

# Topic 6: Work Sharing Platforms and other Sources for Retrieving Work Products

Lutz Mailänder

Head, International Cooperation on Examination and Training Section

Yaoundé Octobre 9, 2019

# Agenda

- Examination status
- Types of work products/examination results
  - Intermediary
    - PCT
  - final
- Overview of options and sources for retrieval
  - Patent registers (primary sources)
  - Work-sharing platforms (secondary sources)



# Work-Sharing opportunities through patent families

- If same or similar invention was **filed in several IPOs**, e.g. a PCT application entered several national phases, the results/work products of substantive examination for these members of the patent family may be utilized for improving **efficiency** and **quality**
- Types of family relations
  - Simple family (usually same invention; most likely similar description)
  - Extended family (at least similar invention; description may differ)
  - Technical family
- Requires databases/platforms providing
  - Family information
  - Examination status; to check if examination is pending
  - File inspection: access examination work products



# Status and life cycle stages of patents

- Pre-grant phase (before decision to grant or refuse/reject)
  - Pending
    - With request for examination
    - Awaiting request for examination
  - Withdrawn by applicant
  - Deemed to be withdrawn, abandoned
  - Rejected, refused by examiner
- Grant phase (between publication of decision to grant and the entry into force of grant)
  - Intend to grant
  - Publication of grant
  - Opposition, reexamination, appeal
- Post-grant phase (after the entry into force of grant and lapse of patent)
  - Lapsed
  - Reexamination, nullification, revocation, invalidation



# Legal status

Status is related to legal **events or actions** as defined by the respective patent law and regulations of a particular **jurisdiction** 

events > status changes over the lifetime of patents

jurisdiction > different definitions limit comparability; differing terminology

- Essential for determining validity of protection, potential infringements, public domain
- Less important for substantive examination purposes, except for
  - Work sharing: determining examination status at other IPOs and potential availability of work products
- Status may change from one day to another
- National registers as primary (authoritative), up-to-date sources



## Data sources

- Primary sources: each jurisdiction defines how authoritative (official) patent information is published and the respective authority in charge
  - Individual versions/editions:
    - National publications of applications, grants, Gazettes
  - Continuous: Legal status, file wrapper
- Secondary sources: collect data from various primary sources and make it accessible through a single interface
  - Commercial patent databases (often include analysis tools)
  - Free-of-charge searchable patent databases:
    - hosted by some IPOs: Depatisnet, Espacenet, Patentscope
      - Derived from proprietary search systems
    - hosted by others: Google Patents, Patentlens,...



# Primary sources: Patent registers

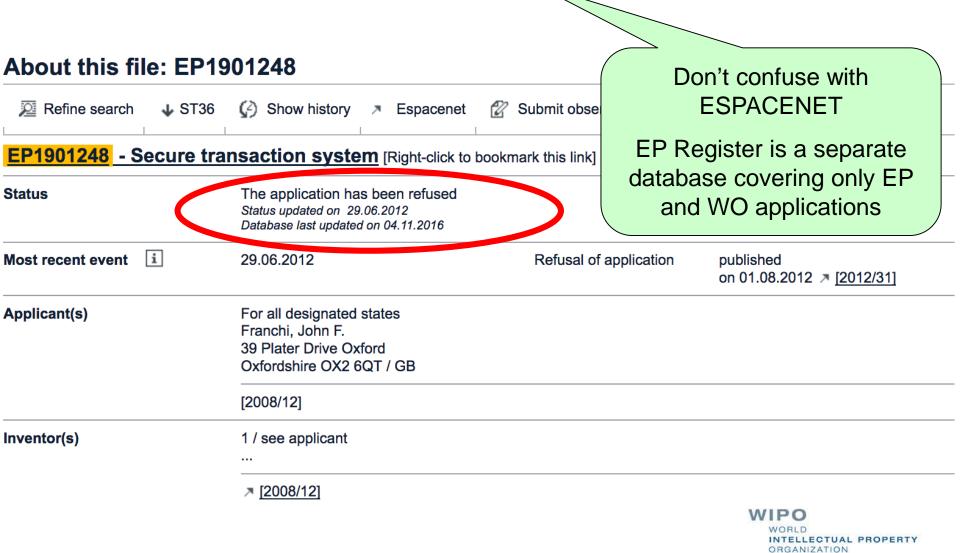
- Provide up-to-date legal status information, i.e. whether
  - application/examination is pending
  - patent is in force, lapsed, ...
- Varying detailedness of data content
  - some include public file inspection
- Regularly updated (daily in some jurisdictions)
- However, in many countries no online register
- see WIPO register portal website



