

Cassis Currents

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Cassis2 PRODUCT UPDATE

All of the 2001 April Cassis discs were published with the new Cassis2 interface. This includes:

Patents and Trademarks ASSIGN
Patents ASSIST (March issue)
Patents BIB
Patents CLASS
Trademarks BIB

This was the first time that Patents ASSIST and Patents CLASS were published as Cassis2 products. These discs are discussed in articles in this issue.

We are now back on our production schedule and except for Trademarks ASSIST, which is currently under production, we have published every product in the Cassis series with the Cassis2 interface. Future issues will be much easier to produce and will be published in a more timely fashion. Thank you for your patience during this product migration period.

We continued to enhance the Cassis2 products during the latest production cycle. We have adopted several suggestions that we received from subscribers as well as from librarians attending the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Training Seminar this past March.

The Results tab now flashes bright green to alert the user where to click to display current search results. Remember "Green for Go!" We have also replaced the previous Index and

Help icons with icons that are more intuitive. The Index icon is now an image of a index card file  and the Help icon has been replaced by a large question mark . Keep those suggestions coming!

In addition to enhancing the look of the interface, we have also been working on data. We are working to incorporate the new patent application publication data to the current Patents BIB product. The USAApp volume ID has been added to the bibliographic record display. The last issue of Patents BIB included a document type field that enables the user to limit a search to a particular type of patent, for example, to just retrieve Design patents. We will add the terms "utility application" and "plant application" to the Document Type field.

Accurate patent application publication data should be included on the 2001 June Patents BIB disc. This new data will include Kind Code, Publication Number, Publication Date, and Correspondence Address.

Software enhancements have also been enabled. We have added the option of exporting data with a tab delimiter. We have also created a hyperlinked Table of Contents for the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) application on the Patents ASSIST disc. This Table of Contents adds the option of clicking on a specific chapter or section of the MPEP to the usual text searching method. There will be more information about the MPEP Table of Con-

tents in the Patents ASSIST article later in this issue.

The Cassis2 Development Team, with Ed Vocke's guidance, is working diligently to create and enhance these products.

USAApp UPDATE

Since the initial USAApp disc was published on 2001 March 15, fourteen weekly discs containing close to 4000 applications have been published. Between 600-700 applications are published each week. We have been keeping up with our production schedule.

USAApp will move to DVD-ROM from CD-ROM with the 2001 June issues. The number of applications has grown significantly and it became necessary to migrate sooner than we had expected. With the move to DVD-ROM, there will be no obvious changes for USAApp users.

We have also restored some of the more sophisticated features of the DocDW software that we were unable to do when the product was first published. It is now possible to perform batch printing and exporting. Keep watching the readme.txt file on USAApp for further updates.

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USAPat BACK FILE NEWS

USAPat back file production continues at a steady pace. Three discs are produced and sent for mastering each week. The fourth set, containing discs 150-200, was distributed in May. The next set is expected to be distributed in August. This set will contain patents from 1970 through 1980.

We are now anticipating that the complete back file will be over 400 DVD-ROMs, perhaps as high as 445. When the fifth set is published in August, we will be more than half-way there. 2002 September is still the expected completion date for this major project.

The DocDW team has been doing a great job in keeping up with added production duties. They produce the weekly USAPat and USAApp products, the monthly USAMark product, and the three discs per week for the USAPat back file project, in addition to other in-house processes. Under Jeff Alderson's leadership, Usha Anantharayan, Debbie Askin, Shahana Begum, Yousuf Nawab, and Veda Raman keep this brisk production pace going. Keep up the great work!

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Contact us at:

Electronic Products Branch
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Crystal Park 3, Suite 441
Washington, D.C. 20231
cassis@uspto.gov
Fax: (703)306-2737
Phone: (703)306-2600 or (800)786-9199 (identify yourself as a Cassis subscriber and ask to be transferred to IPD)

Cassis2 TIP - WHEN TO USE QUOTATION MARKS

Now that you have had the chance to use the Cassis2 discs, some questions may be springing to mind. One question you might have is why some search terms need to be enclosed in quotation marks ("x") while others do not. This mainly occurs on the Command Search, not on the Form Search or Short Form Search. This tip will provide some explanations, some do's and don'ts, and some clarifications on when special formats are needed.

