

WIPO



SCIT/2/3

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: January 22, 1999

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

E

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

PLENARY Second Session

Geneva, February 8 to 12, 1999

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIGITAL LIBRARIES (IPDL) PROJECT

Document prepared by the International Bureau

SUMMARY

1. Background information on, and proposed future plans for, this project were provided to the first meeting of the SCIT Plenary in June 1998 by way of document SCIT/1/5. Following discussion, the Plenary approved the direction of the project as outlined by the International Bureau and in doing so made a number of specific proposals in respect of the future project activity (see document SCIT/1/7 Prov., paragraph 22). Since then, the International Bureau has made further progress to achieve the goals as set for the IPDL project. A report on this progress was provided to the SCIT Working Groups together with proposals in respect of areas of pilot project activity to help determine best fit IPDL Architecture and Management Control Structures (see document SCIT/WG/1/9). This paper provides a further resumé of the current IPDL position but in doing so focuses on areas requiring policy directions on, and decisions by, the SCIT Plenary that are important requisites to budgeting for future project activity.

CURRENT IPDL POSITION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Dataset

2. The Annex to this document provides details of the current position in respect of the IPDL node established at WIPO and also for a number of national and regional offices which are now providing access to their intellectual property database collections via the Internet. The external list is representative and is not meant to be exhaustive. It is proposed, however, that a list is created and maintained of all available intellectual property database collections that are provided by intellectual property offices and that are accessible via the Internet. The International Bureau will create this database by survey of the Member State Offices. Details of major private collections could also be included.

3. The dataset will be further expanded in respect of pilot activity to provide access to new electronic sources of data relating to the International Bureau global registration systems and intellectual property data collections hosted on behalf of the Member States (e.g., as in the case of the India Patent Data). In general when developing the IPDL a design aim should be to avoid duplication of effort by capitalizing on currently searchable database resources, i.e., maintenance of one copy of a particular searchable database (usually at the local site, i.e., intellectual property office, or at a central site) to which search/access requests are channeled. Significant database collections may, however, because of the anticipated volume of search requests, warrant mirrored database collections at a number of sites. Such considerations would apply to, e.g., the availability of the full text of international PCT applications and other major collections, i.e., EPO, US, etc.

4. The International Bureau's immediate plans with regard to the availability of the full text of PCT applications is given in the Annex, i.e., steps will be taken to provide access to the front-file of PCT full text data in 1999 as soon as a contractor has been selected to undertake this work in coordination with the on-going PCT automation project. Plans need, however, also to be put in hand for the provision of the backfile of PCT full-text data in character coded format to 1978 to support full-text searching. Provision for access to PCT full text data is included as part of the esp@cenet service. Availability of the full collection of PCT Applications from 1978 onwards in a fully searchable full-text format at the (central) WIPO node is however considered an important requirement to satisfy both external search requests and also to provide effective support for internal International Bureau needs. Once captured, the data set would then be available for loading on mirrored-sites.

Language Coverage

5. The operational services will provide a bilingual user interface to the PCT and Madrid collections with searching and display of search results also provided in either language. The current prototype services include Spanish language first page data (biblio and abstract) in the DOPALES database. The current user interface to the DOPALES service is English only.

6. The proposed pilot project activity with other offices should result in an expansion of locally available intellectual property databases in languages pertinent to the country in which the intellectual property office is based. Consideration should, however, also be given to the user language interfaces to be made available for searching in the central WIPO node (and mirrored-sites as and when established). It would appear reasonable to extend the search user interface to include Spanish also as a first stage —the current WIPO Web site exists in English, French and Spanish versions.

Functionality

7. At present, the WIPO IPDL node allows access to databases hosted by the International Bureau through a common search interface providing extensive search capability, multiple user selectable output presentation formats and display options, multilingual support and search query history facilities. Services providing access to databases hosted by other organizations provide for additional functionality or alternative implementations, e.g., the form of search functionality provided and the presentation of results sets. For example, the INPI (France) CIB-LN service provides natural language support for searching via IPC; the esp@cenet search functionality has been specifically aimed at the general public and small/medium sized enterprises and as such lacks sophisticated search facilities but the results functionality provides a number of options and in future will provide for document delivery also.

8. An evaluation of the possible extension of the INPI Natural language system to support other language interfaces has been proposed. Other functionality enhancements including, e.g., automatic translation of results sets will in future be evaluated for inclusion in the list of facilities provided. Further input which will help to shape the IPDL services is an anticipated end-product of the forthcoming IPDL trial by intellectual property offices of the commercial Internet based database services.

Manpower Resourcing

9. To date, project management has been provided from the Secretariat's resources with contractor/consultancy support for IPDL program development. The IPDL programming post will be filled on a full-time basis by a new staff appointment from February 1999.

10. The proposed development activity dictates the need for additional resources. It is proposed that the private sector is involved as a WIPO IPDL partner in undertaking some of this development activity, e.g., in developing the additional functionality to be provided by the systems including natural language search support, automatic translation and eventually the establishment and facilities management in respect of mirrored-sites.

11. To assist the above International Bureau staffing it is proposed to form an IPDL task force comprised of intellectual property office staff member contacts taking part in the IPDL commercial trial as well as staff involved in the technical development of the systems.

