USPTO Town Hall Meetings Focus on Patent Review Process Improvements

In a series of Town Hall Meetings, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will provide background information regarding proposed new rule changes.

The proposed rule changes relate to the examination of claims, continuing applications, requests for continued examination and applications containing patentably indistinct claims. The changes will make the patent examination process more effective and efficient by reducing the amount of rework by the USPTO and the time it takes for the patent review process. In addition they will improve the quality of issued patents and ensure that the USPTO continues to promote innovation.

Specifically, these initiatives will prioritize the claims reviewed during the examination process and better focus the agency’s examination of patent applications by requiring applicants to identify the most important claims to the invention.

“The USPTO clearly has a responsibility to do everything it can to improve America’s patent system. That is why we are undertaking this collaborative approach – putting forth quality and efficiency proposals for the patent community to give us feedback,” said Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property Jon Dudas at a recent meeting in Berkeley, California.

The recognized value of patents to innovation has led to an enormous increase in the number of patent applications filed each year. Since the USPTO’s resources have not increased at the same rate as filings, it has become much more difficult to provide reliable, consistent and prompt patentability decisions. Delay in granting a patent can slow new products coming to market, and issuing patents for inventions that are not novel and non-obvious can impede competition and economic growth. Simply hiring more patent examiners will not slow the growth in the time it takes to get a patent or improve the quality of examination. This will occur only through the participation of applicants in facilitating more effective and efficient patent examination.

In the past two years, the USPTO has instituted a number of measures to improve patent quality and also has implemented new metrics to measure the results. Results indicate that quality is improving. The percentage of patent examiners certified for promotion to full performance level increased from 59 percent in FY 2004 to 70 percent in FY 2005. The number of office actions complying with applicable laws and rules during examination improved to 86.2 percent from 82 percent the previous year. The compliance rate for final allowances improved from 94.8 percent to 96 percent from FY 2004 to FY 2005.

(continued on page 2)
PTDLA Officers 2005–2006

President: Nan Myers, Wichita, KS

Vice-President/President-Elect: Jan Comfort, Clemson, SC

Secretary: Leena Lalwani, Ann Arbor, MI

Treasurer (2005): Karen Hertel, Moscow, ID

Treasurer (2006): Suzanne Holcombe, Stillwater, OK

Past President: Charlotte Erdmann, West Lafayette, IN

Regional Representatives

Region 1: Leonard Adams, Amherst, MA

Region 2: Deb Leary, Rochester NY

Region 3: Marian Armour Gemmen, Morgantown, WV

Region 4: Jan Comfort, Clemson, SC

Region 5: Robert Klein, Miami, FL

Region 6: Tom Rohrig, Lubbock, TX

Region 7: Ran Raider, Dayton, OH

Region 8: Nancy Spitzer, Madison, WI

Region 9: Suzanne Holcombe, Stillwater, OK

Region 10: Walt Johnson, Minneapolis, MN

Region 11: Sam Kushner, Las Vegas, NV

Region 12: Kristine Ogilvie, Sacramento, CA

(continued from page 1)

Highlights of Proposed Changes

Claims

Only representative claims will be initially examined. Representative claims are all of the independent claims in an application, and only those dependent claims that are expressly designated by the applicant for initial examination.

Up to 10 representative claims will get an initial examination. If an applicant submits more than 10 independent claims, or designates additional dependent claims so there are more than 10 representative claims to be initially examined, the Office will require the applicant to submit an examination support document, or take other appropriate action.

Examination Support Documents will require: a pre-examination search, an IDS, identification of limitations shown by cited references, a patentability statement, a utility statement, and a showing of how limitations are supported by disclosure.

Dependent claims that are not designated for initial examination will get a deferred examination after the initial examination yields allowable representative claims.

Patently indistinct claims in certain related applications will be collectively considered as being in one application.

Some dependent claims, which are effectively independent claims, will be treated as independent claims.

Continuation Practice

Only one continued examination filing will be permitted, unless a petition is granted. This includes continuation applications, continuation-in-part applications, and requests for continued examination (RCEs).

First action final practice will be eliminated if the proposed changes are adopted.

Divisional Applications are only permitted if the Office imposes a restriction, or lack of unity, requirement in the parent application. A single continuation or RCE of each divisional application will be permitted (without petition).

Related applications and claims: An applicant must identify all other applications that are related (close effective filing dates, common inventor, and common assignee) to his or her application. If the disclosure of a related application substantially overlaps applicant’s disclosure, the Office will presume double patenting between the inventions for certain applications. The Office may require that patentably indistinct claims be eliminated from all but one application.

