Survey Concerning Citation Practices in Intellectual Property Offices

Response ID:221 Data

2. Section 1: Identification page

1. Please enter the ST.3 code of the member state or inter-governmental organization you represent.

AT - Austria

2. Please enter the name of the office or organization you represent. For instance, International Bureau of WIPO.
If your organization name is the same as your ST.3 code name, you may put "n/a".

Austrian Patent Office (APO)

3. Questions about citation references provided by your Office: Sections 2 to 4

Section 2: Citation reference availability

5. Does your Office publish citation references associated with your Office's patent documents?

Yes
Please comment if necessary:

6. Select one option describing the availability, to the public, of your Office's citation references.

Available to the public

7. In which of the following location(s) associated with patent documents, published by your Office, can citation references be found?

Substantive search and/or examination report
Patent description
Bibliographic data
Please comment on any of the above mentioned locations, if appropriate:

8. If citation references are part of the bibliographic front page information, are they included in INID code (56)?

Yes

9. Beyond the locations listed as options in question 7 above, select the location(s) outside the patent document where citation references can be found:

Summary information (Internet)
E-Dossier/File wrapper
Other location (Please provide details): We are currently keeping both E-Dossiers and paper dossiers for our patent documents. It is planned for the future to discontinue the paper dossier.

10. Are hyperlinks included for the above Internet locations?

No
Please comment if necessary:

11. Does your Office give information about a patent document that cites the specific patent document the user is looking at (i.e., a forward citation)?

No

12. Are hyperlinks to the citing document provided?

No
Please comment if necessary:

13. Does your Office follow the recommendations set out in WIPO Standard ST.14 for the identification of citation references?

Yes
Please comment if necessary:

14. Does your Office provide indications, to the general public, informing about who suggested or decided on including the citation references?

No

If available, where can indications of who created a citation reference be found by the general public?

Please comment if necessary:

4. Section 3: Search Report Information

15. Does your Office prepare international search reports (ISRs) in the capacity as an International Searching Authority under the PCT?

Yes

5. Section 3: Search Report Information

16. Do you have quality control on citation references entered on search reports?

Yes (Please provide examples in detail): A thorough quality check is performed on each PCT file. This includes scrutinizing for correct WIPO Standard ST.14 citation.
Please comment if necessary::

17. Do your citation references include online URLs?

Sometimes (specify when): When a cited document is an NPL document

18. Are unique document identifiers used, e.g., DOI?

Sometimes (Specify when): For scientific publications, we try to provide a DOI, in conformity with the recommendations of WIPO Standard ST.14, for books/textbooks, ISBN/ISSN are provided. As of June 2026 we offer the possibility of assigning a patent document a DOI upon request. This was implemented in response to a request from an Austrian university.

If applicable, which unique document identifiers are used?

Digital Object Identifier (DOI)
ISBN and ISSN

6. Section 3: Search Report Information

19. Does your Office prepare Office-specific national/regional search reports (non PCT)?

Yes

7. Section 3: Search Report Information

20. Do you have quality control on citation references entered on search reports?

Yes (Please provide examples in detail): In general WIPO Standard ST.14 citation practice is followed. The quality check also checks whether conformity with ST.14 was achieved.
Please comment if necessary::

21. Are relevance indicators stated?

Yes

22. Do your citation references include online URLs?

Sometimes (Specify when): Only for cited NPL

23. Are unique document identifiers used, e.g., DOI?

Sometimes (Specify when): For scientific publications, we try to provide a DOI, in conformity with the recommendations of WIPO Standard ST.14, for books/textbooks, ISBN/ISSN are provided. As of June 2026 we offer the possibility of assigning a patent document a DOI upon request. This was implemented in response to a request from an Austrian university.

If applicable, which unique document identifiers are used?

Digital Object Identifier (DOI)
ISBN and ISSN
Other (please specify): Rarely XP numbers (from the EPO) are used

8. Section 3: Search Report Information

24. Please comment on any major differences between the provision of ISR and other search report citation references if any

Only the language and the date format differ.

9. Section 4: Centralizing/Tagging Citation References

25. Do you (intend to) add tags to identify citation references?

No

26. Does your Office have a centralized database containing citation reference identification data elements?

Yes

If possible, please specify any structural elements on which the database is founded, for example:

Relational database:
Other (please specify): INID code (56); Reference citations included in search reports or under INID code (56) are stored in a centralized SQL database

Is the information in the database technically and legally exchangeable e.g., with other Offices?

