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Literature Review

Many of these abstracts have been prepared by the Editor from a list of recent publications kindly provided by the Science Reference and Information Service of the British Library. The other abstracts were provided by WIPO.

Establishing Web Sites — Legal Issues and Risks, N. Miller, *Comput. Secur.* (UK), **15**(3), Elsevier, 198–202, 1996. This year, thousands of businesses will join the Internet. For many, the main focus will be a home page on the Web. This could be used for advertising and communication, to provide information and as a means of transacting business. For some, it will be the only means by which they do business. Most new Web site owners and Web entrepreneurs will be unaware of the legal issues they face. The paper discusses some of these legal issues and risks, including liability, disclaimers and intellectual property.

Patent Information in the Online, CD-ROM and Internet Environments, D. Picman, *Infocus* (CZ), **2**(5), Vydava Infocus, 101–102, 1996. The paper presents the spectrum of services of the Office of Industrial Property of the Czech Republic and provides some perspectives on its further widening. Some of the basic factors influencing the conception of the information services are characterized. The first issue concerns the harmonizing of industrial law in the Czech Republic with industrial law in the European Union. The second issue concerns new information media, mainly the Internet, CD-ROM and online services, penetrating more and more into all kinds of search services in patent information.

Content-based Retrieval for Trademark Registration, J. K. Wu, C. P. Lam, B. M. Mehtre, J. Gad, A. D. Narasimhalu, *Multimedia Tools Appl.* (NL), **3**(3), Kluwer Academic Publishers, 243–264, November 1996. With an ever-increasing number of registered trademarks, the task of the Trademark Office of ensuring the uniqueness of all trademarks registered is becoming increasingly difficult. Trademarks are complex patterns consisting of various image and text patterns, called device mark and word-in-mark respectively. Due to the diversity and complexity of image patterns occurring in trademarks, due to multilingual word-in-mark, there is no very successful computerized operating trademark registration system. The authors have tackled key technical issues: multiple feature extraction methods to capture the shape and similarity of multilingual word-in-mark, matching device mark interpretation using fuzzy thesaurus, and fusion of multiple feature measures for conflict trademark retrieval. A prototype system for trademark archival and registration (STAR) has been developed. The initial test run has been conducted using 3000 trademarks, and the results have shown satisfaction to trademark officers and specialists.

Experiences with High-volume, High-accuracy Document Capture, H. R. Stabler, A. L. Spitz, Ed., A. Dengal, Ed., *International Association for Pattern Recognition Workshop on Document Analysis Systems, World Scientific,* 38–51, 1995. Rank Xerox has implemented an in-house high-volume data capture enabling 100% accurate capture of patent documents as SGML-encoded text plus embedded images. The authors describe their experiences with setting up and running this operation over the last four years.

Intellectual Property Management in the International Arena, B.-I. Lin, *Pan Pacific Microelectronics Symposium Proceedings of the Technical Program, Surface Mount Technol. Assoc.*, 305–310, 1996. As more and more manufacturing work has been shifted offshore and, more recently, design and engineering works are also being contracted out to foreign design teams under the arrangement of original equipment design (OED), intellectual properties including novel features of designs and manufacturing and other valuable technical data and information provided to business partners may be located in several nations. Additionally, technology related transactions often involve technology transfer, which may be in the form of foreign direct investment (FDI), joint venture, franchising, management contracts, distribution/marketing agreements, technical service contracts, licensing or cross-licensing agreements, turn-key contacts, international subcontracts, and international consortia or strategic alliances. Therefore, management and protection of intellectual property rights (IPRS) in the international arenas is becoming an increasingly practical and urgent matter. This paper presents a brief overview of the legal systems for protecting IPRS in a few key countries — the United States of America, China, Taiwan, and Japan — to provide a starting framework for formulating management strategies suitable for targeted business goals.

IP and the Convergence of Technology and Media, C. Keck, *Managing Intellectual Property*, **47**, 26–30, March 1995. The article discusses three related intellectual property issues relating to the convergence of the media, computer and telecommunications industries: (i) the importance of IP rights to these industries; (ii) the impact of convergence on IP rights and in particular the problems raised by the new technologies; and (iii) some possible solutions to these problems.

Invention Documentation: A Primer, S. A. Becker, *Computer* (USA), **29**(9), IEEE Comput. Soc., 85–86, September 1996. The paper discusses the importance of maintaining adequate records during the development of an invention. Thorough and accurate records will help to track progress, determine the best course for future work write reports and develop papers for publication. From a legal perspective, it is important to keep records to patent an invention. To be patentable, an invention must be new, useful, and not an obvious or routine modification of a prior invention. Court cases have determined that computer programming, if recorded on a machine-readable medium (such as a floppy disk), or inventions involving programmed computers can be patented.

Evaluation of the Rank Command as a Tool for the Bibliometric Analysis, J. F. Lamus, *Rev. Esp. Doc. Cient.* (Spain), **19**(2), Centro de Inf. & Doc. Cientifica, 163–187, April–June 1996. The paper describes the techniques used in the evaluation of the rank command available in the Dialog System, as a tool for bibliometric analysis to be applied to the patent documents in area of horizontal drilling, of the World Patent Index database. This command can show statistical trends from the search results, which were analyzed during 1980–1994. Fields were selected according to the type of information required; countries, companies and researchers with the major R&D efforts in the horizontal drilling technology; and the most cited patent was analyzed. The analysis of selected fields indicates the possibility of combining and ordering alphabetically and decreasingly the partial results of the rank command. Likewise, it is possible to obtain the desired records in a continuous manner and to work at the same time with two of the options mentioned. With regard to some of the

limitations, this command can be only applied to certain fields of the database and not to two fields simultaneously.

A Robust Visual Access and Analysis System for Very Large Multivariate Databases, T. Mihalisin, J. Schwegler, E. Gawlinski, J. Timlin, J. Mihalisin, J. Sall, J., Ed., A. Lehman, Ed., *Computing Science and Statistics, vol. 26. Computationally Intensive Statistical Methods, Proceedings of the 26th Symposium on the Interface.* Interface Found, USA, 426–430, 1995. A new system is discussed which allows one to access data buried in very large complex databases far faster, literally thousands of times faster, and with more data insight than is possible using conventional relational database management systems. The system known as Templemvv is based on US Patent no. 5228119. It allows users to visually select records based on criteria imposed on one, two or up to 10 independent variables and/or on the minimum, maximum, mean, sum or standard deviation of a dependent variable in any or all subspaces of the 10 dimensional independent variable space. A multidimensional graph of the data is in view during the selection process. The independent variables may be categorical, ordinal, continuous or any mixture thereof. Data involving tens of millions of records and 10 variables can be viewed in seconds on a 486 computer running Microsoft Windows or a Unix Workstation.