The Town Hall Meetings are for patent attorneys, patent agents, independent inventors and members of the small business community. PTDL representatives are also encouraged to attend. Meetings have been scheduled in Illinois, California, Texas and Washington D.C. More information about the Town Hall Meetings and the proposed rules can be found at http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/townhall.htm.
PTDLA President’s Report

As I write this for the 2006 PTDLA Newsletter, I am heavily involved in working with the Executive Board and Committee to finalize nominations, get the electronic elections set up (through Purdue again, many thanks) and put the finishing touches on all the details we are responsible for at the upcoming PTDLP Training Seminar.

This will be our second year attending the Training Seminar at the new Alexandria facility and I am really looking forward to it. Amanda Putnam and her staff at the Patent & Trademark Depository Library Program Office did a great job last year (YEAR 1!!) of mounting a well-organized and well-run seminar, especially since they had only been in this huge facility for a few months. This year, under the direction of Christine Kitchens of the PTDL and her talented staff, we’ll be back to enjoy the spacious rooms and up-to-date computing facilities of the USPTO’s Alexandria facility.

If you are a new attendee this year, welcome! You have an excellent experience ahead of you. To assist you in navigating the labyrinth of conference logistics, each of you will have a mentor assigned to you while you are at the seminar. These people are veteran PTDL librarians and members of the Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA). The Mentor Coordinator and I will both be at the New Attendees session on Sunday morning to welcome you and give you your mentor assignments. In the meantime, if you have any questions you can ask your PTDLA Regional Representative (http://www.ptdla.org/) or contact me at 316-978-5130 or 1-800-572-8368, or at nan.myers@wichita.edu.

At the training seminar, Tuesday will be PTDLA Day. We will have our Open Forum Q&A session with PTDLP staff, our Business Meeting, a guest speaker, and six Best Practice Round Tables for your instruction and entertainment. The topic of “Re-Branding” will be discussed at one of the round tables, offering us an opportunity to participate in the renaming of our PTDLs.

For years, I have fantasized about calling my area of the library a “Patent & Trademark Information Center,” so this is of special interest to me. In addition, I am excited about our speaker, who is Ms. Glennor Shirley, library coordinator for the Maryland Correctional Education Libraries. She will be talking with us about prison libraries and guidelines for communicating with the incarcerated community.

One of the challenges coming up for the PTDLA is the replacement of the PTDLA-L email listserv manager. For more than ten years, we have been blessed to have this task manned seamlessly by Kevin Harwell, who is the business librarian at Penn State University. On behalf of our Association, I issue our heartfelt thanks for his service to the PTDLs and to our profession. Between now and the time of the training seminar, I invite anyone interested in taking over as listserv manager to contact me or Kevin. Kevin is willing to provide assistance for the transfer, but he would like his work to be completed by the end of April.

Finally, you will be interested to know that the PTDLA is hitting the road again as we host a program at the American Library Association in New Orleans on Saturday, June 24 from 10:30 am–noon. The program is “What Business Reference Providers Need to Know About Intellectual Property.” The PTDLA Executive Board is in process of selecting the speakers for this program and we will announce the details at the upcoming Training Seminar.

I look forward to meeting you all in just a few weeks in Alexandria. I urge you to consider being as active as possible in the Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association. Good leadership is crucial to the success of any organization. This is our professional organization and it needs your interest and support.

—Nan Myers, President
Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association
Pre-Seminar Treasurer’s Report (February 2006)
Suzanne Holcomb, PTDLA Treasurer

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**Detailed withdrawals**

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Thursday, April 7, 2005

**Attendees:** Charlotte Erdmann, Nan Myers, Jan Comfort, Leena Lalwani, Esther Crawford, Samantha Hager, Deb Leary, Marian Armour-Gemmen, Walt Johnson, Dave Morrison, Andy Wohrley, Nancy Spitzer, Eileen Fischlschweiger

**Minutes for 2004**

President Charlotte Erdmann called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Minutes of the 2004 Executive Board Meeting were discussed. Charlotte moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Nan Myers seconded the motion, which passed.

