVER ORGANIZATION/ORGANIZATION OBSERVATRICE

PATENT DOCUMENTATION GROUP (PDG)

Mr. P. OCHSENBEIN, Secretary, PDG, Basel, Switzerland

VI. OFFICERS/BUREAU

Chairman/Président:	Mr. L.G. BJÖRKLUND, Sweden
First Vice-Chairman/ Premier vice-président:	Mr. W.I. KOUKOLOV, Soviet Union
Second Vice-Chairman/ Deuxième vice-président:	Mr. A. HASHEMI, Iran
Secretary/Secrétaire:	Mr. P.A. HIGHAM, WIPO

VII. INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF WIPO/
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Mr. L.E. KOSTIKOV, Deputy Director General

Mr. P. CLAUS, Director, Classifications and Patent Information Division

Mr. P. HIGHAM, Head, Developing Countries Section, Classifications and Patent Information Division

Mr. B. BARTELS, Head, PCT Legal Section, PCT Division

PCT/CTC/V/2

ANNEX II

AGENDA

	Paragraph(s)
1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information (PCPI)	
2. Adoption of the agenda	5
3. PCT Minimum Documentation: "Patents"	8 - 23
(a) Inventory 1920 to 1982 and Inventory of reported gaps therein in the files of the PCT International Searching Authorities (project file PCPI/P 39/79 Rev.3)	8 - 9
(b) Sorted collections of patent documents according to PCT Rule 34.1(c)(vi) (project file PCPI/P 41/79 Rev.4):	10 - 18
(i) inventories	10
(ii) proposal by the Soviet Union	11 - 12
(iii) patent documents in the Spanish language	13 - 18
(c) Inventories of English-language abstracts of patent documents according to PCT Rule 34.1(e) (project file PCPI/P 42/79 Rev.7)	19 - 20
(i) inventories	19
(ii) English-language abstracts of patent documents in the Spanish language	20
(d) Bringing forward the cut-off year "1920" specified in PCT Rule 34.1(c)(i) (project file PCPI/P 225/82 Rev.1)	21 - 23
4. PCT Minimum Documentation: "Non-patent Literature"	24 - 31
(a) List of periodicals established under PCT Rule 34.1(b)(iii) (project file PCPI/P 43/79 Rev.11)	24 - 27
(b) Journal of Patent Associated Literature (JOPAL) (project file PCPI/P 44/79 Rev.4)	28 - 31
5. Adoption of the report of the session	32
6. Closing of the session.	

[Annex III follows]

ANNEX III/ANNEXE III

PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF PERIODICALS ESTABLISHED
 UNDER PCT RULE 34.1(b)(iii)/
 ADDITIONS PROPOSEES A LA LISTE DES PERIODIQUES ETABLIE
 SELON LA REGLE 34.1.b)iii) DU PCT)

Title of Periodical/ Titre du périodique	Proposing Office/ Office Promoteur	ISSN number/ No ISSN	Language Langue
Aircraft Engineering	AU		
Australian Journal of Chemistry	AU		
Automatic control and computer sciences (in place of PCT 19)	SU		
Bulletin of the Institute of Paper Chemistry (400 art.)	EP		
Cahiers du centre scientifique & technique du batiment (50 art.)	EP		
Coke and Chemistry - USSR (in place of PCT 25)	SU		
Communications of the ACM	US	0001-0782	E
Computer design (115 art.)	EP		
E.D.N. Electrical design news (236 art.)	EP		
Electrical Engineer (Australia)	AU		
Electrical Review International	AU		
Electronics letters (256 art.)	EP		
Electronique industrielle (150 art.)	EP		
*Elektor	DE		
*Elektor (170 art.)	EP		
*Elektronik	DE		
*Elektronik (204 art.)	EP		
Energie Fluide (35 art.)	EP		
Engineering Index	GB		
Engineers of Australia Journal	AU		
*Farbe and Lack	AU		
*Farbe und lack	DE		
Fibre Chemistry (in place of PCT 142)	SU		
Glass Industry (UK)	AU		
I.E.E. proceedings section A.A.I. (139 art.)	EP		
Industrie textile (30 art.)	EP		
Instruments and Experimental Techniques (in place of PCT 152)	SU		
Journal of crystal growth (193 art.)	EP		
*Journal of food science (123 art.)	EP		
*Journal of food science	DE		
Journal of Immunology	US	0022-1767	E
Journal of Medicinal Chemistry	US	0022-2623	E
Journal of the Association for Computing Machinery	US	0004-5411	E
Journal of the electrochemical society (132 art.)	EP		
Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery	AU		
Journal of Coatings Technology	AU		
Journal of Oil and Colour Chemists Association	AU		
Journal of Organic Chemistry of the USSR (in place of PCT 46)	SU		
Machine moderne (30 art.)	EP		
Metal Finishing Society of Japan, Journal	JP		
Mitsubishi Denki Giho	JP		
N.T.I.S. Tech. notes (321 art.)	EP		
National Technical Report	JP		
Nuclear instruments and methods (197 art.)	EP		
*Oil and gas journal	DE		
*Oil and Gas Journal (105 art.)	EP		
Optics communications (220 art.)	EP		
Optics engineering (114 art.)	EP		
Optics letters (119 art.)	EP		
Power Farming Magazine	AU		
Power Record	AU		

Note: * indicates the same periodical is proposed by two, or more, Offices/
 L'astérisque signale les périodiques proposés par deux offices ou davantage.

Title of Periodical/ Titre du périodique	Proposing Office/ Office Promoteur	ISSN number/ No ISSN	Language Langue
*Radio fernsehen elektronik (112 art.)	EP		
*Radio fernsehen elektronik	DE		
*Research disclosure	DE		
*Research disclosure (308 art.)	EP		
*Research Disclosure	GB	0374-4353	
*Research Disclosure	AU		
Revue de physique appliquee (30 art.)	EP		
Society of Instrument Control Engineers, Journal	JP		
Solar Energy: The Journal of Solar Energy Science and Engineering	US	.0038-092X	E
Solid state ionics (227 art.)	EP		
Soviet Journal of Quantum Electronics (in place of PCT 22)	SU		
Soviet Physics - Semiconductors (in place of PCT 155)	SU		
Soviet Physics Uspekhi (in place of PCT 153)	SU		
Soviet Technical Physics Letters (in place of PCT 24)	SU		
Steel in the USSR (in place of PCT 119)	SU		
Synthesis (160 art.)	EP		
*Technische rundschau (150 art.)	EP		
*Technische rundschau	DE		
Telecommunications and Radio Engineering (in place of PCT 137)	SU		
Thin solid films (100 art.)	EP		
Toshiba Review	JP		
Welding Production (in place of PCT 18)	SU		
*Xerox disclosure journal (120 art.)	EP		
*Xerox disclosure journal	DE		

Note: * indicates the same periodical is proposed by two, or more, Offices/
L'astérisque signale les périodiques proposés par deux offices ou davantage.

[End of Annex III and of document/
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