

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN 1998

PREPARED BY THE PATENT OFFICE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

I. Evolution of patent activities

1. In 1998 the procedures concerning filing applications with the Polish Patent Office (PPO), as well as grant and protection maintenance procedure didn't change in comparison with the previous year.
2. In 1998, the number of applications and notifications exceeded quantities of the previous year; however, there was no area noted to having had experienced rapid changes concerning the number of receipts of applications for grant of protection with respect to the previous year. And so, in 1998:
 - the Polish Patent Office received 3.635 patent applications in the national procedure; 2.407 of them being domestic applications and the remaining 1.228 - foreign applications,
 - 30.981 notifications of designations of Poland in international patent applications were filed abroad under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and 2.900, applications of preceding years entered the national phase at the PPO. At the same time, acting as the Receiving Office, the PPO received, under the PCT, 53 Polish patent applications for seeking protection in foreign countries.
 - 1.599 utility model applications were filed with the PPO. They were mainly domestic applications - 1.525. Like in preceding years, the number of foreign applications remained at a low level and amounted to 74. In recent years a downward trend in the total number of utility model applications has been noticed.
 - One application concerning a topography of an integrated circuit was filed.

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

1. In 1998, the following publications were issued :

a) periodicals:

- „Biuletyn Urzedu Patentowego” („Patent Office’s Bulletin”) - 26 Nos i.e. 22.690 copies,
- „Wiadomosci Urzedu Patentowego” („Patent Office’s News”) - 12 Nos i.e. 10.015 copies,
- „Informacje Urzedu Patentowego”(„Communications of the Patent Office”) –12 Nos i.e .7.265
- „Wykaz patentow na wynalazki udzielonych przez Urzad Patentowy RP w 1997 roku „ („Index of patents granted in the Polish Patent Office in 1997 „) - 2 volumes i.e. 220 copies,
- „Wykaz wzorow uzytkowych na ktore Urzad Patentowy RP udzielim prawa ochronnego w 1997 roku”(Index of utility models which were granted legal protection in the Polish Patent Office in 1997) - 1 volume i.e.105 copies,
- “Indeks terminow do VI edycji MKP”(“Index of terms to IntCl6”) - 2 volumes i.e. 800 copies
- „Miedzynarodowa Klasyfikacja Wzorow Przemyslowych” (International Industrial Design Classification), VI edition - 500 copies
- “Miedzynarodowa Klasyfikacja Towarow i Uslug” VII edycja (“International Classification Goods and Services”VII edition - 2 vol i.e. 1 200 copies

b) non periodical, brochure publication :

- Polish patent specifications 2.511 titles, i.e. 183.849 copies,
- „Annual Report of the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland, 1997”
- 200 copies,
- „Industrial property protection in the countries of the Eastern Europe .Basic legal acts”(Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Hungary Part III,
-300 copies,
- Industrial property protection in the countries of the Eastern Europe.Basic legal acts” Part IV (Republic of Armenia, Republic of Moldova) - 300 copies

2. In 1998 were performed and supplied to users:

- a) 498.900 pages of xerocopies of Polish and foreign patent documentation were performed upon individual users' requests , and supplied
- b) 20.143 microfiches of patent specifications were performed and sent for the needs of international exchange.

3.The following carriers for storage of patent documentation were used: CD-ROM discs, paper, microfilm, microfisches, with gradual decrease of the microform and paper proportion.

4.In 1998, like before, work connected with text processing at all stages of the procedures for the grant of exclusive rights were performed in the network with the use of information contained in the Uniform Patent Data Base (BAZPAT). Basic records in the data base were created directly upon receipt of applications and then supplemented regularly with the information on the decision taken. Text processing was realised in 1998 mainly with respect to:

- keeping necessary computer data cards in order to obtain information on the current stage of processing of each case,
- automatic filling in of appropriate documentation, including prints and forms necessary at the stage of correspondence with the applicant,
- preparation of automatic data composition for official publications,

5. Permanently modernized publication system enables production of all publications of the Office in its own capacity. In 1998, automation of the publishing process with regard to the official gazettes and first pages of patent specifications was mainly based on exploitation of the data contained in the BAZPAT data base. The basic for the montage were laser printouts got at the stage of automatic composition functioning under the DTP (VENTURA PUBLISHER) system. Apart from composition of the official gazettes, other computer systems were exploited for publication activities, among others with respect to issuing of successive editions of the International Patent Classification, publishing of complete patent specifications, as well as for other publications. Printing is performed by offset machine with the use of copy printers.

