Work is advancing on a total redesign of Espacenet. The new interface, which will be launched sometime in 2018, will reflect modern trends in online search and offer improved guidance for searchers. The design is not yet fully finalised, however – and to this end a survey is currently running on the existing Espacenet to find out which features users value and what they would like to see in the future.

**Improved searches**

The New Espacenet landing page will feature a simple search box – an improved version of the current smart search – for searchers to quickly check whether their search terms are generating the intended results. Users will be able to refine their searches with a query builder, which will also offer help on specifying the search fields, proximity operators, etc. New visualisation features will help users to build and understand complex Boolean queries that match their search strategy.

**Focus on the results**

Logically, as the number of documents in the database increases, so does the number of documents in the search results. In some cases, it can be difficult to identify important hits among all the “noise”. One main area of development for New Espacenet will therefore be the presentation of results.

There will be more options for filtering the results and much easier access to detailed information. The results list itself will give more information about the individual hits, such as snippets from the abstracts and images, and offer more flexibility and export functions.
Responsive design
The overall presentation will also improve, incorporating responsive design, which automatically adapts the size and amount of information displayed to the screen size of the user’s device. This should make it possible to get the highest level of usability regardless of whether you’re using a large screen, laptop, tablet or smartphone.

Full-text searches
As announced in previous issues of Patent Information News, Espacenet already offers full-text searching in English, French and German. More languages are set to be added, as the former national interfaces, and their data, will be merged with the main Espacenet platform. This will also increase the amount of full-text data available. Bulk machine translation into English will make all the non-English documents available via searches based on English keywords.

The Espacenet development team hopes that, in the longer term, they will be able to build chemical structure searching into the system, as well as semantic searching, which would use text analysis to locate related documents.

All based on users’ input
When it appears, New Espacenet will reflect the latest technology in free search tools. And it will be the result of a comprehensive series of consultations with users. Twenty consultation sessions took place in 2016, supplemented by online surveys, the latest of which is still running (see separate text box).

The pyramid above shows the features that users would most like to see in Espacenet. At the apex, there is a reference to more and better search options, and immediately below that to translation features. Users would also like the data to have wider territorial coverage, and to know that their searches are secure, i.e. that no one can spy on them while they are searching.

Espacenet user survey – results to date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics mentioned with high frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal status information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make PDFs searchable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Download/export</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics mentioned with low frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Filter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>App</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link to NPOs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don’t miss your chance to give your feedback.
https://www.research.net/r/GLDG5FG
Running until 2 October 2017

EPO publishes first-ever Quality Report

On 5 July 2017, the EPO published its first-ever Quality Report – a new annual review of how the Office implements its quality policy in all of its products and services. A comprehensive report outlining a detailed set of quality indicators, it aims to increase transparency on the effects of that policy, while also serving as an additional instrument for the EPO to systematically monitor and improve its measures relating to quality assurance.

“Against the backdrop of the growing awareness and use of intellectual property rights, the quality of IP-related products and services is becoming a decisive element for companies, inventors and the public,” said EPO President Benoît Battistelli. “Only legally robust patents provide the certainty that businesses need when seeking protection for their inventions. They ensure that the European patent system remains an efficient and reliable platform to promote innovation. The publication of this dedicated report demonstrates the commitment of the EPO’s management and staff to continuous improvement of patent quality.”

The 2016 report sets out the principles behind the EPO’s quality culture, which is rooted in the founding principles of the Organisation, and was reinforced through the Quality and Efficiency strategy introduced in 2011. It also lays out the EPO’s initiatives aimed at engaging with its users and collecting their feedback – which is one of the main sources for improvements to services and procedures at the Office. Publication of this report is a further example of the EPO’s commitment to dialogue with its users.

You can download the report from the EPO website: epo.org/service-support/publications.html?pubid=133.
The future starts today

The cover story in this issue presents the exciting work we’re doing to bring you a totally new Espacenet sometime next year. We’ve been doing our homework quietly in the background over the past year and a half, gathering feedback from as many users and stakeholders as possible, and we’re confident that a good picture is emerging of how today’s Espacenet is used, and how we can improve it.

