

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Roundtable on Leveraging Electronic Resources To Retrieve Information From Applicant's Other Applications and Streamlining Patent Issuance

September 28, 2016

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Welcome

Russell Slifer

Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for
Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the
USPTO

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Email Questions and Comments to PriorArtAccess@USPTO.gov

Opening Remarks

Mark Powell

Deputy Commissioner for International Patent Cooperation, Office of International Patent Cooperation

Robert Bahr

Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, Office of Patent Examination Policy

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Roundtable Discussion

Michael Neas

Deputy Director, International Patent Legal Administration, Office of International Patent Cooperation

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Discussion Questions

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.)?



Discussion Questions

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.)?



Discussion Questions

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?



Discussion Questions

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?



Discussion Questions

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?



Written Comments

Written comments must be received on or before **October 28, 2016.**

Written comments should be sent by electronic mail addressed to PriorArtAccess@USPTO.gov.

Comments also may be submitted by postal mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, marked to the attention of Michael Neas, Deputy Director, International Patent Legal Administration.



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