WIPO IP Information Roundtable
Virtual meeting on 1 December 2020

Participants from WIPO:

Sandrine Ammann
Christine 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 Casini
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 meeting started at 10:10. 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 Updates
This topic was postponed to the end of the meeting.

Topic 2: WIPO PROOF - Claudio Cocorocchia
WIPO PROOF is a new WIPO service and is intended to safeguard intellectual assets that are or cannot be not registered in the form a patent, design or trademark, e.g. at the stage of ideation, data and research do not benefit yet from IP protection.
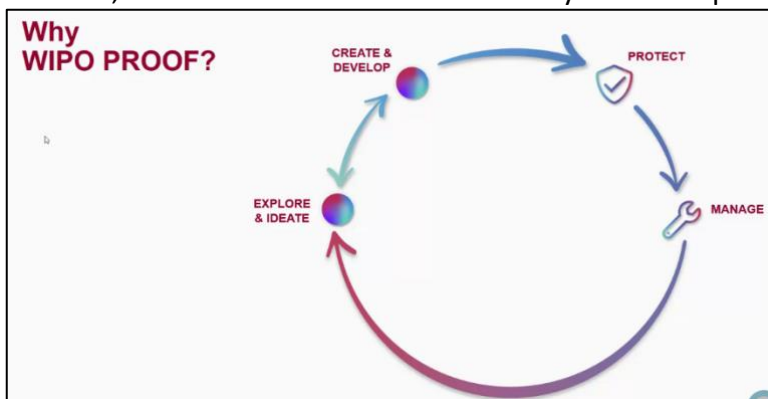
It is a fee-based time-stamping service. It makes a fingerprint of your digital file which is date and time stamped and then encrypted, resulting in a 'token'. It is based on 'Public Key Infrastructure' (PKI) technology. WIPO PROOF is a kind of digital notary which is tamper-proof. WIPO does not upload or store your data. WIPO PROOF is NOT a registry/repository of the actual works, so confidentiality retained.
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. Certificates which are valid internationally and recognised in jurisdictions worldwide can be provided as PDFs in 10 languages across European, Asian, Arabic, etc. This was approved by 193 member states in the 2019 General Assembly.

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
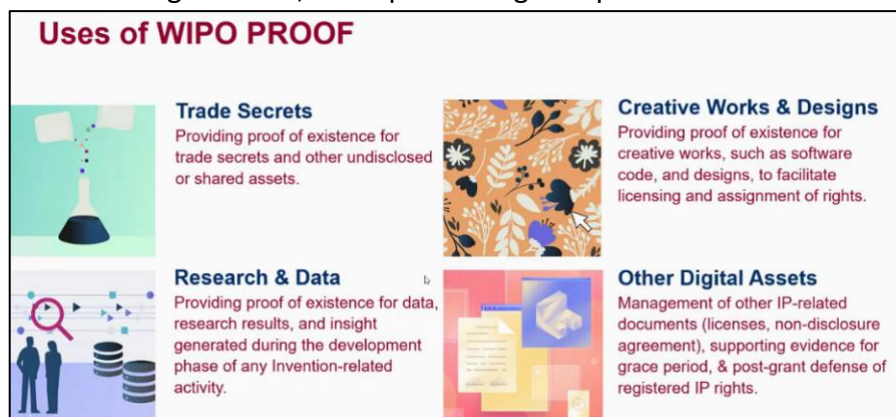
The service is provided since about June 2020 and has already about 2500 users from around 115 countries. In the future, saving documents on a server could become optional and has specific legal features to get robust proof that you were first in time.

