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WIPO

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

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PAPER BY THE PATENT DOCUMENTATION GROUP CONCERNING CONTENTS OF WEB SITES PROVIDED BY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICES

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1.   The Annex to this document contains a reproduction of a report regarding the contents of Web sites provided by Intellectual Property Offices through the Internet, which had been prepared by a Working Group of the Patent Documentation Group (PDG). The paper was received by the International Bureau on January 25, 1999.

> 2.   *The SCIT Plenary is invited to take note of the above-mentioned report and, if deemed necessary, to instruct the Information Infrastructure Working Group to consider the suggestions and comments contained in the paper of the PDG.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

Patent Documentation Group   6 January 1999

How should the internet web sites of patent offices be designed and what should they contain?

Suggestions by the PDG Working Group "Impact of Patent Laws on Documentation"

1.   The content of internet web sites should not only be written in the national language(s) of each office, but also in English (at least the most important pages).

2.   The web sites should contain information about national patent law, especially when national law differs considerably from that of other countries. Information about the term of patents or design patents, deadlines or time limits and the national fees should also be available. The web site should also provide a summary of other industrial & intellectual property right

Example: http://www.ige.ch/English/E30.htm

3.   Information helpful for people new in the patent or patent information field, should be available. A sample patent application should be downloadable from the web site. Also, information about the numbering system and the kind of document codes should be available.

4.   Information about who produces or delivers national patent information and about the media on which it is available (e.g. CD-ROM, paper or online-databases), should be provided.

Example: http://www.european-patent-office.org/patolis/index.htm

5.   Pages containing "news from the patent world" and "web site update information" should be provided, being directly accessible from the main page. The news section should contain news about patent law, patent documentation, meetings or publications, always bearing the last date of modification. It would be helpful if the offices would install an e-mail service to alert subscribers about new information on the web site.

Example: http://www.wipo.org/eng/newindex/news.htm

How should the internet web sites of patent offices be designed and what should they contain?

6.   Every web site of a national office should contain a page from which important. information, forms, tips or new software releases can be downloaded. Text files should be available in PDF-format or in ASCII-format. Other standard formats (like e.g. MS Word) should be used only in addition to one of these two formats.

For information that is too extensive to be downloaded a table containing order numbers and prices should be available. Such a table could be designed in the form of on order form that can be easily filled in. A possibility to order online would be a further improvement (e g. legal texts or official journals).

Example: http://www.wipo.org/eng/general/pcipi/document/reports
*   http://www.wipo.org/eng/newindex/publctn.htm*

7.   The possibility to search the web site should be provided, including a short explanation of search capabilities.

Example: http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/engdoc/search.html

8.   In general there should be a possibility for users to easily establish contract with the offices in order to have an open dialog between users and offices, to get help on problems or to offer criticism and suggestions. Questions of general interest could be dealt with in the form of a FAQ list (Frequently Asked Questions).

Example: http://www.european-patent-office.org/epidos/withdrawn.htm

9.   There should be a table containing names, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses of the contact persons for questions concerning patent law, patent application procedure or patent information. If possible, this table should be searchable. Information about the opening times of the offices or of parts of the offices should also be presented. At least there should be offered a helpdesk address.

Example: http://www.wipo.org/eng/newindex/contact.htm

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10.   There should be a database available on which people of foreign countries could search for national patent agents. At least there should be a link available to such a database.

Example: http://www. uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/olia/oed/roster/index.html

11.   The web site should contain a database with the bibliographic data (including the abstracts) of all patent applications, patents or design patents designating the national territory. It would be an improvement of such a database if also the legal status of patents, especially information whether patents are actually in force, were available.

Example: http:llwww.patent.gov.uk/dbservices/

Wishes concerning the technical aspects of web sites

1.   The web sites should be kept simple (no gimmicks) to prevent loading times from taking too long. The use of images should be reduced to graphs, statistics and so on.

2.   A frame-based design is preferred, as it makes navigation easier for users.

3.   The offices should not use TCP/IP ports that are not common. Especially in bigger companies the fire wall servers often do not allow users the access to other TCP/IP ports than the standard HTTP port 80.

4.   The web sites of patent offices should not make use of cookies, because many internet users will not allow cookies to be loaded automatically onto their computers.

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Appendix: Check list for web sites of patent offices

Features	Notes
Text of web site also in English	
Basic information about patent matters - patent law - patent information & documentation - patenting procedure, fees - sample patent document - FAQ list	
Information about other IP rights	
Information about patent information sources - type - carrier (medium) - producer	
Section with news on - patent law - patent documentation - meetings on patent matters - publications on patent matters	
Information about web site updates - directly accessible from main page - alerting subscribers through e-mail service	

How should the internet web sites of patent offices be designed and what should they contain?

Features	Notes
Section for downloadable files - reports - forms - software	
File formats of downloadable files - ASCII text file - PDF file - other formats (in addition only)	
Possibility to order products & services - downloadable form for postal ordering - direct ordering online	
Possibility to search the web site	
Help addresses - e-mail - phone / fax	
Database containing the names & addresses of all national patent agents	
Database containing - bibliographic data / abstracts - legal status data of all national patents, designs, trademarks etc.	
Technical aspects (see wish list)	

[End of Annex and of document]