

Exercises Topic 2&3

We are going to use the free of charge public databases

EPO Espacenet: <http://worldwide.espacenet.com/>

WIPO Patenscope: <https://patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/search.jsf>

The objective of these exercises is to familiarize ourselves with the database and the basics of patent publication policies and types. We will do only some basic number searches and learn what information is presented for each of the documents and patent families.

We will also check the wording of some problematic claims and attempt a claim deconstruction.

Task 1: Search the PCT application number [PCT/IB2011/000543](#) in Patentscope.

Q: What is the PCT publication number?

A: WO2011121407 or WO/2011/121407

Q: What is the Receiving Office? What is the priority country?

A: IB International Bureau is RO; IN India is the priority country

Q: Try to search the same PCT application number in Espacenet. Do you get a result? Try to search the PCT application number without '/' (PCTIB2011000543) in Patentscope.

A: No

Q: Search the PCT publication number. Do you get a result?

A: Yes

Q: What is the format of the PCT application number in Espacenet? Try to search this number in Patentscope. Do you get a result?

A: WO2011IB00543; no result in Patentscope.

Task 2: Search [EP2087791](#) in Espacenet. Then select the Inpadoc family.

Q: How many EP publications with different kind codes are available and what do they mean? Look at the domestic family shown as search result.

For information on kind codes, please see also:

<http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/standards/en/pdf/07-03-02.pdf>

<http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/standards/en/pdf/07-03-03.pdf>

A: There are two EP publications with the same number; the EP publication with kind code A2 is for an 18 month publication without search report, and EP-A3 is a delayed search report published after the EP-A2.

Q: In the Inpadoc family: from how many other countries do you find publications belonging to the same Inpadoc family? Is there a publication from South Africa? Which countries are coded by AP, OA, TW?

For county codes see WIPO Standard ST.3 at:

http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part_03_standards.html

A: Yes, ZA, represents South Africa; AP represents ARIPO, OA represents OAPI, and TW represents Taiwan, Province of China.

Q: What other different kind codes are available for other publications belonging to this Inpadoc family? What kind codes are used for publications of granted patents in CN, in JP, in US, in AP?

A: Grants: CN uses C, JP uses B2, US uses B2, AP uses A

Q: B1 is the kind code the EPO uses for publications of grants. When do they use B2 or B3?

A: B2 is used for republications after opposition. B3 after limitation.

See e.g. in the Espacenet helpfile

http://worldwide.espacenet.com/help?locale=en_EP&method=handleHelpTopic&topic=kindcodes

Q: Are there 'original documents' (PDFs) for AP, BR, CO, OA, ZA?

A: AP: yes; BR: no, there is only basic bibliographic data available; CO: yes; OA: yes; ZA: no

Task 3: Search applications in Espacenet with a priority from South Africa

Q: How many are there?

A: More than 10000, as of March 13, 2016. Simply type ZA in the priority number field of the advanced search interface.

Q: How many PCT publications have a priority from South Africa?

A: 6304 as of March 13, 2016. Simply type ZA in the priority number field of the advanced search interface, and WO in the publication number field.

Q: Can you find publications from South Africa in Espacenet? How many are there in 2013?

A: Yes but mostly old ones. There is only one published in 2013 in Espacenet. This is an example of gaps in data coverage in databases, ie a matter of completeness of data, or up-to-dateness.

Task 4: Search [EP1996567](#)

Q: What is the applicant name of the EP-A1 and the EP-B1?

A: Applicant name of the EP-A1 is Abbott and the EP-B1 is Abbvie, a subsidiary of Abbot to which Abbot transferred many patent. Applicant names need not up-to-date in regular secondary source databases.

Task 5: Search [US100000](#) and [WO2013083968](#)

Q: Would the wording of the claims of the US, and claims 15 and 16 of the WO be acceptable nowadays (just the way they are phrased, not regarding novelty etc.)?

A: No, they refer to features in the drawings without defining these features in the claim by using language. The scope of protection defined by the claims is not clear, i.e. open to interpretation (which features from the drawings?).

Task 6: [WO2013141722](#)

Q: Read the main claim; is the wording acceptable?

A: The last three features i, ii, iii are not really features describing solutions. They rather describe expected positive effect and not by which technical means these effects are achieved.

Task 7: Deconstruct claim 1 of [WO2006138751](#) into distinct features. (You may copy paste the claim from the webpage in a Word document.) The claim has this wording:

1. An electrical driven washing apparatus which includes a set of wheels, a cabinet fixed to the set of wheels, two tanks, one for clean water and one for dirty water, a water inlet to the clean water tank, an electric pump housed in the clean water tank, an electrical connection via an inverter to a battery or to an external source of power, a solar panel to charge the battery, an outlet from the clean water tank to a spray gun, a wax stick which contains cleaning chemicals and wax placed in the spray gun for soapy water, an inlet for the dirty water tank for dumping dirty water into the tank and an outlet for dumping dirty water into external drains.

Q: How many are there?

A: 14 features, they are numbered below in brackets (the numbers are not meant as reference numerals referring to drawings!):

1. *An electrical driven washing apparatus which includes*

*a set of wheels (1),
a cabinet fixed to the set of wheels (2),
two tanks, one for clean water (3) and one for dirty water (4),
a water inlet (5) to the clean water tank,
an electric pump (6) housed in the clean water tank,
an electrical connection (7) via an inverter (8) to a battery or to an external source of power,
a solar panel (9) to charge the battery,
an outlet (10) from the clean water tank to
a spray gun (11),
a wax stick (12) which contains cleaning chemicals and wax placed in the spray gun for soapy water,
an inlet (13) for the dirty water tank for dumping dirty water into the tank and
an outlet (14) for dumping dirty water into external drains.*