**WIPO PUBLIC** 



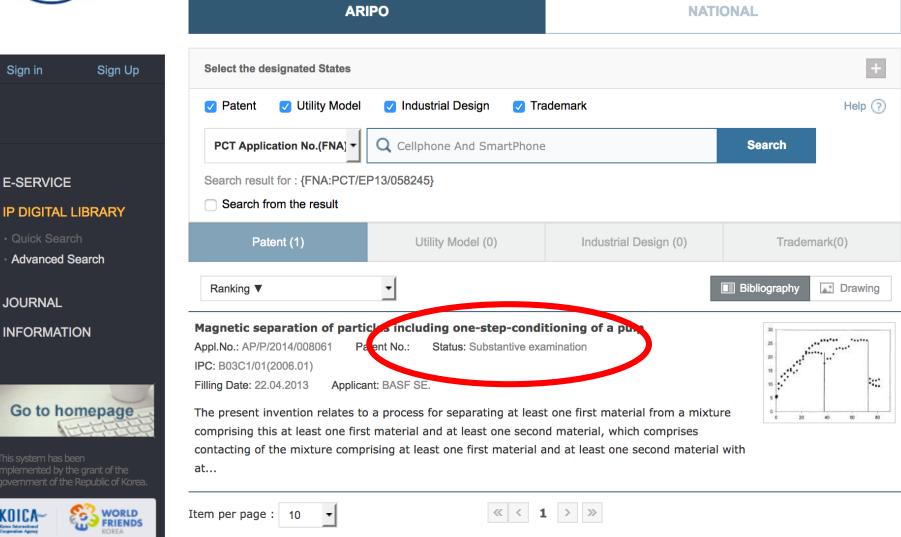
## **European Patent Register**



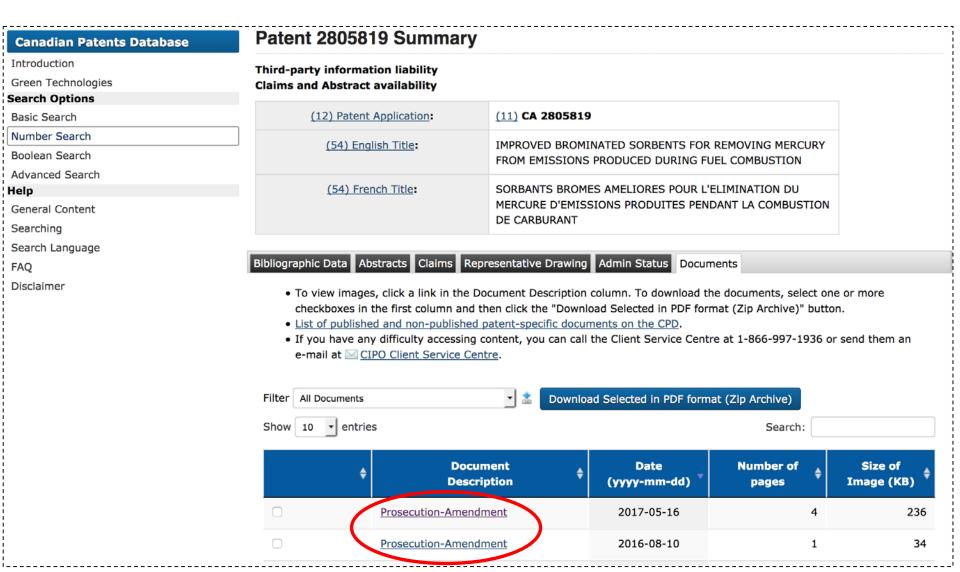


### **SEARCH RESULT**

♠ Home > IPDL > Search Result



# Example: Canadian Register



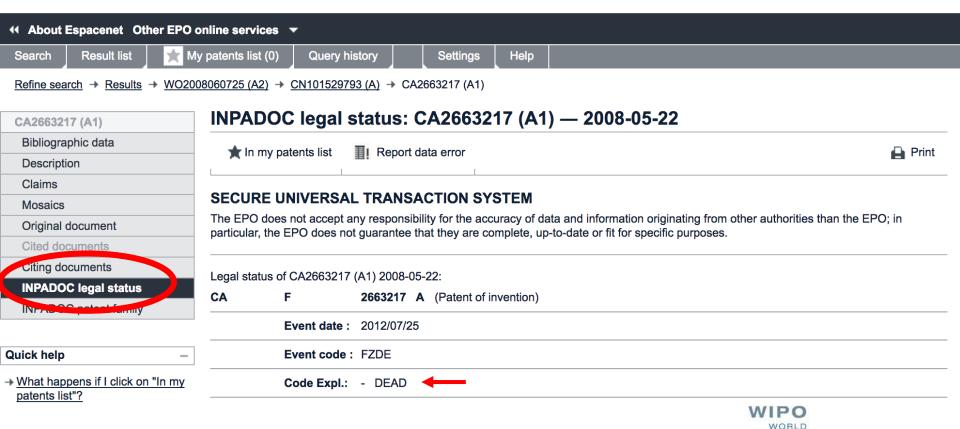
# INPADOC: Secondary legal status source





Deutsch English Français Contact

Change country ▼



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

ORGANIZATION

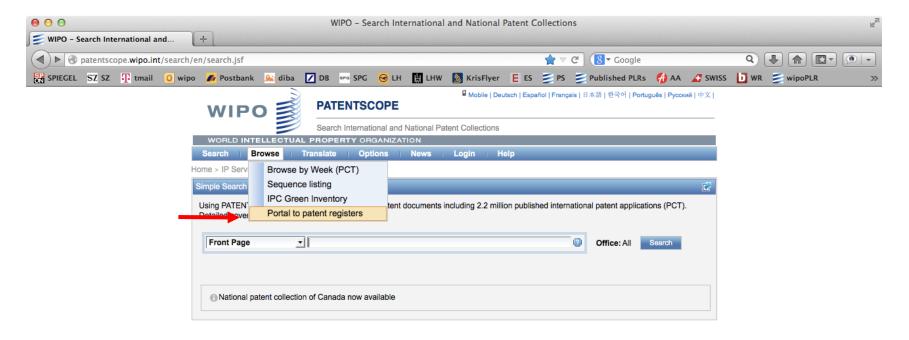
# Secondary legal status source

accessible through a single interface ('one-stop-shop')

- INPADOC data accessible through Espacenet is a secondary source of legal status data because the data are collected from the national registers, (primary) authoritative sources of legal status, put in a single database and made
- Not necessarily up-to-date because it is not retrieved from the registers on the fly, but, for example, once a week
- Only certain jurisdictions are covered