**President’s Report**

Charlotte stated that it is a joy to be holding the annual training seminar in the new facility in Alexandria. She summarized some of the accomplishments of the 2004/2005 year: The arrival of the new computer CPUs was a great addition for Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries. The Regional Representatives were surveyed for feedback on the deployment of the new equipment. The Association sponsored a successful session at the annual conference of the American Library Association. The speakers were very good. The session will be discussed later in the meeting. The Executive Committee of PTDLA will honor Wesley Gewehr of the USPTO on his retirement with an honorary membership and proclamation. We thank him for his support for the PTDL Program. PTDLA also completed a nomination for USPTO’s Patent Advisory Committee. It was a good nomination and we received positive feedback. Charlotte plans to prepare a response to a journal article that was critical of the program. Some information from members has been gathered. We need to acquire background information on customers and services we provide in order to respond to the article. The election committee ran a successfully election using electronic voting for the first time. The Association continues to communicate with each other through our listserv.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Karen Hertel was not at the meeting, but the Pre-Seminar Treasurer’s Report as of February 21, 2004 was published in the Newsletter.

(continued on page 5)
Electronic Elections
Charlotte stated that while it took a bit of time to get people to participate, the electronic setup was ok and worked very well. We made modification to the ASEE election template. Only 49 votes were cast and 79 were eligible. Charlotte stated that we can continue to run the elections from Purdue in coming years.

Program Update
Charlotte asked what does everyone think of move to weekend format for the seminar? Is Mid-March a good idea? PTDL may not have an alternative. ACRL is also this week. State conferences are also this week. May might be a better idea. We need to do a survey at the business meeting. PTDLA Reception had to move to Saturday night because of the concert.

Roundtables
There are five this year.

Archives
Dave Morrison reported that the Archives Committee is back to one person again. Ted Cebula, Kevin Harwell, and Tom Rohrig were the other members. We have a website template for the archives, courtesy of Esther Crawford. We have scanned pdfs of archives from early 1990s and we need to make decisions on which other materials need to be scanned. We have 18 years worth of conference packets and contributions from the old finance committee. Which server will additional archival materials be stored on?

Esther talked about storage space. Should we be getting server space? We need to investigate the cost of server space. Esther said she would ask the Webmaster at Rice if we have issues. She also mentioned an index is created within the archive. Dave said he would need help this year with the archives. Charlotte said that volunteer lists will be passed around at the Business Meeting.

Publications Committee
a. Newsletter: Samantha Hager reported it took longer than she thought it would take to produce the newsletter. She e-mailed the link to members and paper copies will be available tomorrow. It cost $800 to get paper copies. We may want to think going electronic only. Charlotte said by laws & regulation USPTO has needs for paper. It also provides contact information for newcomers.

b. IP Journal: Esther Crawford reported that she, Andy Wohrley and Mike White are working on some excellent topics. Mike White is soliciting articles for the next two issues.

c. Website: Esther Crawford stated that the site is moving along. They have been reducing the white space on the webpage. More content is up on the webpages. The handout exchange is linked. Links to the Newsletter are up and we are planning on putting back issues up. Chris plans to convert files. We need some kind of authentication if we are going to add all Newsletters up. In addition, we need links to different inventor societies.

d. Inventor’s Digest: Charlotte reported on the articles that were written by PTDLs. The July/August 2004 issue was the last to have a PTDL article. The Publisher has reduced issues and hence is running behind. Claudine has checked with the editor. They are still planning to publish the articles.

Election Committee Report
The following officers were elected by a vote of PTDLA members: Jan Comfort: Vice President/President Elect; Leena Lalwani: Secretary; Region 1: Leonard Adams; Region 3: Marian Armour-Gemmen; Region 5: Robert Klein; Region 7: Ran Raider; Region 9: Suzanne Holcombe; Region 11: Sam Kushner; Charlotte will talk to Nancy Spitzer to fill region 8. Nan Myers is the current Vice President/President Elect. Karen Hertel is still Treasurer, which is a two-year term.

Bylaws Committee
Dave pointed out typographical errors in the bylaws. Deb Leary wanted to make corrections with our approval. The board members approved the typographical corrections. Changes were discussed regarding our incorporation in Delaware.

Mentoring Committee
Robin Gray was not in attendance, but Charlotte reported that Robin has again connected newcomers with veterans as buddies for this conference.

Regional Representatives
Regarding Regional Reps, Charlotte said we need volunteers to update the bylaws. Will this constitute bylaws change? We need a couple people to look into this. Eileen Fischlschweiger questioned: Do we need regional representatives?

(continued on page 6)
Nan will write something up. Dave and Walt will work with her on this. Suggested duties could include: 1) help recruit nominees, 2) membership recruitment, 3) conducting polls of needs and opinions, such as about the installation of CASSIS and WEST.

