

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Eleventh Session
Geneva, December 4 to 8, 2023

REPORT BY THE PART 7 TASK FORCE (TASK NO. 50)

Document prepared by the Part 7 Task Force Leader

SUMMARY

1. The Part 7 Task Force works under the framework of Task No. 50 and reports its activities since the last session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) noting some issues which were experienced. Investigation into whether the two surveys scheduled for distribution this year resulted in the citation practices survey being revised and likely conducted in 2024 and the bibliographic information in patent gazettes survey only being revised if the CWS wishes to revise either WIPO Standard ST.11 or ST.19.

BACKGROUND

2. At its ninth session in 2021, the CWS approved the revised work plan for updating Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook, including a survey on calendar dates in 2022. The CWS approved a simplified process for updating Part 7 where results will be collected and published without presenting the questionnaire or the results to the CWS for approval. The CWS requested the Task Force to schedule an update to Part 7.9 on citation practices (see paragraphs 110 to 114 of document CWS/9/25)

3. At its tenth session in 2022, the CWS was informed that the Secretariat issued circular C.CWS 162 inviting Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) to take the survey on representation of calendar dates. They further noted the analysis of responses received which were provided in document CWS/10/18.

4. At the same session in 2022, the CWS also considered and approved the updated work plan of the Part 7 Task Force, which is reproduced in the table below.

Section	Topic	Last Published	Status
Part 7.9	Citation practices	2008	update 2023
Part 7.6	Bibliographic information in patent gazettes	1990	update 2023
Part 7.2.6 & Part 7.2.7	Application numbering – current practices & former practices	2017	update 2024
Part 7.3	Examples and kinds of patent documents	2016	update 2025

5. The CWS noted that the two planned surveys to update Part 7.6 and Part 7.9 would be conducted with the simplified process approved at its ninth session: collecting and publishing results without presenting the questionnaire or the results to the CWS for approval, but instead presenting the analysis of conducted surveys for consideration and approval by the CWS (see paragraph 114 of document CWS/9/25). The CWS will be notified of published results at the following session.

PROGRESS REPORT ON TASK NO. 50

Objectives

6. According to its description, the objective of Task No. 50 is to ensure the necessary maintenance and update of surveys published in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation.

Relevant actions for 2023

7. The Secretariat updated Part 7.1 of the WIPO Handbook with the survey results on representation of calendar dates, which was reported to the tenth session of the CWS in January 2023.

8. The Task Force discussed how to conduct the two surveys which were planned to be conducted in 2023 but identified some issues. In relation to the survey to update the WIPO Handbook Part 7.6 “Bibliographic information in patent gazettes”, the following survey was last conducted through the Permanent Committee on Industrial Property Information (PCIPI) Circular 1246/08.2 on August 18, 1989:

“Survey of bibliographic information contained in patent gazettes and in current indexes inserted in patent gazettes or published separately in association with patent gazettes”

9. After further analyzing the history of this 1989 survey, the International Bureau notes that the main objective of the survey was to revise Standards ST.11 and ST.19, as requested by the former PCIPI Working Group, which have not been revised since 1990. Therefore, the Task Force requests the CWS to consider and decide whether those Standards should be revised before conducting the survey. If the CWS decides to update these two Standards, the survey should be launched in 2024.

10. With regard to the survey to update the WIPO Handbook Part 7.9 “Citation practices”, the Task Force reviewed the survey questionnaire which was last sent in 2008 (see the Annex to the present document) and discussed whether the content is still valid to gather feedback from IPOs on their current citation practice. The Task Force agreed that the survey questionnaire should be updated before starting a new survey in light of the new types of citation including referencing videos, and new data format and platform for citations, among other reasons. The International Bureau, as the Task Force Leader, has been working on to prepare a revised questionnaire for consideration at this session of the CWS, in collaboration with Task Force members, but it requires more time to complete the updated questionnaire. Once the CWS approves the Part 7 Task Force will prepare the updated questionnaire on citation practice and present it to the next session of the CWS in 2024 for consideration and approval.

11. One Task Force Office also suggested that the specific purpose for the survey and intended use of the information collected should be clarified before conducting this survey, especially taking into account that significant staff resources are required to complete a survey. As a result, the Part 7 Task Force will make clear who these consumers or end users of the survey information are to enable the maximum benefit and return from the survey input.

Potential Challenges or Dependencies

12. The Task Force identified several challenges or dependencies in conducting their work:

- The International Bureau is leading several CWS Tasks and CWS Task Forces, and it is experiencing staff resourcing issues to support and lead activities conducted under Task No. 50; and
- There is not active participation in this Task as it may not be a high priority to some IPOs.

The identified issues should be first discussed and guided by the CWS before conducting the two surveys.

Progress evaluation

13. Noting the challenges and dependencies indicated above, the Task Force has not made substantive progress since the last session of the CWS. The results of surveys published under the Part 7 of WIPO Handbook are useful to understand IPOs’ practices, but the Task Force is currently busy so unable to make significant progress.