Topic 3: 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, most of them being less developed countries or developing countries. 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.
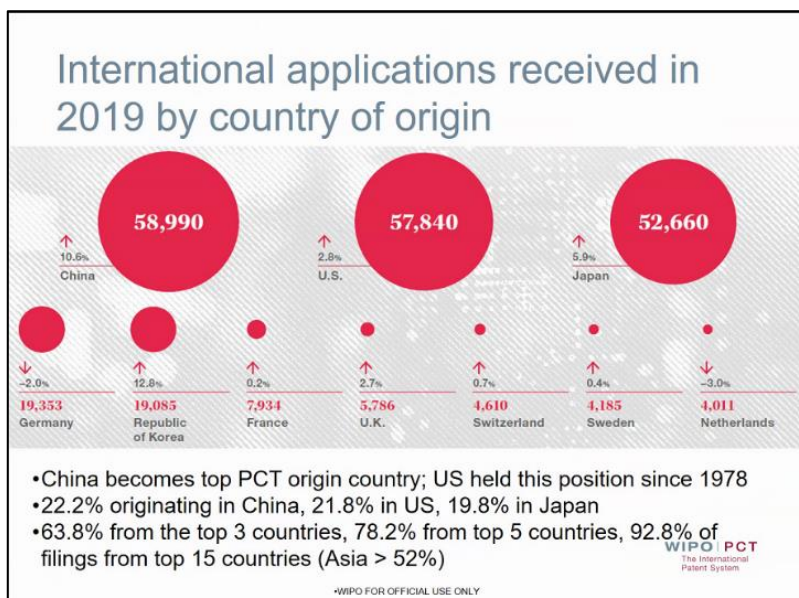
The number of PCT applications has increased with 5.2% in 2019. For the first time ever, China became the top PCT origin country. The US had been holding this position since 1978. More than 50% of the applications are now from Asia. It took 26 years to reach the first milestone of 1 million applications, but the time span between the following milestones keeps reducing.
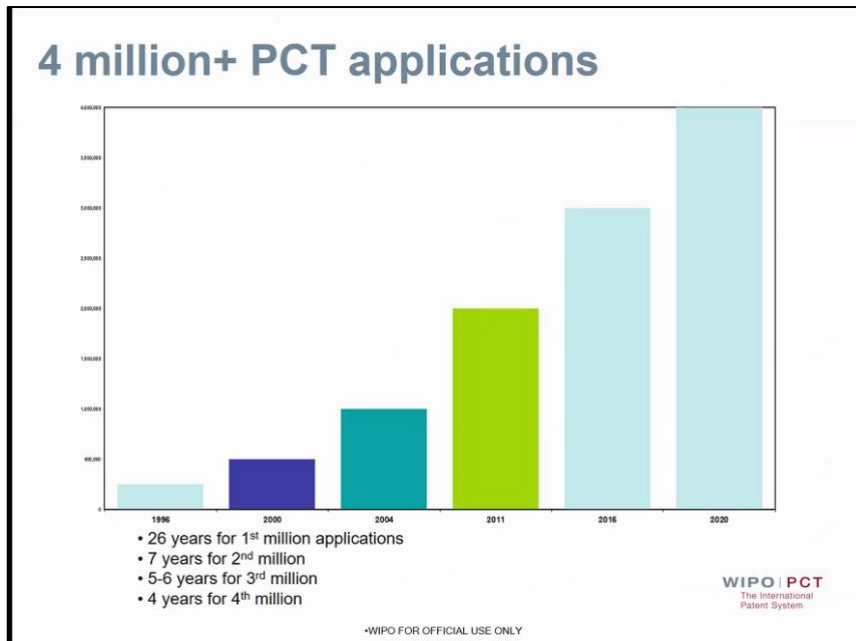
WIPO is fearing an impact of COVID-19 on the number of publications in 2021 due to a decrease of filings in 2020.

Top Government/PRO PCT Applicants in 2019

1. Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (DE)
2. China Academy of Telecommunications Technology (CN)
3. Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives (FR)
4. Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology (CN)
5. Agency of Science, Technology and Research (SG)
6. Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (FR)
7. Institut National de la Sante et de la Recherche Médicale (FR)
8. National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (JP)
9. United States of America, Secretary of Health and Human Services (US)
10. Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research (US)
11. Korea Electronics and Technology Institute (KR)
12. Nederlandse Organsatie Voor Toegepast-Nauurwetenshappelijk Tno (NL)
13. Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research (US)
14. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (ES)
15. Korea Researach Institute of Chemical Technology (KR)

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The timeliness is improving, getting search reports in PATENTSCOPE quickly.

