

USE OF IDENTIFIERS FOR APPLICANTS BY IPOs

Response ID:36; wqpu Data

1. Country Code page

1. Please enter the two-letter country code corresponding to your Office or Organization.

DE

2. Question page

2. 1. What are the perceived advantages of using Applicant Identifiers in your Office? Please mark all that apply:
For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

1a. advantages for the Office itself:

- Effective management of applicant information
- Easy to change applicant's information in all relevant records simultaneously
- Effective management of foreign applicant names

3. 1b. Advantages for Applicants and Patent Information Users:

- No need to repeatedly input the same information
- Accurate statistics on patent applicants and owners
- Eliminating confusion and inconsistency by unifying multiple versions of an applicant name into a single, standardized name
- Avoiding mistakes, such as where the inventor's name incorrectly appears as the patentee name

4. 2a. Does your Office publish (or intend to publish) the identifier(s) you use (or plan to use) assigned to the applicant?
For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

No

Comments:

2b. If yes, how:

5. 3. Does your Office include (or plan to include) the identifiers in the set of data for the exchange of patent information with other IP Offices?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

No

Comments:

6. 4. Which approach to assigning identifiers does your Office use (or plan to use)?

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Normative (code assigned by a national authority)

7. 5. How does your Office ensure that an applicant has only one identifier?

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which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

8. 6a. What information does your Office request in order to determine identifiers for national applicants?

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Copy from the register of legal entities

Other. Please specify::

Comments: A copy from the national register is requested in cases of doubt.

9. 6b. What information does your Office request in order to determine identifiers for foreign applicants?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

10. 7a. Does your Office consider that a Global Identifier (GID) would be a desirable solution for applicant name standardization?

Not sure

Comments: From the technical point of view: A Global Identifier (GID) could improve the exchange of information among the IPOs. However before introducing the new identifier, we must know the exact use cases that could benefit from such an approach.

11. 7b. If yes, could you suggest how the GID should be established and maintained?

12. 7c. In case a GID is established, will your Office use both the GID and a national identifier at the same time, or will your Office use the GID instead of a national identifier?

For a period of time our office would keep the old identifiers. Maintaining the old identifier would help us to analyze problems for instance. However, if we assume that a migration has completed successfully, we could consider (one day) to discard the old ones and use only the GID. For the exchange of information among the other offices we would use the new GID.

13. PART B - NO IDENTIFIER

8a. If your Office does not use or does not intend to use identifiers for applicants, please explain why:

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

14. 8b. Please describe any alternative approach to the use of identifiers that your office is using or contemplates using, including how that approach deals with issues of name ambiguity (misspellings, multiple spellings, different character sets, etc):

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15. 9. Please explain any drawbacks or legal complications your Office may have related to using identifiers:

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16. 10. Which of the following options would you consider for investigation in your Office?

*[Note * Normalization – correction of “trivial” errors (which leave the possibility of multiple name variants for one applicant)*

*** Standardization – using one name variant for an applicant (which might not be the ultimate owner, as IP rights can be registered in the name of a subsidiary when the beneficiary is the parent company)]*

Please mark each option that you choose with (L: Low), (M: Medium) or (H: High) depending on the priority attributed by your office.

	L: Low	M: Medium	H: High
Use of identifiers			X
Normalized* names	X		
Use of “dictionaries” of patentee names by patent information		X	
Use of standardized** names designated by applicants			X

Other. Please specify:

17. 11. What is your Office’s desired outcome from the Name Standardization Task Force (set of recommendations, public database, etc.)? Please explain:

If a public database could ensure a high quality of data itself or if a set of recommendations would be provided to us, then our office could surely benefit from it. It would help us to prevent of multiple identical entries (not identifiers but applicant names for instance) and this would help our system-users to work more efficiently.

18. 12. Where should the standardization effort be focused? For example, on internal systems in IPOs or for externally-held IP databases?

The standardization should surely consider the (context related) problems that the IPOs have internally. An externally-held IP database (that also considers the requirements of the IPOs- what data do they need in order to work? Which data should be stored into the db?) would establish the basics in order to make the communication among the IPOs more efficient.

19. 12a. Does your Office use (or plan to use) a computer algorithm for the normalization or standardization of applicant names?

Not sure

Comments: We already provide to our users the ability to research a given name 1-1 (e.g for L.L.C we would just return the entries which have the L.L.C). Moreover, we provide a fuzzy-research by using the fuzzy search functionality of Oracle Text (Contains Operator) to our users. We do not provide a functionality to normalize or standardize the names automatically. The user receives a list of entries, in which the name is maybe written in the correct way, so he/she can perform a correction by choosing an applicant name that already exist and was written in the correct way.

20. 12b. If yes, please briefly describe the algorithm.

A detailed description is not necessary. If the algorithm has a commonly recognized name, that may be sufficient. If not, a few words or sentences describing the general approach of the algorithm are enough. If multiple algorithms are used in combination, please briefly explain each one.

Example: “The algorithm removes non-latin characters and repeated whitespace, then uses a

dictionary to replace known abbreviations with a standard format, such as “L.L.C.” and “LLC.” being replaced with “LLC”.

The Fuzzy operator of Oracle Text expands queries to include words that are spelled similarly to the specified term. This type of expansion is helpful for finding more accurate results when there are frequent misspellings in the given data.

21. 13. If Offices use different approaches to managing applicant names, should the standardization effort harmonize the different approaches for the purpose of the international exchange of patent information?

This would be a very good idea.