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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

1999

ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by

ARGENTINA

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.

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT
ON
PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES
ARGENTINA
1999

I. EVOLUTION OF PATENT ACTIVITIES.

- Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants with respect to the previous year.

As already stated in our previous report, the number of patent applications has been increasing since November 1995 -new patent act date of issuance.

The total number of patent and utility model applications filed in 1999 shows an increase of 90% when compared to the average filing of the period 1991-1995, and an increase of 1.5% when compared to the filing in 1998, as shown in the following table:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Number of appl.</u>
Yearly average filing 1991/95	3300
Filing during 1998	6779
Filing during 1999	6883

The number of granted patents during 1999 has not changed when compared to those of 1998.

- Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year.

The more remarkable changes were experienced in the following areas:

Chemistry	(increase of about 18%)
Biotechnology	(increase of about 12%)
Electronics	(increase of about 11%)
Foodstuff	(increase of about 5%)
Mechanics	(increase of about 2%)

II. MATTERS CONCERNING THE GENERATION, REPRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES OF PATENT INFORMATION:

- Publication of patent applications and grants:

According to the patent act, patent and utility model applications are laid open for public inspection within 18 months counting from the filing date, or earlier on request made by the applicant. Thus, the announcements of these kinds of publications are made in the Trademarks and Patents Bulletin, including relevant bibliographic data and drawings (INID codes: 10, 21, 22, 30, 51, 54, 57, 61, 62, 71, 72, 74 and 83).

The announcements of grants of patents of invention are made in the Patents of Invention Gazette and they include relevant bibliographic data and drawings. (INID codes: 10, 21, 22, 30, 51, 54, 57, 61, 62, 71, 72, 74 and 83).

- Mass storage media used:

-Paper and microfiches for national documents.

-CD-ROM, microfiches and paper format for foreign documents.

III. MATTERS CONCERNING ABSTRACTING, CLASSIFYING, RECLASSIFYING AND INDEXING OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PATENT DOCUMENTS.

Argentine patent applications and granted patents are classified according to IPC (6th Edition).

No abstracting, reviewing or reclassification activities were carried on during 1999.

IV. SEARCH FILE ESTABLISHMENT AND UPKEEP:

- National documents:

a) Internal use:

Paper file arranged upon IPC, containing bibliographic data, abstracts and drawings of each application. It is being updated along with the examination of patent applications.

On-line database including the bibliographic data of applications filed since 1983.

b) External use:

Cards and computer listings.

- Foreign documents:

Mainly on CD-ROM carrier. No paper file for search purposes.

V. ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF COMPUTERIZED AND OTHER MECHANIZED SEARCH SYSTEMS:

- In-house systems:

a) System for administration of Argentine patent documents

Database:

Informix Universal Server Version 7.0.

Software:

Informix NEW ERA 3.10 TCI

Staffware Workflow 7.1.1

Network:

Server: Ultra 250 (512 MB RAM, HD 23 GB)

Client-Server Architecture

ATM Net

TCP/IP protocols

Pentium II 32 MB RAM and Pentium 100 16 MB RAM

Operative system: MS Windows 98 and Windows 95

b) Foreign documents databases in CD-ROM are managed by means of PC workstations.

- External databases:

a) Use of databases available on Internet.

b) Commercial providers.

VI. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE LIBRARY AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC:

- Information Services: INPI offers, at low costs, state of the art search and report services, carried out by an *ad-hoc* working group. During 1999, there were processed 1071 applications, showing an increase of 9% when compared to the total number of 1998.

- Information on Internet: On the INPI Website, external users can obtain information on the procedures for filing patent, trademarks and industrial designs applications, as well as for requesting state of the art searches. It is also possible to download the corresponding forms.

- The search file for external users is available to the public cost-free.

- The library of the INPI is also open to the public.

VII. MATTERS CONCERNING MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF PATENT DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION:

At present all full-text documents received by the INPI, as part of systematic exchange between patent offices, are on CD-ROM or DVD-ROM carriers. Only those documents provided by the documentation services of WIPO and different national patent offices on specific requests, are in paper format.

Thus, there is nothing new to report regarding the Changeover to Electronic Data Carriers for the Exchange of Patent Documents.

VIII. OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN, AND PROMOTION OF, THE USE OF PATENT INFORMATION.

- Training to members of INPI:

No news to report, only the normal attendance of professionals of INPI to the regular seminars and courses organized by WIPO in cooperation with foreign national offices.