Promotion and Outreach Committee
Eileen Fischlschweiger reported they have been working mainly over email. Basically, Bob Klein was thinking of emailing people and was trying to get membership Publication and PTDLs on webpages of patent related organizations, inventor committees. Nan questioned the purpose of this committee and asked for a template for action. Charlotte suggested let’s poll the members tomorrow at the business meeting.

Activities with Other Organizations
Esther spoke regarding the PTDLA-sponsored session at ALA. She said the session was not well attended and she believed that Orlando was not a good conference venue. We need to partner with another group like RUSA, BRASS, STS, GODORT, or YALSA. We need to think about how to focus on these issues this next year. We also need help finding good speakers. Charlotte said, she will be going to ALA; she has free membership this year.

Dues
Our dues are currently $25.00, with $40.00 for the conference. Charlotte requested that we have talked about dues in the past, but she would prefer not to talk about it at this year’s seminar. We need to find out what it will cost for us to run the seminar at the new venue.

Response to Critical Journal Article
Charlotte still wants to prepare a response to an article in the Journal of the Patent & Trademark Society which was critical of PTDLs.

Nomination for Patent Advisory Committee
Charlotte mentioned we should try again to get nomination of patent advisory committee.

Patent Societies
There was mention that the Patent Documentation Society has disappeared, and an inquiry about the Patent Office Society. We discussed the possibilities for finding a partner to host a luncheon at a future seminar.

Adjournment
Charlotte asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved, seconded, and motion carried.

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Do you have a handout or tutorial you would like to share?
Put a link to your guides or presentations on PTDLA’s HANDOUT CENTRAL
http://www.ptdla.org/handouts/
Send submissions to crawford@rice.edu
Minutes of Business Meeting (April 8, 2005)

The 2005 Business Meeting of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA) was called to order by President Charlotte Erdmann.

Ms. Erdmann reported that it was a busy year. It is a joy to be holding the annual training seminar in the new facility in Alexandria. The arrival of the new computer CPUs was a great addition for Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries. The Regional Representatives were surveyed for feedback on the deployment of the new equipment. The Association sponsored a successful session at the annual conference of the American Library Association. The speakers were very good. The session will be discussed later in the meeting. The Executive Committee of PTDLA honored Wesley Gewehr on his retirement with an honorary membership and proclamation. We thank him for his support for the PTDL Program. PTDLA also completed a nomination for USPTO’s Patent Advisory Committee. It was a good nomination and we received positive feedback. Ms. Erdmann will prepare a response to a journal article that was critical of the program. Some information from members has been gathered. We need to acquire background information on customers and services we provide in order to respond to the article. The election committee ran a successful election using electronic voting for the first time. The Association continues to communicate with each other through our listserv.

Tom Melvin moved that minutes be approved as amended. It was seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report was printed on the back of the Agenda. Tom Melvin asked about costs/changes associated with the move to new facility. Charlotte: “We will have a better idea after this seminar.” Virginia Baldwin moved to approve the report. Motion was seconded and the motion passed.

Program Planning
Charlotte talked about what time would be good for the training seminar in future years. Most of us said we preferred April. Ron Raider suggested second week to start of quarter. Suzanne Holcombe said it is better held during the week. Most people liked April as long as it did not conflict with other events. A tally of members indicated that most preferred meeting during the week. Another advantage during that week is that there is a shuttle bus to Old Town at lunchtime. This year’s PTDLA reception is during the week. A reception on Sunday works better.

Archives Committee
Dave Morris is Archives committee chair. Some folks should consider signing up for the committees. The committee is very slowly getting to webpages and populating them with scanned webpages. Dave could really use help with webpages, particularly arranging materials and putting them in order. Dave wants to get information from past presidents and committee members. Please send copies of whatever was created. Currently archives are living in one of Dave’s cabinets.

Publication Committee:
Samantha Hager, newsletter editor, has a copy of the publication in envelopes addressed to each member. Those without an addressed envelope were not members last year. Please take one of the additional copies that are on a table at the back of the room.

Esther Crawford, Webmaster, talked about the PTDLA website. A lot of content has been added. She can use some help with the Web work. One of the pages is the patent resources page. She asked us to update local depository webpages. Please send ideas for content to Esther. We renewed our registration for the URL, http://www.ptdla.org

Andy Wohrley discussed the IP Journal. The new editor to the board is Michael White. Andy has been working with Mike online. Andy has asked him to be a talent scout.

Articles in Inventor’s Digest are being delayed indefinitely because the publication is being published less frequently. For more information, communicate with Claudine Jenda who has been the contact with the editor.