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

1. In 1998 year, 7.641 abstracts of specifications, including 5.972 abstracts of patent applications and 1.669 abstracts of utility model applications were published in the „Patent Office’s Bulletin”(BUP).
2. In 1998, the VI th edition of the IPC was applied in the PPO , both at the stage of classifying new applications and on currently published patent documents .
3. Within the frames of classifying and reclassifying following tasks were executed:
 - IntCl base was updated and new module for operating software was added

- Software for realization of the index of terms was developed and text was prepared for printing under Ventura system

4. Bibliographic data processing was performed in 1998 for retrieval purposes, in connection with :

- a) holding and regular updating of the Bibliographic Data Base of Polish Patent and Utility Models (INFPOL) and Bibliographic Data Base of Foreign Patent and Utility Models (INFPAT),
- b) servicing the users as regards information retrieval on the INFPAT and INFPOL data bases, as well as on bibliographic data bases contained on CD-ROM optical discs,
- c) getting appropriate information for automatic composition of the official gazettes of the PPO from the home data base „BAZPAT”, as well as exporting of the data intended for feeding the external data bases accessible for the public for retrieval.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep

1. In 1998 , building of Polish and foreign patent documentation file on CD-ROM , optical discs, on paper and on microforms was continued. The increase of patent documentation files was as follows :

a) foreign patent specifications:

- 1.993 CD - ROM discs (614.600 titles) - containing all patent specifications issued in 1997 on CD -ROM by the following offices : Austria , Germany, Great Britain, the United States, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Luxemburg, Russian Federation, as well as WIPO, EPO and OAPI,
- 264.000 titles - on paper,
- 32.100 titles - on microform

b) Polish patent specifications:

- 2.100 titles (9.400 copies) - on paper
- 2.100 titles - on microforms.

c) 315 CD.-ROM discs flown to the bibliographic and subject data bases.

2. The total number of patent documentation in the search files - status as on December 31, 1998 :

- 8.805 CD- ROM discs - containing 7.500.000 copies of full text documents ,
- 16.851.000 titles (17.543.000 copies) of patent documents on paper,
- 6.555.000 titles of patent documents on microforms.

3. In 1998, our Office continued collecting, storing and preparing of patent and technical literature, acquired by purchase, subscription or by exchange, i.e. :

- 4.400 folders of patent and technical periodicals on paper carrier and bibliographic patent and trademarks data bases on 67 CD-ROMs were registered and put to dissemination;
- 219 titles were prepared and introduced to ZBILNI data base ;
- 290 volumes of books were purchased and prepared .

V. Activities in the field of computerised and other mechanised search systems

1. In 1998 , the following computerised search systems were exploited :

1.1. Home systems functioning on - line and based on the uniform data base BAZPAT , assigned for the needs of filing applications and granting procedures, i.e. :

- application procedures for inventions and utility models - ZGLO,
- examination of patents - BAWY,
- examination of utility models - BAWU,
- information on protection, register and fees - OROP.

1.2. Home systems connected with systems of support (including administrative service) - operating off - line , i.e. :

- information on the law - IPRA,
- personnel - KADR,
- patent attorneys -RZEP,
- materials management -GOMA,
- finance - accounting - FIKS.
- automatic composition of publications - ASWY

1.3. Local systems supporting access to the data bases on CD- ROM discs, containing the files of full text specifications, bibliographic data and abstracts of patent specifications in the Office's Library.

1.4. External systems installed on the IBM computers in the Informatic Centre of the Warsaw University (CIUW) and supporting the bibliographic data base INFPOL covering Polish patent documents, as well as the INFPAT data base with data on foreign patent documents, updated with the use of EPIDOS data, both enabling retrospective retrieval of bibliographic information through the INTERNET and by the phone line equipped with modem.