Average Timeliness in Transmitting ISR to IB from Date of Receipt of Search Copy
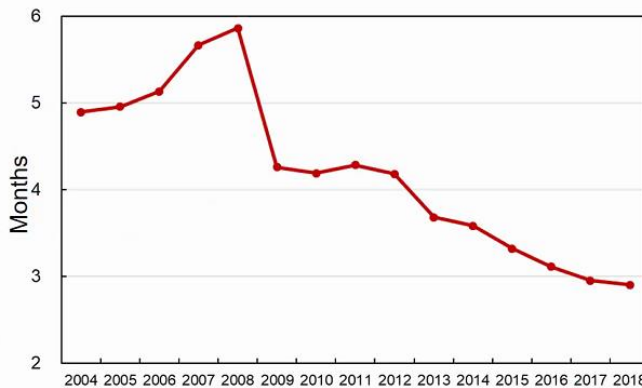
■ Average timeliness in transmitting ISRs to the IB was 2.9 months in 2018
■ 85.0% of PCT applications transmitted to IB within 3 months from date of receipt of search copy in 2018--expected to rise to 86.6% in 2019

•Source: WIPO statistics database. March 2019 and January 2020.

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More statistics can be found in the PCT Yearly Review
(https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_901_2020.pdf)

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 (96%). There is also a dedicated page on the PCT website related to COVID-19 (https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/covid_19/covid_update.html). Paper communications have been suspended and use of ePCT was recommended. Also, a lot of notifications

regarding possible remedies and best practices were published in view of the pandemic, e.g. excuse of delays under PDT Rule 82quater.1 on special circumstances which was 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.

Amendments to the PCT Regulations as from 1 July 2020 (1)

- Amendment of PCT Rules 4, 12, 20, 48, 51*bis*, 55 and 82*ter,* and new Rules 20.5*bis* and 40*bis*

  - ❏ Clarification that, in addition to incorporating missing elements and parts, in the case of erroneously filed elements or parts, the correct element or part can also be incorporated by reference, if contained in an earlier application

  - ❏ New legal basis for cases where incorporation by reference was not successful or applicable, to replace an erroneously filed element or part with the correct element or part (impacting the international filing date)

  - ❏ Apply to any international application filed on or after 1 July 2020

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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.

Amendments to the PCT Regulations as from 1 July 2020 (2)

- Amendment of PCT Rule 82*quater*

  - ❏ 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, such as unforeseen outages or scheduled maintenance

  - ❏ Does not apply to the priority period and the time limit for entering the national phase

  - ❏ Applies to any time limit fixed in the Regulations that expires on or after 1 July 2020

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Amendments to the PCT Regulations as from 1 July 2020 (3)

- Application of PCT Rule 82*quater*.2(a) at the International Bureau (also as receiving Office):

  - Delays in meeting time limits may be excused where the ePCT system or the PCT Contingency Upload Service was unavailable for a minimum of a continuous one hour period on a specific working day at the International Bureau, subject to the applicant:

    - submitting a request indicating that the time limit was not met due to that reason

    - performing the action on the next available working day at the IB when ePCT or the PCT Contingency Upload Service is available again

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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).

Amendments to the PCT Regulations as from 1 July 2020 (4)

- New PCT Rule 26*quater*

  - Allows for correction or addition, during the international phase, of indications referred to in Rule 4.11 in the request form, namely, indications of the applicant's wish that the PCT application be treated in a designated State as

    - continuation or continuation-in-part of an earlier application

    - patent of addition, certificate of addition, inventor's certificate of addition or utility certificate of addition

  - Applicants will be able to submit a notice of correction or addition to the IB within 16 months from the priority date

- Applies to any international application filed on or after 1 July 2020

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Currently there are 24 International Searching Authorities:

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)

