

WIPO



SCIT/SDWG/1/4
ORIGINAL: English
DATE: April 9, 2001

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES
STANDARDS AND DOCUMENTATION WORKING GROUP

First Session
Geneva, May 28 to 30, 2001

**REVISION OF WIPO STANDARDS ST.30, ST.31, ST.32, ST.33, ST.35 AND ST. 40 -
STATUS REVIEW AND PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITY**

Document prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. The standards involved, which to date have been collectively known as “the electronic data processing standards” are listed in Table 1, below. Revision of the standards has, since 1997, been entrusted to a task force comprised of technical experts from Member State Offices. At specific times since then, projects have been raised to deal with a particular activity or a defined reason for change, for example Y2K compatibility, and revised drafts prepared for subsequent approval by the appropriate Working Group and adoption by the Executive body (PCIPI and more latterly the SCIT Plenary).

2. To date the work of the task force has been conducted purely by e-mail correspondence (including the use of listbox facilities) and the use of a closed area of the SCIT web site for the posting of revised drafts, access to reference material etc. Coordination of these activities including the preparation of drafts has been undertaken by the Secretariat.

Table 1: Electronic data processing standards

Standard	Title
WIPO Standard ST.30	Recommendation Concerning a Standard Magnetic Tape Format for the Exchange in Machine-Readable Form of Bibliographic Data, Abstracts and Full Texts of Patent Documents
WIPO Standard ST.31	Recommended Standard Coded Character Sets for the Exchange of Machine-Readable Records of Patent Documents
WIPO Standard ST.32	Recommendation for the Markup of Patent Documents Using SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language)
WIPO Standard ST.33	Recommended Standard Format for Data Exchange of Facsimile Information of Patent Documents
WIPO Standard ST.35	Recommended Standard Format for Data Exchange of Mixed-Mode Published Patent Document Information on Reel-to-Reel and IBM 3480/90 Cartridge Tapes
WIPO Standard ST.40	Recommendation Concerning Making Facsimile Images of Patent Documents Available on CD-ROM

CURRENT ACTIVITY

3. There has been some hiatus in revision activity during the last year which has witnessed the deliberations on SCIT restructuring and with it the potential future role of SCIT task forces in respect of standards development activities. Some previously proposed amendment actions are therefore still pending. However, in the intervening period, other standards development activity in respect of E-Filing has given rise to proposals (e.g., character sets, Online filing XML tag sets) which need to be taken into consideration when finalizing the changes to the current standard versions.

4. Pending actions which will require timetabling and resourcing include the following:

- ST.30
Examination of the current need for continued use of this Standard which is mainframe based. Proposals in respect of non-mainframe systems.
- ST.31
Revise to take into account the results of current proposals in respect of PCT E-Filing

- ST.32
Update to cater for search reports and for XML compliancy.
Enhancements/changes to tag sets to reflect current office practice.
- ST.33
Changes proposed by the PDI task force (see Task No. 22).
- ST.40
Changes to reflect present office practice including, e.g., use of mixed-mode, changeover to DVD, ST.50 corrections, publication of genome sequences, etc.

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE

5. Because of their central role in relation to the recording, storage and exchange of patent information and the possibility of change requests resulting from either changes in IP documentation practices or because of technological changes, review of the standards is in practice a continuous process. It is therefore suggested that the revision task is given a *continuous* status and that the responsible task force is involved in quality assuring the impact of all related documentation and standards change proposals.

6. The SCIT task force responsible for revision of the standard has been in existence since 1997. The current membership list is attached. The membership should be reviewed to confirm or otherwise the availability of those presently listed to commit the time to actively involve themselves in the revision activity, and also to allow the introduction of new recruits from IPOs. In reviewing the membership consideration could also be given to involving industry representatives who are actively involved in the use of the standards (e.g., members of companies such as INCOM, Bundesdruckerei, etc.).

7. For each of the standards listed in Table 1, a rapporteur, who will take the lead/pivotal role in steering revision activity related to it, should be appointed. Consideration should also be given as to whether or not there is a need, for particular standards, to establish a subset of the taskforce, i.e., a task group to undertake specific tasks relating to the revision activity. Such allocation of responsibility to a smaller group may help where there is a identified need for task force members to hold physical meetings to ensure speedy progress (as opposed to, for example, the exclusive use of e-mail). Drafts would then be circulated to all task force members. Such practice has proved useful (and necessary) in developing the E-Filing standards.

8. *The SDWG members are invited to note the information provided and to supply further input, as appropriate, as to the needs of their offices in respect of changes to the standards as outlined in paragraph 4, including priority, timetabling, etc. The SDWG is also invited to consider the proposal outlined for future work and inform the Secretariat of potential task force members.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

REVISION OF WIPO STANDARDS ST.30, ST.31, ST.32, ST.33, ST.35 AND ST.40

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

<i>OFFICE</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>TITLE</i>	<i>E-MAIL</i>
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