
Issue: CPC implementation status at SPTO

Date: Feb. 20th, 2017

Classification/Searching in CPC system at SPTO:

Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (SPTO) did the data migration from ECLA to CPC within its internal system for patent prosecution (ALFA) on 26th Sept 2013

➤ Classification in CPC:

- National Patent Applications:
 - CPC is allocated during fulfillment of Search Report.
 - CPC reclassification is not done thereafter
 - CPC data are not published in patent documents
 - CPC data are published in INVENES (Spanish database)
- PCT applications are not classified in CPC
- Utility Models applications are not classified in CPC

➤ Searching:

- SPTO Patent Examiners use CPC for searching both in national and PCT applications in EPOQUE.
- CPC is also consulted through the CPC website and Espacenet

➤ Quality Assurance:

- XML files corresponding to new versions of CPC scheme are periodically downloaded from official CPC website
- XML files are uploaded manually for each new version in our Database
- In our internal system (ALFA) CPC data is validated against a table with valid symbols created from XML files.
- It would be useful to integrate an automatic solution to the validation process in the future.

CPC training

- Online training.
- Consultation of Field-Specific Training (FST) videos.(Epoxy)
- Annual internal training to new examiners

CPC Data Exchange:

- ALFA (internal system) creates CPC files (.zip) weekly containing CPC data in ST36, allocated in Search Reports (only published applications)
- Frequency: delivery of data is made weekly through FTP site.
- Issues: no feedback is received about loading. SPTO will appreciate to receive some notification from the EPO if something fails in data loading

Future plan

- New Patent Law (24/2015) is coming into force on 1st April 2017. CPC allocating in Search Report remains as in the past
- Integration of an automatic solution to the validation process in the future. Using OPS service as it is today has the drawback of working on-line. SPTO prefers not to be web-connection depending
- In the meantime, CPC automatic notification service for changes, i.e., new versions, would be useful.

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