One final effort at gathering feedback is under way in the form of an online survey that pops up when you use Espacenet. Please do complete the survey – you are Espacenet’s users, and so your opinion matters.

In the last issue of Patent Information News, we presented improvements to Patent Translate, and explained how neural machine translation is dramatically improving quality. I am delighted that in the last few months we have been able to switch to neural machine translation for all the languages in Patent Translate. Please try it out.

You can leave us your feedback on translation quality via the tool.

Thanks to these developments, I am confident that the EPO is maintaining its position as the world’s leading provider not only of patent data, but also of free patent information tools.

Richard Flammer
Principal Director Patent Information and European Patent Academy

---

100 million documents in Espacenet

Over the course of the summer, the number of searchable documents in Espacenet passed the 100-million mark. When Espacenet was launched in 1998, it offered just 20 million documents, and so the number has increased fivefold in less than 20 years.

This remarkable growth shows how rapidly the number of patents and patent applications around the world is increasing, and what an operation in logistics it is for the EPO to collect all the data for Espacenet as it becomes available.

There is one caveat, however: it is no easy task to give a figure for the number of documents in Espacenet. This is not only because the amount of data is changing all the time, but also because the word “document” has no clear definition in this context. The number of facsimiles of patent documents (i.e. images of the various pages as PDF documents), for example, is roughly 110 million. This figure includes multiple documents covering the same invention, such as in cases where databases include both the original patent application and the granted patent, or patents for the same invention in multiple territories. Some people count correction documents (for example, the EPO’s A8, A9, B8 and B9 documents); others say they should not be included in the total.

Facsimile documents are not searchable, however. The expression “searchable documents” therefore needs further explanation. In addition to the facsimile documents, the databases include searchable data, such as the documents’ titles and abstracts, their classification symbols, the names of the inventors and applicants, and various dates and numbers. Often, a searchable description and searchable claims are also available. The data arrives at the EPO in a multitude of ways and is not always complete, especially for older patents. To be counted as “searchable”, the EPO requires a record to include at least a publication number, application number and, if applicable, priority number.

In addition, in Espacenet you can search the character-coded full text of patent documents in English, French or German. To conduct a full-text search, select “Worldwide EN”, “Worldwide FR” or “Worldwide DE” from the drop-down menu under “Advanced search”.

The table above gives the amounts of various types of data in Espacenet as at August 2017.

In addition, in Espacenet you can search the character-coded full text of patent documents in English, French or German. To conduct a full-text search, select “Worldwide EN”, “Worldwide FR” or “Worldwide DE” from the drop-down menu under “Advanced search”.

The table above gives the amounts of various types of data in Espacenet as at August 2017.

---

Amounts of various types of data currently available in Espacenet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data type</th>
<th>No. of records</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Searchable bibliographic records</td>
<td>101 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patent applications</td>
<td>80 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patent applications with a title in English</td>
<td>58 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patent applications with an English abstract</td>
<td>45 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patent applications with IPC classification symbols</td>
<td>75 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patent applications with CPC classification symbols</td>
<td>47 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facsimiles of patent documents (PDF)</td>
<td>110 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character-coded full texts (all languages)</td>
<td>75 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searchable character-coded full texts in English</td>
<td>23 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searchable character-coded full texts in French</td>
<td>4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searchable character-coded full texts in German</td>
<td>9 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So, although the EPO is celebrating 100 million documents in Espacenet, some people will say that that milestone was passed a while ago, and others will say that we have not yet reached it. Whatever your definition of “document” is, and whatever your view on how to count documents, Espacenet remains the world’s most comprehensive free patent search tool and contains a huge amount of data, which continues to increase every day.
MACHINE TRANSLATION

Patent Translate – neural machine translation for all 32 languages

There have been some dramatic improvements recently to the EPO’s Patent Translate tool, which is available via Espacenet and the Publication Server.

