From:
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 7:03 PM
To: PTDL_comments
Subject: Additional comments on the Future of the PTDLs

Please add the attached letter to my earlier submission, which was brought to the webcast on February 15th.

Thank you!

Dave Morrison
Marriott Library
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

801-585-6802

March 17th, 2011

USPTO staff:

Thank you again for the recent webcast on future directions for the Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) Program. John Owens mentioned my written submission during the webcast, and summarized it as one of 'many requests for capturing the pre-1976 patents in fielded, searchable form,' but I had a couple more suggestions come up after the webinar.

Director Kappos and a number of other USPTO staff at the webinar mentioned great interest in 'marketing the PTDLs' more effectively. One way to increase the public's awareness and evaluation of the PTDLs would be to offer regular series of webcasts and seminars, promoted and marketed by the USPTO – and only available at the PTDL! Programs could address the many different needs of the community, from basic assistance and direction for the independent inventor to professional programs with Continuing Education credit for IP professionals. Perhaps the USPTO could offer training for attorneys or agents who wish to become registered, or seminars on professional topics such as the Patent Reform Act and other important legislation; upcoming changes to patent practice and procedure; and international harmonization. As the IP community –and the public at large – learns to think of each local PTDL as local access to expertise and direction from the USPTO, the PTDLs would increase in local stature – and in foot traffic!

Regarding the need for access to expensive scientific and engineering databases: perhaps the USPTO could increase their subscriptions to IEEE, ScienceDirect, etc. by two additional licenses per PTDL – about 168 total – and give the PTDLs the ability to login to the databases through WEST or a new form of EAST, if it is extended to the PTDLs in the future. Many of the PTDLs in academic libraries will already have their own subscriptions to these databases, but are not allowed to offer them to the public due to licensing agreements. Access for these 168 new 'seats' through EAST or WEST might be easier, and relatively inexpensive.

Bambi Walters had two points that I'd like to address, the first being new 'innovation centers' with ties to universities. Some of us at academic libraries – here at the University of Utah in particular! – have high-functioning innovation centers already in place. Ours is called the Technology Commercialization Office (TCO), and it has just made the University of Utah 'Number One in the Nation' for starting new companies based on University-owned inventions! If our TCO and other similar offices were to develop closer ties with their PTDL because we have professional and educational webcasts from the USPTO, they might be further encouraged to work with our independent inventors in the future.

Another suggestion from Bambi was of the great need for independent inventors to feel like they've done a 'good enough' search. Perhaps the USPTO could have a list of 'Registered Patent Searchers' who could provide a prior art search at reasonable fees, or allow the

examiners to do a certain number of fee-based prior art searches that are not (yet) part of the application process.

USPTO has a field network of 'customer representatives' in the PTDL librarians, a network of 'branch offices' that many other federal agencies would be delighted to have. In order to augment our role as the 'public face' of the USPTO, make us the location for programming that cannot be accessed anywhere else! Your customers will value each PTDL more highly.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to this discussion.

Sincerely yours,

David L Morrison
PTDL Representative
Marriott Library, University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT 84112