Survey Concerning Citation Practices in Intellectual Property Offices

Response ID:133 Data

2. Section 1: Identification page

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

GB - United Kingdom

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".

United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office

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?

Preliminary search report
Substantive search and/or examination report
Bibliographic data
Other patent document location (Please specify):
Please comment on any of the above mentioned locations, if appropriate: Online search services, e.g. One IPO Search service https://www.gov.uk/search-for-patent EPO Espacenet Patent search service https://worldwide.espacenet.com/ WIPO PatentScope https://www.wipo.int/en/web/patentscope

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

10. Are hyperlinks included for the above Internet locations?

No
Please comment if necessary: We do not routinely provide hyperlinks to internet services to identify all documents cited. However, in some instances, examiners may opt to provide a relevant URL in search or examination reports with a date of access, but these are not routinely hyperlinked.

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?

Yes

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

Preliminary search report
Substantive search and/or examination report
Please comment if necessary: The search examiner responsible for creating citation references is identified on the search report accompanying a published patent application. The substantive examiner is also identified on substantive examination reports.

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?

No

5. Section 3: Search Report Information

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

Do your citation references include online URLs?

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

If applicable, which unique document identifiers are used?

6. Section 3: Search Report Information

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

Yes

7. Section 3: Search Report Information

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

Yes (Please provide examples in detail):
Please comment if necessary:: Patent examiner reports, including the content of citation references, are checked by routine line manager review, quality review processes before report issue and after report issue by randomly-sampled quality assurance processes.

18. Are relevance indicators stated?

Yes

19. Do your citation references include online URLs?

Sometimes (Specify when): When a non-patent literature citation (e.g. conference proceedings, journal article or a webpage) is freely available (e.g. via a non-commercial service), examiners will identify the document using a standard reference format, but they may also include URLs to directly link to such citations, with a date of access.

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

Sometimes (Specify when): When a non-patent literature citation is freely available, examiners are permitted to use unique document identifiers to facilitate ease of access to such citations A date of access is normally also provided.

If applicable, which unique document identifiers are used?

Digital Object Identifier (DOI)
ISBN and ISSN

8. Section 3: Search Report Information

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

There are no major differences between UK IPO provision of search report citation references and those found on International Search Reports.

9. Section 4: Centralizing/Tagging Citation References

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

No

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

No

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

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

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

Yes (please specify the location where the references are searchable e.g., http://www.): UK IPO citation references can be searched using the EPO Espacenet Search service at https://worldwide.espacenet.com/patent/ using the "Cited document" field.

25. 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

26. 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 ";"):
Other (Please specify): A piece of work is currently under review as part of our wider transformation programme to establish a central repository for published patent documentation. At this stage, there is no confirmed timescale for when the repository will be fully developed or implemented.

27. 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 ";"):
Other (please specify): A piece of work is currently under review as part of our wider transformation programme to establish a central repository for published patent documentation. At this stage, there is no confirmed timescale for when the repository will be fully developed or implemented.

28. 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
.json

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

Yes (Please provide details): Clarivate

11. Section 6: Availability of location identifiers

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

Page numbers
Line numbers
Paragraph numbers

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

Image/figure numbers within the description:
Chemical formula numbers:
Tables:
Gene sequences:
Mathematical formulas:
Computer programs:
Minutes/Seconds (for referencing videos):
Webpage identifiers (URL with heading/section reference):

12. Section 7: Paragraph number details

32. Does your published patent documents include paragraph numbers?

Yes

13. Section 7: Paragraph number details

33. Paragraph numbers are typically created by:

Applicant / Inventor
Other (please specify): an appointed representative

34. Paragraph numbers are recreated:

During the publication process

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

Long paragraphs are not given special treatment.

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

Other (Please specify): It is the applicant's/representative responsibility to maintain the paragraph numbering when amending the description.

37. 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

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

Other (Please specify): Examiners should not normally cite machine-translated documents, due to potential uncertainty over contractual/copyright restrictions. However, where there are no such restrictions, examiners may cite machine translations but are required to explain that the translation is machine-generated and therefore may not be fully accurate or definitive. MoPP 17.104.1

15. Section 8: Citing documents based on machine translations

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

This is at the examiner's discretion.

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

Other (Please specify): Sent directly to the representative if one has been appointed

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

Yes, for internal use only

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

46. 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 : GB2644028 A - example with patent citation references (see front page INID code (56) and search report on page 19) and GB2602685 A - example with non-patent literature citation references (see front page INID code (56) and search report on page 22)
Specify Internet address and any instructions helpful to find patent (application) number, e.g., IA=IB2005001265&REF=RSS :
https://worldwide.espacenet.com/patent/search/family/097067541/publication/GB2644028A?q=gb2644028
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 :
https://worldwide.espacenet.com/patent/search/family/074667682/publication/GB2602685A?q=GB2602685

17. Section 10: Additional comments about citation practices

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