Patent Information News 2/2017 carried a major article on its cover about how a technology called “neural machine translation” (NMT) is improving the quality of the automated translations. In June, NMT had been implemented for eight languages (in addition to English) – Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish and Turkish. Now, Patent Translate uses NMT across all 32 languages in the system.

Neural networks

As described in the earlier article, NMT takes machine translation a step further and puts the EPO’s co-operation with Google at the forefront of machine translation technologies. Behind these developments is a system that Google uses called Attention. With Attention, the machine finds the correct translation of words and phrases by trial and error, over and over again, and establishes artificial neural pathways closely resembling those in human brains. Consequently, Patent Translate is very precise, recognising styles of writing based on context, and is able to make accurate translations accordingly. Programmers no longer have to tell the machine what to look for, because the system finds patterns from examples in the data and makes choices independently of a human. Neural networks even mean that computers can now use what they learn from one language pair to improve the translations of another language pair. With the vast quantity of data, the machine begins to predict how the language is structured, how words are used, and how to develop its own sentences based on the relationships in previously seen language pairs.

How to use Patent Translate

There have been no changes to how users access Patent Translate. As in the past, you request a translation by clicking the red “Patent Translate” button whenever it appears in Espacenet or the Publication Server, and the translation will pop up in the language you have selected. And whatever that language is, you should see an improvement in quality compared with previous translations, and that improvement is set to continue as NMT carries on learning.

EVENTS

Boards of Appeal and key decisions 2017

Conference for patent practitioners, judges and national patent office staff, 22–23 November 2017, EPO, Munich

Now in its seventh year, the “Boards of Appeal and key decisions” conference provides a unique insight into the EPO’s case law practice.

This year’s conference, featuring the appeal boards’ new president, a number of chairmen and legally and technically qualified members, will focus on topics such as the right to be heard, new developments in procedural and substantive matters, and priority.

The programme includes mock trial proceedings before a board of appeal.

Target group
Patent practitioners (patent attorneys, attorneys at law, lawyers), judges and national patent office staff

epo.org/learning-events/events/conferences/boa2017/registration.html
Even better IP support services for users around Europe

Europe’s patent information centres ("PATLIB" centres) have been providing IP advice and support locally throughout Europe for more than a quarter of a century. A new project from the EPO aims to put PATLIB centres in a position to broaden and enhance those services.

PATLIB centres form an essential part of the patent information infrastructure in Europe. Together with national offices, they are often the first point of contact for the end users of the patent system, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, private inventors and people working in the academic sector. PATLIB centres are diverse, varying in size, the nature of their services and the fees they charge. They frequently offer significant added value to inexperienced users by offering services that complement those provided by the national patent offices. These include technical information searches, statistical analyses of patent data, competitor analyses, IP strategy development and assistance in the commercialisation of inventions. They usually provide services for all types of industrial property right.

The EPO’s new project is all about improving the availability of high-quality, user-oriented patent information services at a regional level and in the local language. 17 participants, each a member of staff at one of Europe’s PATLIB centres, are working with the EPO for a year to increase the number of centres, are working with the EPO staff at one of Europe’s PATLIB centres to become part of an "excellency" initiative with a view to offering better and more wide-ranging services. - encouraging PATLIB centres to co-operate more closely with each other and with other innovation support networks, both nationally and internationally - improving the visibility of PATLIB centres within the innovation community

The key elements of the project are:

Participants are following a training programme culminating in a dedicated distance-learning course on the development and delivery of services based on patent analysis.

Role of the EPO
As the central driving force behind the project, the EPO is:
- co-ordinating and financing the training programme
- hosting an exclusive forum for PATLIB centres
- promoting the PATLIB network through its website and other channels

Role of the PATLIB centres
PATLIB centres participating in the project have made a commitment to see it through to the end. The success of the venture ultimately depends on this commitment. When a PATLIB centre joins the project, it effectively agrees to work on improving and expanding its services portfolio. This is a considerable undertaking that means the PATLIB centre will need the right infrastructure and staff with the motivation to achieve the goals.

