

The Changing World of Search and Information Access at the USPTO



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Topics

- **Dissemination at the USPTO**
- **Strategic Challenges and Opportunities**
- **Improving access to Public PAIR information**
- **“Let’s Talk”**



IP Dissemination @ the USPTO

- IP is estimated to be worth more than US\$5 trillion
- IP accounts for nearly 70 percent of U.S. corporate assets
- Effective dissemination of IP information is a key underpinning of a successful intellectual property system
- Dissemination of our scientific knowledge stimulates development of new inventions and technologies
- Our focus is on promoting awareness of the information we hold, and on providing fast, effective access to that information



IP Dissemination @ the USPTO

Strategic Objective

Foster innovation and competitiveness by delivering IP information and education worldwide

- Use a variety of mediums for dissemination
- Free access to data
- Self-service

Points of Access

Multiple Points of access to information:

- Public Search Facility in Alexandria, VA
- Network of 85 Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries across the U.S.
- Home/office computer
- Any Web browser



IP Dissemination @ the USPTO

Methods:

- Individual document copies
- Bulk data collections
- Optical disc products
- Internet

Online:

- Online Product catalog:
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/catalog/index.html>
- Products and Services site:



IP Dissemination @ the USPTO

Patents App & Grant Products:

- **Provided in multiple “content” products:**
 - Bibliographic data only
 - Full text
 - Page images
- **Provided in multiple formats:**
 - Text-only (XML)
 - Full XML with images and complex work units
 - Images (TIFF)
- “Retrospective” versions of these products are also available

Weekly Updates:

- Tuesdays: ~4,000 Patent grants
- Thursdays: ~6,000 published applications
- TIFF images and XML data are available
- Online details of XML resources at USPTO:
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/sgml/st32/redbook/index.html>



Strategic Challenges & Opportunities

Size

- Patent grant image database is ~**4.5 terabytes** (1790-present)
- Patent full-text database is ~**119 gigabytes** (1976-present)
- Image File Wrapper database is ~ **33 terabytes**

Usage & Delivery

- Excessive automated requests on our interactive systems
- Different customers have different needs
- Finding suitable approach for on-line delivery of the largest datasets (weekly published patent and application images)
- New business initiatives focused on search & prior art with filing



Addressing our Challenges

- Participation in Patent Information User Groups and Conferences to engage more directly with the IP information community
- Consulting with our Trilateral partners on an improved approach to IP dissemination globally
- Seeking feedback on specific products such as Public PAIR



Addressing our Challenges: *Trilateral*

Current IP Policy

- Free of charge basic search services for IP information via the Internet
- Providing IP information data in bulk form at marginal cost
- Publishing each office's Official Gazette on the Internet
- Providing public access to online file inspection services
- Providing tools and services for online filing of patent applications
- Free exchange of IP information with Trilateral partners and other IP Offices

"Barrier-free", Proactive Approach:

- Support of providers which offer Patent Information services to the public
- Distribution of more e-learning tools to allow people better to understand the free services
- Offering online help to solve search problems
- Offering of more sophisticated tools to the public via improved data and tool distribution capabilities with information providers



Addressing our Challenges: *Public PAIR*

Situation:

- Public PAIR allows access to the entire file history of a published application, including images of every paper in the file for every application in our database.
- Excessive automation requests had regularly compromised Public PAIR
- IP blocking techniques were inadequate
- A two-word verification system was implemented
- Individual users had their usage restored; data miners were affected.

Feedback Received:

- Webcast and e-mail to seek input
- Feedback received from over 35 respondents representing our various customers:
 - inventors/agents
 - individual researchers
 - law firms
 - corporate patent holders
 - commercial data providers
- Feedback received covered both the need for improved **search** capabilities and enhanced **data products**



Public PAIR Feedback & Requests

Search:

- Direct link to include in search report
- Enable a user to look at more than one application at a time
- Enable searching by other options besides document number
- Include the ability to search independent of series
- E-mail alert system when new/changed content takes place with applications under an appropriate login, such as the service EPO currently offers.
- Public PAIR should have a viewer similar to commercial patent viewers

Data:

- Nearly 80 percent indicated a requirement for access to ALL data currently available through Public PAIR.
- Registering as authorized users in order to gain unrestricted access to the public data.
- Access the data frequently, ranging from daily to weekly, or monthly.
- Receive automatic notification of status changes or other updates
- Receiving packaged delivery of data (for example, via DVD or ZIP file).
- Need high-volume access to PAIR data



“Let’s Talk” – 1: Products you value

- Think of three USPTO products that you *most* value
- Why do you value these products?

Product	Reason(s)



“Let’s Talk” – 1: Products you value

- Public PAIR
- Patents / Applications on the Web
 - AppFT / PatFT
- Bulk Products
- Any others?



“Let’s Talk” – 2: Information needs

- Think of five key pieces of information you most need from the USPTO products you use (e.g. Public PAIR)
- Why is this information important to you?

Information	Reason(s) for importance



“Let’s Talk” – 2: Information needs

PALM Meta Data

- Application Data
- Transaction History
- Patent Term Adjustment
- Foreign Priority
- Attorney Address
- Continuity Data
- Published Documents

Other Data

- IFW Meta Data
- Assignment Data
- Maintenance Fee Data

- Any others?



“Let’s Talk” – 3: Collaboration

- Think of one way you or your company can improve global IP dissemination
- How will this help address the challenges discussed earlier?
- Any opportunities to work together / collaborate with the USPTO?

Collaborative Activity	Benefit



The way forward....

- Clearly intellectual property plays a key role in today's global markets – and effective access to this IP is critical to you, and your respective businesses and customers.
- The future of Patent information will be a promising one made possible only through careful coordination and collaboration with you, the user community.
- We want to ensure high-quality information access to all of our customers, and will keep you informed and involved as we work to improve access to the wealth of patent information contained in our systems.



Thank You

- We welcome suggestions for new products and services: kay.melvin@uspto.gov
- Please visit us anytime at: www.uspto.gov. Useful links on our Web site are included in the table below:

Products and Services:	http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/cio/cis/prodsvc.htm
Online catalog:	http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/catalog/index.html
Training:	http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/pssd/#training
E-Biz:	http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/indexebc.html
XML Resources:	http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/sgml/st32/redbook/index.html
Litigation:	http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/bpai/index.html