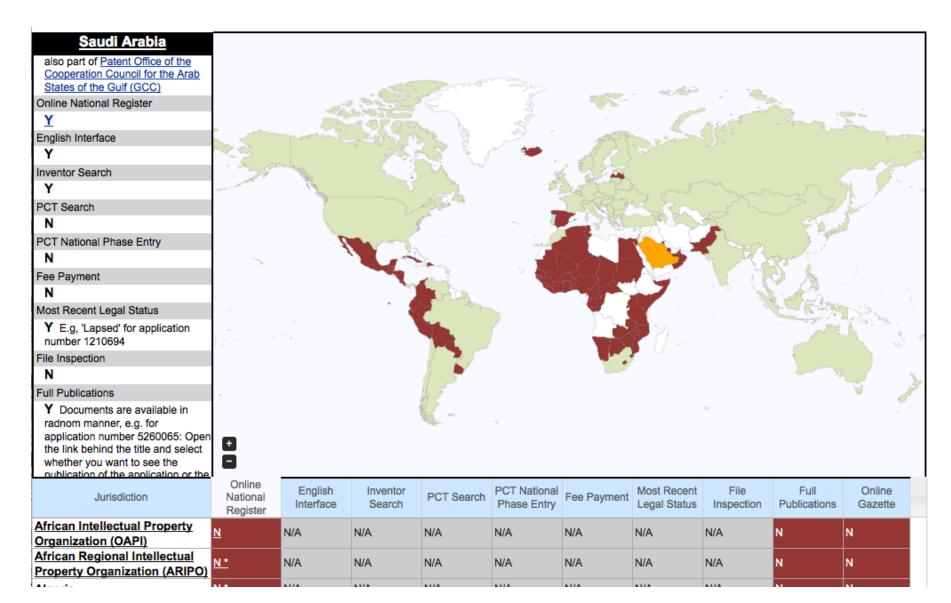


# WIPO patent register portal



http://www.wipo.int/branddb/portal/portal.jsp







# Actions during life cycle of application

## Actions are performed by

- Applicant/representative
- Office officials
- (Third parties)

## As defined by

- Law
- Regulations
- other (codified) legal instructions
- Habitual practice

## Communicated usually in written form

- Paper copies
- Electronic copies in file wrapper/dossier
  - > 'examination work products'

publicly accessible ('laid open') for published applications:

'file inspection'

# Types of examination work products

- Intermediary or pre-grant work products
  - Search reports
    - basic list of citations (cited by examiner, by applicant)
    - Enriched search reports (citation category X, Y, ..; relevant claims;...)
  - Search strategies
  - Written opinions, examination reports
  - Communications from applicant to examiner
  - Protocols of hearings
  - Third party observations
- Final work products/results
  - Granted claims; claims after opposition
  - Rejections; withdrawals following substantive reports; abandoned claims
- Post-grant work products/results
  - Additional prior art from opposition/re-examination
  - Amended claims
  - Communications between involved parties (3+)



# Overview of different terminology

- Search reports (basic; enriched)/Citations
  - USPTO: "List of references cited by examiner", "List of references cited by applicant and considered by examiner"
  - JPO: "Search Report by Registered Searching Organization"
  - EPO: "European Search Report"
- Written opinions, examination reports
  - PCT: "Written opinions" = examiner statements before IPRP issuance (sent to applicant)
  - PCT: IPRP = Written opinion sent to designated/elected offices at the end of the international phase
  - EPO: "European search opinion", "Communication from the examining division" (subsequent written opinions during examination)
  - USPTO: "Non-final rejections", "Final rejections"
  - JPO: "Notification of reasons for refusal"
  - CA: "Examiner requisition"



# Main products of PCT international phase

- Publication of international application (bibliographic data, abstract, description, drawings, claims)
- International search report (ISR)
- Written opinion of ISA (WO-ISA)
  - prepared as part of international search, but deals in substance with examination matters
- (Where applicable) supplementary international search report (SISR)
- (Optional) informal comments by applicant on WO-ISA
- International preliminary report on patentability (IPRP)
  - IPRP (Chapter I) = WO-ISA plus cover sheet
  - IPRP (Chapter II) = international preliminary examination report (IPER)



