Summit gives new boost to Europe's network of patent information centres

At the PATLIB Summit held in Porto at the beginning of May, representatives of patent information ("PATLIB") centres from across Europe adopted a set of recommendations aimed at boosting the EPO's support for the PATLIB network, and further improving services for companies, researchers and inventors.

In his opening address, EPO President António Campinos highlighted the contribution of Europe’s PATLIB centres to innovation in Europe, saying they had provided much-needed advice on patents and other IP rights, particularly to SMEs and universities, for over 30 years. "We can now offer patent information services that were simply not possible in the early days of PATLIB", he added.

Mr Campinos also welcomed the strategic summit as a means to assess how the network could become even stronger in future. "This event is our opportunity to explore how PATLIB centres can play a greater role in commercialisation and technology transfer, to help European companies and researchers to exploit the full commercial power of their intellectual property rights", he said.

The recommendations, developed after two days of intensive conference sessions, are contained in a document called the Porto Paper. They emphasise providing a structural framework for the PATLIB network, and giving more freedom to the individual centres to expand the quality and range of the services they offer.

continued on page 2 >
They include measures such as:

– defining different levels of PATLIB centre and the requirements for reaching each level
– putting in place a comprehensive set of training measures
– providing means for PATLIB centres to develop into IP commercialisation advice centres, and for them to interact with other networks, such as technology transfer centres
– encouraging experts within PATLIB centres to share their knowledge with other members of the network

There are over 300 PATLIB centres across the European Patent Organisation’s member states. Together, they form a pan-European network of IP expertise, giving advice and providing services to innovators in SMEs, universities and research institutions and to individual inventors. The network was formed more than 30 years ago, and the summit was the first event since then to go to the core of its concept. It looked at a major revision of the way it works – an initiative dubbed “PATLIB 2.0”.

The event brought together some 100 PATLIB centres, national patent offices of the European Patent Organisation’s member states, and a wide range of innovation support experts, including European and international organisations involved in IP, technology transfer and innovation.

Together, they analysed the status quo and the needs of PATLIB centres’ users. External experts provided a different perspective, challenging the centres to go beyond their traditional activities and look more closely at areas such as technology transfer and IP in a business context. “This was an energetic summit with a lot of hope [that the PATLIB network will] evolve”, said Sander De Vrieze of Belgian research centre Centexbel, one of the attendees.

Closing the summit, EPO vice-president Christoph Ernst said: “We will analyse what the recommendations mean and what options we have for implementing them in a meaningful way that brings true benefits to all PATLIB centres and their users.”

"After these two days there is a working paper on the table that will influence and even change our work in the near future …”

Steffi Jann, WTSH, Germany
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EPO

1. DEFINITION OF SERVICE PORTFOLIOS FOR QUALIFICATION AS A PATLIB CENTRE AT A SPECIFIC LEVEL
   To provide a seal of quality for patent-related innovation support services for users across Europe, the PATLIB Summit recommends the introduction of a minimum service portfolio for recognition as a general PATLIB centre, accompanied by the completion of a basic training programme for PATLIB centre staff, and of “advanced” and “excellence” service portfolios for PATLIB centres offering services that go beyond the minimum portfolio.

2. PROVIDING A PACKAGE FOR LEARNING AND CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT OF PATENT INFORMATION CENTRES AND THEIR STAFF
   The PATLIB Summit recommends the creation of a package supporting PATLIB centres from their inception and as they develop, including:
   – an introductory package for new PATLIB centres
   – continued support and practical training for existing centres
   – an annual PATLIB conference
   – a central pool of useful material and knowledge
   – an international exchange programme within the PATLIB network and between PATLIB centres and other players.

3. BETTER FACILITATION OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND THE COMMERCIALISATION OF INNOVATION
   The PATLIB Summit recommends defining specific measures aimed at enhancing the technology-transfer-related and business-related aspects of patent information centres’ service portfolios, allowing, for example, PATLIB centres to develop into partners for technology transfer organisations and other players in the innovation landscape.

4. CROSS-NETWORK EXCHANGES
   The PATLIB Summit recommends nurturing intensive contacts with other networks such as, but not limited to, the EEN and WIPO TISC to identify potential areas of collaboration and foster the sharing of knowledge.

5. PATLIB COMMITTEE
   The PATLIB Summit recommends expanding the mandate of the existing PATLIB Committee so that it can act as an adviser to the EPO on a range of matters affecting the PATLIB network.

