

IT-controller
Gunnar Lindbom

World Intellectual Property Organization
Deputy Director: K. - P. Witting
Inter-Office Information Services Department
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 GENEVE 20 (SUISSE)

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON TRADEMARK ACTIVITIES IN 1998 (Dnr VAD 405-01038/1999)

This document is the third Annual Technical report from the Trademark Department of the Swedish Patent and Registration Office. It covers the changes and trends with respect to 1998. The report is also sent to your office by e-mail to the following address scit.mail@wipo.int

I. Evolution of registration activities:

A decrease of national applications compared to previous years was observed. However, the decline is well compensated by the increasing number of international designations and the handling of search reports for OHIM that is executed by the Trademark department. The level of interest in the EU trademark has been much higher than expected.

In the early 1997 there was a political decision of moving the Trademark Department from Stockholm to Söderhamn. This decision caused a rapid drainage of some of the most competent staff. The heads of office immediately started the recruitment and education of new staff for Söderhamn. However, it has not been possible to avoid longer handling of national applications.

By the beginning of 1998, the average processing time was around 20 months.

National trademark, received applications

1997	11,440
1998	9,600

International trademark, registrations

1997	3,400
1998	5,750

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II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of secondary sources of trademark information, i.e., trademark gazettes:

The official gazette "Trademark Gazette" is issued every week and printed in 400 copies. This gazette contains the announcements of the official data concerning new registrations, modifications, renewals, cancellations and corrections. At the end of every year a complete, bounded, gazette is published containing every changes during the year. Only word processing in the mainframe computer is used and the automation is not very high.

A newsletter, Trademark Newsletter, is published every month. The newsletter contains information about official reports, reporting and development in the office. Editing and printing is done with modern PC-system.

An annual technical report is published for the whole government.

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of trademark information:

Trademarks are classified according to the Nice Classification of Goods and Services, 7th edition.

Applicants have to state the classifications according to the Nice system. The specifications must be specified and not in terms of "all available goods for the class". The employees in the department then convert the information into actual class. By doing this they use either the Trademark Gazette or the computer system.

The figurative elements of trademarks are classified according to the Vienna Classification 4th edition.

For internal use in the department some of the big Vienna classes are completed with sub-classes. The purpose is to enhance the quality on comparing figurative marks. This is done in the manual register only and it is not open to the public.

Mostly of the Nice and Vienna checking are done manually.

Bibliographic data used for search purpose are Nice class number, goods and services respectively, name of applicant/holder and name of counsel.

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IV. Trademark manual search file establishment and upkeep:

A manual search file is kept for figurative marks. This file is updated continually on a weekly basis.

Bibliographic data are kept manually and updated regularly.

All paper documents related to national and international applications are kept on a paper-built archive.

All applications are microfilmed for backup reasons.

V. Activities in the field of computerised trademark search systems:

The department continues to use the IBM mainframe system under operating system Cics. The system is developed by ADB-department and has been in use since 1979. It is an online system combined with some batch-routines. This administrative management system, is not modern but, includes normal functions for administration of the applicants.

The trademark search system, Marksman, is designed to search for identical or similar trademarks by batch processing during the night. The system is using phonetic data as one of search keys and has been modernized and improved during the year 1998. Also United Kingdom and Finland use the same system.

During last year the department was connected to the system Internet and to E-mail. All employees have their own e-mailaddress and there is also an official e-mailaddress for the department.

External database used are Wipe Roman, Article 6ter and CD-Com.

Every employee has his own p.c., which is connected in a local area network with two local NTservers. By an ATM communication-line the department in Söderhamn then is connected with the IBM mainframe in Stockholm.

VI. Administration of trademark services available to the public:

Public can search for registered trademarks and applications (word marks only) when visiting the facilities in the patent office. Security is upheld via a guest password. Applications may be filed electronically (facsimile), but legal demands for a hand written signature make confirmation on paper compulsory.

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Register excerpts may be ordered through our Sales department. The fee is low and should only cover the printing and paper costs.

Trademarks attorneys, law firms and other commercial entities any acquire access to a special On-line service, called patlink. The link offers a compilation of bibliographic data from the SPRO trademark, patents and industrial designers registers. The service is administered by the Sales department.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of trademark documentation and information:

Requests for search reports from the OHIM are received on diskettes (floppy disks). After examination the results, search reports, are sent to the OHIM on paper.

Bibliographic data concerning WIPO applications designation Sweden are received On-line from WIPO.

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

The SPRO has a division for external training courses. The division represents the SPRO at exhibitions etc. For seminars and advanced courses, experts from other departments, e.g., the Trademark department are invited as lectures.

The SPRO is upholding an annual 25-days training course on Industrial Property for participants from developing countries.

IX. Other relevant matters:

In March 1998, the Trademark Department was relocated from Stockholm to Söderhamn. A completely new organisation was build up. The department now consists of the Trademark Division, the Industrial Design, Surname and Registry of Periodical Division and Administrative Division. Furthermore there are specials for questions concerning law, information and information technology. Since the Government decision in the early 1997, intense measures have been taken for recruiting and training new staff. These activities have engaged a vast part of the remaining staff of the "old organisation".

Consequently, the production has been lower in 1998 than previous years.

Due to special efforts in this area, the Trademark Division has managed to handle the WIPO applications in both directions within the prescribed time limits.

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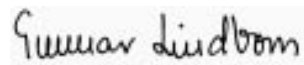
With beginning during 1998 extensive efforts have been made to reprogram the mainframe software in order to adopt it to the millennium requirements.

A new vision and strategy plan for the information technology has been made for the department. In accordance with these intention the department will work very hard, the coming 3-years, to convert and implement new systems within modern technology.

We have already started with a system for image processing and figure examination. The system is under construction during 1998.

At SPRO level, a project is running with the objective of improving the Internet homepage. This implies that the Trademark Division will take a more active part in the Internet activities. Publications such as the Trademark Gazette will be accessible via the homepage and there will be a lot of information for the applicant and also possibilities to improve the quality when making the applicants.

Yours sincerely



Mr Gunnar Lindbom
IT-controller
Trademark Department