The EPO recognises that all participants will need to perform at their best for maximum success. It is convinced, however, that the effort will pay off and that by mid-2018 a considerable number of PATLIB centres will be in a position to offer new and highly valued services to their customers.

You can use the PATLIB directory to find your nearest PATLIB centre: epo.org/patlib-directory.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the centre</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austrian Patent Office – IP Academy (being established; formerly Library)</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCBC</td>
<td>Sint-Stevens-Woluwe</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual Property Service of IVACE</td>
<td>Valencia</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finnish Patent and Registration Office, Patent Library</td>
<td>Helsinki</td>
<td>Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Centre for Intellectual Property</td>
<td>Zagreb</td>
<td>Croatia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ufficio Patlib</td>
<td>Trieste</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATLIB Sicilia</td>
<td>Caltanissetta</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania</td>
<td>Vilnius</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATLIB centre at National Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre (NIEC)</td>
<td>Kaunas</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATLIB centre Patent and Technology Library</td>
<td>Riga</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwegian Industrial Property Office</td>
<td>Oslo</td>
<td>Norway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluj-Napoca PATLIB Centre</td>
<td>Cluj-Napoca</td>
<td>Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual Property Protection Centre</td>
<td>Kielce</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATLIB centre GAPI-AIMMAP</td>
<td>Porto</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish Patent and Registration Office</td>
<td>Stockholm</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hacettepe Teknoloji Transfer Center</td>
<td>Beytepe</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selcuk University-Selcuk TTO Patent Information and Documentation Unit</td>
<td>Selcuklu/ Konya</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where to find European patent documents

There are a number of products that offer users information on European patents. However, they vary in the detail of exactly which documents they provide access to. The Publication Server, for example, includes fully XML-tagged machine-readable text for all document types, whereas Espacenet has machine-readable text for a more limited set of document types. The reasons for these differences often lie in the purpose of the service concerned.

The table here gives you a broad overview of the main patent information products that the EPO provides and the documents available via each one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro-PCT (*)</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 (**)</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A8</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A9</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B3</td>
<td>partial</td>
<td>partial</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B8</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B9</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Explanation of document codes

- **A1**: European patent application published with European search report
- **A2**: European patent application published without European search report (search report not available at the publication date)
- **A3**: Separate publication of the European search report
- **Euro-PCT (**)**: PCT international application that enters the regional phase at the EPO
- **A4 (**)**: Supplementary search report
- **A8**: Corrected title page of an A document, i.e. A1 or A2 document
- **A9**: Complete reprint of an A document, i.e. A1, A2 or A3 document
- **B1**: European patent specification (granted patent)
- **B2**: New European patent specification (amended specification)
- **B3**: European patent specification (after limitation procedure)
- **B8**: Corrected title page of a B document, i.e. B1 or B2 document
- **B9**: Complete reprint of a B document, i.e. B1 or B2 document

**CCT** = character-coded text
**CC-PDF** = character-coded PDF
**WO** = available under the corresponding WO publication number
**lim.** = limited to re-published PCT publications

(*) = from corresponding WO publication

(**) = A4 documents are not official EPO publications.
NEW PRICES

PATSTAT – new prices and new structure

PATSTAT is the EPO’s dedicated patent database for statistical analysis. Two years ago, the EPO launched PATSTAT Online, allowing users to access PATSTAT without having to install the full data set on their computers. With the experience gained since the launch of PATSTAT Online, the EPO has been reviewing the structure and pricing of its PATSTAT products.

As of 1 January 2018, the products and prices shown in the table will apply.