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXPERT NETWORK
   The PATLIB Summit recommends tapping into the existing excellent expertise at the PATLIB centres by creating a network of experts in specific areas, co-ordinated by the EPO and able to provide training and consultancy for other PATLIB centres and end-user-targeted activities.

7. EXPLOITATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGIES
   The PATLIB Summit recommends using modern technologies to their maximum to implement the recommendations above in the most efficient way possible.

EDITORIAL

Patent information in the Strategic Plan 2023

Many readers will have seen that the EPO recently published its draft Strategic Plan 2023 and invited stakeholders to give their views on it.¹

As I write this, we are waiting for the Administrative Council of the European Patent Organisation to meet on 26 and 27 June, when the plan will be put forward for adoption. These are therefore exciting times for the EPO as we start to see a clear path ahead for the next four years.

For those who have not done so yet, I invite you to look at the plan, especially goal No. 4. Its first key initiative is to enhance access to patent information. That gives a clear sign of the importance that the EPO places on patent information.

Our close contact with users has always been an important element of our strategy. With that in mind, I invite you to look at the programme for this year’s Patent Information Conference in Bucharest and look forward to meeting many of you there.²

Richard Flammer
Principal Director Patent Information and European Patent Academy

² epo.org/pi-conference
Conducted following the implementation of new features and services, the survey set out to identify any changes in users’ profiles since the previous one, whether the high level of satisfaction recorded then had been maintained and any needs and wishes users may have in future.

Kantar TNS Info Research Austria ran the survey on the EPO’s behalf. A total of 314 online questionnaires were completed, and all responses have now been carefully analysed.

Among the key findings were:

– Patent attorneys and other legal practitioners once again make up the largest user group, at 49%.

– Overall user satisfaction remains very high, at 93%.

– User satisfaction with the Federated Register, introduced as a new service in recent years, is 88%. Together with Global Dossier, the Federated Register is one of the most used features in the European Patent Register.

Towards the end of 2018, the EPO carried out a survey among European Patent Register users to ascertain their level of satisfaction with it. The average time the Register Alert service is used for has increased, and the number of users with more than three accounts has tripled. At 81%, overall satisfaction remains very high.

– Fewer additional wishes were communicated than in the previous survey; most of those received related to improvements in how certain information is displayed, the provision of more search options and a desire to see more countries added to the Federated Register and Global Dossier services.

The survey yielded a wealth of other interesting information, all of which will help the EPO to continue improving the service. The Office thanks everyone who took part in the survey.
ESPACENET

Have you ever wondered how to look for "Müller" in Espacenet?
Searching for names with diacritic marks

The bibliographic data searchable in Espacenet is based on the EPO’s internal master bibliographic database, DOCDB. DOCDB has a long history, and over the years the handling of diacritic marks such as accents, umlauts and cedillas has changed. In the 1990s, for example, names with diacritics were converted into versions without. Thus the German name "Müller" was reproduced as "Mueller". Later databases became capable of handling diacritics – and from then on "Müller" would often be stored just like that in the database.

Today, the databases used by Espacenet store data in the Unicode character set (UTF-8). It supports characters with diacritic marks as well as non-Latin characters. However, given that diacritics were not always supported in the past, they might not always be represented correctly.

Moreover, DOCDB receives data from over 90 patent offices, which do not necessarily provide names as originally filed. For example, certain authorities might record an inventor named "Müller" as "Muller", irrespective of the EPO’s ability to display the name correctly.

When searching for names, although you can enter Latin characters with diacritic marks, you should bear in mind that Espacenet will search for them as if those marks were not there – even if they are present in the database. So if you want to search for a name with diacritic marks ("Müller"), it is best to search for the corresponding name without ("Muller") and, if you know that the name might have been converted in a certain way, to search for that too ("Mueller").

In the smart search, the expression in="muller" or "mueller" will find all the possible variants in the EPO’s databases: "Müller", "Muller" and "Mueller".

In the specific case of inventors’ names, the EPO is looking at stopping the capitalisation of the entire name. The plan is to use lower case instead, which will make it possible to keep any diacritic marks.

EUROPEAN PATENT REGISTER

New release brings more improvements to the European Patent Register

The European Patent Register is constantly being improved based on user feedback. A new version was released in May. It includes the following new features:
– URLs to the European Patent Register can now be based on either the EP application number or the EP publication number. Before, only the EP application number could be used.

