Survey on the Implementation and Promotion of WIPO Standard ST.22

Adopted by the SCIT Standards and Documentation Working Group at its eleventh session on October 30, 2009

Note: - The present questionnaire addresses issues concerning WIPO Standard ST.22 (Recommendation for the authoring of patent applications for the purpose of facilitating optical character recognition (OCR)) and patent applications submitted on paper or submitted electronically (e-filed) but having the text body of the application submitted in image form (e.g., PDF or TIFF images). Even if your Office does not perform OCR on its documents, please respond to the questions which are applicable.

- A revised version of WIPO Standard ST.22 was adopted by the Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) on November 21, 2008. It is available at: *http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/pdf/03-22-01.pdf*

- The results of the survey will be presented for consideration by the SDWG.

Please provide the following contact information so that the International Bureau can, if necessary, contact the person responsible for responding to the Questionnaire:

Details about the person completing the survey:

Industrial Property Office (IPO):	(ST.3 two-letter country/organization code)
Name:	
Your function within the IPO:	
Email address:	
Date of completion of survey:	
Other comments if applicable: e.g., alternate e-mail address	

QUESTIONNAIRE

Section 1: Patent filing in your Office

1. Does your Office accept patent applications submitted on paper or submitted electronically but having the text body of the application submitted in image form (e.g., PDF or TIFF images)?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

2. If applicable, please indicate the percentage, with respect to the total number of applications received by your Office, and the year of reference (e.g., 60% in 2008), of the following:

- applications filed on paper:

_____

_____

- applications filed electronically but having the text body of the application submitted in image form:

_____

_____

3. Does your Office perform optical character recognition (OCR) on patent applications?

☐ YES

☐ Not now, but we intend to do so in (specify when): _____

☐ NO

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

Section 2: Promotion and use of WIPO Standard ST.22

4. Has your Office adapted the filing guidance that it provides to applicants to take into account the recommendations of the revised version of WIPO Standard ST.22?

☐ YES

☐ Partially

☐ Not now, but we intend to do so in (specify when): _____

☐ NO

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

5. Has your Office promoted the use by applicants of the recommendations provided by WIPO Standard ST.22?

☐ YES

☐ Partially

☐ Not now, but we intend to do so in (specify when): _____

☐ NO

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

6. If applicable, what publication means has your Office used to promote the use of WIPO Standard ST.22 (e.g., article in the official gazette, amendment of Office's filing recommendations, publication on the Office's website, newsletters)?

Please specify the details (e.g., entry or section of the official gazette, URL of the location where the announcement is available):

_____

_____

7. Has your Office promoted WIPO Standard ST.22 in any other way (e.g., conferences, information circulars)?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If "YES", please describe how:

_____

_____

Section 3: Implementation of WIPO Standard ST.22

If your Office has not yet promoted the use of the recommendations provided by WIPO Standard ST.22, please move on to Section 4.

This Section 3 refers to the applications that are filed on paper or electronically (e-filed) but having the text body of the application submitted in image form (e.g., PDF or TIFF images).

8. Has your Office noticed any improvement in the quality of the formal presentation and layout of the applications that follow the recommendations of WIPO Standard ST.22?

- ☐ No improvement
- ☐ Little improvement
- ☐ Noticeable improvement
- ☐ Much improvement

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

9. Has your Office noticed any improvement in the OCR quality output that resulted from the applicants' awareness of WIPO Standard ST.22?

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

If applicable, please indicate an estimation of the improvement:

- ☐ No improvement
- ☐ Little improvement
- ☐ Noticeable improvement
- ☐ Much improvement

If applicable, could you please quantify the improvement?

_____

_____

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

10. Has your Office noticed any decrease in the OCR costs that have resulted from the applicants' awareness of WIPO Standard ST.22?

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

If applicable, please indicate an estimation of the improvement:

- ☐ No decrease
- ☐ Little decrease
- ☐ Noticeable decrease
- ☐ Much decrease

If applicable, could you please quantify the improvement?

_____

_____

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

11. Does your Office use the non-conformity to WIPO Standard ST.22 as a reason to request replacement sheets of the application?

- ☐ YES
- ☐ Not now, but we intend to do so in (specify when): _____
- ☐ NO

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

12. If applicable, please indicate the percentage of applications for which replacement sheets are requested with respect to the total number of applications (filed on paper or e-filed) having the text body of the application submitted in image form, and the period of time of reference (e.g., 15% in the first half of 2009):

Percentage:

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

13. Does your Office have the intention to take into account, for the calculation of fees, the level of compliance with WIPO Standard ST.22 of the applications filed on paper or e-filed but having the text body of the application submitted in image form?