## International publications

- 18 month after filing/priority date: WO-A1 or WO-A2
- WO-A1: international application + international search report
- WO-A2: international application only if ISR not yet available
  - Front page, description, drawings, claims
  - Declaration that no ISR will be established (Article 17(2)(a))
- WO-A3: Later publication international search report + front page
- WO-A4: Later publication of amended claims and/or statement (Article 19)
- WO-A8: Republication front page with corrections
- WO-A9: Republication of full application or ISR with corrections, alterations or supplements



# Written Opinion (WO), IPRP (chapter I,II)

- WO is established together with ISR but not published with ISR
- Deals in substance with examination matters; presents a preliminary opinion on:
  - novelty (not anticipated)
  - inventive step (not obvious)
  - industrial applicability
- Priority dates are taken into account
- Sent to applicant with ISR
- WO is converted to IPRP (chapter I) if no chapter II preliminary examination is requested, and communicated to DO (30 months) together with any informal comments of the applicant on WO-ISA
- Not binding for national phase examination
- Made publicly accessible (file inspection) after 30 months (Rule 44ter), e.g. in
  - Patentscope, EP-Register, Global Dossier
  - not yet in CCD



## PCT - WO

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes: Claims No: Claims 3, 19 1, 2, 4-18, 20

Inventive step (IS)

Yes: Claims

Claims

es: Claims

1-20 1-20

Citations and explanations

Industrial applicability (IA)

see separate sheet

Form PCT/ISA/237 (April 2007)

Statements (Rule 70.6)

Explanations (Rule 70.8)

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)

International application No.

PCT/US2010/020787

#### Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

- Reference is made to the following documents:
  - D1 US 2002/186921 A1 (SCHUMACHER LYNN C [CA] ET AL) 12 December 2002 (2002-12-12)
  - D2 WO 2007/136816 A2 (MASSACHUSETTS INST TECHNOLOGY [US]; BULOVIC VLADIMIR [YU]; KYMISSIS IO) 29 November 2007 (2007-11-29)
- 2 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1, 4-15, 17-18, 20 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
- 2.1 D1 discloses

an optical fiber capable of being diagnosed non-invasively comprising an optical fiber (12) for conveying a light beam; said optical fiber comprising a first end for receiving said light beam and a second end opposed thereto, a core (14) comprising an inner wall, and a cladding (16) surrounding said core,

said optical fiber further comprising at least one uncladded portion comprising a plurality of quantum dots (26) dispersed in a medium,

wherein said quantum dots become activated by evanescent wave coupling resulting from total internal reflection of said light beam contacting said inner wall of said optical fiber core and wherein said activation results in emittance of light from said quantum dots (Fig. 2c; paragraphs [0033], [0045]).

Therefore, the subject-matter of present claim 1 is not novel over the teachings of D1.

2.2 D1 also discloses

ORGANIZATION

# Summary: Access to written opinions, etc

- File inspection gives access to all communications between applicant and office/examiner, in particular
  - E.g. examination reports/written opinions which are not published like search reports
  - Amended claims
  - Final rejection rulings, grant decisions
- Possible usually through authoritative registers; e.g., at Patentscope, EP-Register, US-PAIR, AIPN, DPMA Register
  - Provide also up-to-date legal status information, i.e. whether
    - Application/examination is pending
    - Patent is in force, lapsed, ...
- For availability of online register access see WIPO register portal (see browse tab of Patentscope) or at: <a href="http://www.wipo.int/branddb/portal/portal.jsp">http://www.wipo.int/branddb/portal/portal.jsp</a>
- One stop shop file inspection portals: Global Dossier, WIPO CASE