– The online help has been improved with a revised and expandable/collapsible index, which also includes additional topics (e.g. legal status and RSS feeds).
– For PCT applications, a new event has been added to indicate changes to the applicant/inventor before the European phase (event name: “Change – applicant or inventor”).

– In the Register Alert service, the maximum number of characters in the description field for monitored applications has been increased from 50 to 100.

At the start of the year, the European Patent Register began offering direct links to the Maltese and Moroccan patent registers, bringing the total number of states participating in the Federated Register to 37. For more, see Patent Information News 1/2019.

PUBLICATIONS CORNER

"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.

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Advanced searching with new Espacenet

The new Espacenet includes several new features. This article describes a few of them.

In new Espacenet’s smart search box you can simply type in your search terms. No prior search knowledge is required. But there are cases where it is necessary to refine your search with precise – and possibly complex – combinations of search criteria. This article gives some tips for doing so.

Up till now, when you typed criteria into the different fields in the advanced search screen in Espacenet, they were automatically combined with the AND operator. In the new Espacenet, the advanced search is more flexible, allowing you to combine all the available fields with all the available operators.

The new Espacenet includes several new features. This article describes a few of them.

Operators

You can use AND, OR and NOT to combine fields (see Figure 1).

If you put more than one word in a field you can use the following operators in it:

- **Any** retrieves all documents that contain at least one of the words in the box (this corresponds to the classic OR operator).
- **All** retrieves the documents that contain all of the words in the box (this corresponds to the classic AND operator).
- **=** retrieves only those documents containing the exact phrase you enter.

The proximity operators allow you to specify the distance between search terms, their order and whether they should appear in the same sentence or paragraph.

Search fields

You can now use a total of 22 fields and their combinations for searching. The default setting is “All text fields or names”. Selecting it will retrieve all documents where your search term appears in any text-based field; for example, entering “Smith” will retrieve those documents where the inventor’s or the applicant’s name is “Smith”, as well as those where the word “Smith” appears in the title, abstract or full text.

Simply add as many boxes as you need and choose the correct field category (e.g. “Names”). You can also click on the down arrow next to the category header to open a second drop-down menu where you can select a specific search field (e.g. “Inventors”) – see Figure 3.

The query in Figure 2 retrieves all documents where the word “charger” is less than three words away from the word “battery”.

The advantages of Espacenet’s new advanced search are:

- It is always in sync with the single-line search at the top of the screen.
- It helps you to use all the available search fields and operators.
- It displays an easy-to-understand visual representation of your query (fields are displayed in one colour per group).
- It has drop-down menus for complex syntax (e.g. proximity operators).

Still missing the familiar advanced search?

Simply clear the single-line search box or click on “Reset”. This will generate a set of typical advanced search fields corresponding to the “Advanced search” in Espacenet to date. Submitting the search request will reduce the search fields to the ones you actually used. You can edit and improve the resulting query at any time, with all the flexibility described above.

Try these new features out for yourself: epo.org/espacenet-beta.

Grouping search terms

If you need to add alternatives for a chosen search term, clicking on “Group” will transform the current field into a so-called group, and open a second search field, enabling you, for example, to add a synonym. In Figure 4, a search containing the term “battery” is broadened by adding the term “accumulator” as an alternative.

Grouping is the equivalent of inserting brackets in a single-line search to nest a query part and makes it possible to construct complex queries. The visual representation helps you to keep an overview and spot errors.

Try these new features out for yourself: epo.org/espacenet-beta.
DIALOGUE WITH USERS

SACEPO/PDI – the users’ official voice at the EPO

Among all the official bodies and committees at the EPO, there is one that formally advises the President on patent documentation and information: SACEPO/PDI.¹

Various organisations are asked to nominate members of SACEPO/PDI for a three-year mandate. The current mandate period started in January 2018 and runs until the end of 2020. The second SACEPO/PDI meeting in the current composition took place at the EPO in Vienna on 21 March this year.

EPO Strategic Plan
The chairman outlined the EPO President’s intention to present his Strategic Plan to the June meeting of the European Patent Organisation’s Administrative Council. He said that the President was placing great value on the ongoing public consultation. Since the SACEPO/PDI meeting, the Strategic Plan has been published on the EPO website.²

Data
At several previous meetings, data on the entry and non-entry of PCT (international) applications into the national phase had generated a lot of discussion. With so many patent applications being filed under the PCT, members had stressed how important it was to know their fate. The EPO reported in the 2019 meeting that it had largely solved the issue and that most of the data users were requesting was now available. Members thanked the EPO, saying that that was a major step forward and highly appreciated.

