

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

1999

ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by the

**AFRICAN REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
(ARIPO)**

An annual series of reports on the patent information activities
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

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– The term “patent” covers utility models and SPCs.
– Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in the series of documents SCIT/ATR/ID.

**ARIPO Annual Technical Report on
Patent Information Activities in 1999**

I. Evolution of Patent Activities

- The number of patent application filings and grants in 1999 increased slightly as compared with 1998.
- There was an increase of filings in the field of pharmaceuticals (A61K) and genetic engineering (C12N)

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction distribution and use of primary and secondary sources of patent information

- Granted patents, the quarterly journal which contains bibliographic information of patent applications, patents granted and the status of most patents and patent applications, brochures about ARIPO and search requests were published in hardcopy;
- The main types of announcements in the field of patent information included workshops, training seminars, trade fairs and brochures;
- Full text patents documents were stored in paper form and bibliographic data in AFPAT database;
- Word processing used MSWord and WINISIS/ ISIS database software and internet were the main software used on PCs interconnected on a LAN using Windows NT and
- The ARIPO websites: www.aripo.org and [www.aripo@wipo.int](mailto:aripo@wipo.int) were created by the WIPO WIPONET and SCIT projects in order to facilitate the exchange of patent information.

III. Matters concerning abstracting, classifying, re-classifying and indexing of technical information contained in patent documents.

- Abstracting, reviewing, translating:- No activity
- Classification and reclassification activities:-IPC 6th Edition was used to classify patents and patent related literature
- Coordinate indexing: No activity
- Hybrid system indexing: - No activity
- Bibliographic data and full text processing: - Bibliographic data including abstracts are WIPO

included in the AFPAT database. Full – text processing is not yet possible.

IV Search file establishment and upkeep

- File building: -100000 documents in bibliographic data format were added to the ARIPO search files in the form of CD-ROM, DVD and on the Internet;
- Updating: -Bibliographic data of ARIPO patents and patents from the member states were updated daily in the AFPAT database;
- Storage including mass storage media: -The collection of patent documents was about 3.2 million most of which are on CD-ROMs, microfilms and hardcopy; ARIPO patents are stored in paper and bibliographic data of ARIPO patents and patents of the member states were stored in the AFPAT database;
- Documentation from other offices: - documents from the ARIPO member states, BR, GB, CH, DE, EPO, USPTO, OA, WO and JP bibliographic data were added to the ARIPO search files. Internet, particularly the EPO, USPTO and IBM websites were also used for search purposes.

V. Activities in the field of computerized and other mechanized search systems:

- In-house systems (offline): The AFPAT database having bibliographic and legal status data was frequently used for search and management purposes and only the Internet was used as online, The WIPONET project facilitated a direct and dedicated connection to the ISP
- External databases: There was no interrogation of external commercial databases with the exception of websites of the EPO, USPTO and IBM;
- Administrative management systems: The AFPAT database was also used for administrative purposes e.g. actions due, fees due, etc.
- Equipment used: -The WIPONET project, provided 10 Compaq PCs, two servers and Laser printers are inter-linked in a local area net (LAN) using windows NT.
- Existing on-line thesauri: - Not available

VI Administration of industrial property office library and services available to the public (relating to facilities e.g. for lodging applications, assisting clients on search procedures, and obtaining official publications and registry extracts

- Information services were available to the public only on request.
- There was no public library in 1999;
- Information services available include all types of search requests, including information about

the ARIPO procedures in a form of brochures.

VII Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documentation and information

- The EPO, GB, OA, WIPO, JPO, and USPTO provided ARIPO with their patent documents on CD-ROM.
- Priority documents are still exchanged in paper format
- Applications must be lodged on paper
- No changes as compared to 1998 with regard to electronic data carriers i.e. not yet implemented.

VIII Other relevant matters concerning education and training in and promotion of the use of patent information including technical assistance to developing countries.

- ARIPO staff members were trained internally and at the EPO, GB and WIPO and staff from member states are trained at the ARIPO Office;
- ARIPO experts were sent to some member states for consultations and training; WIPO, GB and the EPO facilitated many seminars, exhibitions and visits.

IX Other relevant matter.

- The WIPONET Project by WIPO facilitated the computerization of the ARIPO Office. This will further facilitate the automation of procedures, exchange of documents/information and make online searches possible.