The framework of technical competencies for patent examiners comprises the following:
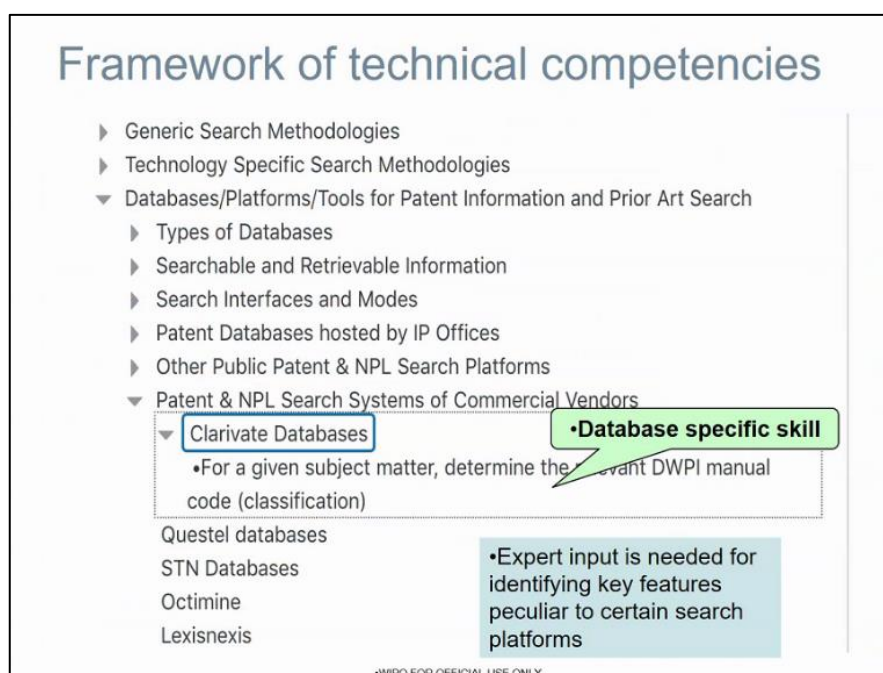
The users commented that it would be interesting to evaluate this for QPIP training and other training of patent information professionals.

Topic 4: Possible Collaboration/Partnerships with users groups – Sandrine Ammann
WIPO sends out user satisfaction surveys on a yearly business. However, so far there has been no formal way of exchanging ideas with user groups.
The only formal exchange has been the annual PATCOM meeting (in slide erroneously called 'annual PDG meeting'). Apart from this there is the IP Information Roundtable, WIPO Inspire and paying webinars aimed at expert users (PIUG / YunYun Yang provided input for chemical searching, AIDB provided input). For the future, WIPO has been discussing how to make the communication with users more formal, e.g. with a kind of newsletter (regarding new features, training etc.). User groups could also have a slot in the IP Information Roundtable.

Guido Moradei 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 (distribute among members), educational activities (providing expertise and trainers), participation in WIPO committees, task forces, working groups. Some of the users have also participated in WIPO special projects (TISC ,guidelines, patent register portal). Furthermore, users could also maybe submit papers for the WIPO Magazine.

The Users collaboration with WIPO can be summarized as follows:

- ■ - **WIPO products & services** -> general feedback through the IP Information round table (annual meeting), particular feedback on a case by case basis

- ■ - **WIPO Inspire** -> propose reports on patent databases and their features

- ■ - **WIPO surveys** -> distribute among members and contacts and provide answers

- ■ - **WIPO IP Information educational activity** (TISC, WIPO Academy, training on WIPO databases) -> provide expertise at all levels and candidate trainers

- ■ - **WIPO Committees (CWS, International Classifications)** -> participation to task forces, meetings and working groups (reserved to organizations with the official status of observers like PDG, PIUG and CEPIUG)

- ■ - **WIPO special projects** -> help to find experts

- ■ - **WIPO Magazine** -> submit papers

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Users also appreciate the updates provided by WIPO on information products and plans through e.g. via the IP Information Roundtable, but also via other communication channels. The users would also appreciate WIPO's support regarding educational programs and participation of WIPO experts 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.
Muriel Bourgeois encouraged WIPO to work in collaboration to strenghten the skills of QPIP candidates and more broadly the Patent Information Users.
Bettina de Jong invited WIPO to use more users' feedback and formalize communications and collaboration with the user groups. User groups could also contribute to WIPO education. It was proposed to discuss how the IP Information Roundtable could be turned into a partnership similar to those we already have with e.g. EPO and INPI.