Decisions to be taken

12. The SCIT Plenary is:

- *requested to endorse the initiation of projects to enhance the IPDL dataset and discuss whether a project to capture the backfile of PCT full-text applications in character-coded form should be explored;*
- *requested to advise on the need for, and priority order, for other language interface options;*
- *invited to approve the proposed activity in respect of the enhancement of IPDL functionality;*
- *invited to discuss and approve the proposals in respect of additional resourcing for the project.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DATA COLLECTIONS

HOSTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU:

DATABASE	URL	DATA TYPE ¹					DESCRIPTION	DATA COVERAGE (Time Span)	UPDATED	LANGUAGES ²				STATUS	AVAILABILITY
		B	A	D	FP	FT				E	F	S	X		
PCT GAZETTE	http://pctgazette.wipo.int				X		First page data of PCT published applications (PCT Gazette in electronic form - Biblio, abstract, drawing)	From 01.01.97	Weekly (on publication date)	1	1			Live	Public
MADRID PENDING AND UPDATE DATABASE	http://madridexpress.wipo.int	X		X			International applications and subsequent designations that have been received by the IB but not yet recorded in the international register of marks, and data relating to international registrations that have been recorded but not yet published in the WIPO Gazette of International Marks.	Data current since the last publication of the WIPO Gazette of International Marks	Daily	1	1			Live	Operational from February 1999
DOPALES	---	X	X				The first pages of patent documents of 18 Latin American countries published from 1991 to 1995.	1991 to 1995	Static at present	1	1	1		Prototype	Restricted

1-----

B = Bibliographic
A = Abstract
D = Drawing(s)/Figurative element
FP = First Page (i.e., B+A+D)
FT = Full Text

2-----

E = English
F = French
S = Spanish
X = Other

HOSTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU:

DATABASE	URL	DATA TYPE ¹					DESCRIPTION	DATA COVERAGE (Time Span)	UPDATED	LANGUAGES ²				STATUS	AVAILABILITY
		B	A	D	FP	FT				E	F	S	X		
INDIAN-PATENTS	---	X	X				Front page data of Indian patents	---	---	---	---	---	Prototype	Restricted	
CHINESE-PATENTS	---	X	X				Front page data of Chinese patents	---	---	---	---	---	Planned	Restricted	
PCT FULL-TEXT	---					X	Full text of PCT published applications (PCT Pamphlet)	Front file from 01.06.99	---	1	1	1	1	Planned	---

1-----

B = Bibliographic
A = Abstract
D = Drawing(s)/Figurative element
FP = First Page (i.e., B+A+D)
FT = Full Text

2-----

E = English
F = French
S = Spanish
X = Other

HOSTED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

DATABASE	URL	DATA TYPE ¹					DESCRIPTION	DATA COVERAGE (Time Span)	UPDATED	LANGUAGES ²				STATUS	AVAILABILITY
		B	A	D	FP	FT				E	F	S	X		
USPTO (PATENT BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASE)	http://patents.uspto.gov	X	X				United States patent front page data.	From 01.01.76	Weekly	1				Live	Public
USPTO (TRADEMARK DATABASE)	http://www1.uspto.gov/tmdb/	X		X			Bibliographic text and images of pending and registered trademarks.	---	Bi-monthly	1				Live	Public
ESP@CENET	http://www.epo.co.at/espacenet/info/access.htm	X	X	X		X	A collection of interlinked Web sites enabling users to search for information that can be found on the front pages of patent documents published around the world.	Most recent 24 months of published data	Weekly	1	1	1	1	Live	Public

1-----

- B = Bibliographic
- A = Abstract
- D = Drawing(s)/Figurative element
- FP = First Page (i.e., B+A+D)
- FT = Full Text

2-----

- E = English
- F = French
- S = Spanish
- X = Other

HOSTED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

DATABASE	URL	DATA TYPE ¹					DESCRIPTION	DATA COVERAGE (Time Span)	UPDATED	LANGUAGES ²				STATUS	AVAILABILITY
		B	A	D	FP	FT				E	F	S	X		
INPI (CIB-LN)	http://www.inpi.fr/inpi/html/inbrevet.htm						CIB-LN enables you to identify the International Patent Classification (IPC) code or codes that related to your area of research in response to a natural language query and to store the code(s) thus identified for direct consultation of the associated patent database.	---	---		1			Live	Public
CANADIAN PATENT DATABASE	http://Patents1.ic.gc.ca/intro-e.html	X	X	X		X	Bibliographic data, textual data (titles, abstracts and claims) and image data of patent documents which are either laid-open applications (available for public viewing but not yet granted) or patents granted since 15.08.78.	Over 75 years of data. Full-text from 15.01.78	---		1	1		Live	Public

1-----

B = Bibliographic
A = Abstract
D = Drawing(s)/Figurative element
FP = First Page (i.e., B+A+D)
FT = Full Text

2-----

E = English
F = French
S = Spanish
X = Other

HOSTED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

DATABASE	URL	DATA TYPE ¹					DESCRIPTION	DATA COVERAGE (Time Span)	UPDATED	LANGUAGES ²				STATUS	AVAILABILITY
		B	A	D	FP	FT				E	F	S	X		
CANADIAN TRADEMARKS DATABASE	http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_cons/trade-marks/engdoc/cover.html	X		X		X	All pending and registered trademarks in Canada. Information can include designs, wares and services covered by the registration, owner's name and more.	01.01.1865	---	1	1			Prototype	Public

[End of Annex and of document]

1-----

- B = Bibliographic
- A = Abstract
- D = Drawing(s)/Figurative element
- FP = First Page (i.e., B+A+D)
- FT = Full Text

2-----

- E = English
- F = French
- S = Spanish
- X = Other