

Archived News

September 29, 2016

Importing Prior Art Automatically & Streamlining Patent Issuance

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is continuing its efforts to expedite and improve the overall patent process. Accordingly, the USPTO is exploring how to best utilize available electronic resources to provide examiners with information (e.g., prior art, search reports, etc.) from applicant's other applications as early as possible to increase patent examination quality and efficiency. These other applications, for example, could have the same or substantially the same disclosure (e.g., domestic parent and counterpart foreign applications) as the U.S. application being examined. In addition to improving patent examination quality and efficiency, providing the examiner with this information from applicant's other applications will reduce applicant's burden to provide this information to the USPTO.

Further, the USPTO is seeking to reduce the issuance time of a patent by eliminating potentially unnecessary information from the front page of the patent. In particular, the USPTO is seeking public comment on what information, beyond a copy of the specification and drawing that is required by statute, should be part of the patent considering that complete information concerning U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are accessible to the public via the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system.

On September 28, 2016, the USPTO sought participant feedback at a Roundtable on Importing Prior Art Automatically & Streamlining Patent Issuance. During the event, the USPTO sought participant feedback on the following questions related to how the USPTO should efficiently utilize information from an applicant's other applications having the same or substantially the same disclosure to automatically provide U.S. examiners with relevant information at the earliest stage of examination and on what information should be part of a patent:

1. In balancing the goals of examination quality and efficiency, should the USPTO monitor other applications, besides domestic parent and counterpart foreign applications, for relevant information located therein for consideration in the instant U.S. application? If so, which other applications should be monitored (e.g. siblings, applications involving the same or related technology, etc.)?
2. What is the most convenient way to bring an application to the USPTO's attention that should be monitored for information during the examination of a U.S. application (e.g., automated system, applicant notifies the USPTO, etc.)?
3. How should the USPTO determine which information from the monitored applications to provide examiners while ensuring they are not overburdened with immaterial and marginally relevant information?

4. If the USPTO were to implement a fully automated system to import information from applicant's other applications, how should the USPTO document the information automatically imported into the image file wrapper of the instant U.S. application? For example, should the record reflect which domestic parent or counterpart foreign application the information was imported from, the date that the information was imported, and whether the examiner considered the imported information?
5. Taking into consideration the information that is publicly available in PAIR, what information should be part of a patent? For example, should prior art references and classification information still be listed on the front page of a patent?

[To view the Federal Register notice, please click here.](#)

May 24, 2016 - Prior Art Access Regional Office Focus Sessions and Global Dossier Information Sessions

In continuing its efforts to improve patent examination quality and efficiency, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) is exploring how to provide examiners with early access to information (e.g., prior art, search reports, etc.) from applicant's other applicant's (e.g., domestic parent and foreign counterpart applications) having the same or substantially the same disclosure. Accordingly, the USPTO is hosting focus sessions to obtain public input on how the Office can better leverage applicant's other applicants to provide examiners with relevant information as soon as possible. In addition to improving patent examination quality and efficiency, early access to this information by the examiner may reduce applicant's burden to provide this information to the Office. The focus sessions will not explore whether or not applicants should be relieved of their duty of disclosure for information material to patentability not otherwise of record in the U.S. application.

In particular, recognizing the extensive benefits of work sharing such as reducing duplication of efforts by examiners in different intellectual property offices and increasing the efficiency and quality of patent examination, major intellectual property offices have collaborated to develop platforms such as Global Dossier, WIPO-Case, One Portal Dossier, and the Common Citation Document to share information in patent family members. The USPTO is exploring automated solutions to leverage these platforms to provide examiners with access to this information as early as possible during prosecution of U.S. applications while balancing the goals of examination quality and efficiency. The USPTO would like stakeholders' input on (1) whether or not this initiative should consider information from applications or sources other than domestic parent and counterpart foreign applications, (2) what would be the most convenient way to bring an application to the Office's attention that should be monitored during examination of a U.S. application (e.g., automated system, applicant notification to the Office, etc.), (3) which information from the monitored applications should the Office provide to examiners while ensuring that they are not overburdened with immaterial or marginally relevant information, and (4) how should the Office document the information automatically imported into the file wrapper of the U.S. application under examination?

