

Comments by the Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC) on the Digital Access Service for Priority Documents

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The IPIC members recognise this initiative as a positive step forward to assist users and patent offices alike in the provision / exchange of priority patent documents under the Paris Convention. If it can be successfully implemented, then it may be possible to expand the system to provide exchange of other relevant patent application information, such as search and examination results.

Ideally, such a system could provide a central repository for all search and examination results for a patent family. Our members observe that there are increasing demands from many smaller patent offices for examination results from around the world, in addition to the long standing duty of disclosure requirements in the U.S. A centralised “pull” system (with verified authorisation) would considerably simplify this issue, save in unnecessary transfer of paper documents, and ensure the information was available in a timely manner – all without requiring any revision or harmonization of patent laws. It could relieve agents from having to continually monitor and update the US IDS statements and similar requirements for other countries.