

WIPO



SCIT/WG/2/6
ORIGINAL: English
DATE: October 29, 1999

E

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

WORKING GROUPS

Second Session

Geneva, December 6 to 10, 1999

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIGITAL LIBRARIES (IPDL) PROJECT

Document prepared by the International Bureau

INTRODUCTION

1. Previous reports on the project were provided to the first meeting of the SCIT Working Groups (see document SCIT/WG/1/9) and to meetings of the SCIT Plenary (see documents SCIT/1/5 and SCIT/2/3). The purpose of this document is to provide a status report on the current stage of the project at a point in time when development activity relating to the first phase (the WIPO IPDL node) is nearing completion and preparations for the next phase (the GLOBAL IPDL) are underway. The report is also timely because it coincides with the publication of the draft Information Technology Implementation Plan (see document SCIT/4/2) which will be presented to and discussed at the SCIT Plenary. The information provided in this report should help put some of the statements/proposals in the Implementation Plan with regard to the IPDL project into perspective and provide the members of the Working Groups with a clearer understanding of the activities undertaken and achievements made to date and hence enable them to better focus on the challenges ahead.

THE WIPO IPDL NODE

Contents

2. It was proposed that the contents of IPDLs should include¹ (as appropriate) collections of published Patent, Trademark and Industrial Designs data together with other reference material and that such IPDLs should be established at all levels, be it national, regional or international. Prototype activity to establish a WIPO IPDL node commenced in early 1998 and the node became operational in April 1998. The WIPO node currently provides access to database collections of PCT, Madrid, Hague and JOPAL (non-patent reference) data. A schedule of services provided and their dates of introduction and enhancement is detailed in the attached Appendix.

3. Other current activities in respect of International Bureau data collections include the provision of searchable access to Article 6ter data and the WIPO Library Bibliographic Database. Access to these collections will initially be restricted to intellectual property offices and is expected to be available by the end of the year. In addition, preparations for the enhancement of the PCT Database to provide searching within the full-text of published PCT applications are currently in train and the service is expected to be operational in Q1/2000.

4. Other prototype activity has involved the evaluation of the use of currently available CD-ROM collections of patent data as a source for the initial loading of the WIPO IPDL node with data relating to developing regions/countries. In this respect, prototype work has been undertaken on the DOPALES (Central and South America) and OAPI regional collections and CD-ROMs published by the Chinese Patent Office. Additionally, pilot work on Indian Patents has, to date, included loading of sample bibliographic data and an examination of current paper specification for OCR capture.

Services

5. Access to the database collections of Madrid, PCT and JOPAL is available to the general public free-of-charge. The services are operational and the collections are updated on a daily, weekly and monthly basis respectively. An e-mail helpdesk service is provided. Statistics show an increasing use of the services since their introduction with PCT access requests having now surpassed five million since the service was introduced in April 1998 (current average 12,000 per day) and the Madrid Express service some 1,000 per day.

¹ (See document PCIPI/MI/XXI/2, Annex III.) The proposals outlined also refer to unpublished data. Such data would, in future, feature in a Closed IPDL implementation and will, in part, be dependant on the outcome of the Trilateral Office trials of Priority Document Exchange.

MANPOWER RESOURCING

6. Resourcing for the project to undertake the above schedule of work has taken place against the background of the new Human Resources organization and procedures introduced at the International Bureau in 1998/1999. Programming support for IPDL development was therefore limited to the use of consultancy services (60 days) during 1998 pending the approval of, and eventual filling of, a new full-time IPDL Programmer staff post in February 1999. To date, therefore, IPDL programming resources have been equivalent to one man year over the elapsed period of two years. Project Management and helpdesk and other IPDL related services including presentations to the General Assemblies, SCIT, the WIPO Academy and Regional Seminars have been resourced on a part-time basis by the Special Projects Section, Inter-Office Information Services Department. A further addition to the current project resources has just been materialized with the appointment of a Consultant to manage the arrangements for IPDL related data capture—imaging, OCR and conversion as necessary—including the future availability of the full-text of PCT applications in character coded form and the assessment of developing country requirements.

GLOBAL IPDL

Development Plans

7. The ultimate goal of the IPDL Program is to integrate the various IPDLs into a global IPDL. The development of such a GLOBAL IPDL represents the next phase of the project and will require dedicated resources to ensure that the requirements and end-products of such a system are clearly specified and the design and development implications well defined. The first stage in such a process is to put in place the necessary project team to carry out these tasks. To this end, recruitment of a full-time project manager to control the next phase of the IPDL program is underway and an appointment will shortly be made.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

8. *The Standards and Documentation Working Group is invited to note the work undertaken to date and to provide their views and inputs on the next phase of the project.*

[Appendix follows]

APPENDIX

WIPO IPDL NODE — SERVICES PROVIDED

DATABASE	MILESTONE	DATE
<p>PCT Database contains the first page data (bibliographic data, abstract and drawing) of published PCT applications. The first page data of applications published each week in Section I of the Gazette are added weekly to the database. The database contains data relating to applications published from January 1, 1997.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Service introduction; • Database extended to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Back-file to 01.01.98 – Back-file to 01.01.97 • Automatic link to esp@cenet service to provide the full-text of the PCT applications in image format; • Full-text searching of PCT Applications (planned) 	<p>April 1998</p> <p>June 1998</p> <p>October 1998</p> <p>July 1999</p> <p>Q1 2000</p>
<p>JOPAL Database contains bibliographic details of articles published in leading scientific and technical periodicals relating to the period 1981 to date. Each month, the latest set of data as provided by the contributing offices is added to the database.</p>	<p>Operational service</p>	<p>April 1999</p>
<p>Madrid Express Database includes data relating to international applications and subsequent designations that have been received by the International Bureau but have not yet been recorded in the international register of marks, as well as data relating to international registrations and subsequent designations that have been recorded but not yet published in the WIPO Gazette of International Marks. The database is refreshed daily.</p>	<p>Operational service</p>	<p>April 1999</p>
<p>Hague Database provides access to data relating to deposits recorded under the 1960 Act of the Hague Agreement, including both the bibliographic data and the reproductions of the designs. The system is currently under development and is available for evaluation only. The database contains data relating to new deposits recorded since January 1999 and is updated monthly.</p>	<p>Operational service (restricted to intellectual property offices)</p>	<p>July 1999</p>