PATSTAT products and prices as of 1 January 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATSTAT Global</td>
<td>Snapshot of the EPO worldwide bibliographic and worldwide legal status databases, published twice a year in CSV format</td>
<td>€ 1 430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual subscription</td>
<td>€ 960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATSTAT EP Register</td>
<td>Snapshot of the European Patent Register data, published twice a year in CSV format</td>
<td>€ 1 430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual subscription</td>
<td>€ 1 390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that, in addition to the above, data customers will be required to pay an annual service fee of EUR 150, irrespective of the number of products they purchase.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATSTAT Online</td>
<td>Web-based access to the PATSTAT databases</td>
<td>€ 740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual subscription</td>
<td>€ 490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Half-yearly subscription(^1)</td>
<td>€ 250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Subscriptions start on 1 January and 1 July and are valid for six months
\(^2\) Subscriptions start on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July, and 1 October, and are valid for three months

Raw data: new prices from 2018

A new pricing scheme for EPO raw data products will come into effect from 1 January 2018. Most prices will go down and a new annual service charge of EUR 150 per customer will be introduced. For more information, see the price list at www.epo.org/pricelist-2018.

EUROPEAN PATENT REGISTER

San Marino, Monaco and Portugal help the Federated Register service to 21 countries

The addition of San Marino and Monaco means that the EPO’s Federated Register service now covers 21 countries.

The other 18 are: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey.

Available within the European Patent Register (epo.org/register), the Federated Register allows you to retrieve the status of a granted European patent once it has entered the “national phase” in these countries and view all the information together in one table.

Information on the content provided by each national patent office currently integrated into the Federated Register is available on the EPO website.\(^1\)

The ultimate aim of the Federated Register is to offer users access to the status of a granted European patent across all the designated states, as well as extension and validation states. Patent Information News will keep you posted as more countries join.

PATSTAT – new prices and new structure

PATSTAT Global is a new product, combining the previous PATSTAT Biblio and PATSTAT Legal Status databases.

The new pricing for PATSTAT Online represents a significant reduction compared with the past, opening up the product to a wider customer base.

For more information see epo.org/patstat.

PATSTAT – new prices and new structure

PATSTAT Global is a new product, combining the previous PATSTAT Biblio and PATSTAT Legal Status databases.

The new pricing for PATSTAT Online represents a significant reduction compared with the past, opening up the product to a wider customer base.

For more information see epo.org/patstat.

PATSTAT – new prices and new structure

PATSTAT is the EPO’s dedicated patent database for statistical analysis. Two years ago, the EPO launched PATSTAT Online, allowing users to access PATSTAT without having to install the full data set on their computers. With the experience gained since the launch of PATSTAT Online, the EPO has been reviewing the structure and pricing of its PATSTAT products.

As of 1 January 2018, the products and prices shown in the table will apply.

PATSTAT products and prices as of 1 January 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATSTAT Global</td>
<td>Snapshot of the EPO worldwide bibliographic and worldwide legal status databases, published twice a year in CSV format</td>
<td>€ 1 430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual subscription</td>
<td>€ 960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATSTAT EP Register</td>
<td>Snapshot of the European Patent Register data, published twice a year in CSV format</td>
<td>€ 1 430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual subscription</td>
<td>€ 1 390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that, in addition to the above, data customers will be required to pay an annual service fee of EUR 150, irrespective of the number of products they purchase.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATSTAT Online</td>
<td>Web-based access to the PATSTAT databases</td>
<td>€ 740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual subscription</td>
<td>€ 490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Half-yearly subscription(^1)</td>
<td>€ 250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Subscriptions start on 1 January and 1 July and are valid for six months
\(^2\) Subscriptions start on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July, and 1 October, and are valid for three months

Raw data: new prices from 2018

A new pricing scheme for EPO raw data products will come into effect from 1 January 2018. Most prices will go down and a new annual service charge of EUR 150 per customer will be introduced. For more information, see the price list at www.epo.org/pricelist-2018.

European patent once it has entered the “national phase” in these countries and view all the information together in one table.

Information on the content provided by each national patent office currently integrated into the Federated Register is available on the EPO website.\(^1\)

The ultimate aim of the Federated Register is to offer users access to the status of a granted European patent across all the designated states, as well as extension and validation states. Patent Information News will keep you posted as more countries join.

PATSTAT – new prices and new structure

PATSTAT is the EPO’s dedicated patent database for statistical analysis. Two years ago, the EPO launched PATSTAT Online, allowing users to access PATSTAT without having to install the full data set on their computers. With the experience gained since the launch of PATSTAT Online, the EPO has been reviewing the structure and pricing of its PATSTAT products.