In addition, we will have a discussion on Global Dossier. The USPTO created the Office of International Patent Cooperation (OIPC) in March 2014 to Improve Global Patent Prosecution and Work Sharing. To achieve this, the organization is developing tools and initiatives that modernize existing systems. These benefit the user community by delivering cost savings, reduced prosecution time, increased quality, and the certainty of IP rights. One of these initiatives is Global Dossier. The Global

Dossier Initiative is a set of business services being developed by the five IP (IP5) Offices (USPTO, EPO, JPO, KIPO, and SIPO) aimed at modernizing the global patent system and delivering benefits to all stakeholders through a single portal/user interface. Global Dossier makes it easier for patent applicants to quickly and easily view, monitor, and manage intellectual property (IP) protection around the world by providing access to the dossiers of related applications filed at the IP5 offices. Please read more about Global Dossier and the Office of International Patent Cooperation [here](#). The session will provide an overview of Global Dossier, a demo of the tool, and discussion on upcoming features and enhancements.

The sessions will be conducted on the following dates and times:

Rocky Mountain Regional Office

Byron G. Rogers Federal Building, 1961 Stout Street, Denver, CO, 80294

Monday, June 6, 2016

2:00 – 4:00 pm (MDT)

Texas Regional Office

207 South Houston St., Suite 159 Dallas, TX 75202

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

2:00 – 4:00 pm (CST)

Midwest Regional Office

300 River Place South, Suite 2900 Detroit, MI 48207

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

9:00 – 11:00 am (EST)

Silicon Valley Regional Office

26 S. Fourth Street San Jose, CA 95113

Thursday, June 16, 2016

9:00 – 11:00 am (PST)

Focus session participation is limited and requires advance registration. To register, please send an e-mail to PriorArtAccess@USPTO.gov with the date and location you would like to participate. You will receive a registration acknowledgment and additional information.

November 23, 2015 – The USPTO, in furtherance of the **Global Dossier Initiative** launched the first service for Global Dossier - **Dossier Access**. **Dossier Access** is a user-friendly online interface, which will make it easier for patent applicants to quickly and easily view, monitor, and manage intellectual property (IP) protection around the world by providing access to the dossiers of related applications filed at participating offices.

Initially proposed by the USPTO to the five largest International Property Offices (**IP5**) in November 2011. Global Dossier is a set of business services aimed at modernizing the global patent system and delivering benefits to all stakeholders through a single portal/user interface. Through **Dossier Access**, the public will be able to obtain data that is timely, reliable, understandable, standardized, and of high quality. Currently, the European Patent Office (EPO), Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and China's State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) provide a Global Dossier portal to the public. The Japan Patent Office (JPO) will be introducing Global Dossier in 2016.

The USPTO has several high priority services that are currently being evaluated, including a mechanism for sharing documents between offices. The business services of Global Dossier are being designed with users in mind and the USPTO will be seeking public input throughout the entire development

process. IdeaScale is one of the ways that the USPTO will be gathering stakeholder input, feedback, and suggestions on Global Dossier. The public can access the website through: <http://uspto-globaldossier.ideascale.com/>(link is external).

For more information about Global Dossier, please visit <http://www.uspto.gov/patents-getting-started/international-protection/global-dossier-initiative>.

Global Dossier is available at <http://globaldossier.uspto.gov>.

July 20, 2015 - The Office of International Patent Cooperation (OIPC) will be conducting focus sessions to gather your feedback, input, and ideas on the development of Global Dossier to date and the proposed future services. The focus sessions will be conducted at USPTO Headquarters located at 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, in the Madison Auditorium on the following dates and times:

Tuesday, July 28, 2015: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday, September 11, 2015: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Monday, September 14, 2015: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Focus session participation is limited and requires advance registration. To register, please send an e-mail to GlobalDossier@USPTO.gov with the date and time you would like to participate. You will receive a registration acknowledgment.

July 10, 2015 – The dates for the next Global Dossier Task Force (GDTF) meeting have been finalized. The meeting will be held February 3 – 4, 2016, at the USPTO. While the meeting is not open to the public, updates will be posted following the meeting.

June 26, 2015 - The USPTO became a providing office, allowing access to US dossiers through IP5 Global Dossier User Interfaces on June 26, 2015.