Yes

27. Are citation references from your Office searchable by the general public?

No

28. Please add any further comments you may have about any of the questions in section 4 above:

10. Questions about your Office's published documents that may be cited (within a citation reference): Sections 5 to 7
Section 5: Location of published patent documents which can be considered to be an (or the) authentic source

29. Which mediums represents the (or an) authentic legal rendition (authoritative source) of your Office's published patent application?

Website (if multiple website separate each address with a semi- colon ";"): https://see-ip.patentamt.at/patentsuche

30. Which mediums represents the (or an) authentic legal rendition (authoritative source) of your IPO's published granted patents?

Website (if multiple website separate each address with a semi- colon ";"): https://see-ip.patentamt.at/patentsuche

31. Regarding the medium indicated above, is there one or more (file) formats that should be looked at (in preference to other formats)?

Yes

If yes, please select all formats that should be considered in preference to other formats

.pdf (Adobe)
.xml

32. Is your Office using commercial providers for publishing patent documents?

No

11. Section 6: Availability of location identifiers

33. Which, if any, text- based identifiers do your published patent documents contain:

Page numbers
Paragraph numbers
Other (Please specify): Obviously claim enummeration and in a PDF bookmarks for the main parts of the patent document

34. Which, if any, identifiers of non-textual elements occur within the description part of your published patent document:

Image/figure numbers within the description: As "Fig. 1" or "Figur 1"
Chemical formula numbers:
Tables:
Gene sequences:
Mathematical formulas:
Computer programs:
Webpage identifiers (URL with heading/section reference):

12. Section 7: Paragraph number details

35. Does your published patent documents include paragraph numbers?

Yes

13. Section 7: Paragraph number details

36. Paragraph numbers are typically created by:

Your Office e.g., examiners

37. Paragraph numbers are recreated:

When numbered paragraphs are amended

38. Describe any special treatment you give to long paragraphs:

39. Describe how you treat numbered paragraphs that are subsequently amended:

Subsequent paragraphs re-numbered

40. If necessary, please provide additional comment on any part of the questions or answers given above in this section.

14. Section 8: Citing documents based on machine translations

41. Does your Office currently allow to cite machine-translated documents in search or examination reports?

Yes

15. Section 8: Citing documents based on machine translations

42. When citing a document without paragraph numbering, how does your Office identify the relevant passage in the machine translation?

When no parapgraph numbering is provided, the next degree of granularity (e.g. section, subsection, chapter, subchapter) is used.

43. How does your Office ensure that applicants can access the exact machine translation used by your Office?

Other (Please specify): Since our office's search tool is the EPO's ANSERA-based Search, mostly the content from AbS is identical to that available on Espacenet, which is readily available for the general public

44. Does your Office record or store the machine translation used by the examiner for internal or public reference?

No

45. Does your Office have a preferred format for citing machine translations in search or examination reports?

Yes (Please provide example): We use the WIPO Standard ST.14 format for translations: "(translated) [online] [retrieved on YYYY-MM-DD]. Retrieved from KIME"

46. Has your Office encountered cases where an applicant disputed the relevance of a citation based on a machine translation?

No

47. Should there be a standardized method for referencing the machine translation engine and date of translation in the international search report?

Yes

48. Should WIPO Standard ST.14 be revised to include recommendation on how references to machine translations should be cited in a patent document?

Yes

16. General questions about Citation Practices: Sections 9-10
Section 9: Examples of citation references published by your Office, if this information is available.

49. If possible, please provide a patent (application) number and a publicly available internet address that contains one or more typical examples of patent and non-patent literature citation references.

Specify application number and kind code, e.g., WO 2005/110961 A1 : A 236/2020; AT524365A1
Specify Internet address and any instructions helpful to find patent (application) number, e.g., IA=IB2005001265&REF=RSS : https://see-ip.patentamt.at/patentsuche (usage self-explanatory) - this new version of see-ip was launched a few weeks ago
Specify where in the document the citation references can be found, e.g., page 1, lines 19 and 25, search report at end of document : page 37

17. Section 10: Additional comments about citation practices

50. If applicable, please make any further comments, e.g., you may wish to comment on difficult aspects of citation practices for your IPO: