

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

PLENARY Seventh Session Geneva, June 10 to 14, 2002

REQUEST FOR A TASK TO ESTABLISH AN INVENTORY OF ELECTRONIC DATA
PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICES

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. At its first session, the Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) agreed, during discussions concerning Task No. 7 (Monitor the change over to electronic data carriers and update the Statement of Principles and technical guidelines, as necessary), to the elaboration of a project brief in order to initiate a new task to establish an inventory of electronic data products produced by intellectual property Offices (IPOs) for the purpose of disseminating their IP information. The SDWG welcomed the offer made by the Delegation of Romania to prepare the project brief and assigned the Delegation as task leader of the project. The SDWG requested that the Delegation of Romania, after consultation with IPOs, present the project brief to the Secretariat before the end of June 2001. (See paragraph 14 of document SCIT/SDWG/1/9.)
2. On June 29, 2001, the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks of Romania submitted to the Secretariat a project brief for the creation of the new task, referred to above, which had been prepared in consultation with other IPOs. The Delegation of Romania had sent an initial draft version of the project brief to all SCIT members for informal consultation and received comments from 13 IPOs, namely AT, BR, BX, DE, EM, EP, FR, HU, LT, RU, SE, SI, and US. The project brief is reproduced as the Annex to this document.

3. *The SCIT Plenary is invited:*

(a) to consider the proposal to create a task that would establish an inventory of electronic data products produced by intellectual property Offices as requested in the project brief reproduced in the Annex to this document;

(b) to agree the establishment of a task force to handle such new task.

[Annex follows]

SCIT/7/8

ANNEX



STATE OFFICE FOR INVENTIONS AND TRADEMARKS

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Deputy Director
Standard and Documentation Services
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WIPO
34, Chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneve 20
Switzerland

Dear Sir,

We send you enclosed the documents regarding the project for the task proposed to be prepared by Romania, as discussed in SCIT Standards and Documentation Working Group meeting - Geneva May 28 to 30, 2001.

The document was drafted by the members of the Romanian delegation during the above mentioned SCIT meeting, Mrs. Adriana Atanasoae, Head IT div. and Mr. Bogdan Boreschievici Director National Collection, IT dir.

During June 2001 an initial version of this draft was sent to all SCIT members, for an informal consultation. We received comments from 12 national and regional patent offices. In the package you will find also the e-mails we have received.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr. Alexandru - Cristian Strenc

Deputy Director General

PROJECT

Task No.....

Establishing of an electronic inventory of Industrial Property Offices products for the purpose of disseminating their Industrial Property information.

1. Indication of the problem or specific need

The task intends to answer to the need to obtain a coherent and up-to-date information regarding the way Industrial Property Offices (IPOs) disseminated data regarding Industrial Property (IP) activities.

This kind of information is usually made available through each IP publications. Publications can use traditional support – like paper or microformats, or modern (electronic) carriers – like magnetic tapes, floppy disks, CD-ROMs, DVDs or INTERNET.

The way each IPO publishes the IP information and mainly the evolution towards modern carriers is now rather not well harmonized. Also, in an open environment, the dissemination of information and a better communication between IPOs, IPOs and third interested parties (agents, applicants, etc.) becomes an obvious need.

As far as access to information regarding IPO policy for dissemination of IP data is a matter of common interest both for IPOs and third parties.

2. How the need was determined

The need was determined during the discussions of SCIT/SDWG session, on May 28 to 30, 2001, while analyzing document SCIT/SDWG/1/2 Annex 1, task no. 7.

3. Objectives of the proposed task

- 3.1. Establishing of a more efficient way of gathering information regarding means of IP data dissemination from each IPO;
- 3.2. Simplifying the way these information are made available to IPOs and other interested parties;
- 3.3. Monitoring the evolution process from traditional means of publishing IP information to electronic means of dissemination.

4. Options for solution

- 4.1. It is proposed to create an inventory, hosted on the WIPO website, which will be supported by a database based system, allowing remote update by individual IPOs and simpler retrieval requests related to IPOs product types. The system will also allow to each user to submit documents/product requests to the IPO. Administration and remote access technologies will be browser based (preferably Java) and will not demand for special equipments.
- 4.1.1. Updating will be the responsibility of each IPO. They will be responsible for the information made available through this database. Updates will be done on password basis. The contents of information inserted or modified by any IPO is entirely the IPO's responsibility. In order to keep track of the interventions made by IPO the actions performed should be kept in a history structure. Database administration, management of rights of access, maintenance of the webpage – will be WIPO responsibility.
- 4.1.2. Retrieval of information will be done using search criterias such as: Country/ IPO name; IP field (patents, trademarks, industrial design etc); name of the product, support, date since the product has become available.
- 4.1.3. Submission of a request for documents/product to IPO could be done through a direct link to that originating office (e-mail, forms, etc.).

Example: suppose an IPO includes in this inventory information regarding a certain CD-ROM containing trademarks published by this office. If a third party wishes a subscription for this product, or wants to obtain a certain document included in the product (and the office has updated the database with the corresponding URL) that interested person may reach the IPO website in the section where forms for subscription are hosted, and after taking in the account the legal and/or commercial terms may either fill in a subscription form or a request form for particular document(s).

In the proposed structure described below has been included information regarding other entities (e.g. libraries) which receive a given product from an IPO, or have access to it (in case of restricted access). This kind of data is considered to be useful while it will allow to interested parties to contact those entities in order to get more information about a given product.

Example: suppose an individual is interested by a product issued by an IPO. The individual lives in country "A" while the originating IPO is placed in country "B". Consulting the inventory, the interested person finds out that the product can be found in a library in his/her country – "A". In this case, the person may get the product from that library if it is convenient for him/her.

4.2. In order to ensure these facilities, in a first stage, the database could have the following structure, and it is proposed to have an user -interface in all WIPO official languages (labels on the screen for search criteria). For the contents typed in a query, in the criteria field it is proposed to be used English language. Each IPO will provide data in English.

No.	Field description	Details	Remarks
1.	Country code/IPO code	Normalized 2 letters code - WIPO Standard ST3	- URL to the IPO homepage; - searchable field; - obligatory field;
2.	IP field	Possible values: patents, trademarks, industrial design, utility models, etc.	- searchable field; - obligatory field;
3.	Name (commercial) of the product	Name by which the product is presented by the IPO	- URL to IPO page, specific section; - searchable field; - obligatory field;
4.	Language used for the product	Normalized 2 letters code - WIPO Standard ST3 or others suitable standard (possible solution ISO 639)	- searchable field; - obligatory field;
5.	Contents of the product	Description of the contents: kind of documents, level of publication, number range, time period of data covered, etc.	- displayed field; - not obligatory field;
6.	Support	Possible values: paper, CDROM, DVD, Internet, etc.	- searchable field; - obligatory field;
7.	Format used	Possible values: gif, tiff, pdf, etc.	- displayed field; - not obligatory field;
8.	Software	Software needed for consulting the product (if case)	- displayed field; - not obligatory field;
9.	Other entities (libraries) receiving the product	Short presentation of these entities	- URL to IPO page, specific section; - displayed field; - not obligatory field;
10.	Date when the product became available	Date since the product may be consulted, ordered, bought	- searchable field; - obligatory field;
11.	Date when the update was done in the inventory database	Date when the office entered the information in the database	- displayed field; - automatically inserted in the database;

No.	Field description	Details	Remarks
12.	Legal terms of using information	Short presentation of the legal conditions, if any	– URL to IPO page, specific section; – displayed field; – not obligatory field;
13.	Commercial terms	Price for subscription, price for individual document, etc.	– URL to IPO page, specific section; – displayed field; – obligatory field;
14.	Frequency of publication	Information regarding frequency of issuing a product	– displayed field – obligatory field;
15.	Contact	e-mail address, name, phone, fax of the responsible entity inside the IPO	– URL to IPO page, specific section; – displayed field; – obligatory field;
16.	Forms	URL to the IPO website	– URL to IPO page, specific section; – displayed field; – not obligatory field;
17.	Remarks	Field for other information the IPO wishes to include in the database	– displayed field; – not obligatory field;

4.3. In a second stage the database could be upgraded in order to include a functionality which will allow the user to be informed – according to their will – about either the latest updates performed by a chosen IPO (or even all IPOs updating this inventory) or the new products IPO(s) has included in this inventory. This functionality may be conceived on the basis of "subscription lists".

4.4. In a third stage a problem which was issued during the preliminary discussion with the delegates could be solved.

The problem consists in the increasing of workload for IPOs concerning loading first their own web page with information regarding their publications and then performing a similar task for updating with more or less the same information the inventory hosted on WIPO website.

The solution to this matter could be considered taking into account the evolution of SCIT task no. 10. If IPOs web pages (at least sections from the whole site) would be standardized, a system for synchronizing updates in local websites and the WIPO inventory database, can be considered. By such means the update could be done only once in the IPO's own website and automatically reproduce in the WIPO's inventory database. The advantage of this method is not only decreasing the workload for the IPOs but also eliminating possible clerical errors due to manually updating. The database structure will have only minor modifications.

- 4.5. Taking into account that there are important IP products manufactures, which are not IPOs, it could be useful to study the possibility to provide access to this database (as update) for these organizations also. (Needs more discussions)

5. Expected benefits

- (i) reducing the time needed for updating information concerning the dissemination means used by each IPO;
- (ii) providing a better visibility for products belonging to small and medium IPOs by including them in WIPO site – a more well-known web resource;
- (iii) ensuring a faster and more exhaustive information for all interested parties concerning the dissemination means used by each IPO, by accessing a unique source of information;
- (iv) simplifying the way documents/products may be requested from IPOs.

[End of Annex and of document]