

## Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

**Ninth Session**  
**Geneva, November 1 to 5, 2021**

UPDATE OF THE WIPO HANDBOOK ON IP INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

### BACKGROUND

1. At its eighth session in 2020, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) noted that components for geographical indications and copyright orphan works were added to ST.96 version 4.0. The CWS also adopted ST.90 "Recommendation for processing and communicating intellectual property data using Web APIs". (See paragraphs 86 and 14 to 19 of document CWS/8/24.)
2. As these examples show, the work of the CWS increasingly involves intellectual property, not just industrial property. Schemas for copyright orphan works were discussed in CWS for many years before finally being added to ST.96. The Web API Standard ST.90 was drafted generally to cover all types of intellectual property as applicable. In some circumstances, Web API responses could include copyright data such as orphan works data in ST.96 format. Similarly, work in other areas like blockchain may implicate copyright data.
3. The terminology in the [WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation](#) does not yet reflect these realities. The title itself indicates that it covers industrial property, not intellectual property. Likewise, titles of parts of the WIPO Handbook, such as Part 6 "Access to Industrial Property Information" and Part 7 "Examples and Industrial Property Offices Practices", do not reflect that the contents already or may soon include recommendations or data that cover intellectual property, not just industrial property. For instance, Part 6 contains Part 6.1 "Recommended minimum contents for intellectual property offices' websites". Part 7 may soon include survey results from intellectual property Offices, as Task Forces continue to develop WIPO standards for incorporating any kind of intellectual property data with technologies such as Web APIs, XML, JSON, and blockchain.

## PROPOSED UPDATES

4. In order to reflect the current coverage of the WIPO Handbook content and future work of CWS, the International Bureau proposes updating text in the WIPO Handbook as follows:

- Handbook title: *WIPO Handbook on Intellectual ~~Industrial~~-Property Information and Documentation*;
- Part 6 title: “Access to Intellectual ~~Industrial~~-Property Information”;
- Part 7 title: “Examples and Intellectual ~~Industrial~~-Property Offices Practices”;
- Text in Part 7 will replace “industrial property” with “intellectual property” where appropriate. For instance, “industrial property offices” would be changed to “intellectual property offices” in the introductory paragraph. However the title of section 7.10 “Codes used by industrial property offices” would remain unchanged, because it involves a particular survey from 2009 that only includes industrial property data;
- Part 8 title: “Terms and Abbreviations concerning Intellectual ~~Industrial~~-Property Information and Documentation”; and
- Replace the term “industrial property” with “intellectual property” used in other places of the WIPO Handbook, where appropriate.

5. Other Parts of the Handbook do not need to be updated for the following reasons:

- The text in Parts 1 (About the WIPO Handbook) and 3 (WIPO Standards) has already been updated to replace “industrial property” with “intellectual property” where needed to accurately reflect the contents. The Part titles do not need updates; and
- Parts 2 (International Cooperation), 4 (PCT Minimum Documentation), and 5 (International Classifications) do not need any changes because they do not involve copyright data or do not mention industrial property specifically.

6. The proposed changes in terminology are not intended to expand the scope of CWS work in any way. Rather, they simply reflect areas that CWS is already active in or exploring for future work.

7. *The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) note the content of this document;*

*(b) approve the edits to terminology in the WIPO Handbook described in paragraph 4 above; and*

*(c) request the Secretariat to update the WIPO Handbook according to the agreements of the ninth session.*

[End of document]