As of 1 January 2018, the products and prices shown in the table will apply.

PATSTAT products and prices as of 1 January 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATSTAT Global</td>
<td>Snapshot of the EPO worldwide bibliographic and worldwide legal status databases, published twice a year in CSV format</td>
<td>€ 1 430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual subscription</td>
<td>€ 960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATSTAT EP Register</td>
<td>Snapshot of the European Patent Register data, published twice a year in CSV format</td>
<td>€ 1 430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual subscription</td>
<td>€ 1 390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that, in addition to the above, data customers will be required to pay an annual service fee of EUR 150, irrespective of the number of products they purchase.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATSTAT Online</td>
<td>Web-based access to the PATSTAT databases</td>
<td>€ 740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual subscription</td>
<td>€ 490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Half-yearly subscription(^1)</td>
<td>€ 250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Subscriptions start on 1 January and 1 July and are valid for six months
\(^2\) Subscriptions start on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July, and 1 October, and are valid for three months

Raw data: new prices from 2018

A new pricing scheme for EPO raw data products will come into effect from 1 January 2018. Most prices will go down and a new annual service charge of EUR 150 per customer will be introduced. For more information, see the price list at www.epo.org/pricelist-2018.
Better services for users and the public: 10 years of IP5 co-operation

2017 marks the 10th anniversary of IP5 co-operation. Looking back over the last 10 years, it is clear that the co-operation has delivered a number of major results, the most notable being the Common Citation Document and Global Dossier.

In 2007, when the world’s five largest intellectual property offices (EPO, JPO, KIPO, SIPO, USPTO) took the decision to found a specialised forum for working together, some 70% of the more than 1.5 million patent applications worldwide were being filed at their offices. The focus of their co-operation was, therefore, on eliminating unnecessary duplication of work among them and improving the quality and efficiency of patent examination, while ensuring the stability of patent rights.

Some 10 years later, the number of worldwide patent filings has risen sharply to 2.6 million (in 2016) and it is evident that the combined efforts of the IP5 offices are now more important than ever. Together with its IP5 partners, the EPO has produced a special publication describing the achievements of IP5 co-operation and of co-operation with IP5 industry. The IP5 user community (“IP5 Industry”) became involved in IP5 co-operation at the 5th IP5 Heads meeting, organised by the EPO in Porticcio, France, in 2012. Input from industry has been an important element throughout the story of the IP5, and has helped the offices to keep their projects focused on the users’ needs.

Key initiatives and major results of the last 10 years of IP5 co-operation include:

- Global Dossier: a gateway for applicants to access file wrappers from the IP5 offices online through a single portal, free of charge
- the Common Citation Document: a compilation of citation data relating to a patent family handled by the IP5 offices, available online and free of charge, covering 33 countries and including over 260 million cited documents and 28.5 million citing documents (search reports)
- the IP5 Patent Prosecution Highway: a scheme allowing applicants to accelerate prosecution of their applications and the IP5 offices to re-use available work results
- the IP5 patent information policy: a framework for exchanging and disseminating patent information in the IP5 region
- the IP5 statistics reports: comprehensive annual reports collating patent statistics to gauge inventive activity and technology flows, and compare procedures across the offices

At the 10th IP5 Heads of Office meeting, which the EPO hosted in Valletta, Malta, on 1 June 2017, the five offices took stock of the achievements of the past 10 years and agreed on a new IP5 vision, which they defined as follows: “Patent harmonisation of practices and procedures, enhanced work-sharing, high-quality and timely search and examination results, and seamless access to patent information to promote an efficient, cost-effective and user-friendly international patent landscape.”

For the next 10 years, the IP5’s focus will thus be on enhancing the harmonisation and quality of the international patent landscape. This comes in response to the changing face of the global patent system following the advent of new technology, the growing number of patent applications cross-filed between IP5 offices and evolving user needs.