# Selected primary online resources

- European Patent Register (EP)
  - https://register.epo.org/espacenet/regviewer
- Patentscope
  - http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/search/en/search.jsf
- Public Pair (US)
  - http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair
- AIPN (JP) (non public, for foreign examiners only)
  - https://aipn.j-platpat.inpit.go.jp/AI2/cgi-bin/AIPNSEARCH
- K-PION (KR) (non public, for foreign examiners only)
  - http://k-pion.kipo.go.kr/
- KOPD (KR) (public dossier access)
  - http://kopd.kipo.go.kr/
- DPMAregister (DE)
  - http://register.dpma.de/DPMAregister/Uebersicht?lang=en



# Work-sharing platforms

**Secondary work-sharing platforms** ("one-stop-shop") aggregate information or enable access to work products from several authoritative sources (Registers)

## **Espacenet**

- Includes INPADOC data:
  - Very (most?) comprehensive extended and simple family data
  - National and regional legal status of jurisdictions sharing such data with EPO
- Includes Global Dossier (IP5 initiative)
  - Access to IP5 Offices' file wrappers/dossiers (One Portal Dossier)
    - always up-to-date because it is retrieved on-the-fly from IP5 national registers
    - Machine translation for non-English documents
    - Status may often be derived from recent dossier documents
    - Inpadoc legal status sometimes include complementary status that cannot be derived from most recent communication
  - Access to non-IP5 dossiers of 'providing' Offices of WIPO-CASE
    - partly operational (AU, CA, ..)



# Work-sharing platforms

## Secondary platforms ...

## Espacenet ...

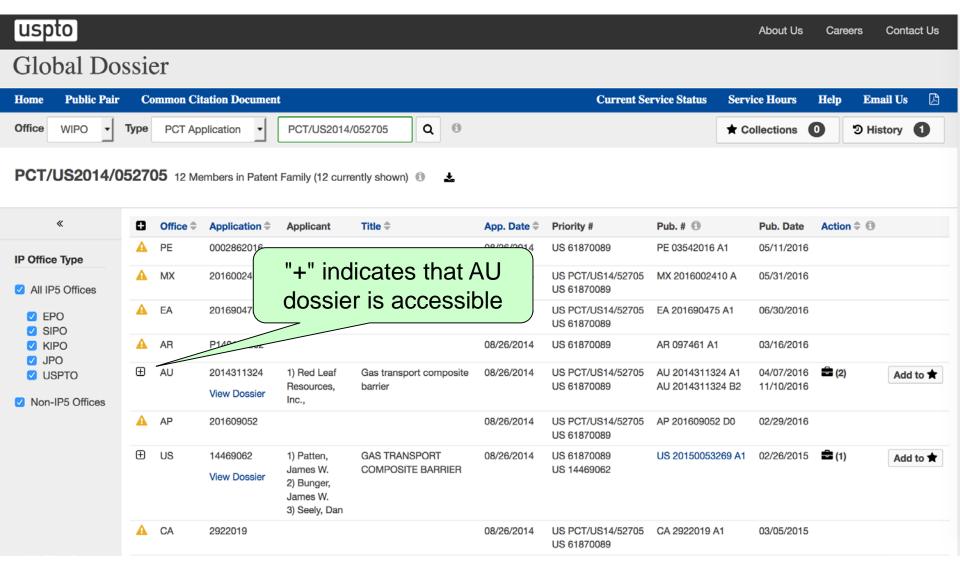
- Includes Global Dossier
- integrated access to Common Citation Document (CCD):
  - viewing <u>and</u> comparing of citations from members of extended and simple families from AP, AU, CA, CN, DE, EA, EP, JP, KR, RU, TW, US, WO, ....
  - 'comparing': which examiners have seen a particular citation or an equivalent thereof

#### **USPTO Global Dossier**

- Website dedicated to Global Dossier (appears to be still under development)
- Access to same dossiers like Espacenet GD (IP5 and CASE 'providing offices')
- presents only extended family information (without WO member); i.e. doesn't permit to view/select only simple family/PCT family
- Integrated application 'Citation List' (under development) to view comprehensive lists of citations from family members (backward and forward); not suitable for 'comparing'

