

Cassis Currents

NO. 11 2001 APRIL

FIRST Cassis2 DISCS DELIVERED

We are very pleased to announce that the first Cassis2 discs were delivered in early April. This included the following products:

Patents BIB
Patents and Trademarks ASSIGN
Trademarks ACE
Trademarks PENDING (*Trademarks ACE and Trademarks PENDING were on one disc.*)
Trademarks REGISTERED

These discs all used the new Cassis2 user interface and were published on DVD-ROM. They included all of the enhancements that the Electronic Products Branch has been working on for several months. In addition, they included the CD-Answer version of the information as a backup to the Cassis2 version. Keep in mind that answers may vary between versions as more information may be included in the Cassis2 version.

A User's Guide was included with the Trademarks discs and the Patents and Trademarks ASSIGN disc. The Patents BIB User's Guide and Cassis2 Installation and Reference Manual, which were provided earlier, are currently being revised.

For additional assistance in using a specific product or performing a specific task, please consult the online Help system. It is available on each product by clicking the Help icon, using the Help Menu, or pressing the F1 key.

FIRST ISSUE OF USAApp - NEW DOCUMENT DELIVERY PRODUCT - PUBLISHED

The first issue of USAApp, the newest member of the Cassis Series, contained documents published on Thursday, 2001 March 15. This weekly product contains facsimile images of patent application publications. Previously, the USPTO did not publish applications, only patent grants. This changed with the implementation of the American Inventor Protection Act of 1999, which went into effect on 2000 November 29, and requires publication of patent applications eighteen months after the effective filing date. Applications will be published unless the applicant is not applying outside of the United States and he/she formally requests that it not be published. This includes utility and plant applications, not design or provisional applications.

USAApp will use the same DocDW software as USAPat and USAMark. However, in order to ensure publication of this new data on time, some of the more sophisticated features of DocDW will not be activated initially. All of the basic searching, viewing, printing, and exporting features are available. All features will be functioning as soon as possible. As features are activated, you will be alerted in the ReadMe file that is displayed when you open USAApp.

The number of patent applications being published in the first few weeks is very low; the first week 47 applications were published. This will begin to grow, and a large increase should be

seen around 2001 May or June. In the meantime, USAApp will be published on CD-ROMs. Once it becomes necessary, USAApp will migrate to DVD-ROM. The DocDW Team has worked diligently to publish this product on time, in addition to continuing the weekly publication of USAPat and the monthly publication of USAMark.

Patent application publications will be numbered with a new format that includes the country code (US), the year of publication, the 7-digit sequentially numbered publication number and the kind code indicating the type of publication, for example,

US 2001-0000001 A1 (for the first publication of a utility application)
US 2001-0000001 P1 (for the first publication of a plant application)

For more information on the eighteen-month publication process and the numbering formats, please consult the USPTO Web site at www.uspto.gov.



Figure 1 New USAApp Disc

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USAPat BACK FILE NEWS

The fourth set of USAPat back file discs will be distributed in May. This set will contain patents issued from 1958 to 1970. We continue to keep up with our projected schedule and the back file project is nearly halfway complete.

We recently heard from several of the PTDLs about how useful the USAPat back file has already proven to be. Auburn, Alabama's PTDL, shared a story regarding a gentleman who visited the library in search of information about turpentine cups. It seems that turpentine production was a major industry in the Southeast after the Civil War until the rise of the oil industry. After retrieving a list of the patent numbers for the appropriate classification for turpentine cups, most of the patents turned out to be at least decades old.

This, however, did not present a problem - they were now available on the first few sets of the USAPat back file on DVD! Both the patron and librarian were very impressed with the quick and easy retrieval of these older patents.

We hope that you are having similar experiences. Please let us know...

-Thanks to Andrew Wohrley of the Auburn AL PTDL for this story.

Cassis Currents is published by the Electronic Products Branch (EPB) of the Information Products Division (IPD) under the Office of Chief Information Officer at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), an agency of the United States Department of Commerce.

Back issues are available on the USPTO Website at <http://www.uspto.gov/>.

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TRADEMARKS BIB - TRADEMARKS ACE, PENDING, & REGISTERED - NOW ONE PRODUCT

Searching trademarks on the Cassis products will never be the same! With the 2001 February issue, the previously three separate trademarks bibliographic databases will be merged into one single searchable database on one optical disc, called *Trademarks BIB*. You will be able to search for registered, pending, or dead marks at one time - no more need to switch discs. The search results are listed in the following order: Registered, Pending, and Dead. For an integrated results list, sort by Serial Number.

There are a total of 35 searchable fields between the three databases. Some fields apply only to registered marks and some apply just to dead marks. USAMark Volume IDs are now displayed in the bibliographic record if the mark has been registered.

If you only want to search for one type of mark, you can use the Live/Dead Indicator field to restrict your search. This field indicates if the mark is Pending, Registered, or Dead.

In the near future, the Trademarks User's Guide will be revised to reflect the merging of the three files. Until that time, the recently distributed User's Guide will provide accurate information regarding the available fields and use of the database.

The subscription price is now \$500 per year, down from \$600 per year. Please contact our Customer Service Branch if you have any questions regarding changes to your subscription.

24TH ANNUAL PTDL TRAINING SEMINAR COMES TO CRYSTAL CITY

The week of March 18 - 25, 2001, nearly 100 Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) staff members from around the country came to Crystal City for their annual training seminar. They received welcomes from the Acting Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Nicholas Godici, Commissioner of Trademarks, Anne Chasser, and Acting Chief Information Officer, Ronald Hack, among others. The attendees were also given intensive training in patent and trademark classification and legislative updates. Special attention was given to the American Inventor's Protection Act (AIPA) and how this will affect the PTDLs and their patrons.

Two in-depth lab sessions were held for all attendees in the use of the new Cassis2 user interface. The training sessions consisted of an overview of the new software and search engine, mainly concentrating on trademarks products. The lab sessions also included training in the use of International Patent Classification tools available on the Cassis Patents ASSIST disc, the USPTO Web site, as well as other intellectual property Web sites.

As with last year's training, attendees were asked to submit their comments and suggestions regarding the new Cassis2 products. More than 40 people responded. We take our users' comments seriously. Each comment will be reviewed by the EPB staff and further discussed at the bi-weekly meeting dealing with optical disc publishing. We will definitely consider any suggestions that we are able to implement. At last year's training session, we received many comments and we used these comments to significantly revise the layout and functionality of the interface. We are

working to make the Cassis2 products as user-friendly as possible.

We look forward to visiting with all of the PTDL folks again next year.



Figure 2 New Look for the Patents BIB Disc

CHANGES TO PATENTS BIB DUE TO EIGHTEEN-MONTH PUBLICATION

The 2001 April issue of Patents BIB will include the first patent application publications from March and April. This new data will be merged into the current patent data. We are looking at adding several new fields, including Publication Number, Publication Date, and Kind Code. A “Document Type” field that would indicate if the document is a granted patent or an application is also being investigated. This field could be used to restrict your search to one specific type of document.

All of the currently searchable and displayable fields on Patents BIB that also apply to patent application publications will be provided for those documents. Examples of these fields are Title or Abstract, Inventor fields, Current Classification, and Filing Date, to name just a few. The USAApp Volume ID will also be displayed in the bibliographic records of application publications. The Patents BIB User’s Guide is being revised to reflect these changes. As noted in the USAApp article on the front page, the application publications are starting slowly, but will soon begin to grow at a rapid pace.



Figure 3 New Look for the New Trademarks BIB Disc

SPOTLIGHT ON IPD’S CUSTOMER SERVICE BRANCH STAFF

In case you’ve ever called, e-mailed, or faxed us, chances are that you have interacted with one of the members of the Information Products Division’s (IPD) Customer Service Branch staff, Meg Gilbert, Carolyn Johnson, Katrina Sutton, or William Rivers. They are responsible for answering questions via the telephone, fax, mail, or e-mail. They also process subscription orders, take in subscription payments, keep accounts up to date, photocopy product user’s guides and subscriber notices, and send out our products.

Meg has been with the government since 1978 and with IPD since 1991.

In addition to providing customer support, she maintains the subscription database, oversees the distribution of Cassis products, and provides technical assistance for the optical disc publishing contracts. Meg also responds to the Cassis@uspto.gov mailbox inquiries.

Carolyn has been with IPD (through its various name changes, including OEIP & OPTI) since its inception with Jane Myers in 1985. She supports Cassis subscription payment processing and enters new subscription data into the database. Carolyn also maintains the IPD budget and the IPD staff’s time and attendance records.

Katrina joined the staff of IPD in 1997, after working several years with the USPTO’s General Information Services Division. She responds to customers’ telephone requests, takes part in subscription data processing and general product distribution, and ensures that copies of the User’s Guides are available.

William has worked for the USPTO for the past 22 years, joining IPD in 1995. In addition to telephone assistance, he provides valuable support with product mailings for Cassis products and the Data Dissemination Branch tapes.



Figure 4 Customer Service Branch Staff - Carolyn Johnson, Katrina Sutton, Meg Gilbert, and William Rivers, left to right

Cassis2 TIP - CREATING MAILING LABELS & LISTS

The new Cassis2 Patents BIB disc contains inventor information as part of the bibliographic record. If the patent wasn't assigned at the time it was patented, full inventor address information will be given. This makes it possible to search the database by city and state or by zip code. To search for a general location, you can truncate the zip code, for example, 9021\$ or 902\$. You can then use this information to prepare mailing lists or labels.

Follow these steps to create mailing labels:

- 1) Perform a search using the *Inventor Zip* field.
- 2) Once you have an answer set, go to *View/Display Styles*. When the *Display Styles* window opens, select the *Mailing Labels* choice from the drop-down menu and click *Select*. (See Figure 5)
- 3) The formatting is already prepared for the labels and the process is automatic.

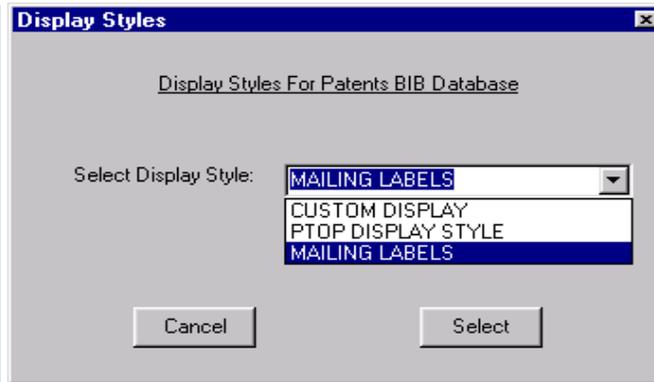


Figure 5 Display Styles Window

To export a mailing list, follow these steps:

- 1) Perform a search using the *Inventor Zip* field.
- 2) Once you have an answer set, go to *View/Display Styles*. When the *Display Styles* window opens, select the *Custom Display* choice from the drop-down menu and click *Select*. (See Figure 5)
- 3) In the *Display Fields Selection* window that opens, click in the boxes to the left of the field names that you want included in your mailing list. For example, for an inventor mailing list, you might select the *Inventor Last Name*, *Inventor First Name*, *Inventor Middle Name*, *Inventor Suffix*, *Inventor Street Address*, *Inventor City*, *Inventor State*, and *Inventor Zip*.

4) You can now arrange the fields in the order you would like to display them. To merge or change the display order, use the buttons on the right of the window. When the fields are arranged the way you want them, click *Apply*.

- 5) Go to *File/Export/All Documents/Delimited* and select the *Pipe |* as the Delimiter. Provide a file name and location and click *Save*. You can then open this file in a spreadsheet or other appropriate software package.

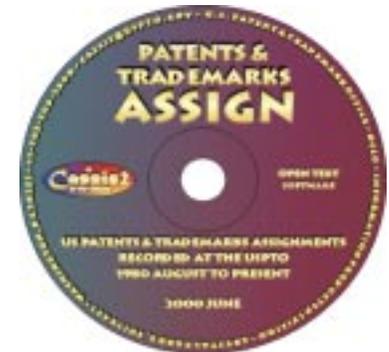


Figure 6 New Look for New Patents and Trademarks ASSIGN Disc