The five offices will direct their energy towards more harmonised patent practices and procedures with a view to lowering the costs and workload for inventors filing in parallel in multiple jurisdictions. They will aim at enhancing the quality of patent products and services by concentrating on optimising quality management, and will look to strengthen the PCT as a work-sharing platform, including testing a concept that has been dubbed “collaborative search and examination” – a collaborative approach to international searches under the PCT.

At the Malta meeting in 2017, the IP5 Heads of Office reaffirmed the importance of user involvement in future IP5 endeavours and stressed the need to continue soliciting input to ensure that developments in Global Dossier and other IP5 projects continue to focus closely on the requirements of the user community.
Database coverage

The maps you see here were published in Patent Information News 3/2016 and have now been updated. They show the coverage of the EPO’s worldwide bibliographic and legal status databases. The colours indicate how up to date the data is.

The images are based on a snapshot of the databases taken at the end of July 2017. Regional authorities, such as the EPO and WIPO, are not indicated on the maps. Authorities which no longer exist are not shown.

You might come across isolated records in the databases from countries in grey on the map. In these cases, the records may be present in the database because the patents they refer to were cited in search reports or for other reasons, but there is no regular reliable data supply in place (yet). In some other cases, the data was temporarily processed manually and no electronic deliveries put in place to feed the database. This results in fragmented coverage that cannot be represented on the map.

The maps give you a quick global view of the data that is available. More comprehensive coverage information on the EPO’s databases is available on the EPO’s website.¹

Key to the colours in the maps
- Most recent data is less than six months old
- Most recent data is more than six months but less than two years old
- Data is available but is not complete or recent

¹ epo.org/searching-for-patents/helpful-resources/data/tables/weekly.html
Patent Information News 3 | 2017 September 2017

News from Asia

Change of publication day at SIPO
According to an official notice, the State Intellectual Property Office of the People’s Republic of China (SIPO) has changed how often and when it publishes its patents, utility models and designs: since 6 June 2017, laid-open patent applications, granted patents, registered utility models and designs have been published twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays. Legal status information is now also released on these days. Previously, SIPO published this information once a week, every Wednesday.

Official gazette issues continue to be numbered as before, but "01" or "02" is being added to the issue numbers to indicate Tuesday or Friday of the corresponding week respectively. SIPO's official gazettes can either be downloaded as individual PDF files or searched in a database on its Chinese-language website. The EPO provides step-by-step search guides on how to access this information via its virtual helpdesk on Asian patent information at epo.org/asia.

New features in KIPRIS: backward citations and similar documents
The Korean Patent Office (KIPO) has recently added new features to its KIPRIS database (http://eng.kipris.or.kr/enghome/main.jsp). The citation data has been extended to include not only cited documents (“forward citations”), but also citing documents (“backward citations”). This data can be accessed via the English interface by clicking on "Details" and then "Citation". While the section for cited documents includes references to both Korean and non-Korean documents, the new section for citing documents includes references to Korean documents only.

Furthermore, after performing a search in KIPRIS, users can now access the top 10 Korean patents and utility models with the most similar content to a document from the results list. These similar documents are shown as a separate list, sorted according to their degree of similarity to the reference document. In addition, there is a separate search option for similar patents (“sentence search”) which generates a more detailed list of similar patents and utility models. Users can search for the document serving as the basis for the "sentence search" by entering either a number or text (e.g. the text of an independent claim of the basis document).

The similar document search is currently available only via KIPRIS’ Korean interface. However, the EPO provides a detailed step-by-step guide on how to use these functions without any Korean language skills at epo.org/asia.

Singapore launches online file inspection tool
According to an official announcement (ipos.gov.sg/media-events/happenings/ViewDetails/launch-of-patents-open-dossier/), on 24 July 2017 the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) launched its “Patents Open Dossier” (POD). This new online service allows users to access IPOS’ search reports, amendments, office actions and responses to written opinions for published patent applications filed on or after 14 February 2014. Users can also view applications of interest, and then monitor them. POD is available to the general public via IP2SG (ip2.sg), IPOS’ e-service portal.