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

Topic 5: 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.
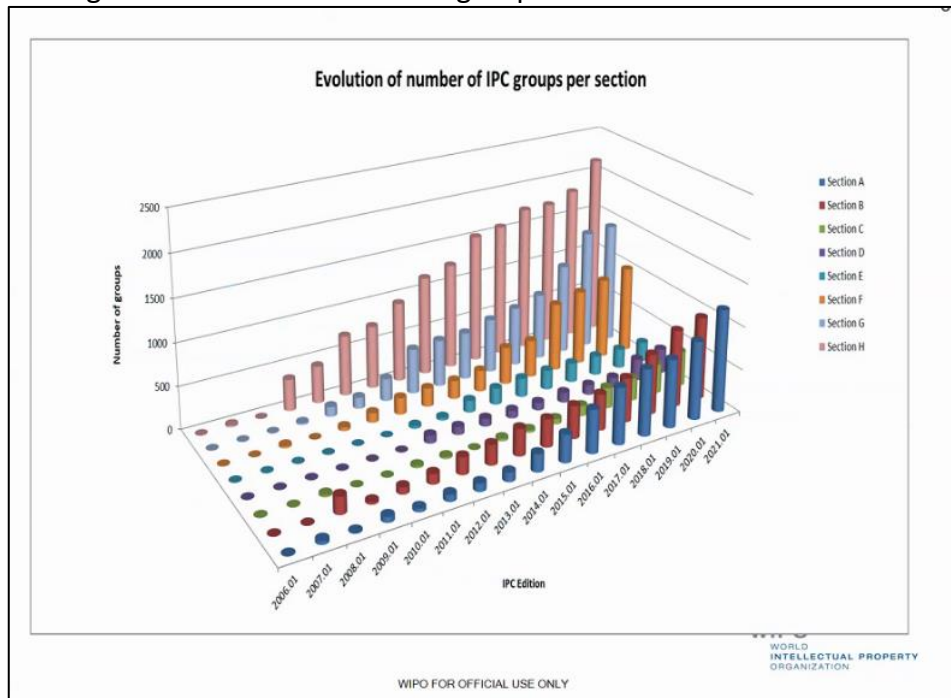
The IPC Committee of Experts discussed H01L (Semiconductor technology).

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 84% accuracy for the top 3 IPC symbols. So there is still work to do but this tool can be of great help.

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 was in June 2020, entry into force of LOC(13) will be in 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 2023.

Topic 6: WIPO Inspire – Vipin Saroha

WIPO INSPIRE was launched on the 2nd of November. It now has 23 reports and more are in progress (e.g. Google patents and the USPTO database). 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 of the databases 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.

This comparison gives a perspective on which features are covered, to help users find the tool that best fits their needs. WIPO INSPIRE does not intend to indicate which database is best and to promote one provider. 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.

Besides the direct access is WIPO INSPIRE also integrated with the eTISC platform and the Patent Register Portal.

In response to a question it was indicated that there are no plans to put legal status information in WIPO INSPIRE, in order to avoid complexity in searching a particular country portal/register.

Further suggestions for reports to be covered by WIPO INSPIRE are welcome.

Topic 7: PATENTSCOPE – Christophe Mazenc, Magdalena Zelenkovska, Iustin Diaconescu and Bruno Pouliquen

Christophe Mazenc presented a preview on the Markush search in PATENTSCOPE. This functionality was requested by PATENTSCOPE users, because the ChemSearch only allows to search chemical compounds explicitly cited in the patents. However, there is no Markush search tool available for free. Since it was almost impossible to create it from scratch, it was decided to license. WIPO sent a Public Request For Information to all major providers in the world, resulting in a license of Clarivate Analytics Markush data.

PATENTSCOPE Markush data and coverage

- Professionally curated Markush Data (Derwent Markush data)

- Full coverage of organics, organometallics, inorganic salts and metal oxides, plus partial coverage of alloys, intermetallics and polymers.

