

# WIPO



SCIT/WG/1/8

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
GENEVA

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## STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

### WORKING GROUPS

#### First Session

Geneva, November 16 to 20, 1998

CONSIDERATION OF THE NEED FOR COMMON FIELD NAME TAGS IN DATABASES  
CONTAINED IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIGITAL LIBRARIES (IPDLs)

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The need for common field name tags to assist searching in intellectual property information databases has been a subject of previous discussions within the Permanent Committee on Industrial Property Information (PCIPI), the precursor body of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT). Most recently, in the context of Task number G-5 (Project P 978) "Elaboration of a WIPO standard for field name tags used in patent search systems", the PCIPI Executive Coordination Committee, at its twenty-second session in May 1998, while agreeing to terminate work on G-5, recommended creation of a new task to consider the question in the context of Intellectual Property Digital Library (IPDL) use. The Committee proposed that the International Bureau prepared a paper to aid discussion within the SCIT (see document EXEC/22/6, paragraphs 23-25). This task was subsequently incorporated into the SCIT Working Program as Task No. 4 "Consideration of the need for common field name tags in databases contained in Intellectual Property Digital Libraries (IPDLs).

## CONSIDERATIONS

### *Advantages and Disadvantages*

2. The ultimate perceived advantage is that by providing a standardized set of field name tags for search purposes, a user would be able to apply the same search queries without change against comparable<sup>1</sup> databases available as part of the IPDL. Ideally, such codes would be language independent. Perceived disadvantages of introducing such a standard have revolved around the possible implementation problems that would be faced by offices because of deviations from current practice and possible lack of adoption and conformance to such standards by commercial providers.

### *Alternative Approaches*

3. A number of alternatives are available:

i) Forms-based approach:

As an alternative to the use of field name tags, provision of a forms-based interface with the full name being given for each search field supported together with an input example indicating format, etc. Multilanguage support for the field names can be provided. This does not of itself solve the problem but provides the user with a more simple interface for search purposes.

ii) Synonym facility:

Provision of means for end users to assign synonyms to field name tags. Using this feature, any user could tailor field tag names to whatever more convenient name they preferred. This practice is currently provided for in the field of mixed-mode CD-ROMs using MIMOSA software.

iii) Z39.50 Compliant systems

The implementation of Z39.50 compatible systems within the WIPO IPDL would allow cross-site searching of IPDL databases without the need to standardize field name tags. This would require a Z39.50 server and a Z39.50 search engine on each machine. Such development is one of the areas of proposed IPDL pilot project activity (see document SCIT/WG/1/9).

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<sup>1</sup> e.g., patents or trademarks

*Current Practice*

4. Access to searchable databases of intellectual property information currently available via the Internet reveals a variety of approaches. Examples include the adoption of a forms-based approach in the case of the Esp@cenet service, while the WIPO PCT Database and USPTO Patent Bibliographic Database provide for advanced searching using field name tags and also cater for a more simple structured search facility which allows the user to select fields based on field name. The field name tags used in the WIPO and USPTO patent systems also vary. In the case of the WIPO PCT Database the field name tags used generally align with those used in the MIMOSA based FIRST CD-ROM. The search field name tags used in the WIPO Madrid IPDL implementation exist in both English and French forms and align with those used on the ROMARIN CD-ROM. They vary from those used in the recently launched USPTO Trademark Database. The USPTO and WIPO search systems use ISEARCH which is a Z39.50 compatible search engine.

## PROPOSAL

5. It is proposed that further examination of the options available to provide user-friendly end-user search interfaces is undertaken in the course of the IPDL pilot project activity with particular emphasis on the development of Z39.50 compliant systems.

*6. The SCIT Working Group is invited to note the information provided and agree to the proposed action as given in paragraph 5.*

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