- ☐ YES
- ☐ Not now, but we intend to do so in (specify when): _____
- ☐ NO

If applicable, please explain how:

_____

_____

Section 4: OCR practices of IPOs

14. If your answer to Question 3 was "Yes", please indicate if the following purposes are applicable and, if "Yes", the accuracy requirements established by your Office:

a) Security screening of patent applications

☐ YES Accuracy requirements: _____

☐ NO _____

b) Publication of the patent application

☐ YES Accuracy requirements: _____

☐ NO _____

c) Publication of the granted patents

☐ YES Accuracy requirements: _____

☐ NO _____

d) Please indicate other purpose(s) and corresponding accuracy requirements if necessary:

_____

_____

15. Does your Office have in-house quality checking measures in place to control the quality of the OCRed patent documents?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If applicable, please provide a concise description of the measures (e.g., refer to the relative automation of the quality checking indicating if it comprises the review by staff of randomly selected output, and/or if it is based on the accuracy confidence metrics produced by the OCR software):

_____

_____

16. Does your Office OCR patent documents in foreign languages?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If applicable, please indicate which foreign language(s):

_____

_____

17. Does your Office outsource the OCR of patent documents?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If "YES", at what stage(s) of the procedure does your Office forward the patent documents to the external contractor?

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

18. If you answered "Yes" to the previous Question:

(a) If applicable, please indicate any comments or feedback that your Office might have received from the contractor about the recommendations of WIPO Standard ST.22:

_____

_____

(b) Please also describe the quality checking measures used to control the quality of the OCRed patent documents that are performed by your contractor:

_____

_____

(c) If your answer to Questions 4, 8 or 13 was "Yes", please indicate whether your Office has renegotiated, or intends to renegotiate, the service contract with its contractor as a consequence of the adoption of the revised version of WIPO Standard ST.22 by the Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) on November 21, 2008:

☐ YES

☐ NO

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

Section 5: Software and hardware used to OCR

19. What software tools does your Office, or its contractor, use to perform the OCR of patent documents?

_____

_____

20. Has your Office, or its contractor, developed OCR software extensions specific to patent documents?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If applicable, please provide a concise description of the specific features:

_____

_____

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

21. What hardware does your Office, or its contractor, use to perform the OCR of patent documents?

_____

_____

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

Section 6: Workflow

22. Please describe the workflow for the OCR of your patent documents:

_____

_____

23. Does your Office itself check the quality of its OCRed patent documents?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If "Yes", please provide a concise description of how the quality check is carried out:

_____

_____

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

24. Please describe how your Office handles patent documents found to be defective later in the process (e.g., after publication?):

_____

_____

25. Please provide a concise response to the following issues concerning the storage of OCRed patent documents:

(a) Format(s) in which your Office stores the OCRed patent documents:

_____

_____

(b) Does the storage format(s) used by your Office allow for later quality improvements either by your Office or by external contractors?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

(c) Does the storage format used by your Office allow for quick identification of patent documents with OCR defects?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

(d) Does the storage format used by your Office allow for different renditions to view or exchange the OCRed patent documents (e.g., PDF, HTML)?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

(e) Does the storage format used by your Office retain all the raw detailed information obtained from the OCR process (e.g., individual character accuracy estimation, position in image, etc.)?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Please comment if necessary: _____

_____

(f) Does the storage format used by your Office capture, in text format, table contents, and mathematical and chemical formulae?

_____

_____

26. Is the OCR of patent documents also used to increase the efficiency of the work of the Office, (e.g., bibliographic data input from paper applications can be considerably speeded up with accurate OCR)?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If "Yes", please provide a concise description of specific features indicating how the efficiency is increased:

_____

_____

27. Does your Office OCR documents other than patent documents?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If "Yes", please indicate which documents:

_____

_____

28. If it is known by your Office, please provide a description of the usages by your customers of the documents OCRed by your Office (e.g., internal office patent application searches by examiners, Internet patent application searches by the public, electronic products sold to private subscribers, etc.):

_____

_____

29. Does your Office use OCRed patent documents provided by other offices?

☐ YES

☐ NO

If "Yes", please indicate from which office(s) and for which documents, formats and purposes:

_____

_____

Section 7: Additional comments

30. Please provide further comments regarding the implementation and promotion of WIPO Standard ST.22, as well as OCR practices of your Office, if you feel it is necessary:

_____

_____

[End of Questionnaire]