- Data curated from EP, CN, JP, KR, WO and US patent documents with associated links to patent family members

WIPO 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 in the publication.
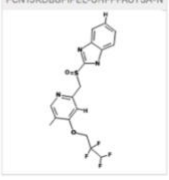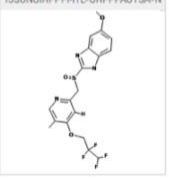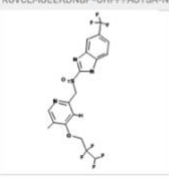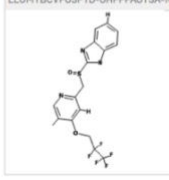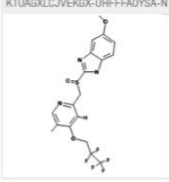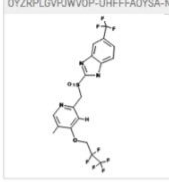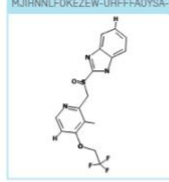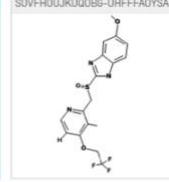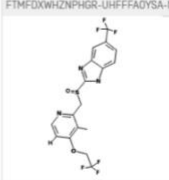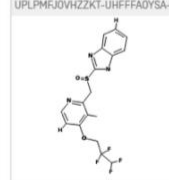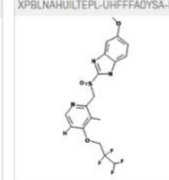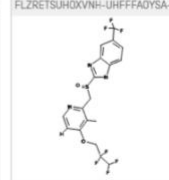
WIPO also developed a Markush Advanced Search, because with the simple search only 500 compounds per Markush structure are enumerated. However, this search is much slower. It will search all Clarivate Markush numbers that match the query.

Markush Advanced Search

- Uses a simplified, iterative search process designed for PATENTSCOPE by Infochem
- Matches searched structure with all indexed Markush structures in the system
- Finds potentially more matches than with the enumeration search
- Still easy to use (but with longer response times)
- Shows intermediate results as list of Markush numbers
- Works with drawn structures with optionally varying parts (CHK, CHE, CHY, HET, HEA, HEF, CYC, ARY)

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The interface has an editor for searching all Markush structures 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. (probably January 2021). WIPO plans to improve the chemical search functionalities in the coming years and are also looking at searching sequence data.

