

WIPO IP Information Roundtable

Virtual meeting on 1 December 2020

Participants from WIPO:

Sandrine Ammann
Christing Bonvallet
Claudio Cocorocchia
Iustin Diaconescu
Christophe Mazenc
Bruno Pouliquen
Ning Xu
Magdalena Zelenkovska
Alison Zuger

Participants from user groups and other interested parties:

Agnieszka Podrazik
Alberto Ciaramella
Arndt Mecke
Balakrishna Uppala
Beate Klein
Carla Scorsini
Chris Torrero
Cristina Amodei
David Borel
Filippo Silipigni
Greg Roland
Greta ?????
Guido Moradei
Jane List
Jeanette Eldridge
Kathleen Burrows
Lisbeth Gauguin
Maho Furuya
Marco Ciaramella
Michaela Rasmussen
Tulasi Gandikota
Luca Falciola
Lucy Antunes
Marco Ciaramella
Mohana Krishnaiah
Muriel Bourgeois
Paolo Provvisionato
Paul van Elburg
Rosanna Lindquist
Sébastien Grandpré
Simona Venturini
Takeshi Ueno

The participants were welcomed by Sandrine Amman.

Mr. Yo Takagi was unfortunately not able to attend the meeting. He will leave WIPO officially per the end of December and on the day of this Roundtable the movers were coming to his house.

Topic 1: WIPO PROOF - Claudio Cocorocchia

WIPO PROOF is a new WIPO service and is intended to safeguard intellectual assets that are or cannot be registered in the form a patent, design or trademark. It is a fee-based time-stamping service. It makes a fingerprint of your digital file which is date and time stamped and then encrypted, resulting in a 'token'. It is based on 'Public Key Infrastructure' (PKI) technology. WIPO PROOF is a kind of digital notary which is tamper-proof. WIPO does not upload or store your data. WIPO PROOF provides valid evidence that can be used e.g., in legal disputes or licensing. The maximum price per token is CHF 26, but is lower with higher volume usage. A PDF (in 10 languages) is provided to proof the validity of the token. Uses are for instance trade secrets, creative works and designs, research and data, and other digital assets like management of IP related documents.

The service is provided since about 6 months and has already around 2.5K users from >100 countries.

Certificates which are valid internationally and recognised in jurisdictions worldwide can be provided as pdfs in 10 languages across European, Asian, Arabic, etc. – 193 member states approved in 2019 general assemblies.

Note that it is NOT a registry/repository of the actual works, no original files – presumably just the encrypted metadata? – so confidentiality retained.

Use cases:

- Trade secrets – need to demonstrate safeguards of confidentiality, e.g. NDAs, etc., to deter theft, misuse by partners or employees
- Creative works – formal copyright doesn't exist in some countries; also helps to protect individual contributions to collaborative works to address infringements, misappropriations
- Data – data particularly does not benefit from normal protection services, so essential to find a way to protect against theft or misuse
- Can apply to other digital assets like licences, so token details could be provided along with licensing contract, to help avoid legal disputes later

Topic 2: PCT updates - Christine Bonvallet

There are currently 153 PCT member states, the last one being Samoa per 2 January 2020. Still 40 UN members states are not yet in the PCT. Advanced discussions are going on with Bhutan, Cape Verde and Jamaica, so hopefully they will join in the course of 2020. Furthermore, there are discussions with Bangladesh, Bolivia, Mauritius, Myanmar and Uruguay.

The number of PCT applications has increased with 5.2% in 2019. For the first time ever, China became the top PCT origin country. The US had been holding this position since 1978.

More than 50% of the applications are now from Asia. It took 26 years to reach the first milestone of 1 million applications, but the time span between the following milestones keeps reducing. WIPO is fearing an impact of COVID-19 on the number of publications in 2021 due to a decrease of filings in 2020.

The Crisis Management Dashboard provides details on PCT filing activities and business continuity. Despite a small decrease in May and August, the number of filings is close to the estimated target. There is also a dedicated page on the PCT website related to COVID-10. Paper communications have been suspended. They also published a lot of notifications regarding possible remedies, e.g. Rule 82quater.1 on special circumstances which were to some extent applied to the current COVID-19 circumstances.

The most important amendment to the PCT Regulations as from 1 July 2020 concerns a clarification regarding erroneously filed elements or parts that were missing in an application. It explains how this will be addressed if the missing elements or parts were contained in an earlier application.

Also, PCT Rule 82quater has been amended and allows an office to excuse delays in meeting a time limit due to the unavailability of any permitted electronic means of communication at that Office. This does not apply to the priority period and the time limit for entering the national phase, but for other dates the applications could benefit from this modified provision.

With the amendment of PCT Rule 26quater allows information regarding continuation or CIP to be added after filing (so no longer required at the time of filing).

Discussion are still going on regarding possible inclusion of utility models to the PCT Minimum Documentation and also regarding criteria for inclusion of non-patent literature.

