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News on patent, trade mark and design databases on the Internet

van Dulken S.

Much that is in this column came from announcements or discussions at the October 2002 Epidos Conference at Copenhagen.

Britain has launched three databases indexing, and containing, their own court's decisions for patents, designs and design rights, and for trade marks. For patents, the URL is <http://www.patent.gov.uk/patent/legal/decisions/index.htm>; for trade marks, <http://www.patent.gov.uk/tm/legal/decisions/index.htm> (including appeals to the Appointed Person); and for designs and design rights <http://www.patent.gov.uk/design/legal/decisions/index.htm>. In each case material from 1998 is stored with brief details in tables. The actual text can be searched at <http://www.patent.gov.uk/patent/legal/summaries/index.htm> for patents from 2000 and at <http://www.patent.gov.uk/tm/legal/summaries/index.htm> for trade marks from 1998.

It is hoped to add during November 2002 the British B specifications to Esp@cenet for those published from the 1 June 2002 onwards. In the Spring of 2003 it is hoped to make this occur on the actual day of publication for both them and for the A specifications.

Canada has launched DesignPlus, an electronic filing procedure which will incorporate a database. This is explained at http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_mrksv/cipo/id/id_designplus-e.html. Canadian designs have long been a problem area and by the time this column is read there will, hopefully, be a searchable database available.

China's patents can now be downloaded on the Internet from a free site. My thanks to Nanne Kampstra for pointing it out on the PIUG-L bulletin board. The site itself is <http://www.jiansuo.com> but as it is entirely in Chinese most will prefer to consult the illustrated instructions for using it at the Mayall IP Links page, <http://www.mayallj.freereserve.co.uk/china.htm>. All their patent specifications (A, C, U and Y), apparently, can be downloaded.

Denmark has launched a new database at the (Danish) version of its patent office web site. The URL is <http://onlineweb.dkpto.dk/pvsonline>. Hopefully an English version of the site will later appear at its <http://www.dkpto.dk/en/> site but an English language flier explains that it holds legal information and, it seems, file wrappers on published applications as well as data on patent applications from 1982 and for utility models from 1992. Data on supplementary protection certificates from 1993 is also available.

I should have said in my last column, when extolling the virtues of the ECLA classification, as used on the

European Patent Office's Esp@cenet site at <http://ep.espacenet.com/>, that it can also be used to reduce the hit list to actual families rather than to all equivalents. A problem with Esp@cenet is that searches produce equivalents and not families so that a search may retrieve several patents for the same invention in different countries, although all the hits if clicked on lead to the same bibliographic record which lists all the equivalents known, with a single patent number at the top of the record. The record for this same specification number at the top of the record, rather than all the equivalents as well, can be reached by, when entering an ECLA search, adding <not n> at the end. The ECLA classification itself is at <http://l2.espacenet.com/eclsrch>.

During November/ December 2002 it is planned that Esp@cenet will have new features. This will run along the existing database in parallel until they are sure that it works well. There will be a new display format; the possibility of clicking on a tab to obtain Inpadoc patent families (which are bigger than Esp@cenet families as they include all relevant priorities) and Inpadoc legal status for specific patents within the families. The Inpadoc data will only be retrievable if the publication number is known. The display changes will mean that the default display will include company name, publication date, IPC and ECLA. It will be possible instead of using this format to look through a display of abstracts and front page drawings (if available), or through the first page of the drawings, or the description, or the claims. It will also be possible to display as thumbnails the drawings pages. All this is very exciting and will make the database much more attractive. In Spring 2003, Esp@cenet will introduce the ability to search by drawing the chemical structure. This is astonishingly advanced for a free database.

The Eurasian Patent Organisation now has a Russian-language database at <http://www.eapo.org/rus/reestr/> with an English language version expected soon. I was unable to get anything out of it even with numbers and dates but I suspect that it is a prototype as it claims to hold a single week's worth.

France has launched a "Boutique" at <http://www.boutique.inpi.fr/inpiboutic/> which includes among other things priced copies of patents (not just French patents).

Indonesia is starting to get its gazettes on the web at http://www.dgip.go.id/indonesia/BRP_BRM_BPHC.htm. The site is in Indonesian. The patent material is from 1993

and consists of front page details. Some design gazette issues are available as well.

A prototype **Patents Cooperation Treaty (PCT)** full text database has appeared at <http://ipdl.wipo.int/en/>. It covers publications from January 1999 onwards. Not all features are available yet, but the site explains that it is intended after modifications to replace the PCT Electronic Gazette. Comments are welcomed. This is only the third such free database (after the official US site and the German language DEPATISnet site for German specifications). Searches can be made through coded text and the highlighted words appear in blue. Images alone are available for Russian, Chinese or Japanese language specifications.

The various **Russian** databases at <http://www.fips.ru/ensite/> now all seem to be priced.

Slovakia has a free subscription database at <http://data.indprop.gov.sk:8080/registracia/index.jsp> with an English-language version planned but at present inactive. <http://www.upv.sk/vestnik/Vestnik.nsf> has the text of their journal going back to 1993.

All these databases and gazettes are listed on the British Library's patents links pages running off the www.bl.uk/patents site.

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