

WIPO



PCT/TCO/V/ 3

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: October 6, 1975

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Fifth Session

Geneva, October 29 to November 3, 1975

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INSPEC PROJECT

prepared by the International Bureau

History

1. It is recalled that the PCT Interim Committee for Technical Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee"), in its third session held at Tokyo from October 23 to 27, 1973, considered a recommendation adopted by its Standing Subcommittee as follows:

"The Standing Subcommittee of the PCT Interim Committee for Technical Cooperation, in its session held in Geneva from April 25 to 30, 1973,

Recognizes the great potential usefulness of the ... "PAL" Services of INSPEC for economizing time and expenses in searching and examination procedures and in the harmonization of the basis for searching non-patent literature;

Recommends that the interested Industrial Property Offices and the International Patent Institute (IIB) give urgent and serious consideration to expressing their interest in and subscribing to ... the PAL Services;

Requests the International Bureau to lend support to the said Offices, the IIB and INSPEC with a view to facilitating the coming to the decisions which are required for making operational ... the PAL Services of INSPEC."

2. Following these discussions during which declarations of intent to subscribe were made (document PCT/TCO/III/13, paragraphs 27 to 34), contracts between INPADOC and the Patent Offices of Brazil, Germany (Federal Republic of), Japan and the United States of America were signed at the end of 1973. The PAL Services were thereupon effectively started on March 1, 1974.

First Year of Services

3. It is recalled that the basic conditions for implementing the PAL project were the following (reference is made to Annex B of document PCT/TCO/III/7, Draft Contract) :

(a) Journal coverage. Selection from all journals in the acquisition list which is in use by INSPEC for its existing information services.

(b) Subject coverage. Articles to be selected only in the subjects of physics, electronics, electrical engineering, computers and control. An annual total of approximately 10,000 selections to be made in these subjects.

(c) Selection criteria. Articles to be selected if they appear to be suitable for the purposes of patent office search in that they disclose new or allegedly new items concerning

- (i) devices, equipment and arrangements thereof, including modifications thereto;
- (ii) materials;
- (iii) applications of devices, equipment, arrangements thereof, and materials;
- (iv) manufacturing methods, processes and techniques, including modifications thereof, such as method of measurement and testing, and data processing systems.

Selections to be made by senior technical staff members of INSPEC who will assume any such item within an article to be new if the article indicates specifically or by implication that it is new or if it appears to be new having regard to their knowledge and experience.

Articles which satisfy these criteria but which refer to patents or patent applications in respect of their relevant disclosure will not normally be selected.

(d) Classification. All articles selected to be classified using the International Patent Classification (IPC).

The most recent edition of the IPC to be used and to be applied to the sub-group level. More than one full classification symbol may be given to each selected article. Classification normally to be confined to the particular disclosure of the article on the basis of which the article has been selected.

(e) Document Identification Number. Each selected article to be assigned a unique identification number.

(f) Specification of the full-text copy. The full-text copy to comprise double-sided photocopies produced by xerography. Each such copy to have an English-language title and the one or more author's names for the article, publication date and bibliographic details of the source journal, the document identification number and all assigned IPC symbols. Copies of articles which are not in English and which do not include an English-language abstract to be accompanied by a copy of the abstract prepared by INSPEC for its existing information services.

(g) Frequency of delivery. The full-text copies of the selected articles to be dispatched by INSPEC on a monthly basis (postage paid by INSPEC).

(h) Price. The fee for a one year subscription to be 35,000 US dollars.

4. All basic features of the PAL Project were implemented by INSPEC, except for one question, related to the number of selections made (see paragraph 3(b) above). INSPEC fell short approximately 1,500 items of the 10,000 selections expected for 1974. A refund of 5,250 US dollars on the 1974 subscription price was made by INSPEC to the subscribers.

Second Year of Services

5. The second year of the PAL Services started on March 1, 1975. All offices which had subscribed to the first year continued their support to the PAL Project and prolonged their subscriptions by one year. The IIB became a subscriber as well. In December 1974, INSPEC had informed its subscribers and prospective subscribers that the subscription price of 1974/75 would not be changed for 1975/76 (35,000 US dollars) in spite of the inflation in the United Kingdom,

increased expenses and a journal coverage which would be expanded to include all 169 PCT minimum documentation journals except "Chemical Abstracts". All other basic conditions of the PAL Project, as mentioned in paragraph 3, remained unchanged.

Proposals of INSPEC for the Third Year of Services

6. On August 7, 1975, INSPEC forwarded proposals for the third year of PAL Services to the five subscribing offices and a certain number of prospective subscribers. Following an informal meeting which took place in Geneva on September 19, 1975, and in which representatives of the subscribing offices, INSPEC and the International Bureau took part, these proposals were withdrawn by INSPEC.

7. With their letter, dated September 24, 1975, to the subscribing offices and the International Bureau, INSPEC submitted (new) proposals for the third year of PAL Services (1976/77) as follows:

"The new proposals comprise two services both of which will provide the same journal coverage and the same subject coverage. The subject coverage will comprise physics, electrical engineering, electronics, telecommunications, computer technology and control engineering and thus will correspond to the subject coverage of the computer database used for the INSPEC information services. The journal coverage will comprise all journals of the INSPEC acquisition list. Journals in the PCT Minimum Documentation List will be covered only if they also appear in the INSPEC acquisition list.

"The same selection criteria will apply to both services so that each will be identical in the extent of its coverage of journal articles. These selection criteria will be the same as are applied with the existing Full-Text Copy Service and they are expected to yield more than 10,000 items of Patent Associated Literature per annum.

"One service under the new proposals will comprise a Full-Text Copy Service which corresponds to the service now being supplied to subscribers. Thus each subscriber will receive one double-sided full-text copy of each selected article. Each such copy will have an English title and the one or more author's names for the article; the bibliographic details of the source journal; the document identification number; and all assigned symbols for the current edition of the International Patent Classification. Articles which are not in English and which do not include an English language abstract will be accompanied by a copy of the abstract prepared by INSPEC for its information services.

"The other service of the new proposals differs from the Full-Text Copy Service only in respect of the INSPEC journals which also appear in the PCT Minimum Documentation List. Thus for such journals only, each subscriber will receive one copy of the information sheet produced for each selected article but no full-text copy of the article. Each such information sheet will have an English title and the one or more author's names for the article; the bibliographic details of the source journal; the document identification number; and all assigned symbols for the current edition of the International Patent Classification. An English abstract will be provided in those circumstances which require such an abstract under the Full-Text Copy Service. For articles selected from the INSPEC journals which are not in the PCT Minimum Documentation List, full-text copies will be provided in exactly the same way as for the Full-Text Copy Service.

"In as much as this proposed service consists of a full-text copy service for the non-PCT Minimum Documentation journals and an information sheet service for the PCT Minimum Documentation journals we have called it the Composite Service.

"The subscription prices for the proposed services will be:

Full-Text Copy Service	\$ 49,000 per annum
Composite Service	\$ 42,000 per annum

"However, for these prices to apply it is necessary that the number of subscriptions to the Full-Text Copy Service and the number of subscriptions to the Composite Service together total at least four (4)."

8. Further information on these new proposals will be provided to the Committee during its fifth session by the INSPEC representative.

9. The Committee is invited
- (i) to examine the proposals for the third year of PAL Services;
 - (ii) to suggest further work to be done for maintaining and expanding the PAL Services.

[End of document]