

ARIPO Annual Technical Report on Industrial Design Information Activities in 1998

I Evolution of Registration Activities

- The number of filings and registration of designs in 1998 as compared with 1997 doubled.
- There was an increase of filings in the home industry and hand crafts fields.

II Matters concerning the generation, reproduction and distribution of industrial design documents and secondary sources of industrial design information i.e. official gazettes.

- Bibliographic data concerning design applications is normally inserted into the AFPAT (African Patent) database. The data needed for publication purposes is automatically picked to generate gazette information in MS Word. The design pictures are not yet in the database but this will be included next year.
- Announcements by this office are made in the quarterly Patents, Trademarks and Industrial Design Journal. Bibliographic data is normally published and this includes:
 - examined design applications to give the public a chance to oppose
 - design registrations
 - cancelled and rejected design applications
 - renewals
 - expired registration
 - assignments
- Bibliographic data is stored in WINISIS database software developed by UNESCO. There is also an official manual register.

III Matters Concerning Classifying, Reclassifying and indexing of Industrial Design Information according to the classification systems applied:

- Industrial Designs are classified only according to the Locorna Agreement. There are no reclassification activities.
- All bibliographic data with the exception of diagrams are included in the AFPAT database used for search purposes

IV Search File Establishment and Upkeep:

In accordance with ARIPO Regulations and Administrative Instructions, Industrial Designs are only registered and not examined. Therefore there is no need for search files as yet. However, the AFPAT database can work as search files.

V Activities in the Field of Computerized Search System for Industrial Designs

- The in-house system is used only for administration . There is no external industrial design database.
- AFPAT database and word processing are used for administrative management.
- Personal Computers networked peer to peer using windows 95/98.

VI Administration of services available to the public (relating to facilities e.g. for lodging applications, registrations designs, assisting clients with search procedures, obtaining official publications and registry extracts)

- Information is available to the public on request only or through the Journal.

VIII Matters concerning mutual exchange of industrial design documentation and information.

Registered industrial designs are only provided to the member states of ARIPO on hardcopy and AFPAT database.

VIII Matters concerning educational and training including technical assistance to developing countries:

- Annual awareness seminars and fairs are always undertaken in most of the member states of ARIPO.
- Training of staff of ARIPO, and the member states has always been a priority. WIPO, EPO and UK Patent Offices have also facilitate in the training and seminars.