There are a number of circumstances when quotation marks are necessary:

1. BRS/Search is looking for periods to denote a field code, so when there are periods in the search terms, we must compensate. Search terms with periods, such as the design search code on Trademarks BIB for example, "15.05.01" need to have quotes around them. Also, if you are looking for a "dot com" you must enclose the name in quotes, "bn.com" for example.

2. When a field includes both numbers and text as search terms, the numbers need to have quotes around them. This includes the Affidavits and International and U.S. Class fields on Trademarks BIB, and the Assignee Type Code field on Patents BIB. To search for International Class 002, you must enter it in the following manner: "002."

3. If you are searching for a term that is also a system command, you must enclose the search term(s) in quotes. This includes the two-letter code for the state of Oregon, "OR," since OR is a Boolean operator. The letter T is an internal code to BRS that refers to the thesaurus and it cannot search that term. For example, if you are searching for T1 lines, just enclose

"T1" in quotes and the problem is solved.

4. To limit your search to an exact phrase, you need to enclose it in quotes. This will override the default Boolean and proximity operators and will alert the search engine that these words must appear exactly as entered. For example, entering "real estate" will locate exactly that phrase. If you had not included quotation marks, the search engine would have searched for "real and estate" or "real or estate," depending on which search screen you were using. These, of course, would retrieve much different search results than those you were expecting.

We know this can be a lot to remember. Except for phrase searching, we have attempted to work around the need for quotation marks on the Form Search and Short Form Search, however, it is not that simple on the Command Search. Each time that the databases are built, we are investigating how we can do the same on the Command Search.

The field descriptors on the Command Search, the online Help entries, and the product-specific user's guides should include examples of when quotation marks are necessary. Please contact us if you have any questions.

SPOTLIGHT ON TAF STAFF

The Technology Assessment and Forecast Branch (TAF) is one of three branches in the Information Products Division (IPD). Jim Hirabayashi manages the TAF team made up of Paul Harrison, Geraldine Dozier, Jim DeClerk, T.J. Nee, and Brookey Givens, pictured in Figure 1.

Getting its start in 1972, TAF gathers statistics based on patent activity at the USPTO and reports on patenting trends and emerging technologies.

TAF creates general statistical reports and selected technology reports that profile patenting activity in a variety of ways including by geographic origin, by year of grant, by assignee, by inventor, and by specific industry. In addition, the staff maintains the TAF database that is used to produce the TAF reports and also to create the Cassis Patents BIB optical product and several applications contained in the Patents ASSIST product.

Jim Hirabayashi began his career with the USPTO as a patent examiner and classifier in the mechanical arts in 1983. He joined TAF in 1989. In recent years, he developed the TAF statistical report pages that are published at the USPTO Web site. He also produced the HTML versions of several U.S. patent classification tools currently published at the USPTO Web site. Jim's background has given him a valuable knowledge of both patents and the classification system.

The newest member, Paul Harrison began as a TAF Analyst in 1999. Prior to coming to TAF, Paul had been a mechanical patent examiner and classifier after joining the USPTO in 1989.

Jim and Paul are responsible for the preparation of general and custom TAF reports and publications. They also prepare specialized statistical reports for the National Science Foundation (e.g., *Patenting By U.S. Universities*), as well as specialized statistics for the USPTO Annual Report, the submission of annual



Figure 1 TAF Team, from left to right, Jim Hirabayashi, Jim DeClerk, Geraldine Dozier, Brookey Givens, T. J. Nee, and Paul Harrison

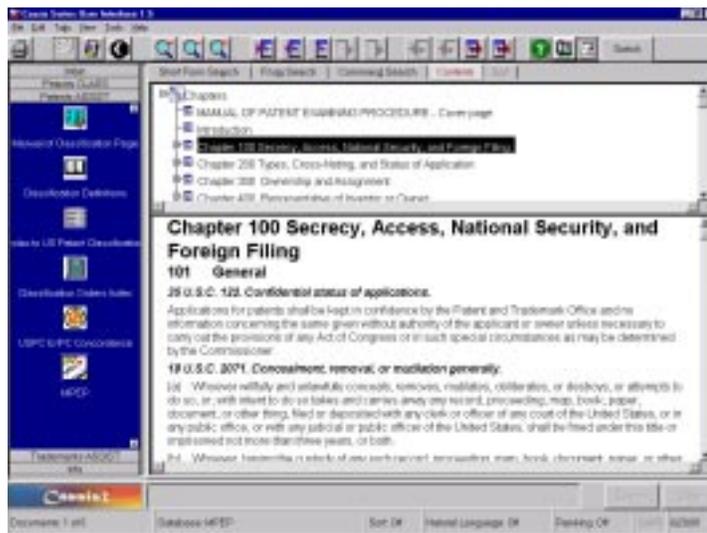


Figure 2 Table of Contents Search of MPEP

USPTO patent statistics to the World Intellectual Property Organization and Trilateral Offices (USPTO,EPO,JPO).

Geraldine Dozier, TAF Computer Specialist, joined the USPTO in 1972 and has worked with TAF for the past 15 years. Geri maintains and verifies the integrity of much of the information contained in the TAF database, including the standardized assignee names and the withdrawn patent file information that is integrated into Patents BIB. Among Geri's many other responsibilities, she responds to requests for inventor lists and labels.

Jim DeClerk, a Computer Scientist with CIO's Database Administration Division, joined the USPTO in 1992 to assist with the creation of the current in-house TAF database (the database previously resided outside the USPTO and was managed by a private contractor). He has ably provided support and administered the TAF database since that time.

T.J. Nee, a software developer, is upgrading the TAF database to include patent application data in addition to patent grant data. Brookey Givens runs the weekly load process to add data pertaining to newly issuing publications to the TAF database. He also runs TAF computer programs used for extracting data from the TAF database that are incorporated into the Cassis products.

Many of the TAF statistical reports are available free of charge. TAF also publishes several other reports such as the popular "Issue Years and Patent Numbers" report that lists which patent numbers were issued during which year. For more information, check out the TAF brochure, available from TAF's USPTO Web site page at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/taf/tafp.html>.

THE Cassis2 PATENTS ASSIST DISC

The first issue of Patents ASSIST published with the new Cassis2 user interface was recently distributed. When you select your database from the Welcome Screen, you will notice that Patents ASSIST has its own button on the left sidebar. This is due to the large number of files on this disc. Each of the files is accessible by the corresponding icon after clicking on the Patents ASSIST button.

There are ten files available on the new disc:

Attorney Roster

CAST Index

Classification Definitions

Classification Orders Index

Index to the U.S. Patent Classification

Inventor-Assignee Index

Manual of Classification - Page

Manual of Classification - Title

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure

USPC-IPC Concordance

One file, the former *IDO Products and Services Catalog*, is available as the *USPTO Products and Services Catalog* in a browser format by clicking on the Catalog icon under the *Info* button on the left sidebar. The *Catalog* is now on all Cassis2 discs.

The development team was able to provide a major enhancement to the MPEP. A hyper-linked Table of Contents has been added that enables you to jump to a specific chapter or



Figure 3 New Look for Patents ASSIST

section of the MPEP. This is in addition to the normal text searching capability. An icon on the toolbar toggles you between the table of contents and text search modes. Note that this icon is only activated when you are using the MPEP.

The upper window of the Results screen displays the table of contents. When you click on the chapter or section, the text is displayed in the lower window. The Results screen tab also toggles between “Results” and “Contents,” depending on which format you are using. An example of the Table of Contents is displayed in Figure 2.

A tip for using the MPEP: Remember you are in a database that contains the full text of the manual. The lower Results window displays an entire chapter or section, which can be many pages long. If you are attempting to locate your search term(s) in multiple pages of text, use the “hit” icons on the Results screen toolbar. These hit icons navigate you through the record by jumping to the “first hit,” “previous hit,” “next hit,” and “last hit.” Figure 4 displays these icons.



Figure 4 Results Screen Toolbar “Hit” Navigational Icons

THE Cassis2 PATENTS CLASS DISC

The Patents CLASS 2001 April disc was also published for the first time using the Cassis2 user interface on DVD-ROM. You will find that this product is very similar to the older product. There are still two databases, the Master Classification File, searchable by classification and the Master Classification File, searchable by patent number as well as classification.

Because there are two separate databases available on this product, Patents CLASS has its own button on the left sidebar. Once you have selected Patents CLASS, select the specific database by clicking on its icon on the left sidebar.

Patents CLASS still contains classification information from 1790 to date.



Figure 5 New Look for Patents CLASS