WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

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Report on Characteristics of International Search Reports

1. This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as an International Searching Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). In that capacity, and as a member of the quality subgroup of the Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT, your Office is invited to comment on the report on characteristics of international search reports as provided in the packages available in the electronic version of this Circular.

2. For more than 10 years, the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has prepared reports presenting various characteristics of international search reports for discussion by the International Searching Authorities. The indicators shown in the reports are also available in the WIPO IP Statistics Data Center (https://www3.wipo.int/ipstats/pmh-search/pct).

3. At the last meeting of the quality subgroup in September/October 2024, the International Authorities appreciated the annual reports showing characteristics of international search reports and the online interactive tool in the IP Statistics Data Center that allow to identify trends, make comparisons and seek areas for improvement.

4. The data packages with the reports are made available on the WIPO website at http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/circulars/index.html . As noted for previous reports, the data for the final year is not complete because some search reports had not been processed in time to be reflected in the latest version of PATSTAT. The possibility of more frequent data updates and the provision of additional information remain a long-term intention of the International Bureau. However, the opportunities continue to be limited due to the cycle of publication and transcription of data, as well as the format of the PATSTAT database.

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5. This subject will be discussed at the next meeting of the quality subgroup, before the thirty-second session of the Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT later this year.

6. Your Office is invited to provide feedback on the characteristics, including the use of available reports and what improvements to the presentation or content of characteristics and other metrics would be useful. Comments should be registered on the quality subgroup's electronic forum in advance of the meeting to assist delegations to prepare for an effective discussion of such issues during the meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Jorgenson
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