

We should question the following assumptions:

- 1). Patent applicants should write the final abstracts. Why?
- 2). Abstracts should be limited to 150 words.

1)

As to the first assumption, we could consider asking examiners (or another unbiased person) to write an abstract that best represents the inventive concept of the invention. This abstract could be added to the record, be searchable, and may eventually take the place of the original abstract.

The two abstracts could be rated by users based on how helpful the abstract was (to searchers for instance) in quickly characterizing the invention. Future searchers would then tend to spend their time reading the higher rated abstract first, and spend time reading the less helpful version, time permitting.

This idea could be studied in a number of ways, including "test marketing" it within a particular art group. It could also be vetted using surveys.

2). As long as an abstract did not exceed a full screen or page, it seems it would not be too long. The 150 word limit has been around awhile. It might be time to revisit it.

Thanks for asking. Cheers,

Bill

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