

## ACCESS AND SUPPLY OF PATENT CITATIONS - INFORMAL SURVEY

*Survey carried out by the UK Intellectual Property Office (GB).*

*Survey period: September – December 2008*

*Consent to publish the following information has been given.*

The following survey questions were sent out to a number of patent offices, of which the following 14 offices responded:

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (SG),  
Danish Patent and Trademark Office (DK),  
Canadian IPO (CA),  
Swedish Patent & Registration office (SE),  
Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (ES),  
IPO of New Zealand (NZ),  
German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DE),  
Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (CH),  
US Patent and Trademark Office (US),  
Japanese Patent Office (JP),  
European Patent Office (EPO),  
Australian Patent Office (AU),  
The Federal Service for Intellectual Property, Patents and Trademarks (Rospatent) (RU),  
The UK Intellectual Property Office (GB)

### **Q1. Does your Office send a copy or multiple copies of Patent and/or Non Patent Literature (NPL) citations to your customers with either the technical search or examination report?**

*With regard to copies of Patents:* 9 national offices (GB, SG, DK, ES, DE, CH, EPO, AU and RU) do send out copies whereas 4 offices don't (CA, SE, NZ and JP). US send only non US patents.

*NPL citations* are treated differently, with 12 offices sending out NPL's (GB, SG, DK, CA, ES, DE, CH, US, JP, EPO, AU and RU) and 2 offices do not (SE and NZ).

Two Offices who replied yes only send out citations if requested (AU and RU) and customers are charged on a cost recovery basis. Another office who replied yes sends them out in CD format (CA) with a copy of the CD kept on file at CIPO.

Of the two offices that don't send out NPL citations, one office (SE) types the citations into an electronic 'log-book'. The documents will then be put on their website as a set list with each number representing a link to the pdf. The customer needs the application number and a password which he will receive with the written opinion/search report to be able to log into the service.

### **Q2. Does your Office offer on-line access to Patent and/or NPL for your customers (through for example an on-line file inspection system)?**

Twelve of the offices offer on-line access to some patents (GB, SG, DK, CA, SE, NZ, DE, CH, US, JP, EPO and RU). Two offices (AU and ES) do not offer an online service. All Offices, except JP, do not offer on-line access to NPL because of copyright concerns

### **Q3. How do your technical examiners access and consider Patent and NPL documentation during the internal search or examination process (on-line or using paper documents)?**

All offices appear to use on-line as a first option and paper documents as back up or, if preferred by individual examiners, upon request.

**Q4. Does your Office store Patent and NPL documentation internally in either electronic or paper form?**

Offices primarily store patent documents electronically with some storing older documents in paper form. NPL's were not generally stored electronically because of copyright reasons/issues.

**Q5. Does your Office supply copies of Patent documentation including NPL as part of its Sales or Commercial services?**

One office (NZ) does not provide any commercial service; all the other offices, excluding the GB office (through paying the appropriate copyright charges), provide patent documents but not NPL's because of copyright issues.

**Q6. Finally, does your Office have any plans to introduce new document delivery/access systems for Patent or NPL documentation, either internally for your technical examiners or externally for your customers?**

Of the offices that responded, 3 have recently introduced new systems (ES, US and RU) for internal examiners such as *poxoq* developed by the (ES) office.

The JPO has a plan to introduce a new office system by the year 2014. Service for the document delivery/access under the new Office system will be similar to the current service, but improvements will be made to delivery/access service as needed. The Danish office plans to launch a system similar to *epo-line* and the IPO of New Zealand also have plans to introduce a new system but did not give any detail.

The other office's who responded to the survey didn't have plans to introduce a new system.