WIPO | PCT
The International
Patent System

Online Platforms
Why Do You Still Need a Patent Attorney?
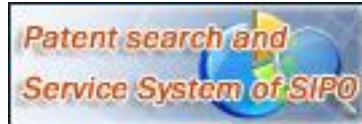
ONLINE PLATFORMS – FRIEND OR FOE?

Online Platforms – Friend or Foe?

- **AI is coming**
  - Major advances in some areas
  - Radical changes will affect the patent system
  - Not yet threatening the role of the attorney

- **More conventional automation**
  - Reducing transcription of information
  - Catches many errors before submission
  - More effective routing of information
  - Reduced risk of missing deadlines

THE CURRENT GLOBAL PICTURE

The Current Global Picture

- Many fragmented national systems
    - reinventing the wheel, without standard gauges

- Largely PDF application bodies, except JP, KR

- Little opportunity to share/reuse bibliographic data

- "Global Dossier" provides some degree of overview of published equivalent documentation

WIPO's Offerings

- ePCT
- PCT-SAFE
- PATENTSCOPE
- IPCPUB
- WIPO PEARL
- Many behind the scenes systems connecting Offices

- Some use of AI
  - mainly around patent information and language
  - professional aspects remain rules-based

EPCT

WELCOME TO ePCT

| Username * | Password * | Sign in |

ePCT – Where Are We Now?

- Common system for international phase of PCT
  - Filing to 52 receiving Offices in 10 languages
  - Subsequently filed documents to 60 ROs + 15 ISA/IPEAs
  - Live view of file at IB
  - Flexible role-based access management
- "Actions"
  - Replace traditional forms with directly used data entry
  - Reduce processing time
  - Eliminate transcription errors
- Drafts

ePCT – Where Are We Heading?

- Better information sharing
  - Take bibliographic data from national first filing to create PCT request
  - Take international phase data to create national phase entry packages
  - Coded citation and written opinion data allowing direct access to cited documents, improved family matching, machine translations for foreign associates
- More complete file information
- Machine to machine transactions
- Payments beyond International Bureau
- Easier signatures

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OFFICE SYSTEMS AND THE PROFESSIONAL

What Is Happening?

- Many new systems help you to interact with national Offices

- Developing quickly

- Using them effectively is vital

- Generally enabling

  - allows you to provide a better service, rather than replacing skilled roles

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What Is Not Happening?

- Systems under development by Offices are not significantly touching the substantive attorney role
- Looking at mechanistic aspects of specification contents, but attempts at AI drafting and examination still crude
- Human expertise remains essential on both substance and processes, which continue to have subtle traps and are different between jurisdictions

- Effective cooperation
  - Offices – profession – system providers

Summary

- Improved traditional (non-AI) systems can offer radical efficiency and accuracy benefits – attorneys not using them will lose out

- Systems concerning substance provide support and error-checking, but not replacement for attorney

- Current threat to attorneys comes from other attorneys using the opportunities to better effect

- Great opportunities for profession if Offices can be guided to work better together on traditional automation

- But AI has developed quickly in other areas – watch this space

And Next...

- ?