

## New ideas for PATLIB Services

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### Introduction

New services for patent information users are offered by two Regional Patlib Centres. Both being non-profit organizations are located in structures of the state university libraries. Krakow Patlib Centre is the unit of AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow and Kielce Patlib Centre is the unit of Kielce University of Technology. Both Centres co-operate with the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland, and have recently been qualified as beneficiaries of the EPO multilateral co-operation programme CA/49/04 Rev.1 – Standardized Search Tool for Patent Information. Both Centres have similar experiences, customer and user groups including students attending regular, evening and also extramural courses.

### New regulations for scientific institutions – new challenges for Patlib Centres

Patlib Centres in Krakow and Kielce have noticed increasing interest of the local scientists and researchers in industrial property field during the year 2005. Newcomers from the science communities including local ones - it is result, among others, of new pro-innovative state policy. The decree issued in 2005 by the Ministry of Science and Informatics changed ranking rules of scientific institutions and scientists working there. According to new rules, scientists, researchers and universities representatives who are more effectively involved in innovative and inventive areas including implementation of results of their R&D works are being esteemed much higher than those who concentrate their activities mainly on elaborations and publication of their work. The higher number of ranking points causes promotions, higher prestige, new collaboration possibilities with universities worldwide, and also higher compensations for employees and more state funds for grants.

Below is a comparison of new and old (in brackets) ranking points in relation to various innovative/inventive categories:

- Advanced technologies, new materials, products, systems, services and methodologies.
  - Successfully completed agreement on R&D works and valued above 12.500 EUR – **30** (n/a) pts.
  - Long term agreement on research services - **10** pts (n/a).
- Implementations: sale of licenses, know-how, etc. from **60** to **100** pts (n/a) depending on license fee / price.
- Patents and other protection categories.
  - National patents– **50** (12) pts.
  - Foreign patents - **70** (max 24) pts.
  - Registered utility models – **10** (2) pts.

By comparing the point merit coming from patent and utility model rights as opposed to publications in either technical or scientific journals, but also academic books (from maximum 24 pts for monographs in English to 4 pts for articles in domestic journal) it becomes obvious that there is a great advantage to be taken applying for patent or utility model.

This is why continually increasing interest of the scientists and researchers are now focused on patenting. Most of them have treated such activity as less significant, or otherwise they have absolutely been inactive in this area so far. Now, more ranking points for activity in the industrial property area make it more and more attractive among communities. However, it must be admitted, that points are gained for patents and rights granted thus refer to the future ranking periods. Due to rather long time interval between filing and granting, if any, efforts of scientists do not give results-in-points immediately or as fast as in case of publications. Nevertheless, most of the scientists and research workers consider patenting of their solutions and inventions as investment-in-future. Additional incentive offered by the University in Krakow to promote activeness in the innovations and inventions fields is covering the costs of filing and 1st protection period fees. University board has established special fund for this purpose. Previously, arranging monies for filling and protection fees were the applicant's obligations. Such system discouraged in fact scientists and others to be active in patenting. Now, they have assured means for all payments to the patent office. Changes of law regulations influence work of Patlib Centres in Poland. Due to all mentioned above favourable factors and propitious climate for innovations and inventions Patlib Centres have made efforts to attract new users from academic society. Observed interest in field of patent information inspired Patlib Centres in Krakow and Kielce to offer new or verify existing services for academic users.

### **Krakow Patlib Centre**

AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow, where 30 thousands students acquire technical knowledge is considered as the second university in the city of Krakow (after Jagiellonian University). It is numbered to the leading group of the technical universities in Poland. Main University Library along with Patlib Centre play role of a science and patent information centre. The Library is the 3-rd technical library in the country. 1.300.000 units create its collections and 750.000 units are part of special collections consisting of patent specifications and standards. Patlib Centre extensively co-operates with the special University unit that is Implementations- Licenses-Patents-Export Department that assures essential, formal and legal support for inventive activities of the University. Elaboration of application documentation and filing are *inter alia* the results of Department's actions. Second field is implementation of results of R&D works, management of licenses and know-how.

In 1992 the Main Library of the University having within its structure the patent information centre entered into revised agreement with the PPO. From that moment, abilities for rendering services in the field of patent information by the Library have been strengthen and extended considerably.

In next couple of years, improving skills of the patent information centre staff by attendance in various trainings and workshops organized by the EPO and PPO as well as access to the increasing number of data bases resulted in streamlined services provided to users and clients which might be almost comparable with services rendered by the PPO. All users, including those who are beyond of the University community, have free access to the patent and scientific information. Numerous groups of users as patent attorneys, SMEs, scientists working for other institutions of higher education, employees in various organizations have been the clients of the Krakow Patlib Centre in those years. However, proposed services could be defined as the standard ones and interest of the local scientists and research workers, who are estimated as 10% of all users visiting data bases, in offered services was then rather moderate. Yearly, 12 000 visitors have been recorded as the users of the Reading Room of Standards and Patents, and 900 users of data bases have been registered as receivers of standard offered services. In the year 2005, extensive promotion of the Patlib Centre within the University and other communities was made on the occasion of new services offered for users, especially scientists and new agreement signed by Rector of the University and President of the PPO. Upon this agreement, the Krakow Patlib Centre achieved higher status as „Regional Patlib Centre” and became the beneficiary of the

