September 10, 2001

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent & Trademark Office
Attn: Ronald Hack - Acting Chief Information Officer
Washington, DC 20231

Re: Docket Number 010126025-1025-01 - RIN 0651-AB34
Title: Notice of request for Comments on Development of a plan to remove the Patent and Trademark Classification Paper Files From the Public Search Facilities

Dear Sir:

As requested, I am responding to your request published in the August 27, 2001 Official Gazette.

Replacing the paper files with electronic files is fine as long as a paper backup in class and subclass order is maintained. Too many times the electronic database system is off line. An electronic-only system would present a problem when an individual attempts to perform a search in the USPTO's public search library.

To recap, while I support the action of creating and maintaining a state-of-the-art electronic system, I think it would be in everyone's best interest to maintain a paper backup, just as you have for so many years.

Respectfully yours,

Steven Gardner

SG:hn