

ANNEX III

GUIDELINES FOR CREATION OF INDEXING SCHEMES
IN THE REFORMED IPC

adopted by the IPC Committee of Experts

1. Indexing schemes (as opposed to classification schemes) can be created whenever it is beneficial to provide searches based upon concepts covering subject matter that is not specified in the titles and definitions of the classification schemes. Indexing schemes can, for example, identify specific applications or problems to be solved that are useful for limiting a search. Such indexing schemes can frequently be useful for considering subject matter from differing perspectives. This can be particularly helpful when combined with classification schemes for searching.

2. Indexing schemes shall not be created to cover aspects of subject matter that are already specified, either explicitly or inherently, within the scope of the groups they are associated with. Entries that follow or parallel the same, or similar, bases for hierarchical breakdowns set forth in the classification schemes should only be created as classification groups. In particular, indexing schemes should never be created that merely specify:

(a) variations of a general concept covered by the classification scheme, or

(b) details of the subject matter already covered, explicitly or inherently, in existing classification groups.

For example, an indexing code for “steam engines” is not proper for a subclass with a group covering engines, since the indexing code would cover subject matter that is already covered by this group. A subgroup covering this particular variant should be created instead.

3. Indexing schemes should not normally be created for subclasses when existing groups in other subclasses already explicitly identify the same subject matter. In these situations, additional classification in those groups should be used instead.

4. Indexing schemes should be tested for feasibility, cost benefits and clarity prior to their introduction into the IPC. This testing should also verify that the schemes contain no beneficial overlap. Indexing schemes should have definitions, similar to those of classification schemes.

[Annex IV follows]