programmes and projects included in multilateral and bilateral co-operations between the EPO and national offices, and the EPO and the PPO, respectively. Krakow Patlib Centre has attracted a large group of newcomers from science community and offered the **new patent information service** targeted towards scientists and research workers. General concept was a combination in one data base a bibliographic list of publications prepared by scientists working for the University and patent and utility model descriptions. First part, i.e. bibliographic list of the publications is one of the major task of the library and previously was published yearly (before 1999) in paper form and since 1999 on CDs. Users may consult the on-line data base at <http://bpp.agh.edu.pl> too. Mentioned data base is very popular among scientists and other employees of AGH since they have an easy access to the bibliographic descriptions of their publications. But patent and utility model descriptions have contributed in the said data base to rather small extend so far. Addition to the data base descriptions in line with the new concept seemed to be a success. Inputs have been elaborated and prepared by the Patlib Centre staff in accordance with respective standards. More than 200 items i.e. all patent and utility models granted to the University scientists since 1999 have been introduced to the data base, which is currently supplemented by new items. Two basic functionalities make the data base an efficient tool: **Browsing / Viewing** – assuring a quick access to the list of publications of a desired scientist and research worker by his/her name. A result is the list of all publications, possibly splitted in by years.

**Searching** – is possible by author's / inventor's name, words included in the publication title, an application number and a patent number

Many people pointed out that our data base contains the latest patent and utility model descriptions. Further extends by older patents and industrial property rights have been often suggested and recommended by various groups.

Because of certain chronological limitations, the next step is to create the data base covering all patents and rights granted to the University employees. First patent was granted in 1927 year. Since the 1924 – 1993 collection is in the paper form only, digitalization of these documents is also planned. By this way, the card catalogue of patents granted to the University scientists and research workers that have been prepared before 1993 will be replaced by advanced system which will cover also the period after 1993 (PRECES data base). Supplementation of the retroactive data base has commenced in April 2005. 3000 records are planned to be added.

Months after, **these new services** may be considered as a success despite many sources of patent information on the Internet. Combination of patent and utility models descriptions with bibliography of works and elaborations makes possible for a scientist an access to his/her own scholarly with "one click". He/she is provided with ready bibliographic description that may be cited instead of a record from the data base. The Patlib Centre proceeds thus without involvement of the outside users. As far as the remaining publications are concerned, the submission of original documents (bibliographic record is always prepared from autopsy) and also some information (title) translated into English is required. English titles of patents nevertheless are available from *Espacenet* and *Espace-Preces* data bases. We believe that to be prepared data base of the retroactive patent bibliographies will meet requirements and expectations of the University communities.

### **Kielce Patlib Centre**

Kielce Technical University, situated in the city of Kielce – capital of the district named as Holy Cross Mountains Region, runs a widely accessible technical library, the largest in the region and one of the most modern in the country and equipped among others with over 100 computer workstations with Internet connection, scanners, copying devices and printers. Kielce Patlib Centre acts within structure of the library. It is the only unit in region having such large collection of patent documentation: Polish patent descriptions, full-text and bibliographic patent databases on CD and DVD and other patent literature. Services rendered by the Patlib Centre and detailed patent literature directory are available on web page <http://www.lib.tu.kielce.pl/patenty> and in the Patlib Centre folder. In era of global

Internet, services offered by Kielce Patlib Centre has to meet users' expectations and requirements. Essential is the easiness in interaction with client and possibility to obtain immediate feedback. Detailed investigations of demands and requirements of various communities with respect to the patent information services have been performed. After analysis of results has been made, Kielce Patlib Centre came to conclusion that most user-friendly is integrated system „Internet + telephone + employee guidance”. This way it is possible to use intellectual property resources without leaving home. It is not only the most common way of information supplying but almost individual (remote) training on-line. Such approach may be considered as e-learning for sure.

Mentioned services have been very well received by users, especially in SMEs but forced, in fact, some modifications in trainings and workshops carried out by the Patlib Centre in the region to be adapted to the concept of the new service. Another modification was the minimizing of presentation difficulty level and thus reaching greater number of users. Training programme covers access to worldwide patent information resources, using International Patent Classification, research strategy, valid query formulating and correct search results interpretation.

Last year training was on classifying and researching in all available on-line databases concerning specific query: electronic signature.

Each of participants received among others:

- hard copy from MKP (IPC) regarding classified query;
- screens illustrating step by step patent searches in particular databases;
- INID-codes along with bibliographic page of patent description which illustrates meaning of numeric and alphanumeric codes.

Materials have been prepared so that each participant could individually run research on specific query (issue), using training materials in terms of analogy.

Still increasing and streamlining their services to promote and support innovations and inventions activity as well as patent awareness, Kielce Patlib Centre cooperates among others with units, which support local entrepreneurship and stimulate development of the region. For the time being, Kielce Patlib Centre is involved in the project under regional programme „Regional Innovation Network INNOVAREGIO in Holy Cross Mountains Region”. Regional Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer being the leading party to the program is supported by EU funds. The program objective is to raise competitiveness and economy innovations in the region and strengthening adaptive potential of enterprise by supporting their cooperation with enterprises and institutions running R&D activity.

## **Conclusions**

The scientists' communities are awaiting further advantageous decisions and solutions resulting from new state policy which would promote and support innovations and inventions. State and local programs efficiently increasing patent awareness among various communities and establishing dedicated funds seem to be additional spur in this area.

More effective commercialization of the R&D work results (patents granted) by spin-offs upon concluded special “agreements on implementations” is an important objective, too.

Described services offered by Patlib Centres in Krakow and Kielce reflect reaction on newly observed users' needs. New forms of patent information dissemination would be possible after implementation of standardized search tool (project CA/T/49/04 Rev.1) in both Universities.