In a wide-ranging debate on legal event data, the meeting addressed topics such as data on designs, supplementary protection certificates, US citation data (especially “pre-grant citations”), data from Italy and data on court decisions relating to patents.

The new Espacenet
The new version of Espacenet was also on the agenda, with SACEPO/PDI members asking for assurances that the current version would be available in parallel to the new one for enough time for them to get used to it. The Office confirmed that it would be preparing documentation and training on the new version.

Users asked the EPO to consider implementing chemical structure searching in Espacenet.

Federated Register
SACEPO/PDI members were also consulted on the display of legal status data in the Federated Register part of the European Patent Register. They liked the idea of being able to choose between a “full view” and a “compact view”. In addition, they asked the Office to look into ways of displaying data on supplementary protection certificates for European patents at national level. The Office agreed to work on that.

List of SACEPO/PDI members 2018-2020

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Next meeting
The next SACEPO/PDI meeting will take place on 19 March 2020. The list of the sub-committee’s members, available online,³ is reproduced in this article so that readers can pass on their views direct in advance of the meeting.

¹ SACEPO/PDI is a sub-committee of SACEPO (the Standing Advisory Committee before the EPO) – see epo.org/about-us/office/sacepo.html
³ epo.org/about-us/services-and-activities/Consultingourusers/sacepo/members/pdi.html
News from Asia

New imperial year in Japan since 1 May
On 1 May, Emperor Naruhito ascended the Japanese throne. The new era has been given the name “Reiwa” (beautiful harmony). Japan uses imperial instead of western (Christian) years, so from now on dates in Japanese documents, will refer to the year of the Reiwa era. 1 May 2019, for example, is 1 May Reiwa 1; in the Japan Patent Office (JPO) databases, this will appear in the Japanese search interface as “R01.05.01”.

The new J-PlatPat: several new features in the English interface
In May 2019, the JPO launched a new version of its J-PlatPat search system, a major, free-of-charge, online source for accessing data on Japanese patents, utility models and other IP rights. The English interface has several new features – for example a greater variety of legal events for trial and appeal procedures, more frequent event updates (from previously once every three weeks to once a day) and an improved machine translation service based on neural technologies (see detailed article on page 9).

Myanmar passes first specialised patent law
The Union Parliament of Myanmar passed the first specialised patent law in the country’s history on 1 March (called the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 7/2019). As with the recently enacted laws for trade marks, it will only enter into force at a later stage, upon a presidential notification.

Some of the most notable features of the law are:
– introduction of both patents and utility models (known as “petty patents”)
– a term of 20 years from the filing date for patents and 10 years from the filing date for petty patents
– novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability as the requirements for patents; petty patents do not have to have an inventive step
– filing in English and Burmese possible; certified translation in the other language required upon request of the registrar
– priority can be claimed based on the Paris Convention
– publication of applications 18 months after filing/the priority date
– substantive examination at applicant’s request within 36 months of filing
– no protection for pharmaceutical products (exemption for least developed countries until 1 January 2033)

For further details, see the EU South-East Asia IPR Helpdesk website (article published by Tilleke&Gibbins).1

Malaysia: new version of IP Online
The Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO) has recently launched a new version of its IP Online service, an IP management system which also includes the IP Online search function for searching Malaysian patents and utility models.

The “Advanced search” screen includes more than 30 different search fields. Compared with the previous version of IP Online, it includes a number of additional features, e.g. for narrowing down searches by a specific legal status, a certain application type (national application, PCT application, utility model, etc.) or even by the next payment date of renewal fees. For dates, users can search for single days or date ranges. The search interface also includes a number of help functions for specific search fields, e.g. an integrated search tool for IPC or CPC classes and a function for searching for a specific applicant. While IP Online is free of charge, registration is required to access some of the search functions, and full documents are available only upon payment of a fee.

The IP Online search tool can be accessed via the IP Online website.2

Singapore: accelerated examination for AI-related applications
On 26 April, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) announced that it would be offering accelerated examination for patent applications related to artificial intelligence (AI). They will now be examined in only six months, compared with the average of two years for other technical fields. Examples of AI-related technical fields are image recognition, speech and voice recognition, natural language processing and autonomous systems. IPOS has been offering a similar acceleration for financial technology since April 2018.