Recent amendments to the Taiwan Patent Act
According to an official notice (tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=618069&ct-Node=6682&mp=2), amendments to the Taiwan Patent Act concerning the novelty grace period were promulgated on 18 January 2017. The changes apply to applications filed on or after 1 May 2017. Major revisions include:
– The extension of the grace period for invention and utility model applications from six to twelve months preceding the domestic filing date; the grace period for design applications remains six months
– Disclosures eligible for the grace period now include both voluntary and involuntary disclosures; the limitation to certain types has been removed
– The removal of the requirement to claim the grace period at the time of filing

A detailed chart of all the changes has been published at: tipo.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=619390&ctntNode=7452&mp=1 (in Chinese only).

Latin American PPH agreement enters into force
A new Patent Prosecution Highway pilot programme in Latin America became effective as of July 2017, covering those countries which are part of the PROSUR initiative aimed at harmonising industrial property rights: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. Under the pilot programme, which is known as PPH-PROSUR, applicants may request accelerated processing of patent and utility model applications filed under the Paris Convention or the Patent Cooperation Treaty. The pilot will continue until 31 July 2018.

Detailed information on all PPH agreements, including PPH-PROSUR, can be found on WIPO’s website: wipo.int/pct/en/filing/pct_pph.html.

For more news from Asia, see the Updates section on the EPO website at epo.org/asia.
Search reports for Russian patent applications now published in Rospatent's Official Bulletin

As of the second quarter of 2017, Russia’s Federal Service for Intellectual Property (Rospatent) has been making its search reports available, although currently only for patent applications for inventions (kind code A3). The reports can be found in the Official Bulletin of Inventions and Utility Models in the section “Information Search Reports”. The bulletin appears on the 10th, 20th and 27th of each month.

In addition to cited documents and IPC classification, the search reports contain a list of the databases the examiner has consulted and information on the unity of the invention. Recent law changes relating to the intellectual property regime and to the Russian Civil Code, introduced in 2014 and 2015 respectively, created the legal basis for the preparation and publication of the search report together with the patent application. Although the Official Bulletin can be searched and navigated via an English-language interface, the search reports are currently only available in Russian.

An example of such a search report, with annotations in English, is provided below.

"Publications corner" presents the latest statistics on EPO publications.

- EP-A2: European patent applications published without search report
- EP-A3: European search reports
- EP-B1: European patent specifications
- EP-B2: revised European patent specifications

Note: The table does not include statistics on European patent applications filed via the PCT route (Euro-PCT applications). These are published by WIPO and are not made available by the EPO unless they are in a language other than English, French or German. Currently about 60% of all European patent applications are Euro-PCT filings.
EPO Patent Information Conference 2017

Registration closes 9 October 2017
Registration for this year’s EPO Patent Information Conference will close on 9 October.

Taking place at the Sofia Balkan Hotel in central Sofia from 7 to 9 November, it is again likely to be the biggest gathering of patent information specialists in Europe.

Highlights this year include:
- a focus on the latest developments in European patent information
- sessions on machine translation, patent analysis, freedom-to-operate searching and much more
- discussion rounds for in-depth dialogue on specific issues
- training on 6 and 9 November, on topics such as patent information from ASEAN countries, patent analytics and Espacenet
- the usual presentations with practical tips from experienced searchers

Register now!
epo.org/pi-conference.

East meets West 2018

Forum on Asian patent information 19–20 April 2018

“East meets West” is the EPO’s annual forum on Asian patent information. The forum serves as a regular platform for patent information users from around the world to discuss their Asian patent information needs.

Further information will be published in late 2017. For more details, please contact the EPO’s Asian Patent Information Services at asiainfo@epo.org.

IP Statistics for Decision Makers conference

Mexico City, 14-15 November 2017

Save the date!
IP Statistics for Decision Makers is the leading event worldwide on IP-data analysis in the decision-making process. It will take place this year in Mexico City on 14 and 15 November.

In addition to the main programme, the EPO will hold a PATSTAT user day and workshop on 13 November.

www.ipsdm2017.com