Magdalena Zelenkovska 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.
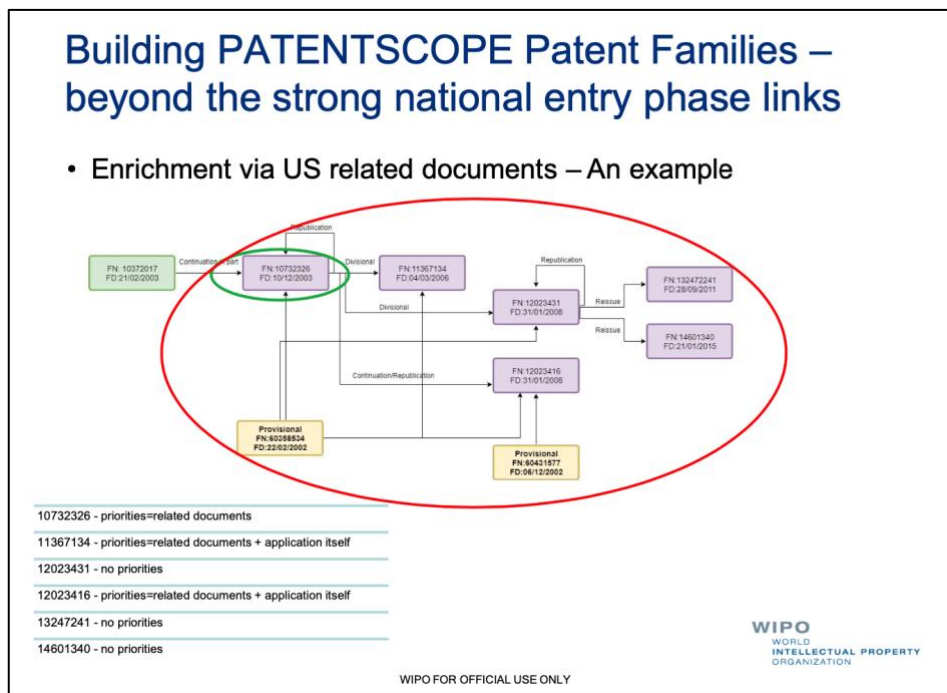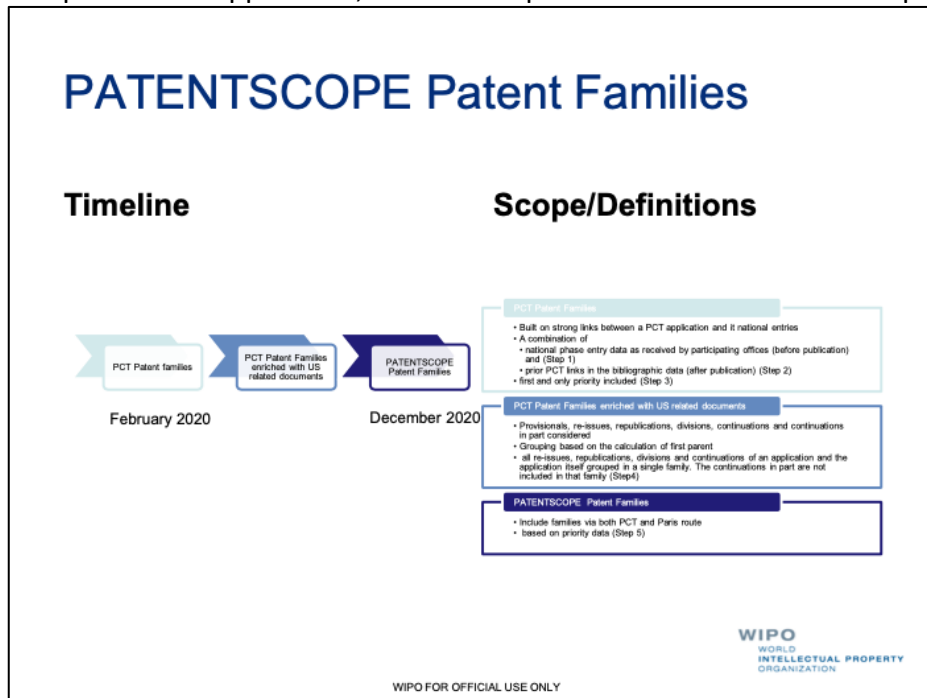
These final version of the PATENTSCOPE families should be available for search in December 2020.

To count all applications belonging to the same patent family once, the option 'Single Family Member' should be set to TRUE in PATENTSCOPE.

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.

Future Plans

- Implementation of a new tab dedicated to the PATENTSCOPE patent families
- Clear specification of the inclusion criteria
- A timeline showing the evolution of the invention
- An additional verification based on machine learning
- Available in the first quarter of 2021
- «Report an error» functionality

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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.

Summary: things to remember

- Use «Single Family member option» for results based on family. Currently priority is given to the PCT member.
- Not all national entries are visible on the national entries tab
- Only the latest publication is displayed in PATENTSCOPE therefore families do not list the same invention multiple times
- Priorities are not complemented, a complex algorithm taking into consideration the various elements/attributes of an entity is used instead
- Coming soon: a new tab with detailed information for each family member

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Finally, Magdalena showed an overview of the coverage enhancements in 2019 and 2020.
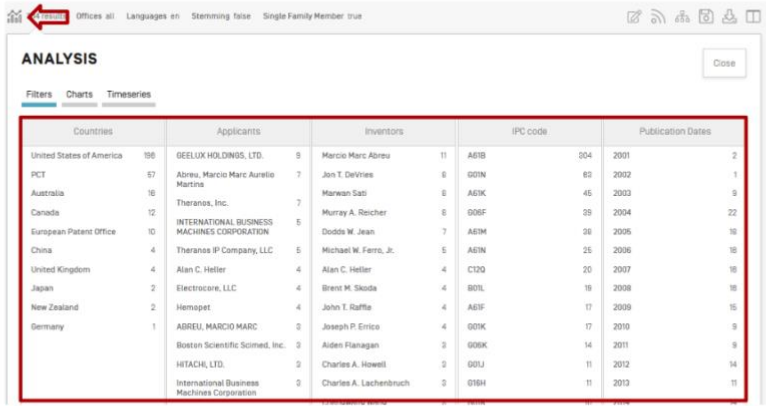

Also, Japanese numbers can now be searched with the Japanese year as well as the Western year. The coverage of Japanese utility models is a valuable addition.

