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# WIPO



PCT/TCO/IV/9

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: August 23, 1974

## WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION GENEVA

### PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

#### INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Fourth Session: Geneva, November 14 to 19, 1974

#### SEARCHING UNDER THE PCT: ISOLATED SEARCHES

Progress report prepared by the International Bureau

1. The PCT Interim Committee for Technical Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "the Interim Committee"), at its third session, held in Tokyo in October 1973, noted with appreciation the reports on isolated searches that had been established by the German Patent Office and by the International Patent Institute (IIB). The Interim Committee encouraged the International Bureau to compare these reports with the results of the survey on searching techniques, once such results were available, with a view to establishing search standards for the PCT International Searching Authorities.
2. A draft questionnaire for the survey on searching techniques had also been considered by the third session of the Interim Committee. Following discussion on the matter, the questionnaire was referred to the Standing Subcommittee of the Interim Committee for further study. As the Standing Subcommittee is not scheduled to meet in 1974, the questionnaire, as revised in accordance with the comments on the draft made by the Interim Committee, is being presented to the present session of the Interim Committee as document PCT/TCO/IV/10.
3. Following the consideration of the revised questionnaire by the Interim Committee, the distribution of an approved questionnaire and the receipt of responses thereto, the International Bureau will be able to prepare the comparison of the reports with the responses.
4. The German Patent Office, in a letter of February 6, 1974, updated its report on isolated searches to include statistical information from 1972 and 1973. That letter is reproduced as an Annex to this document.
5. The Interim Committee is invited to note the updating of the report on isolated searches of the German Patent Office and to approve the establishment of the comparison study as soon as the responses to the questionnaire on searching techniques are available.

[Annex follows]

ad a

DER PRÄSIDENT  
DES DEUTSCHEN PATENTAMTS

8000 MÜNCHEN 2, den Februar 6, 1974  
Zweibrückenstraße 12  
Fernruf (08 11) 2 19 51 Fernschreiber 5 23 534  
Fernrufdurchwahl (08 11) 21 95 Hausruf 1974

Geschäfts-Nr.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bitte in der Antwort die vorstehende Geschäftsnummer angeben.

9330/10 H5 Bd II 61/74  
9330/10 (11) - 3.1.3. Bd XIII 7

Arranged according to technological fields, the distribution is as follows:

Technological Field	Number of Citations		DT-patent Literature %		Foreign patent Literature %		DT-non-patent Literature %		Foreign non-patent Literature %	
	1972	1973	1972	1973	1972	1973	1972	1973	1972	1973
Mechanical engineering	5,1	5,1	43,1	46,6	56,3	52,5	0,6	0,8	0,0	0,2
Mechanical technology	5,2	5,2	50,4	54,0	48,4	45,0	1,0	0,9	0,2	0,2
Electrical engineering	6,3	4,8	51,2	53,4	45,0	43,1	2,8	2,7	1,0	0,8
Chemistry	5,0	5,3	40,7	43,1	55,8	53,9	2,0	2,1	1,5	0,9
Physical Science	4,6	4,0	59,6	57,4	37,1	40,2	2,6	1,4	0,7	1,0

PCT/TCO/IV/9  
ANNEX

Dr. Arpad B o g s c h  
Director General  
World Intellectual Property Organization  
32, chemin des Colombettes  
CH - 1211 G e n e v e  
Schweiz

Re.: PCT Interim Committee for Technical Cooperation;  
Progress report on isolated searches

Ref.: Documents PCT/TCO/III/5 and PCT/TCO/III/13 paragraph 84

Dear Dr, Bogsch,

I should like to amend the above mentioned progress report of the German Patent Office concluding with the year 1971, by more recent data concerning the period from 1972 to 1973.

As far as the number of citations in the search report is concerned (PCT/TCO/III/5, Annex II, page 11), the average number was reduced to 5,5 (1972) and 5,0 (1973). This number is split up as follows:

	1972	1973
a) German patent literature	48,3 %	50,4 %
b) Foreign patent literature	49,6 %	47,7 %
c) German non-patent literature	1,5 %	1,4 %
d) Foreign non-patent literature	0,6 %	0,5 %

There have been no decisive changes in the search times (PCT/TCO/III/5, Annex II, pages 11-13) during the past two years as can be seen from the numbers of searches carried out:

1972: 168 searches per examiner  
1973: 171 searches per examiner

The fluctuations in the numbers of searches carried out by the individual examiner have diminished:

1972: 103 - 243 searches per examiner  
1973: 116 - 257 searches per examiner

A certain proportion of the negligible increase of the numbers of searches carried out, I believe, is due to a further reorganization of the search file according to the International Patent Classification. The examiner's search file is at present in 160 sub-classes reorganized according to IPC.

An important shortening of the search times may possibly be achieved in some technological fields by the introduction of a mechanized search. This will especially be the case, if a numerical document collection in the form of aperture cards with an appropriate reading device is at the examiner's disposal.

Sincerely yours,

  
Haertel