The PCT working group compiles an overview of e-learning resources, e.g. for training of patent attorneys in member states. It now also includes commercial resources, including patent & NPL search systems e.g. from Clarivate, Questel, STN, Octimine, LexisNexis. The person responsible is Lutz Mailander (Lutz.Mailander@wipo.int)

Topic 3: Possible Collaboration/Partnerships with users groups – Sandrine Ammann

WIPO sends out user satisfaction surveys on a yearly basis. However, so far there has been no formal way of exchanging ideas with user groups.

The only formal exchange has been the annual PDG meeting. Apart from this there is the IP Information Roundtable, WIPO Inspire and paying webinars aimed at expert users. For the future, WIPO has been discussing how to make the communication with users more formal, e.g. with a type of newsletter (regarding new features, training etc.). User groups could also have a slot in the IP Information Roundtable.

Guido then presented the wishes of CEPIUG and PDG. Users can collaborate regarding WIPO products & services (providing feedback on a case-by-case basis throughout the year, WIPO Inspire, surveys (distributed among members), educational activities (providing expertise and training), participation in WIPO committees, task forces, working groups). Some of the users have also participated in WIPO special projects. Furthermore, users could also maybe submit papers for the WIPO Magazine.

Users also appreciate the updates provided by WIPO on information products and plans through e.g. the IP Information Roundtable, users educational programs and participation in users events. For users it would be important to have a more formal meeting. The IP Information Roundtable could be transformed in a more formal advisory committee, including minutes, Q&A etc. Guido personally proposed to focus a World IP day on patent information, because this topic was not covered yet.

Sandrine said that there is not one specific newsletter for patent information, but for many different areas. Regarding PATENTSCOPE a newsletter may not be the best platform, but maybe something like a regular update.

Topic 4: Recent developments of International Classifications - Ning Xu and Alison Zuger

Due to Covid-10 the IPC working group meetings were cancelled, but intensive electronic discussions were held via the IPC E-forum. The Early publication is available at IPCPUB and will enter into force in January 2021.

Changes in the new version focus on physics and in particular Information and Communication Technology (Sections G and H). New groups were defined in security arrangements for wireless communication networks, cordless telephones and additive manufacturing from metallic powder.

The highest increase in number of groups was seen in section H.

The IPC Committee of Experts discussed H01L (Semiconductor technology). An expert group was established to address the overly complicated and deeply subdivided structure of H01L. It was decided to go for a new class approach. The first meeting on this was held in May 2019 and since then 6 more meetings were held. The first revision is expected in 2021.

The IP5 Working Group on Classification has promoted several IP5 projects to the IPC phase, i.e. these areas have been harmonized between the IP5. New emerging technologies that are focused on are AI, intelligent robots, unmanned vehicles etc.

IPCCAT can automatically classify applications in 10 languages with about 85% accuracy.

Nice classification (trademarks) – no meeting was held but the International Bureau distributed a proposal for E-voting which was supported by the majority of the contracting parties. From the 518 proposals that were submitted to the committee, 132 were adopted unanimously, the rest was forwarded to the next session of the committee in 2021. This resulted in 172 modifications including 63 new entries (including a lot of harmonization of translations and revision of class headings and explanatory notes). Major changes are implemented once every five years, the next (12th) edition begin foreseen for January 2022.

Locarno classification (trademarks) - Early publication of the revision is foreseen for January 2021.

Vienna classification (designs) – the committee meeting was postponed from November 2020 to February 2021. The proposals are currently available on the Vienna E-Forum (160 proposals submitted). The 9th edition of the Vienna Classification is foreseen for 2022.

Topic 5: WIPO Inspire – Vipin Saroha

WIPO INSPIRE was launched on the 2nd of November. It now has 23 reports. WIPO INSPIRE is a one-stop shop for information on patent databases, providing structured reports on the

features and coverage. WIPO INSPIRE can be accessed via <https://inspire.wipo.net>, or via the WIPO TISC page (<https://www.wipo/int/tisc/en/>, access is not limited to TISC users). It is a repository of detailed reports on patent search and analytics tools and databases (commercial and non-commercial e.g. from patent offices). The coverage is visualized on a map. By clicking on the country that is relevant for the user, they get an overview of the databases that cover that country, including if the database covers only bibliographical data or also full text. The tool allows to filter on features to help users find out which database has the features that they want. The reports provide information on fee, coverage, interfaces, classifications covered etc. It is possible to download a report, but users should be aware that reports are updated regularly. Databases may also be compared regarding their features.

WIPO INSPIRE does not intend to indicate which database is best, but to help users find the tool that best fits their needs. Users can do everything without logging in, except if they want to save favourites. Then they have to have a WIPO account and log in. When there has been an update to the report of the database, the user will get a notification. Those who want to become an author, need to send a request to WIPO. Only approved users can create a report.

The reports are created by the database providers. They are first reviewed by WIPO to check if all reports are aligned, and then by patent information user groups (which input is again submitted to the providers), before they are published on WIPO INSPIRE.

WIPO INSPIRE is integrated with the eTISC platform and the Patent Register Portal.

