

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORTS ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS ACTIVITIES

I.

Changes experienced in terms of application filings and registrations:

Year	Number of the Introduced Drawings	Number of the Introduced Designs	Number of Registered Drawings	Number of Registered Designs
1993	402	1409	444	1356
1994	1173	1472	585	1532
1995	406	2219	366	2361
1996	513	2484	457	2397
1997	813	2662	968	2665
1998	589	2753	567	2766

The number of drawing applications varies considerably from year-to-year. The number of design applications submitted is continually increasing, although at a decreasing rate. Registrations have kept abreast of the rate of growth in applications.

II. Previously the official industrial designs gazette was compiled by hand and published by the government printing office. The 1998 industrial designs annual was computerized and printed within the Industrial Designs offices. All previous journals were written by hand and sent to Al Ameraya Printing Office to be typeset. The journal is approximately 400 pages in length. It was a very laborious task to write it out by hand, have it typeset and to check it for error and misspellings. The new computerized system was designed and implemented by a USAID-funded Project. Data storage is done using a Jazz drive and a CD-ROM reader/writer.

All aspects of the industrial designs registration process in Egypt, from accepting the application to issuing the certificate of registration, to the publication of the monthly and annual journals, are now automated. There is a database of scanned images, bibliographic, and patent agents and attorneys. Using new automated system, it is now possible to complete in seven minutes, with one person, procedures that previously required several employees and two weeks to accomplish.

III. The industrial designs office uses the Locarno classification system.

IV. All files for 1997, 1998 and 1999 are computerized and can be searched easily.

V. There is an in-house offline computer system with three internal databases. The system is capable providing administrative statistics. Equipment includes two IBM P166 PC computers, a scanner, a Jazz drive, color printer. Software is a customized application using the Arabic version of MS Access.

VI. Bibliographic information is available, but the industrial design is maintained in secrecy by law, even after registration.

VII. There is no exchange of industrial design documentation.

VIII. Industrial Designs employees have had training in the use of computers.