For further information, see the IPOS press release3 and an article in The Straits Times of 26 April 2019.4

For more news from Asia, see the Updates section at epo.org/asia.

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1) southeastasia-iprhelpdesk.eu/en/content/myanmar-passes-patent-law
2) iponline2u.myipo.gov.my/myipo/www/
3) ipos.gov.sg/media-events/press-releases/index/
4) straitstimes.com/business/economy/singapore-to-offer-worlds-fastest-patent-application-to-grant-for-ai-inventions
The new J-PlatPat

The beginning of May marked the start of a new imperial era in Japan – "Reiwa", meaning beautiful harmony. It also marked the start of a new era for searchers of Japanese patent data, with the launch of the new J-PlatPat, the official database of the Japan Patent Office (JPO).

The new J-PlatPat comes with three main improvements:
– It is easier to use.
– There is almost no time lag.
– Everything is in English.

Easier to use
Following the example set by many other databases, J-PlatPat now offers a "Simple Search" on its landing page. It allows you to search by entering numbers or keywords and across all kinds of IP right at the same time. Considering that the Japanese numbering system gives you no indication of the kind of right you are dealing with, and uses the same number format for application and publication numbers, this can be quite handy.

Almost no time lag
Establishing an application’s legal status – for example when conducting a freedom-to-operate search – is of ever-growing importance, and so the demand for rapid publication of legal event data has grown. The JPO is now responding to this demand by providing legal event data almost in real time. An event that happens today will be visible in the J-PlatPat database by tomorrow.

Everything in English
Before the launch of the new J-PlatPat, detailed legal status information for Japanese applications was available only in Japanese. Now, you no longer need to learn a new language, as the same information is available in English, courtesy of a new machine translation tool. There is no delay between its publication in Japanese and in English.

Some of the machine translations might sound a bit awkward at first. Since the new tool is based on neural technologies, however, it will learn over time, and you can help it do so by using the translation feedback button.

Electronic file inspection has been available for Japanese patent applications for around ten years – initially for national patent office examiners, later for the public via the IPDL (J-PlatPat’s predecessor) and then via the old J-PlatPat.

So far, only documents in the file up to a decision to grant or refuse the application have been available, and only in Japanese. In the new J-PlatPat, however, you can also view the documents in the file for different trial proceedings. All the documents are available in English too thanks to the new machine translation tool.

More information on the new J-PlatPat
There is much more to explore in the new J-PlatPat. Guides explaining how to find your way around are available on the EPO’s Asian patent information web pages at epo.org/asia. Alternatively, you can contact the EPO’s Asia team with any remarks or questions you may have by emailing asiainfo@epo.org.
Around the patent information world in two days … and back to Vienna

The East meets West forum on Asian patent information took place on 17 and 18 April 2019

In the famous novel by Jules Verne, the main character, Phileas Fogg, embarks on a magnificent journey around the world in only 80 days, discovering and exploring the “known and unknown countries” of the world.

This year’s East meets West forum showed a number of similarities to that classic story. Once about destinations in East Asia only, the conference now covers almost the whole world of patent information, providing a wealth of opportunities to explore and discover both the “known” and “lesser-known” destinations in Asian patent information (and beyond). But whereas Fogg needed 80 days for his adventurous journey around the globe, just over a century later East meets West did it in just two.

New destinations, “white spots” and a discovery zone
As in Verne’s novel, exploring and discovering new lands were high on the agenda at this year’s East meets West. In the search for “white spots” and market niches, decision-makers are showing increasing interest in lesser-known patent information destinations. This year’s event put the spotlight on the ASEAN region.

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) consists of ten countries from Singapore to the Philippines and is becoming ever more important, including in patent information. In a 90-minute session, users and delegates from patent offices exchanged experiences and best practice with regard to patent data from the region.

While it was possible to access patent information from almost all the ASEAN countries via the national offices’ search tools, doing so presented multiple challenges. Not only did users have to be familiar with different search interfaces, but they also had to handle foreign languages and different number formats, for example. To avoid having to search in each national database separately, attendees said that they would prefer a single tool with data from all the ASEAN patent offices. They strongly encouraged the EPO to extend the coverage of ASEAN bibliographic and legal event data in Espacenet.

Looking beyond the ASEAN countries, participants explored further emerging regions in patent information. For the first time, East meets West included a workshop dedicated to the EPO’s validation states, with delegates from all four (Cambodia, Moldova, Morocco and Tunisia) in attendance. They introduced their national patent systems and search tools, and gave information about their procedures for the validation of European patents.

