Survey Concerning Citation Practices in Intellectual Property Offices

Response ID:87 Data

2. Section 1: Identification page

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

LR - Liberia

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".

LIBERIA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE (LIPO)

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.

Availability is limited: imited to the part of the life cycle in which the citation

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)
Separate document
E-Dossier/File wrapper

10. Are hyperlinks included for the above Internet locations?

Yes
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)?

Yes

12. Are hyperlinks to the citing document provided?

Yes
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?

Bibliographic data on patent document
Substantive search and/or examination report
Part of patent document
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?

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?

No
Please comment if necessary::

18. Are relevance indicators stated?

Yes

19. Do your citation references include online URLs?

Yes

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

Yes

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

- ISR (International Search Report):
- Issued during the international phase of a PCT application.
- Uses standardized citation codes (X, Y, A) to indicate relevance.
- Broad in scope, covering prior art globally.
- Advisory only non-binding for national offices.
- Other Search Reports (National/Regional):
- Issued by individual patent offices (USPTO, EPO, etc.).
- Citation styles vary (USPTO: plain list; EPO: X/Y/A codes).
- Scope limited to that jurisdiction's examination.
- Legally binding can directly lead to rejections or amendments.

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?

No

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?

Paper
Website (if multiple website separate each address with a semi- colon ";"): www.lipo.gov.lr

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

Paper
Website (if multiple website separate each address with a semi- colon ";"): www.lipo.gov.lr

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

Paper
.pdf (Adobe)
.html

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

Yes (Please provide details):

11. Section 6: Availability of location identifiers

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

Page numbers
Column 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:
Tables:
Gene sequences:
Mathematical formulas:
Computer programs:
Minutes/Seconds (for referencing videos):

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
Your Office e.g., examiners
An external publisher

34. Paragraph numbers are recreated:

During the publication process
When numbered paragraphs are amended

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

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

Subsequent paragraphs re-numbered
New paragraph given an extra figure but subsequent paragraph numbers unchanged
Text must be incorporated in an existing paragraph

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?

No

15. Section 8: Citing documents based on machine translations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39. 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.

17. Section 10: Additional comments about citation practices

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