

From:
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 4:37 PM
To: PTDL_comments
Cc: Turner, Tom
Subject: Questel Orbit (or similar) for PTDLs

I am the PTDL librarian at the University of Maine, Orono. We currently have an account with Questel Orbit for their patent database. This account has been provided to us for free on a trial basis but they have been very kind to make this free trial indefinite--we've had it for over two years now.

I, as well as my patrons, find this database to be far more useful than CASSIS, PubWEST or PatFT. Questel Orbit combines issued patents and applications into one database and includes patents from 85+ patent authorities, all searchable in full text (if the full-text has been provided by the patent authority to Questel), and includes English abstracts for all non-English patents. Questel also allows searching by classification using EPC, IPC or US classification. Questel has in-house indexers that provide additional value additions to the patent data, such as a KWIK view and summaries of the most important content within a patent document. There are also tons of other useful features, including the ability to save and export in a variety of formats, user configurable interface, and raw data export.

I firmly believe that the USPTO should purchase licenses from Questel to provide Questel Orbit to all of its PTDL libraries. If the USPTO can not, for whatever reasons, provide high quality patent search tools, and if the USPTO is going to take away one of their most useful products (CASSIS), then it needs to provide us with 3rd party vendor products that will help us do our jobs well.

I am also saddened to learn that we will be losing CASSIS, that is, if no suitable substitute is provided. CASSIS includes two things that I have been unable to satisfactorily replicate with other search tools. The first is its classification tools, provided by the Patents ASSIST disks. They make identifying classifications so much easier than using the online equivalent, and don't require a lengthy login process like PubWEST. Plus, the PubWEST interface is confusing to most patrons, whereas the CASSIS interface is, while kind of ugly, still very easy to use. The second thing is that I need a tool that allows export of raw data to MS Excel. CASSIS does this very well, even better than our Questel Orbit database. I know of nothing else that can replace this functionality.

Thank you for considering my opinion in this matter.

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