Search Matters 2009

30 and 31 March 2009
The Hague | European Patent Office

Programme
Venue

European Patent Office
Conference Centre
Patentlaan 2
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Welcome

Last year I wrote about the launch of the EPO’s “Strategic Renewal” process, and how quality considerations were at its core. A year on and we are making progress in a number of areas, not least of which is the domain looking at the issue of “Raising the bar”.

Initially this domain reflected on the level of inventive merit a patent application should have if it was to be granted. Was the stringency with which EPO examiners assessed inventive step (e.g. through the eyes of the notional “person skilled in the art”) tight enough? Was the “bar” already at the right level, or did it need to be raised so as to ensure that only those applications truly deserving of patent protection were granted?

However, fairly quickly the domain broadened its work to look at raising the bar on a variety of quality and efficiency issues in the search and examination process itself. We have looked at ways to improve the standard of incoming applications, so that examiners can in turn do a better job.

I felt it was particularly important to bring to your attention the work of the “Raising the bar” domain with respect to search procedures. That is why this year’s seminar concludes with a presentation on this topic from director Alfred Spigarelli. We are seeking to inform applicants at the search stage if the hope for a meaningful search is frustrated by a lack of clarity or too many independent claims. We propose to limit the search in such circumstances, and to bar the submission of amended claims at a later date which relate to the unsearched subject matter. I hope you will listen with interest to what the domain is proposing and give us your feedback in due course.

Finally, I wish you a most successful and enjoyable time here in The Hague, both in the lectures and over dinner, meeting others from the patent search community and building networks of your own.

Thomas Hammer
Vice-President, DG 1 Operations
Monday, 30 March 2009

08.00 Registration (with breakfast buffet)

  Auditorium
  Chair: Björn Gundlach

10.00 Welcome speech
  Jeremy Scott,
  Director, DG 1

10.20 L1: EPO documentation strategy
  John Bambridge

10.50 L2: EPOQUE - the EPO system for finding relevant prior art
  Claus Albrecht

11.05 L3: How is your patent application progressing?
  Lisa McDonald-Maier

11.20 Coffee

11.50 L4: esp@cenet just got a whole lot . . . smarter
  Nigel Clarke

12.10 L5: Free patent searching in web sources: a changing landscape
  Paul Schwander

13.00 Lunch
14.00 Workshop Session One

Room 2.1
G10: Japanese classification schemes
Christoph Wirner & Carola Fassnacht

Room 2.5
G11: Searching Chinese prior art
Bertrand Le Chapelain & Luis Verdelho

Auditorium
G13: Lack of unity – when applications contain more than one invention
Razik Menidjel & Sytse de Jonge

Room 2.3
G16: What’s new in search?
Bart de Ceulaer & David Mazur

Room 2.4
S18: 1000 ways to name your chemical compound
Stefan Härtinger

Room 2.2
S19: Search in complex galenics
Anna Maria Villa Riva

Room 2.6
S28: Computer-implemented inventions
John Beatty

15.30 Coffee
16.00 Workshop Session Two

Room 2.1
G10: Japanese classification schemes
Christoph Wirner & Carola Fassnacht

Room 2.3
G12: Searching Korean and Taiwanese prior art
Alexandre Bouffi er & François Boubal

Room 2.5
G13: Lack of unity – when applications contain more than one invention
Razik Menidjel & Sytse de Jonge

Auditorium
G14: Non-patent literature
Emmeline Marttin & Yves Verbandt

Room 1.1
G15: When to stop a search
Judy Ceulemans & Dominique Winne

Room 2.4
S18: 1000 ways to name your chemical compound
Stefan Härtinger

Room 2.6
S24: Homogeneous catalysts: new technologies and new search tools
Matthias Goebel

Room 2.2
S29: Are we all going wireless?
Francesca Poggio
17:30  Cocktail
18:30  Official dinner
22:00  End of first day
Tuesday, 31 March 2009

Auditorium

09.00  L6: Search in machine translation databases - the EPO’s experience
       Richard Frey

09.30  L7: From novelty search to competitive intelligence
       Gerard van der Ligt
       Director Business Intelligence,
       Philips Intellectual Property & Standards

10.15  L8: Removing classification bottlenecks
       Heiko Wongel & Oscar Gonzalez Ordonez

11.00  Coffee break

11.30  L9: Inside the mind of an EPO examiner
       Philippe Lahorte

12.30  Lunch
13.30  Workshop Session Three

Room 2.1
G12: Searching Korean and Taiwanese prior art
Alexandre Bouffier & François Boubal

Room 2.4
G14: Non-patent literature
Emmeline Marttin & Yves Verbandt

Room 2.2
G15: When to stop a search
Judy Ceulemans & Dominique Winne

Auditorium
G16: What's new in search?
Bart de Ceulaer & David Mazur

Room 2.6
S17: Searching in broad range general fields (such as printing materials and machines)
Alan Bacon

Room 2.3
S21: Sequence searching in biotechnology
Patrick Kools

15.00  Coffee
15.30 Workshop Session Four

Room 1.1
G11: Searching Chinese prior art
Bertrand Le Chapelain & Luis Verdelho

Room 2.4
G14: Non-patent literature
Emmeline Marttin & Yves Verbandt

Auditorium
G15: When to stop a search
Judy Ceulemans & Dominique Winne

Room 2.6
S17: Searching in broad range general fields (such as printing materials and machines)
Alan Bacon

Room 2.5
S20: Searching in PubMed focussing on the power of the MeSH database
Wolfram Meyer

Room 2.3
S21: Sequence searching in biotechnology
Patrick Kools

Room 2.2
S30: Terabytes, petabytes and beyon d: new times, new searches
Bart de Ceulaer
Auditorium

17.00  **L10: Raising the bar**
       Alfred Spigarelli

17.30  End of seminar