14. The International Bureau proposes to replace the word “industrial” with “intellectual” in the description of Task No. 50 as the title of WIPO Handbook was amended. The revised description reads “Ensure the necessary maintenance and update of surveys published in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation.”

WORK PLAN

15. The proposed work plan, incorporating the consideration and decision points above, is as follows:

Section	Topic	Last Published	Status
Part 7.9	Citation practices	2008	Prepare a survey questionnaire in 2024 and update in 2025 upon the decision by the CWS at its eleventh session
Part 7.6	Bibliographic information in patent gazettes	1990	2024 upon the decision by the CWS at its eleventh session
Part 7.2.6 & Part 7.2.7	Application numbering – current practices & former practices	2017	update it in 2025
Part 7.3	Examples and kinds of patent documents	2016	update it in 2026

16. *The CWS is invited to:*

(a) note the content of this document and the Annex to the present document; and

(b) consider and decide the need of revision of WIPO Standards ST.11 and ST.19, and consequently the survey to update the WIPO Handbook Part 7.6 “Bibliographic information in patent gazettes », as referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 above;

(c) comment on a specific purpose for the survey on the citation practice and the intended use of the information collected as well as identifying the consumers of the survey information as referred to in paragraph 11 above;

(d) decide that the survey questionnaire on the citation practice should be updated and request the Part 7 Task Force to present a new survey questionnaire at its twelfth session as referred to in paragraph 10 above;

(e) approve the amendment to the description of Task No. 50 as referred to paragraph 14 above; and

(f) consider an approve the updated work plan as indicated in paragraph 15 above.

[Annex follows]

Questions about you (being the person completing the survey): Section 1

Section 1: Your details:

Name:

Industrial Property Office (IPO):

Your function within the IPO:

Email address:

Date of completion of survey:

Other comments if applicable:
e.g., alternate e-mail address

Questions about citation references provided by your IPO: Sections 2-5

Section 2: Citation reference availability: Citation references relevant to a patent document can be suggested or decided to be included by people including Applicants, Examiners, and interested third parties. A citation reference may occur in a patent description, a search report or other location associated with a patent document.

2. Does your IPO publish citation references associated with your IPO's patent documents? In the context of this survey "citation reference" refers to the identification of (part of) a document, not the text or other information contained within the cited document.

Yes No

Please comment if necessary

3. Citation references are: *Select one*

Available to the public Availability is limited Not available

If limited, please comment on how the availability is limited? e.g., limited to type of person trying to view the citation reference (e.g., applicants only) or limited to the part of the life cycle in which the citation reference was included (e.g., references suggested during opposition are unavailable)

Section 2: Citation reference availability (continued)

4. Select the location(s) within the patent documents published by your IPO where citation references can be found:

- Search report Patent description Other patent document location Bibliographic data

Please comment on any of the above mentioned locations, if appropriate

5. If citations are part of the bibliographic front page information, are citation references included in INID code (56)?
for INID codes see <http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/standards/en/pdf/03-09-01.pdf#INID>

- Yes No Sometimes

6. Select the location(s) outside the patent document where citation references can be found:

- Summary information (Internet) End of document (Internet) Other location:

Please specify if "Other location"

7. Are hyperlinks included for Internet locations? Yes No Not applicable

Please comment if necessary

8. Does your IPO give information about a patent document that cites the specific patent document the user is looking at (i.e., a forwards citation)? Yes No

9. Are hyperlinks back to the citing document provided? Yes No

Please comment if necessary

Section 2: Citation reference availability (continued)

10. Does your Office follow the recommendations set out in WIPO Standard ST.14 for the identification of citation references?
see <http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/standards/en/pdf/03-14-01.pdf>

Yes No Partially

Comment, if
necessary

11. Does your IPO provide indications, to the general public, informing about who suggested or decided on including the citation references? e.g., suggested by applicant, included by examiner. Such indications can be helpful for deciding how relevant a citation reference may be. As an example, the front page bibliographic data (in image format) of US 7,353,465 B1 indicates under INID code (56), by the use of an asterisk *, that the references were cited by an examiner.

Yes No

12. If available, where can indications of who created a citation reference be found by the general public?
select as many items as are applicable.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bibliographic data on patent document | <input type="checkbox"/> End of patent document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Search report | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

please comment if
necessary, and if
"Other", please
specify where an
indication can be
found

continue survey on next page

Section 3: Search Report Information

13. Does your IPO publish International Search Reports (ISR) under the PCT? Yes No

14. Does your IPO publish IPO-specific national/regional search reports (non PCT)? Yes No

15. For the remainder of the questions in section 3 (if you answered "Yes" to either 13 or 14) please indicate what search reports your answers are based on:

ISR National / regional Both ISR and non-ISR Other

Please specify if "Other"

16. Do you have quality control on citation references entered on search reports? Yes No

Please comment if necessary:

17. Are relevance indicators stated?: e.g., X, Y (see paragraph 14 of WIPO Standard ST.14) Yes No

18. Do your citation references include online URLs? Yes No Sometimes

19. Are unique document identifiers used?: e.g., DOI Yes No

20. If applicable, which unique document identifiers are used?

Digital Object Identifier (DOI) ISBN and ISSN

Other: If "Other" please specify:

21. Please comment on any major differences between the provision of ISR and other search report citation references

Section 4: Centralizing/Tagging Citation References

e.g., suitable for a database containing data elements identifying the location of the cited text/documents

22. Do you (intend to) add tags to identify citation references?

(e.g., see http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/scit/en/taskfrce/citation_practices/docs/st36-ice-citations.pdf)

Yes No Not now, but we intend to in specify when

23. Does your IPO have a centralized database containing citation reference identification data elements?

Yes No Not now, but we intend to in specify when

24. If possible, please specify any structural elements on which the database is founded

e.g., ST.36 xml, INID code (56)

25. Are citation references from your IPO searchable by the general public?

i.e., can one search the text of the data elements identifying the text/document cited

Yes No

If "Yes", please specify the location where the references are searchable e.g., [http://www.?](http://www.?.)

26. Is the information in the database technically and legally exchangeable e.g., with other IPOs? Yes No

27. Please add any further comments you may have about any of the questions in section 4 above:

continue survey on next page

Questions about your IPO's published documents that may be cited (within a citation reference): Sections 5 to 7

Section 5: Location of published patent documents which can be considered to be an (or the) authentic source

28. Which medium and format represents the (or an) authentic legal rendition (authoritative source) of your IPO's published patent documents? A legal version is, e.g., a publicly available document that could be consulted in court proceedings.

Medium: e.g., Internet or paper

29. Please advise how to locate the medium you have selected: (e.g., specify the title of a DVD and an Internet address for ordering the DVD)

30. Regarding the medium indicated above, is there one or more (file) formats that should be looked at (in preference to other formats)?

Yes No

31. If yes, please select all formats that should be considered in preference to other formats

.pdf (Adobe)

.html

.tif image

Paper

Other

Please comment if "Other"

32. Where else can your published patent documents be found? Select as many as are applicable

Internet

Main Internet address:

Other known Internet addresses:
separate each address with a semi-colon ;

If available, please advise how to find or subscribe to each available source (e.g. P.O. Box or internet address)

CD/DVD

Title / location:

FTP

Title / Location:

Paper

Title / Location:

Web services

(bulk data download)

Title / Location:

Commercial providers

Specify, if desired

Other

Please specify:

Section 6: Availability of location identifiers (for citing later within a search report) occurring within some or all of your IPO's authentic legal published documents (stated in the first part of section 5 above); e.g., a location identifier may be a page, paragraph, or an image number. Answer this question according to your current publication procedures.

33. Which, if any, page-based identifiers do your published patent documents contain: *tick all that apply*

Page numbers

Column numbers

Line numbers

Other

Please specify:

34. Which, if any, identifiers of non-textual elements occur within the description part of your published patent document:

tick all that apply

Image numbers *within the description*

include comment if appropriate

Chemical formulae numbers

include comment if appropriate

Tables

include comment if appropriate

Gene sequences

include comment if appropriate

Mathematical formulae

include comment if appropriate

Computer programs

include comment if appropriate

Other

please specify

continue survey on next page

Section 7: Paragraph number details complete this section if your published patent documents include paragraph numbers

35. Paragraph numbers are typically created by:

- Applicant / Inventor Your IPO *e.g., examiners* An external publisher

Other: *Please specify*

36. Paragraph numbers are recreated: *tick all that apply*

- During the publication process When numbered paragraphs are amended

Other process *Please specify*

37. Describe any special treatment you give to long paragraphs:
i.e., longer than 300 words

38. Describe how you treat numbered paragraphs that are subsequently amended:
particularly when one paragraph is replaced by many, or one or more paragraphs are deleted

39. If necessary, please provide additional comment on any part of the questions or answers given above in this section.

General questions about Citation Practices: Sections 8-9

Section 8: Examples of citation references published by your IPO, if this information is available.

40. If possible, please provide a patent (application) number and a publicly available Internet address that contains one or more typical examples of patent and non-patent literature citation references.

Specify application number and kind code, e.g., *WO 2005/110961 A1*

Specify Internet address and any instructions helpful to find patent (application) number, e.g., *http://www.wipo.int/pctdb/en/ia.jsp?IA=IB2005001265&REF=RSS*

Specify where in the document the citation references can be found, e.g., *page 1, lines 19 and 25, search report at end of document*

Section 9: Additional comments about citation practices

41. If applicable, please make any further comments, e.g., you may wish to comment on difficult aspects of citation practices for your IPO:

e.g., users are confused about the part of a document a citation reference was referring to

e.g., citation references do not refer to the authentic rendering of a patent document

e.g., it is not clear how or whether to state a url as part of a citation reference

Thank you for your participation in this survey. **Please press the "Submit by Email" button below or print the survey and return the printed to one of the following addresses:**

Email: scit.mail@wipo.int

Fax: +41 22 338 7210

Post: Standards and Documentation Section, World Intellectual Property Organization,
PO Box 18, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Submit by Email

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