2. The informatic system in the PPO operates in the ETHERNET network..

2.1. The network resource management involves as follows:

- 3 systems Net Ware 4.1, Net Ware 4.11 and Net Ware 5.0
- 2 systems Net Ware 3.11 and CD- Connection for supporting network access to the data bases on CD-ROM (ROMARIN),
- System Windows NT 4.0 and ULTRANET network access to CD-ROMS in INFOWARE system
- The local ETHERNET network is connected through 2 routers with TCP/IP external networks enabling access to the mainframe in the CIUW, as well as to the INTERNET.

2.2. The following hardware was used for exploitation of the computerised system:

- 6 servers Pentium and 2 servers Pentium II
- 338 PC - type work stations (Pentium ,PC 486 and PC 386) , including stations for reading in of image information with scanners,
- 42 PC computers working locally , including DTP stations for composition and publications.
- 250 printers /ink jet-printer, needle printer, laser printer/ .

2.3. And the following program tools were used:

- REVELATION for management of home data bases,
- FOX - PRO for exploitation of the graphic data base,
- Ventura and COREL -DRAW for publication purposes,
- QR -text and WORD for WINDOWS - text editors.
- MS OFFICE

2.4. The following carriers were used for patent information purposes : 3,5 - inch diskettes with the capacity of 1,4 Mb, CD-ROM and DVD discs and streamers as an archive carrier.

2.5. Within the framework of development of the existing systems, the following tasks were performed in 1998:

- “Analysis of informatics system functioning in the Polish Patent Office and the structure of its modification and development” was prepared, resulting from the need of new legal regulations and from new informatic technologies. In the second half of 1998, works connected with introducing information services on inventions and utility models protected in Poland to Internet started. This service is a first step of the project of the Polish Patent Office in the scope of rendering patent information widely accessible via Internet. This information system consists of subject services containing:
 - a) bibliographic data since 1978 as well as abstracts and drawings since 1991 related to all inventions and utility models protected in Poland also to published patent applications and utility models that have not been granted protection yet.
 - b) current numbers of our official publications “Biuletyn Urzedu Patentowego (BUP) and “Wiadomosci Urzedu Patentowego (WUP), since the beginning of 1999.
- Operating system of data bases installed in the Informatic Centre of the Warsaw University was improved. Additional virtual servers were put into operation for more efficient servicing of a parallel access to the data bases.
- Works connected with creation of data base containing international pharmaceutical names was continued.
- Data base containing Polish version of the edition of Int CL6 was implemented after its updating and introducing new modules to the software
- Exploitation of the ZBILNI and ZBIPAT data bases has been supervised, and works connected with the modification of the software. In the scope of data import were done.
- Analysis and survey of existing computers and functioning systems was made from the point of view of its capability for data change into 2000.

VI. Administration of the industrial property office library and services available to the public

1. In 1998 the following tasks were performed as regards organisation and upkeep, of the files intended for consulting by the Office's experts and by the public:

- Works connected with extension of the network retrieval of information contained on optical discs in the InfoWare system, directly from work stations of experts. The amount of discs accessible in that system grew up from 70 to 80 pieces. Also the amount of work stations with access to juke box files grew up with the view of realisation of requests for copies of full patent specifications;
- Works connected with updating and exploitation of the ZBIPAT and ZBILNI (data bases containing information on patent and non - patent literature incoming to the Office,
- Stock-taking of the US patent specifications file on microforms covering the period from 1948 to 1993.

2. Patent documentation , as well as patent and technical literature , acquired by purchase, by exchange and subscription , was further prepared , stored and made accessible to the experts of the PPO and to the public. As regards information services:

- In the Patent Office's reading - rooms, 24.000 folders with foreign patent documentation and 19.000 single patent specifications, as well as 1.300 books were rendered accessible to 5.200 outside users and the Office's experts.
- within the free access to the book - shelves , the files of Polish patent documentation and Polish patent literature, indices of trademark applications and registered trademarks were consulted.

- Data bases on CD-ROM and the INFPAT and INFPOL data bases on-line were made accessible to 3.297 users
- the Patent Family Service (PFS) was made accessible to 262 users.

3. Within services rendered for the users :

- 1.070 retrievals were performed on the INFPAT and INFPOL data bases,
- 3.068 retrievals on the bibliographic data bases on CD-ROM
- 422 retrievals on the full text data bases on CD-ROM were performed.

4. Within our cooperation with the territorial information centres , the Office continued supply them with foreign patent documentation and literature. In 1998 , by virtue of agreements , the Office provided them with:

- 1.293 discs with patent documentation on CD-ROM,
- 38 disc with patent literature
- 393 copies of foreign patent bulletins,
- 3.005 copies of Polish utility models,
- 847 copies of Polish ornamental designs,
- 120.744 copies of Polish patent specification
- 1.307 copies of BUP
- 827 copies of WUP

5. To patent libraries abroad have been transmitted:

- to 40 countries - 631 copies of „Wiadomosci Urzedu Patentowego” („Communications of the Polish patent Office”)
- to 17 countries - 494 copies of „Biuletyn Urzedu Patentowego” („Patent Office’s Bulletin”)
- to 31 countries - 68 copies of „Index of patents granted ...in 1997 ”
- to 28 countries - 31 copies of „Index of utility models which were granted legal protection ...in 1997”
- to 19 countries - 48.370 copies of patent specifications
- to 14 countries – 20.143 copies diazo microfisches of Polish patent specifications
- to 1 country - 12 copies of „Patent Office’s News”
- to 1 country - 3 copies of „Collection of industrial protections laws in Poland”

Moreover, Provincial Clubs of Technology and Rationalisation, as well as editorial offices and libraries were supplied with associated literature.

VII. Mutual exchange of patent documentation and information

1. In 1998, exchange of signal and source information with foreign patent offices continued. We received patent documentation and literature from 42 patent offices and 2 international organisations .
2. We carried out regular exchange of bibliographic data with the EPO for the needs of EPIDOS, as well as in order to update the external data bases INFPAT and INFPOL.
3. We prepared and transmitted in electronic form data necessary for production of optical CD-ROM PRECES discs , containing ,among others , data on Polish inventions and produced in co-operation with patent offices of Hungary , Czech Republic , Romania and Bulgaria, Slovak Republic, Latvia Slovakia and Lithuania .

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

1. Training with respect to patent information covered, among others, the following items :
 - participation of the PPO's experts in trainings organised in the EPO and in patent offices of member countries of this organisation,
 - participation of the PPO's experts in trainings conducted in the PPO by experts from member countries of the EPO,
 - participation of some of the PPO's staff in mission of technical assistance to patent offices of member countries of the EPO.

2. Within the scope of promotion of patent information , the following action were undertaken in 1998 :

- Two workshop seminars containing methodology of using data bases on CD-ROM were organized jointly with patent information centres.

- Programm for the III National Conference on “Patent information for science and industry” was prepared and the conference was organised jointly with the Academy of Technology in Gdansk. The employees from the Polish Patent Office presented the following topics:
 1. Directions of development of informatic technologies used in the Polish Patent Office against existing status background
 2. Activity of the Polish Patent Office for the benefit of patent information centres. The present status and outlook
 3. Associated patent literature in the process of searching and expertise
 4. Workshop – presentation of MIMOSA software.

Moreover,

- An exhibition stand was organised at the International Fair ”Multimedia 98” in Poznan

- An exhibition stand was organised at the International Fair of Modern Technology, Industrial Pattern Designing, Technical Innovations and Inventions “Infotechnology” in Lodz.

Papers on news in the scope of patent information were prepared to be published in the monthly “Informacje Urzedu Patentowego” (Patent Office’s News) as well as papers for conferences and seminars organised by Regional Clubs of Technology and Rationalisation and Polish chambers of Patent Attorneys.

Lecturers invited from the EPO presented the EPO policy in the Scope of patent information as well as patent bases accessible on-line and on the Internet.

Information collected and prepared in the Polish Patent Office – Warsaw
1998