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

## **Global Dossier at USPTO**



# Work-sharing platforms

## Secondary platforms ...

### **WIPO-CASE** (non public)

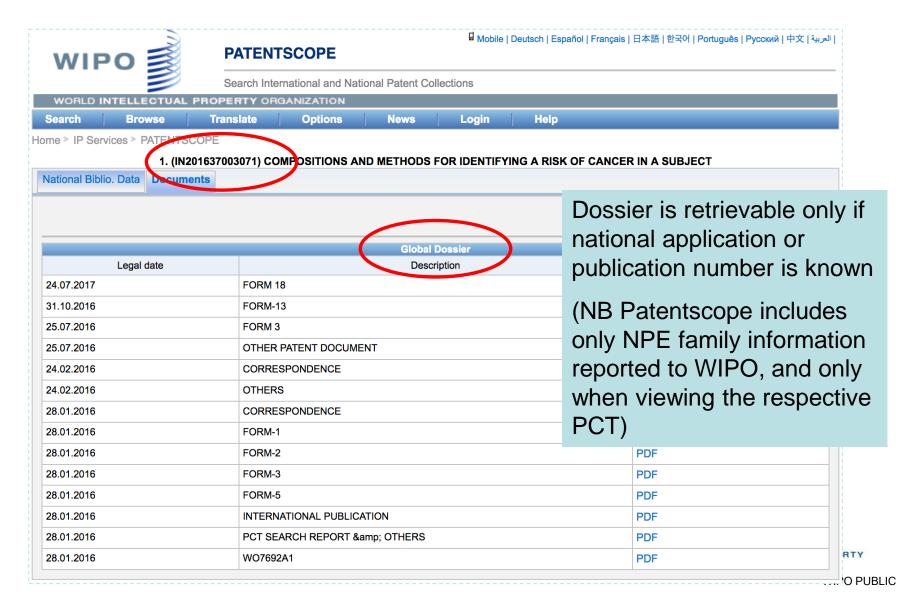
- Accessible only for 'accessing' and 'providing' Offices
- 'providing' offices share their dossiers with other participating offices
- Includes IP5 dossiers obtained from GD/OPD & AU, CA, GB, IL, IN, NZ, ...
- Family information includes only so-called 'complex' families
  - Proprietary family building based on applications of 'providing' Offices recorded in CASE, and NPEs recorded in Patentscope
- Majority of dossiers are also publicly accessible through Patentscope 'document' tab (labelled as 'Global Dossier') and Global Dossier

#### **PATENTSCOPE**

- Access to WIPO CASE dossiers in 'document' tab (labelled as 'Global Dossier')
- Includes PCT family (limited; only NPEs reported to WIPO from Designated and Elected Offices); only visible for WO publications; no separate family building
- No extended or simple families (EPO data are not integrated)
- No citation data



# 'GD' in Patentscope (WIPO CASE data)



# 'GD' in Patentscope (WIPO CASE data)

- Patentscope 'Global Dossier' presents dossier data from WIPO CASE
- Does not include family information
  - Does therefore not permit direct access to dossiers of other family members
  - Requires separate family search, e.g., via
    - Espacenet or
    - NPE tab in Patentscope (if PCT application or publication numbers are known)

pAU2014311324 eWO2015031359 pWO2015031359



# Work-sharing platforms

- Espacenet, US-Global Dossier, WIPO-CASE and Patentscope are (at the present) complementary to each other
- Shall, in future, cover access to same set of dossiers
- Which one to use then?
  - Better user interface?
    - Searching, viewing, exporting, ...
  - Additional tools (comparing, translations, alerts, ..)
  - Additional information (citations, enriched citations, different types of families, ...)
- Many national registers already enable deep linking
- Do we still need secondary platforms then? Or just a 'federated register' linking to national registers



# Thank you

lutz.mailander@wipo.int

