The PATLIB Centre of Turin Chamber of Commerce is at the service of industrial patent

Mariangela Ravasenga
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PATLIB Centre
Turin Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture
"Man's creativity, enhanced by the system of industrial patents, is essential to create wealth, to raise the standard of living and to enrich our cultural heritage all over the world"

Kamil Idris – General Manager of WIPO
April 26, 2002 – World Intellectual Property Day
The commitment and interest that the Turin Chamber of Commerce pays to technological innovation and to spreading the patent culture, have resulted in the creation of three complementary services:

- the **PATLIB Centre**
- the **Patents and Trademarks Sector**
- the **ALPS Innovation Relay Centre**.
The PATLIB Centre of Piedmont.

This is the patent library that has existed at the Chamber of Commerce's Documentation Centre since 1991, the year when the European Patent Office created the document network which currently covers 27 countries and which, in Italy alone, includes

- 20 Patent Library Info Centres (PATLIB) and
- 38 Patent Information Points (PIP).
EPO on web
http://www.european-patent-office.org/
PATLIB: the purpose of the network

- To spread the patent culture

- To spread awareness of the need to protect industrial patents

- To give information about European and international applications for patents (PCT) and related filing methods
The informative role of the EPO

The PATLIB network


What is PATLIB

PATLIB is a network of patent information centres located throughout Europe. The PATLIB Network was created by the national offices of the member states of the European Patent Organization and their regional patent information centres. There are about 250 information centres across the currently 26 EPO member states.

Patent information is disseminated via the patent offices in the contracting states and patent information centres associated with them. These institutions, which work in the language of the countries concerned, provide patent information services, especially to small and medium-sized enterprises, private inventors and academics.

Through co-operation with the national offices of the member states, the PATLIB network has grown significantly during recent years. In 1995 the EPO listed 118 members of the PATLIB network, whereas the number of PATLIB centres in 2002 had expanded to 283 centres. Due to the accession of the new member states in Eastern Europe a further growth of the network is expected.

All co-operation activities between the EPO and any PATLIB centre have to be established in agreement with the respective national patent office. As soon as a regional patent information centre is officially recognised by the national patent office it becomes part of the PATLIB network. It is entitled to benefit from measures provided by the EPO to support the national patent information infrastructure.

The main aim of the PATLIB network is to enable the regional patent information centres to communicate and to work with each other in a feasible and convenient way. The annual PATLIB Conference, is one measure taken to achieve this goal.

The PATLIB Conference is jointly organised in one of the member states by the...
The differences between PATLIB and PIP

PATLIB Centres are equipped with comprehensive, constantly updated offline databases, which can be consulted independently of online electronic archives, unlike PIPs.

This is a good reason to reiterate that the NETWORK means collaboration between operating units with different structures and equipment, but with a common goal.
Our typical user

Piedmont's PATLIB offers its information services to whoever wishes to use them.

However our user target is specific: SME, economic operators, business associations, researchers and professional people.
The utility of a patent search

When the patent database is consulted, the PATLIB network supplies information which, in **80% of cases** would not otherwise be available, because it is contained **exclusively** in specific **scientific publications**, i.e. **patents**.
Added value

Accessing the descriptions and illustrations of filed inventions means:

- Being informed about individual discoveries
- Monitoring the state of the art of individual technological sectors all over the world
Saving money in the field of technological research: in Europe alone, **Euro 15 million** is spent every year on research projects already carried out by someone else!

**30% of research IS NOT INNOVATIVE!**

Finding commercial partners
Identifying technological trends in markets so as to direct one's own research policy to specific development "niches"

Checking up on the activities of the competition

Protecting one's products from counterfeiting and imitation, at home and abroad
The services offered by the Piedmont PATLIB

The archive of patent documents accessible from the Piedmont PATLIB is very varied: books, periodicals, off and online databases can all be consulted freely.

An updated list is available from the Chamber of Commerce Internet site www.to.camcom.it
You will find the Piedmont PATLIB at www.to.camcom.it/patlib
Bibliographic research is performed free of charge.

The cost of printouts varies according to the type of document requested, as established in the 10-year convention stipulated with the Ministry of Manufacturing Activities.
The off-line databases

There are four different types of off-line electronic patent archives:

- databases that provide the full text of documents
- bibliographic CD-ROMS which contain essential data regarding applications and patents
The archives of legal documentation regarding industrial law

Complex databases created by commercial operators who compile them with information from a number of sources, combining them so that more than one archive can be consulted at a time.
The majority of the offline databases currently available from the **PATLIB** are produced and distributed by the **EPO**, by **WIPO** and by **UAMI**.

Searches can be performed in **English, French and German**.
Online databases

**Free consultation of online databases:**

Esp@cenet

Epoline

SIMBA

etc. etc. ...
Use esp@cenet, it's your gateway to patents!

Access to esp@cenet

The national offices of the member states act as service providers and offer users access via Internet home pages hosted by them. In this way the pages can be customized to meet national requirements, e.g. with respect to language, links to other pages and help functions.

Once users are connected to the patent office of their country via the Internet they can then access the servers of other national offices as well as the EPO.

Searches are based on bibliographic data in patent documents, using an easy-to-operate search mask which is not, however, suitable for more complex searches.

The full text images of the documents in esp@cenet are available as PDF files. You need to have the freeware Acrobat Reader installed properly on your workstation.

Click <<here>> for more information.

Access esp@cenet via the EPO at http://ep.espacenet.com/ [search EP, WO, Japanese (PAJ) and "worldwide" patent documents] [English, French and German language support]

Access esp@cenet via the national offices of the member states (Including invited states) [search all national patent documents, EP, WO, Japanese (PAJ) and "worldwide" patent documents]

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Following on from the successful launch of epoline® in Cardiff, Wales in 2001, it was decided, in order to provide users in the intellectual property community with the opportunity to find out about the latest developments, to hold two regional epoline® user days, and an epoline® annual conference every year.

The first of the user days in 2002 was staged in Frankfurt, Germany, in June, directly after the COMINFO fair. The second took place in Copenhagen, Denmark in October, right after the EPIDOS conference. The annual conference was held in December in Nice, France.

The one-day user events have a hands-on workshop format which allows participants to use the products and test new developments.

Whilst also offering workshops, the two-and-a-half day annual conference in Nice focused more on future epoline® developments.

epoline® events in 2002 - Reviews and photos

- epoline® user day, Frankfurt, 6 June 2002
- epoline® user day, Copenhagen, 17-18.10.02
- epoline® conference, Nice, 03-05.12.02
Periodicals

The databases are backed up by a number of periodical publications, which are available on paper, off-line and online:

- CORDIS focus
- Diritto industriale
- Honesty & Patent
- Korea IP News
Innovazione & Trasferimento tecnologico
IP Wire
Italian intellectual property
Managing intellectual property
Marques internationales
Notiziario dell’ordine dei consulenti in proprietà industriale
World intellectual property report
In addition to patents

The PATLIB Centre is an integral part of a Documentation Centre where it is possible to consult all the existing UNI and CEI standards and updated documentation regarding quality, marketing and corporate economics, law, working safety, e-commerce etc.
Our catalogue can be consulted online
http://sbnweb.csi.it:8092/CIC/BASIS/opacx/udmopac/esimplex/sf
In 1999 the Chambers of Commerce of Alessandria, Biella, Cuneo, Novara, Torino and Verbania approved a project to share the documentation at their disposal and their bibliographic services.

This resulted in the official recognition of the Chamber of Commerce of Cuneo as a PIP.
6 offices throughout the region to prevent time wasted in unnecessary transfers!

The Turin PATLIB is in fact the reference point for the other 5 Piedmontese Chambers of Commerce, for the patent (and other) searches required by users.
Our collaboration projects

We collaborate with Turin University on a project to increase patent literacy among students at the University, to whom we propose seminars that focus on the specific interests of individual Faculties.
This experience, which is being experimented for the first time in Italy, is a concrete response to precise requests from the Ministry of Manufacturing Activities and the EPO and led us to collaborate with the Patents Office of Turin University and with renowned experts in industrial patents.
People who have already attended our seminars have asked us to hold them more regularly in the coming academic years.

For the coming Autumn, we have increased the number of Faculties to which we will offer our experience.
It is our intention to make this experience ongoing and to extend it to secondary schools.

To this end, we are refining the details of a collaboration project with Turin Polytechnic (where a PIP was created in 2001).
We are working with ALPS-IRC to organise thematic meetings for operators of this sector, regarding the main problems related to the use of trademarks and patents in individual manufacturing sectors.
We are willing to undertake constructive collaboration with the entire PATLIB network, with the PIPs in Piedmont and with any organisation interested in making patents and trademarks a part of everyday life!
The Piedmont PATLIB
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10123 Torino

Tel. 011/ 5716.632-.631
Fax 011/ 5716.630
E-mail patlib@to.camcom.it
or biblioteca@to.camcom.it
Filing patent applications

In Italy patent applications must be presented to the Italian Patents and Trademarks Office, by post or by filing them with the Patent Offices that are present in every Province at the local Chamber of Commerce, which, from January 1, 1999, now perform the functions of the former Provincial Patent Offices, which were abolished on the same date.
The site of the Italian Patents and Trademarks Office at the Ministry of Manufacturing Activities
The Patents and Trademarks Sector of the Turin Chamber of Commerce

- It is the provincial office that receives the applications for Italian patents and trademarks.

- It is involved in the implementation and constant updating of SIMBA, the Italian national database (InfoCamere network) which provides information about patents, methods of use and trademarks registered from January 1, 1980 (filing date).
At the Patents Sector it is possible to consult the electronic archive, although this may contain gaps regarding recent applications filed in other provinces.

Those filed in Turin are available in real time.

• Applications can be sent:
  - to the office in Via San Francesco da Paola, 24
  - by telephone, to the number 011 571 6931 / 2 / 3 / 4
  - by e-mail, to the address brevetti@to.camcom.it
Thank you for your attention and ... COME TO SEE US!!!