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25 August 2000

Office of Patent Legal Administration
Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy
Room 3-C23, Crystal Plaza 4
2201 South Clark Place
Arlington, VA 22202

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the Science Librarian at the University of Idaho Library and the representative of the UI Library to the Patent Depository Library Program of the USPTO. I have reviewed the proposal for enhancements to the electronic presentation of the *Official Patent Gazette* of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Generally, these enhancements appear to be very useful for many individuals, including patent agents, attorneys, some pro se inventors, and experienced users of the web.

My most pressing question relates to the continued distribution of the *Official Gazette* in paper copy. Will the USPTO and the Government Printing Office continue to distribute paper copies to selected libraries? I wish to endorse this concept.

There are still many individuals who do not have access to the web, or who feel uncomfortable using computers, including many pro se inventors. I work regularly with many inventors who fit this description. Having paper available for them to consult is very helpful, saving their time and mine. In addition, at the present time, acid-free paper and silver based microfilm are the only tested archival formats for much information. If there is a desire, as I believe there is, for this information to be preserved in stable, usable format then distribution in paper format is a necessity.

Please consider these concepts as you make your decisions relating to the future of the *Official Gazette*.

Sincerely,



Donna M. Hanson
Professor and Science Librarian
Patent & Trademark Depository Library Liaison

Cc: Martha Sneed, PTDL Program Office