Representatives from the patent office of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) gave an introduction to some new developments in their jurisdiction. A few years previously, the publication frequency of the gazette had been increased from twice a year to once a month and all the data was now available in both English and Arabic. However, users could still not access any legal status data or examination reports.

Search tools: a first glimpse of the new J-PlatPat
East meets West has always been a forum to explore and discover new search tools and databases. This year’s event offered first glimpses and an in-depth look at various new online sources. In a passionate presentation, Redzuan Bin Ali from the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia introduced his office’s new IP management system, launched in December 2018. It included a new version of the IP Online Search function for searching Malaysian patents and utility models.

A workshop on Russian legal status data in databases provided by the Russian Patent Office (ROSPATENT) and a session on the most efficient use of search tools for accessing prior art from China rounded off the programme.

Patent information and new technologies
As at previous events, technologies based on the fourth industrial revolution were a recurrent theme of the conference. Olga Fedoseeva and Roman Korniets from ROSPATENT reported on initiatives to use blockchain technology for the management of IP rights and to use AI to enable image searches.
Participants also learned about the JPO’s classification for internet-of-things-related inventions (“ZIT codes”) and the publication of a new selection of example cases on the JPO’s website for technology related to artificial intelligence. They would help people to understand the requirements for the description and inventive step applicable to AI-related inventions.

A forum for co-operation, trust-based dialogue and major achievements

Peter Kallas from BASF concluded the event with his personal view on the previous two days. As chairman of the PDG IMPACT user group, he had contributed to East meets West since its beginnings in the early 2000s. He looked back at some of the most important achievements over the preceding two decades, such as the enormous expansion of legal status data, searchable full texts and high-quality machine translation tools. He emphasised the crucial role of East meets West as a platform for co-operation between experts, delegates and the user community that had contributed to the many achievements in recent years. “East meets West will remain in my memory as a place where the power of a constructive, open and trust-based dialogue has really advanced patent information”, he said.

More: epo.org/emw

Looking back on the first year of linked open EP data

In April 2018, the EPO started providing the public with free access to linked open data on European patent publications and applications as well as on its technical classification scheme, the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC). The data allows anyone from data scientists and web developers to academics and companies to combine patent data more easily with other information.

Usage statistics from the past year reveal great interest in this new way of accessing European patent data. Between April 2018 and March 2019, the linked open EP data pages on the EPO website were visited approximately 26 000 times. That includes around 8 000 visits to the application programming interface (API) – which is used to retrieve the data via fixed URIs – and around six million individual API requests.

Sample SPARQL queries and coverage information have recently been added to the linked open EP data web pages, which are accessible at epo.org/linked-data (see Figure 1). A user guide is also available there.

To discuss the EPO’s linked open data with other users, go to the discussion forum at https://forums.epo.org/linked-open-ep-data-102.

Additional charts in PATSTAT Online

The recently introduced beginners’ mode in PATSTAT Online now offers additional charts for predefined statistics. The bar charts show a ranking according to patent authority, country of residence, standardised name of applicant or inventor, and classification. Timelines using the earliest filing or publication date are also available. With these predefined charts, users can create visualisations for any set of documents, minimising the risk of misinterpreting the underlying data.

See epo.org/patstat
EPO Patent Information Conference 2019

Programme available, registration open
Taking place at the JW Marriott Hotel in Bucharest from 29 to 31 October, this year’s EPO Patent Information Conference is again likely to be the biggest gathering of patent information specialists in Europe.

The programme includes:
– a focus on the latest developments in European patent information, including the new Espacenet and tools for patent analysis
– sessions on developments in data, the relationship between patent attorneys and patent searchers, and classification systems
– discussion rounds for in-depth dialogue on specific issues
– training on 28 and 31 October, on topics such as patent term extensions, patent analytics and legal status searching

Above all, the EPO Patent Information Conference is a meeting place, an event where patent searchers, patent office staff and commercial patent information providers get together to exchange views and experiences.

To find out more, and to register for the event, go to epo.org/pi-conference.

EPO Annual Report 2018 – a wealth of statistical information

There is a comparison of 2018 with the four preceding years and a presentation of some of the main quality indicators for European patents.

There is also a download centre offering large amounts of data in PDF and XLS format.

epo.org/annual-report2018