

# Patent information from the Polish Patent Office

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## Abstract

The Polish Patent Office activity within the scope of its patent information policy—with emphasis on the changes since the 1990s—is described. In addition to aspects of patent searching, such as documentation and databases, dissemination activities, for example education and training, and the role of Patent Information Centres, is covered. New challenges associated with the promotion of intellectual property protection and its role for the economy are also highlighted.

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## 1. Changes in the scope of the PPO patent information policy

Eighty six years have passed since the Polish Patent Office (PPO) was founded and 85 years from Poland's accession to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. In an earlier article, in 1993 [1], I described the historical development of the PPO in more detail, together with the situation then current.

The 1990s were the time of economic system changes in Poland, transition to market economy and alternation of national legislation—"Law on Inventive Activity" of 1992 introduced protection of chemical compounds and topographies of integrated circuits.

In international cooperation it is the period of Poland accession to the Patent Cooperation Treaty PCT, to the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks as well as to the Protocol to that agreement, to the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), to the Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and

Services, to the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification and to the Vienna Agreement Establishing an International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks.

In 1999 the Administrative Council of the EPO invited Poland to accede to the Munich Convention on the Grant of European Patents. In 2000 Parliament of the Republic of Poland adopted the Act—Industrial Property Law which is fully adjusted to meet the requirements of EU law. At the same time i.e. since 1991 the PPO has closely cooperated with the EPO and has participated in Regional Industrial Property Programs (RIPP). The Office promotes industrial property protection and patent information by organizing nationwide training sessions and promotion stands during fairs and exhibitions. Since the moment of accession into the European Union the PPO has been carrying out tasks involving registration of Community Trademarks and Community Designs.

## 2. Collection of patent literature and documentation

Within the framework of international cooperation PPO acquires documentation and patent literature. We

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receive patent documentation from 30 countries and two international organizations in which 28 countries provide us with documentation on optical discs DC-ROM and DVD and two on traditional carriers i.e. paper.

At the end of 2004 at the Office were held in total 42,895,000 copies of patent documentation from which 29,566,000 were on optical discs CD-ROM and DVD and 13,169,000 on traditional carriers. 11,100,000 copies of paper documentation are drawn up according to the class collection—classified separately for each edition of international patent classification, 2,000,000 in numerical collection and 160,000 documents on microforms. The status of patent documentation collections on 31.12.2004 is shown in Fig. 1, while the input for 2004 is shown in Fig. 2.

The PPO acquires patent literature from 42 countries from all over the world. Thirty one of those countries supply their literature on paper, seven on optical discs DC-ROM and DVD and four in the form of files sent by the Internet.

In the PPO there are the following bibliographical databases: *ACCESS-A*, *ACCESS-B*, *ACCESS PRECES*, *BULLETIN*, *FIRST*, *PCT GAZETTE*, *TRACES*, *GLOBALPAT*, *COMMUNITY TRADEMARKS BULLETIN*, *EUROM*, *INTERNATIONAL DESIGNS*

*BULLETIN*, *APS*, *CAPS AND USPS*, *CASSIS ASIST US*, *CASSIS ASIGN US*, *CASSIS CLSF US*, *CASSIS BIB US*, *OG PLUS*, *TRADEMARKS*, *PATOS*, *PATOS IMAGE*, *DEMAS*, *DEPAROM KOMPAKT*, *MIMOSA-PAJ*, *MIMOSA-PAJ INDEKS*, *DIAPAT*, *INFOINVENT*, *ESPACE LEGAL*, *WIPO HANDBOOK*, *JOPAL*, *NIVILO CLASS*.

The Office gradually tops up the collection of technical and legal literature necessary for examiner's searches. Up to date and according to needs of our staffs we buy various kinds of dictionaries, lexicons as well as all publications on intellectual and industrial property. It is necessary to underline that the PPO acts as a Central Patent Library.

Polish patent documentation and literature is delivered to over 40 countries on all continents in the form of "Bulletin of the Patent Office" containing bibliographical information on published patent, utility model and trade mark applications and official Office publication i.e.—"News of the Patent Office" embracing information on granted rights and patent specification in 90% in the form of ESPACE-PRECES disc. In the 90s the graphics of the first page of Polish patent specification was altered, as shown in Fig. 3.

### 3. Polish patent literature in databases

In the 90s the PPO made available a collection of patent documentation covering bibliographical date with short cut for invention, utility model and trade mark application under the national procedure, patents granted for those titles as well as registrations recognized in Poland made under the Madrid Protocol. At the beginning this information was available on-line later via the Internet on commercial databases.

In 2001 the PPO received from the EPO ESP@CENET<sup>®</sup> a platform system assembling servers, operational systems and search tools. Implementation of that system, Polish manual elaboration and its installment on the PPO webpage has encouraged users to take advantage on patent databases.

Since 2002 the PPO has made available via internet its own free of charge database covering all titles of protection. Searches can be done in all protection titles i.e. invention, utility models, industrial design, trade marks, international trade marks, geographical indications and topographies of integrated circuits.

Through the search, bibliographical data with a short cut or list of goods and services covering application of invention, utility models and trade marks as well as patent granted in all titles of protection can be received. Searches in databases can be done from the PPO webpage—[www.uprp.pl](http://www.uprp.pl).

Since January 2005 the Polish Patent Office have made available its data base to the public. It allows to

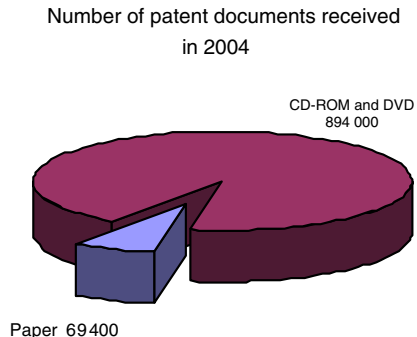


Fig. 1. The status of PPO patent documentation collections on 31.12.2004.

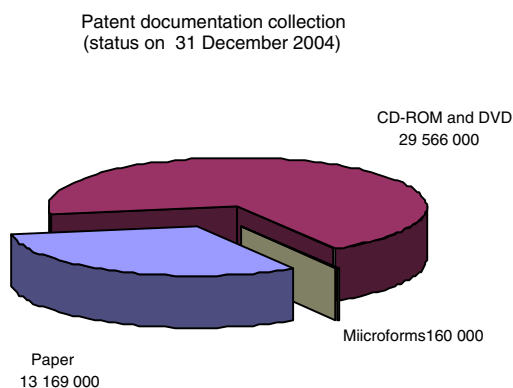


Fig. 2. The documentation input to the PPO in 2004.

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