Topic 6: PATENTSCOPE – Christophe Mazenc, Magdalena Zelenkovska, Iustin Diaconescu and Bruno Pouliquen

Christophe presented a preview on the Markush search in PATENTSCOPE. The ChemSearch in PATENTSCOPE only allows to search chemical compounds explicitly cited in the patents. Many PATENTSCOPE users requested Markush searching. WIPO sent a Public Request For Information to all major providers in the world, because it would too much work for WIPO to develop this from scratch, so they wanted to license this. This resulted in licensing Clarivate Analytics Markush data. They wanted to make Markush searching freely available to PATENTSCOPE users with a login. WIPO started with a Markush simple search, i.e. the 500 simplest compounds per Markush formula were enumerated. The enumerated compounds were indexed in PATENTSCOPE in a search field called 'ENUM'. Then searching is conducted via searching explicitly cited compounds (option to tick 'include enumerated Markush structures'). There is an option to look at the enumerated Markush structures from in the publication.

WIPO also developed a Markush Advanced Search, because with the simple search only 500 compounds per Markush structure are enumerated. However, this search is much slower. It will search all Clarivate Markush numbers that match the query. WIPO has ordered a new server, which should allow more efficient searching. Then this advanced searching will be made available to the public.

Magdalena gave an update on the integration of patent families in PATENTSCOPE. The first release of patent families in PATENTSCOPE was in February 2020. The families were built on links between a PCT application and its national entries. It used a combination of national phase entry data and prior PCT links in the bibliographic data. The PCT patent families were enriched with US related documents. Since not all families comprise a PCT application, the

final step included families based on priority data. These final version of the PATENTSCOPE families should be available for search in December 2020.

To count all applications belonging to the same patent family once, the option 'Single Family Member' should be set to TRUE. The family members are shown as 'Also published as'. The calculations of families must meet some conditions such as matching dates in combination with publication/application number. Also, similarity checks are performed to validate the families. The plan is to provide a clear specification of the inclusion criteria. WIPO also plans to show the evolution of the invention on a timeline. Furthermore, they want to build in an additional verification based on machine learning. There will be a 'report an error' functionality.

It should be noted that currently priority is given to the PCT member. Not all national entries are visible on the national entries tab. In PATENTSCOPE only the latest publication is displayed, so families do not list the same invention multiple times (so e.g. only the granted patent may be visible). Priorities are as provided by the authorities. Coming soon is a new tab to display the family members.

Finally, Magdalena showed an overview of the coverage enhancements in 2019 and 2020. Also, Japanese numbers can now be searched with the Japanese year as well as the Western year.

Iustin talked about the new user interface, introduced in 2019. The feedback on the new interface has been positive. The analysis interface is a bit hidden: you should click on the icon at the top left. Timeseries analysis were introduced. The 2-column view gives the records on the left side and details on the publication at the right side.

It is also possible to search in PATENTSCOPE via the IP Portal Dashboard. The PATENTSCOPE search via the portal is rather simplistic, but the idea is to combine it with other widgets, e.g. search for synonyms and translations in WIPO Pearl and copy/paste these in the PATENTSCOPE search (these translations are human made, in contrast with CLIR in PATENTSCOPE which is based on machine learning).

When searching in full text in a specific language, it is recommended to use the Language Analyzer for better stemming in that language. The tool shows the variations of use of wildcards via stemming.

The new à la carte download facility allows selecting different records from the results list. After selecting multiple documents for download via the document tab, they can be downloaded in one go.

CPC symbols can be searched in PATENTSCOPE since January 2020. CPC codes can be searched with CPC, CPC_EX (to search exact CPC code) and CLASSIF (to search CPC and IPC combined).

Bruno gave a summary on the WIPO AI-based tools. With AI they mean "deep supervised machine learning". AI based tools that WIPO is working on are:

- Text processing (WIPO Translate, Classification & transliteration)
- Images similarity processing – image classification and image searching (for trademarks)
- Speech process (speech to text, search in vide-audio, speech to translated text)

WIPO Translate now allows reading translated written opinions. WIPO is working on doubling the translation capacity. Italian to English and vice versa should be available soon. WIPO translate can also be used by private companies (first launch day before this roundtable). This kind of partnerships is expected to help improve WIPO Translate. Most used language pairs are Chinese into English and Japanese into English, followed by English into Russian. In total Chinese, Japanese and Korean are part of more than half of all translations.

Christophe Mazenc closed the Roundtable with some updates and closing remarks.

The new Director General, Daren Tang, started per 1 October 2020. He has begun to share his vision with the members states. He has emphasized the importance of IP services and the importance to reach out to users.

Because of COVID-19, WIPO has been working virtually, and meetings have been done virtually. Activities that have suffered most, are the ones where staff would have to travel. WIPO remains committed to the wider distribution of IP data. For the future there will be an increased focus on data quality. They will continue to use AI, making progress on existing projects and developing new things.

WIPO members states are expecting WIPO to provide data and services in more languages.

Announcement on the appointments for the other vacancies in WIPO's management team are expected in the next few days. Expectations are that no much will change in the first year, because the budget for 2021 was already approved by the member states. The first occasion for the new management to shape the WIPO future will be for 2022 and 2023.