Patent Quality Chat
Leveraging a Harmonized Patent Classification System
October 9, 2018

Email questions to PatentQuality@uspto.gov
To send in questions or comments during the webinar, please email:

PatentQuality@uspto.gov
Patent Quality

Providing high-quality, efficient examination of patent applications is paramount to our mission at USPTO. To ensure we continue to issue high-quality patents that will fuel innovation well into the future, the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality, along with our partners across the Patents organization, promotes and supports the continuous improvement of patent products, processes and services through collaboration with internal and external stakeholders of the intellectual property community.

Highlights

[Patent Quality Chat]

Our next Patent Quality Chat will be on October 9th; please mark your calendar to join us for “Leveraging a Harmonized Patent Classification System”.

[Quality Metrics]

See our new metrics approach, categorizing into product, process and perception indicators.

[Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure (STEPP)]

Sign up for an upcoming training developed for those interested in a better understanding of the examination process at the USPTO.

Email questions to PatentQuality@uspto.gov
## 2018 Chat Series

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| Tuesday, October 9 Noon - 1 p.m. ET | Leveraging a Harmonized Patent Classification System | - Christopher Kim  
  Director of Classification Quality and International Coordination Division, OIPC  
  Director (acting) of Classification Standards and Development Division, OIPC |
|                               |                                                                       | - Justin Krause  
  International Patent Classifier Classification Quality and International Coordination Division, OIPC |
| Tuesday, August 14 Noon - 1 p.m. ET | AIA Trial Statistics from PTAB and Using AIA Trials to Enhance Patent Examination | - Janet Gongola  
  Vice Chief Judge for Engagement, Patent Trial and Appeal Board  
  Jack Harvey  
  Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations |
Patent Quality Chat
Leveraging a Harmonized Patent Classification System

Christopher Kim
Director, Classification Quality and International Coordination
Office of International Patent Cooperation

Justin Krause
International Patent Classifier, Classification Quality and International Coordination
Office of International Patent Cooperation

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Today’s Topic

USPTO’s Office of International Patent Cooperation (OIPC) contributes to the development of the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) system and other international classification harmonization efforts (IP5).

-How do harmonization efforts benefit patent quality?
Agenda

Background of harmonization
  Why do we use classification?

International classification harmonization efforts
  – Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)
  – IP5 Working Group 1 on Classification – Global Classification Initiative (GCI)
  – International Patent Classification (IPC)

Benefits of international harmonization efforts

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Classification Introduction

A patent classification system:
• Organizes knowledge by technical subject matter
• Utilizes a language-neutral and independent categorization

Users of classification include:
• Patent offices
• External stakeholders

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Patent Offices - Patent Classification Search

- Classification codes (symbols) represent technical subject matter
- Language neutral/independent
- Access to International Collection
- Patent family concept
  Patent documents that share the same priority have the same classification codes

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External Stakeholders

• Protecting intellectual property
  – Whether you are a multinational business or an individual ...
    you need to protect your intellectual property (inventions, trademarks or designs) across borders

• Many stakeholders exploit patent information and utilize patent analytics

• There is a wide range of business use of patent information

• Patent analytics are based on classification

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Why is Classification Important?

• Preparing and prosecuting patent applications

• Patent landscape reports

• Technology watch (bulletins)

• State of the art, infringement, patentability, annual statistics reports, freedom to operate, and clearance reports

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International Classification Harmonization Efforts

- Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)
- IP5 Working Group 1 on Classification
  Global Classification Initiative (GCI)
- International Patent Classification (IPC)

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Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)

What is CPC?

Classification system developed jointly by USPTO and EPO

Launched in 2013

International Coverage

USPTO system for classification searching

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Benefits of CPC

Quantity (Coverage)

Quality (Harmonization)

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The situation before CPC was ...

Each system had its own bias
CPC Coverage

Wide Coverage

• 4 of 5 major IP Offices classifying in CPC
  (USPTO engaging JPO on classification cooperation)
• 27 countries classifying in CPC

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CPC Document Collection

- Over 52 million worldwide documents in CPC
- One stop shop for most of the world’s documents
  (including some Japanese documents)

The CPC system is used for search by more than 45 Patent Offices and by more than 32,000 examiners worldwide

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Asian Collection in CPC

CPC also has China and Korea prior art.
• China classifies all its new patent applications into CPC
• Korea classifies all its new patent applications and PCT’s. Korea will have its whole backfile collection classified in CPC by the end of 2018.

China and Korea provide Asian influence in CPC
• USPC and ECLA were based on a western world view. This can create western bias leading to problems in the classification of knowledge from non-western cultures.
CPC Quality

- CPC is jointly owned and maintained by USPTO and EPO

- Greater focus on classification harmonization among offices

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Summary of USPTO Efforts in CPC

The USPTO is working to improve CPC collections
• US collection contribution
• Engaging more countries in CPC
• CPC is dynamic

Working to improve quality/harmonization among Offices

*Ensure confidence to users*

Email questions to PatentQuality@uspto.gov
The Global Classification Initiative (GCI):

- Improving IPC from CPC and/or FI/F terms
- New Emerging Technologies

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Relationship Between Classification Systems

CPC = Cooperative Patent Classification

IPC = International Patent Classification

FI = Japan’s File Index Classification

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Summary of USPTO Efforts in IP5

• Working to improve IPC granularity
  – CPC and FI/F-terms contribute to IPC further subdivisions

• Introducing new emerging technologies into IPC together in IP5

• Working to improve quality/harmonization among IP5 Offices

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International Patent Classification (IPC) is Important for CPC and IP5

- IPC is the foundation of local classification systems
  - CPC
  - FI/ F-terms

- IPC is - for the time being - the only common classification scheme with all the major offices, including Japan

- USPTO has obligation to IPC as a party to the Strasbourg Agreement

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Summary of USPTO Efforts in IPC for Users

- Work to improve IPC granularity among many offices

- Work underway on important IPC classification projects (e.g. semiconductors)

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Benefits for **Patent Offices** of CPC, IP5 and IPC International Harmonization Efforts

- Patent offices throughout the world have access to more international coverage of patent documents.
- Patent offices can search internationally using classification codes.
- Patent offices are working to improve quality/harmonization among many offices.

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Benefits for **External Stakeholders** of CPC, IP5 and IPC International Harmonization Efforts

- Stakeholders can better identify patenting activity throughout the world through access to more international coverage of patent documents.

- Stakeholders can identify patenting activity easier through classification codes.

- Stakeholders can have more certainty in their patenting activity analysis through better harmonization among offices.
Contact Information

Christopher Kim
Director, Classification Quality and International Coordination
Office of International Patent Cooperation
(571) 272-7980
Christopher.Kim@uspto.gov

Justin Krause
International Patent Classifier, Classification Quality and International Coordination
Office of International Patent Cooperation
(571) 272-7980
Justin.Krause@uspto.gov

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Let’s Chat about
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Director, Classification Quality and International Coordination
Office of International Patent Cooperation

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Email questions to PatentQuality@uspto.gov
Next Patent Quality Chat
TBD

November 13, 2018

Email questions to PatentQuality@uspto.gov
### Other Patent Quality-Related Events

**https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/events**

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<td><strong>Inventor Info Chat</strong>— <em>In Spanish</em> Responding to Pre-Examination Notices</td>
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<td>October 24</td>
<td><strong>Partnering in Patents</strong> 25\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary Event hosted by USPTO and AIPLA (in Alexandria and virtual)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td><strong>Patents for Humanity 2018 Awards Ceremony</strong> (in Alexandria and virtual)</td>
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Thank you for joining us today!

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Webinar Series 2018
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