

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION UNITED INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX FOR THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GENEVA

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Third Session: Tokyo, October 23 to 27, 1973

MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION: NON-PATENT LITERATURE

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INSPEC PROJECT

prepared by the International Bureau

Background

1. In May 1971, the "Information Services in Physics, Electrotechnology, Computers and Control" (INSPEC) of the Institute of Electrical Engineers, a United Kingdom professional society, submitted to the International Bureau proposals concerning a service for identifying and supplying abstracts, indexes and magnetic tape data bases for Patent-Associated Literature (PAL System), i.e. non-patent technical literature likely to be relevant for patent searches. Initially, this service would cover the fields of physics, electrical and electronics engineering, computers and control, and later the mechanical engineering and chemical fields.
2. The International Bureau distributed copies of the proposals to the members of the Standing Subcommittee of the PCT Interim Committee for Technical Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the Standing Subcommittee) and at its first session of the Standing Subcommittee considered the proposals and the observations made thereon by its members and concluded that the proposals merited further study (see (document PCT/TCO/SS/I/6 and its Annex).
3. Representatives of the International Bureau and INSPEC conducted meetings during May and June 1972 with representatives of several national Offices, members of the Standing Subcommittee, to evaluate and elicit suggestions for the modification of, or additions to the original PAL proposals and system definition. Documents PCT/TCO/SS/III/10 and 11 reflect the results of these meetings and later submitted written evaluations and/or suggestions regarding the proposals.
4. In August 1972 the International Bureau transmitted to the prospective PCT Authorities copies of a brochure authored by INSPEC entitled "Revised Proposals for an Information Service to Cover Patent-Associated Literature", dated July 1972. The revised proposals reflected the opinion, comments and suggestions made by the prospective PCT Authorities during the Spring/Summer 1972 series of consultations.
5. The third session of the Standing Subcommittee in October 1972 discussed the July 1972 proposals of INSPEC and noted a declaration of the representative of INSPEC that INSPEC would in the near future negotiate subscription agreements with all interested parties. The Standing Subcommittee decided to maintain on its agenda as a high priority item the INSPEC/PAL project and asked the International Bureau to continue its efforts to bring about the realization of that project.

6. The PCT Interim Committee for Technical Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") in its second session in October 1972 noted the plans and decisions of the Standing Subcommittee with approval.

Progress made since the Second Session of the Committee
(October 1972 to September 1973)

7. In accordance with the declaration made by the representative of INSPEC at the third session (document PCT/TCO/SS/III/23, paragraph 48) of the Standing Subcommittee, INSPEC transmitted to all members of the Standing Subcommittee the details of an introductory service in a document (INSPEC PAL/5) entitled "Specification for the introductory services", dated November 11, 1972, as well as a "letter of intent" soliciting subscriptions to such a service.

8. According to information received from INSPEC, letters of intent to subscribe to the service were received from only two prospective subscribers and as three were needed the service was not initiated in 1973.

9. In March of this year representatives of the International Bureau and INSPEC met at INSPEC headquarters in London in order to review the existing situation. In light of that discussion, changing economic conditions, and significant progress in overcoming the copyright problem of such a service, INSPEC issued a new document (INSPEC PAL/6) entitled "The Pal System--A Progress Report, April 1973". The document set forth a summary of the negotiations to date and a discussion of the copyright situation, and advanced the possibility of introducing the Pal System Services in January 1974 should three letters of intent from prospective subscribers be received by August 1, 1973. The document also detailed an alternative service which would provide full-text copies but not abstracts of the selected articles.

10. The International Bureau transmitted the new document (INSPEC PAL/6) to all members of the Standing Subcommittee under cover of WIPO Circular No. 1668 dated April 17, 1973.

11. The Standing Subcommittee in its fourth session in April 1973 following a discussion of the latest proposals of INSPEC adopted the following recommendation:

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

Recognizes the great potential usefulness of the two "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 one or both of 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 one or both of the PAL Services of INSPEC."

12. The Standing Subcommittee also approved a proposal according to which the International Bureau would send to all potentially interested Offices and the IIB a circular letter clearly setting out the two alternatives of the PAL Project and their prices. These letters would be prepared in agreement with the management of INSPEC and would ask the addressees to come to an early decision on their interest in one or both services.

13. Circular letter No. 1700, dated May 18, 1973, a copy of which is attached as Annex A to this document, summarized the particulars of the two alternatives as proposed by INSPEC in their document entitled "The PAL System--The Introductory Services" (INSPEC PAL/7) and requested a response to the proposal before August 1, 1973. The letter, together with the document (INSPEC PAL/7), was sent to 25 examining Offices (Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Soviet Union, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America and Yugoslavia) as well as the International Patent Institute (IIB). Three positive responses in regard to either one of the alternative proposals were needed in order that the Project could be put into operation by January 1974.

14. As of the time of this report letters of intent to the proposal encompassing full-text copies of selected articles (Alternative A in Circular No. 1700) have been received from three Offices (Germany (Federal Republic of), Japan and the United States of America). Thus the INSPEC/PAL System Alternative A will now come into existence and begin operation early in 1974.

15. Negotiations are continuing with other Industrial Property Offices with a view to possibly including additional parties in the Project from the date of its inauguration. The Industrial Property Offices of Brazil, Canada and France have shown interest in the Project. Brazil and Canada have requested draft contracts for further study; and France has requested additional background documentation. The Patent Office of Sweden indicated the possibility that their 1974/75 budget may contain a provision for subscribing to the System. The IIB stated that despite its great interest in the PAL Project it was not at present able to conclude any subscription contract. Attached as Annex B is a draft contract which is similar in nature to the contracts proposed by INSPEC to the Offices having already given positive responses.

16. The International Bureau will continue to cooperate fully with INSPEC both prior to and after the inauguration of the Project in seeking and facilitating the participation of other Offices in the Project. Furthermore, consideration will be given, once the Project is operational, to providing for the exchange, among the participating members of the project, of comments on or suggestions for improving the project.

17. Further information on the PAL Project, in particular in regard to the most recent developments, will be provided to the Committee during its third session by a representative of INSPEC.

18. The Committee is invited

- (i) to examine and review the progress made to date with the PAL Project
- (ii) suggest further steps to be taken for monitoring and expanding the Project.

/Annexes A and B follow/



Circular No. 1700
PCT 23

May 18, 1973

Re: PCT: Interim Committee for Technical Cooperation
Patent-Associated Literature

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to refer to the discussions that took place in various bodies of WIPO and, in particular, in the Standing Subcommittee of the PCT Interim Committee on Technical Cooperation last month concerning the "PAL" (Patent-Associated Literature) Project of INSPEC, an information service proposed by the Institution of Electrical Engineers, London.

By "patent-associated literature" are meant articles published in scientific journals where the articles are susceptible of interest to searchers and examiners of applications for patents or inventors' certificates.

The PAL Service of INSPEC will, in an initial phase, deal with articles in the fields of "physics, electronics, electrical engineering, computers and control". Later, the service may be extended to other fields. This letter, however, deals only with the Service in its initial phase.

In order to identify articles of the said kind in the said fields, INSPEC reviews some 2,000 scientific journals. This coverage is world-wide both in terms of countries and languages. It includes all the journals in the said fields listed by WIPO as a possible basis for the non-patent literature part of the PCT minimum documentation (see document PCT/TCO/SS/I/3, Annex). Approximately 10,000

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articles per year are expected to fall under the definition "patent-associated literature" in the said fields.

INSPEC offers the Service in question to national industrial property offices and the IIB in two forms, hereinafter referred to as Alternative A and Alternative B. They are described in detail in the enclosed pamphlet prepared by INSPEC and may be summarized as follows:

Under Alternative A, INSPEC would furnish a paper copy of the full text of the articles and, for all articles which are not in English, an abstract thereof in English, prepared by INSPEC. Such abstracts are prepared by INSPEC for general purposes and not specially for the purposes of industrial property offices. Where any English-language article contains an abstract (prepared by the author or the journal publishing it), this would also be included in the copy furnished by INSPEC. It is estimated that not more than 10% of the some 10,000 articles would lack abstracts. INSPEC would indicate in connection with each article its source (title of journal, issue number, date) and would provide it with the appropriate International Patent Classification symbols as well as with a document identification number (DIN) of its own.

This Service would be put into effect within five months of the third subscription. The subscription fee would be US\$ 35,000 per annum. This fee includes the cost of mailing by air where the destination is in a continent other than Europe.

Under Alternative B, INSPEC would specially prepare for each of the some 10,000 articles per year an abstract in the English language. Such abstracts would be prepared in a way believed to be the most useful for searchers and examiners in industrial property offices. In addition to bibliographic data, each abstract would contain the appropriate IPC symbols provided by INSPEC. Where the article contained drawings, the abstract would include at least one of them if it facilitated the understanding of the abstract.

This Service would be put into effect within five months of the third subscription. The subscription fee would be US\$ 45,000 per year if the number of subscribers is three, US\$ 36,000 if it is four, US\$ 31,000 if it is five, US\$ 27,500 if it is six, and US\$ 25,000 if it is seven or more.

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The above prices include the cost of mailing by air where the destinatory is in a continent other than Europe.

As already implied above, either Service would become operational only if at least three subscriptions are obtained. It is to be noted that the Institution of Electrical Engineers is a non-profit organization, and the subscription prices have been fixed to cover the costs of INSPEC without any profit for it.

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The interest that the International Bureau is showing in the realization of one or both of the Services in question is the result of an invitation that the Standing Subcommittee of the PCT Interim Committee for Technical Cooperation addressed to WIPO to give assistance--as it did in the case of INPADOC--in organizing the Project. More fundamentally, this interest as well as that of the Standing Subcommittee, stem from the conviction that the PAL System would result in substantial savings in each Office subscribing to it, in much shorter delays in getting the relevant non-patent literature in the files of the searchers and examiners of such Office, in a far greater probability that such files include the information that they should, and in a high degree of uniformity of the material searched in the various Offices.

Since the target date for putting into operation one or both of these Services is January 1, 1974, INSPEC hopes to conclude subscription contracts before August 1, 1973. INSPEC, as well as the International Bureau, is at your disposal to give further information in writing or in meetings with representatives of INSPEC and the International Bureau. Draft contracts for either Service will be sent to you upon request.

As a next step, I propose that you let me know, preferably within the next two months, whether your Office intends to subscribe to the Service referred to under Alternative A, or the Service referred to under Alternative B, or both Services, and, if so, whether you would wish INSPEC to send you the proposed subscription contract by mail or whether you would wish representatives of INSPEC to visit you for discussing such contract.

This letter is being sent to the Heads of the Industrial Property Offices of Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Soviet Union, United States of America and Yugoslavia (25) as well as the International Patent Institute.

Sincerely yours,



G.H.C. Bodenhausen
Director General

CONTRACT BETWEEN the Institution of Electrical Engineers and
..... for the supply by the Institution
of Electrical Engineers of a Patent Associated Literature
Service.

Whereas the Institution of Electrical Engineers (herein-
after referred to as "the Institution"), with offices at
Savoy Place, London, WC2, is engaged in collecting and
abstracting material from the world's literature in the
fields of science and technology and is prepared to provide
a special service related to patent-relevant material in the
literature that the Institution processes through its Inspec
operation, such material being classified according to the
International Patent Classification, and

Whereas is desirous of
receiving such a service,

It is hereby agreed

Article 1 That the Institution will provide
..... with a service entitled the Patent
Associated Literature System (PAL) in the form of a
Full-Text Copy Service as hereinafter specified:

(a) Publication Coverage Selection will be made from
all journals in the acquisition list which is in
use by Inspec in preparing the computer database
for its existing information services. This
acquisition list is continuously updated by Inspec
to keep abreast of changes in the journal
literature but is not expected to differ sign-
ificantly from the most recently published edition
(December 1972) of which a copy is included as an
Appendix to this contract.

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

(c) Selection Criteria Articles will 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 will 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 know-
ledge 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 will be
classified using the International Patent
Classification (IPC).

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Annex B

The most recent edition of the IPC will be used and will be applied to the subgroup level. More than one full classification symbol may be given to each selected article. Classification normally will be confined to the particular disclosure of the article on the basis of which the article has been selected. The full-text copy will be marked to indicate passages relevant to the IPC symbols allocated to it.

- (e) Document Identification Number Each selected article will be assigned a unique identification number.
- (f) Specification of the Full-Text Copy A full-text copy will comprise double-sided photocopies produced by xerography. Each such copy will 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 will 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 will be dispatched by Inspec on a monthly basis (postage paid by Inspec).

Article 2 That will subscribe to the PAL Full-Text Copy Service as specified above for a period of one year from the introduction date announced by Inspec, at a fee of US dollars 35,000.

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Article 3 That the introduction date mentioned above is dependent on the Institution receiving at least three subscribers to the service and cannot be earlier than five months after the third subscriber has contracted with the Institution to receive the PAL Full-Text Copy Service.

Article 4 That the period of the agreement shall be initially for one year and shall be renewable automatically for successive periods of one year unless or the Institution elects to terminate the agreement and gives the other party notice to do so in writing not less than 30 days prior to the anniversary date of the agreement.

Article 5 That in subsequent years following the initial year of the agreement the Institution reserves the right to alter the price chargeable for the service and will give at least three months prior notice of such alteration.

SIGNED for the Institution SIGNED for
of Electrical Engineers

Dated the day of

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Annex B
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