Iustin Diaconescu talked about the new PATENTSCOPE user interface, introduced in 2019 (https://patentscope.wipo.int/) 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 Pouliquen 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 processing (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 was on the 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.
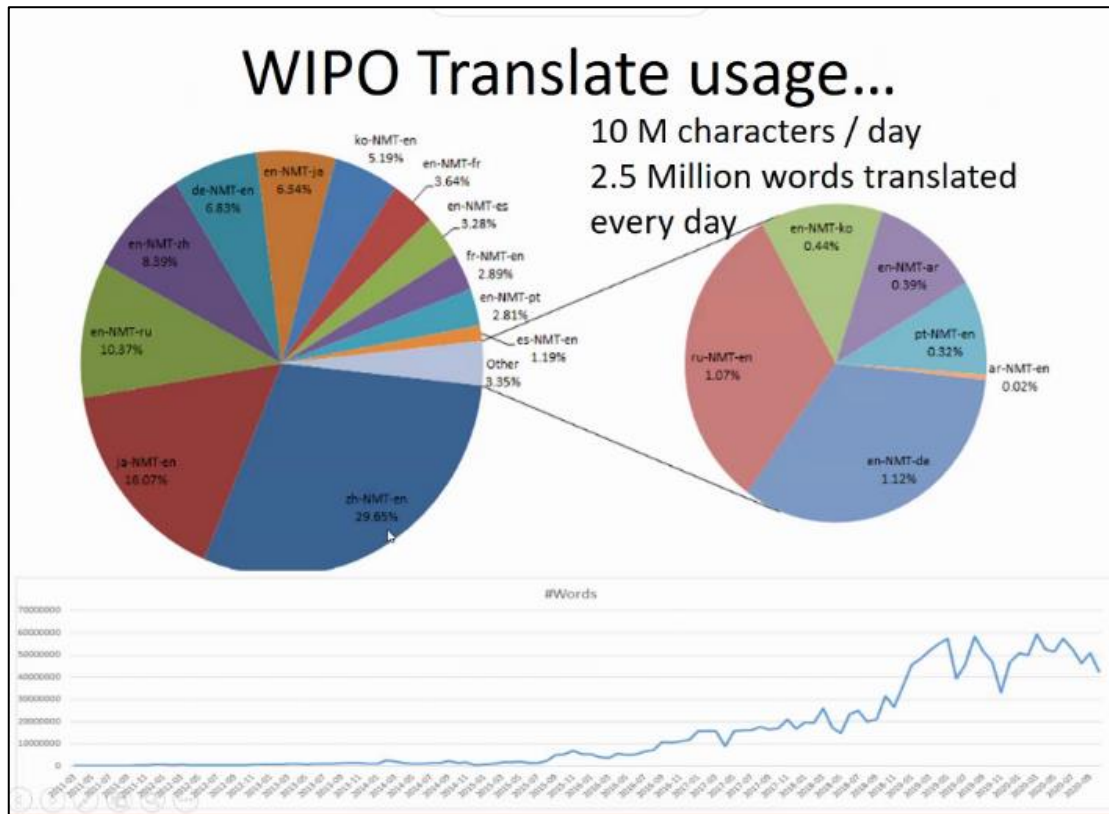
WIPO is working an image similarity tool for TM, to search logos in all national collections. Similarity search for industrial designs is more complex since there are multiple images for the same object (from different angles). The aim is to have the first system running in 2021.

Arabic language translation is difficult since there are insufficient data to train the engine, so it could improve in the future when collecting more patent data.

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.

The meeting was closed at 15:10