

# PAPI : Public Access to Patent Information

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS): Eleventh session  
“Progress reports by the Task Forces” Section 5(J)

Nick Cole (GSK), on behalf of the Patent Documentation Group (PDG) IMPACT working Group  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

# PAPI Public Access to Patent Information

**2017: Work began (CWS “Task No. 52”), initiated by PDG**

*To achieve legal certainty patent information users often need to consult patent office websites and the registers and databases they contain!*



<https://inspire.wipo.int/patent-register-portal#tab1/en/index.html>

Our “Commonly used sources” do not have 100% country coverage in all aspects

IPO websites and registers contain vital and unique information needed by patent searchers

Wide variety of interfaces, languages, search options and types of data makes searching complex and inefficient.

*“Can I search for equivalents if this PCT in country X?”*

*“Can I search In English?”*

*“Can I find the granted claims?”*

*“Can I look up fee payments?”*

# Development of PAPI

2019: Questionnaire agreed following WIPO Wiki discussion with many parties:

- Part 1 – “Basic availability and coverage” (x8 questions)
- Part 2 – “Detailed information about features” (x29 questions)

2020: x60 IPO responses received for Part 1

2021: x36 IPO responses received for Part 2

2022 - 2023:

- **Task Assignment:** IB → DTF → (proposal this CWS session) → IB
- **Original Task Description:** *“Prepare recommendations for systems for providing access to publicly available patent information of industrial property offices”*
- **Revised Task Description:** *“Prepare a proposal for the update of the WIPO Handbook Part 6.1 “Recommended minimum contents for intellectual property offices’ websites” (Last update 2002)*
- **12 Sep 2023 letter from PDG. We are grateful to be on the agenda today!** PDG supports this Task as the existing document was produced more than 20 years ago. During that time, the patent information landscape has changed considerably! Some of PDG’s own recommendations were included in the letter. We look forward to contributing further on this project if we can!



Adobe Acrobat  
Document

# Appendix

Backup slides

**A list of possible recommendations that addresses each of the PAPI survey questions could in theory be very long, but the following consolidated and prioritised list reflecting the views of PDG members would comprise a relatively small number of basic principles:**

- All bibliographic and lifecycle data for any IP right shall be accessible, as complete, and
- timely as possible.
- Access should be eased by providing an English-language user interface.
- Data itself should be available in English language (or at least in a machine-readable form to enable machine translation).
- A common task is locating patent family equivalent documents for patent authorities that are not covered by widely used family databases. Therefore, it is important that patent documents in IPO databases are correctly indexed according to priority date and searchable as such.
- Clear and up to date legal status information (preferably based on the WIPO ST.27 standard) accompanied by timely fee (annuities) payment information.
- Full text (preferably machine-readable) of the latest publication stage (or at its least claims).
- Information on the latest update of the data content of databases.

**Beyond these essential items, the following items/functions would be desirable:**

- Bibliographic search in English-language.
- All information through a single interface/portal.
- Functionality to follow pre- and post-grant events (alerting).
- Access to file wrappers / dossiers (at least machine-readable or readily machine translated).
- Ownership information updates