Election Committee
President Erdmann appointed Nancy Spitzer to fill the Region 8 Representative position. The following officers were elected by a vote of PTDLA members: Vice President/President-Elect: Jan Comfort; Secretary: Leena Lalwani; Representatives—Region 1: Leonard Adams; Region 3: Marian Armour Gemmen; Region 5: (continued on page 8)
Bylaws Committee
Deb Leary stated that committee did not have much to do this year. She put together some wording on Regional Representatives. A subcommittee was appointed to look at the duties of Regional Representatives. Members are Dave Morrison, Nan Myers, Walt Johnson, and Deb Leary. Tom Melvin did not do anything additional on incorporation.

Mentoring Committee
Robin Gray reported that the Buddy Program is working well.

Legislative Committee
Suzanne Holcombe reported that there was no activity.

Promotion and Outreach Committee
A. Eileen Fischlschweiger gave a brief report. She talked about the possibilities of advertisement by the PTO about the PTDL. We all come from different libraries and they can promote via website. She also reported on activities at her library.

B. Group Brain Storming Session: Who are our customers?
  • Dave Morrison: as librarians we are in an unusual situation. In libraries, where there is an interest in the patent and trademark from the past, historical researchers and genealogists are important customers.
  • Ran Raider: Use promotional materials that have the USPTO logo. Customers from Incubators, SCORE SBA, Career Centers, entrepreneur programs, universities, standardized brochure that explains this. Also Attorneys from small firms
  • Samantha Hager: Paralegals and people who are taking IP classes.
  • Connie Wu: Students for University clientele and Young inventor competitions.
  • IP journal in google scholar database.
  • Libraries that deal with children
  • Esther Crawford: Local inventor associations. High school classes come through tours. Outreach to students through faculty
  • Carol Giles: Primary through 6-7 grades. Lesson on inventing and creative think better than adults
  • Marion Armour Gemmen: University: Students faculty, independent inventor, technology, chamber of commerce
  • Leslie Brown: Artists, Design classes: subject areas we may want to develop,
  • Trademark people
  • Internet businesses
  • Students in Engineering and Business
  • Historical Societies, genealogical societies,
  • Beginning inventors
  • Local authorities.

Charlotte would like the Outreach Committee to work on creating more information on our customers.

Activities With Other Organizations
The Patent and Trademark Library Association and the Program Office are active with other library organizations: American Library Association (ALA), American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), and the Special Library Association (SLA). Dawn Rohan, Walt Johnson, and Jim Miller have attended conferences of the Patent Information Users Group (PIUG). Jim reported that it is very heavily attended by high-end commercial researchers and can be more for our education.

Esther Crawford discussed the PTDLA sponsored session of ALA. There were three wonderful speakers. Attendance was very poor. Major problems included a bad location and to make it worse a map that was incorrect. The bus driver had gone way past the hotel and had to turn it around. A suggestion for a future session was to partner with other divisions. Charlotte and Nan will attend ALA to get some ideas for how to proceed with future sessions.

It was suggested that partnering with local library associations and independent inventors may be productive.

Announcement
Virginia Baldwin announced that she works with the STS from ALA and the University of Nebraska and wants to find people to help prepare questions for patent searching that can be part of library assessment program. She was looking for a new partner.

Nan Myers: Thanked Charlotte for a great year. She talked of things to focus on in the coming year. Regional representative descriptions; webpage update; Responding to the journal article regarding PTDLAs; and ALA BRASS and STS to be contacted to partner for future conferences.

Charlotte asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved, seconded, and motion carried.
PTDLA Open Forum (April 8, 2005)

Special Guests Present: Martha Crockett-Sneed, Amanda Putnam, Brookey Givens, Charlotte Erdmann, Donna Cooper, Trischa Michael, Jesse Marshall, Harold Smith, Tom Tiederman, Pamela Reinhart

Tom Melvin (DE): When will the full text file be available for searching?

Martha: I do not want to say anything at this time. Kay would be able to answer that.

Trischa: I cannot say anything further.

Amanda: We are working with GPO to move it to a higher priority.

Marian Armour-Gemmen (WV): Prism 6.0 does not mesh with XP. Are there plans to purchase 7.0?

Mike Harrigan: We are looking into it.

Nan Myers (KS): Regarding trademarks, what is the definition of obscenity? Some of my patrons ask for searches on phrases which I would regard as borderline obscene, and at the very least, tasteless. How should we be responding to this?

Jesse Marshall: We try to look through it, and a senior attorney would review it. What is obscene, does vary with the perception of the attorney. We do not want to appear to be conservative. It has been well examined. It can bubble up through Congress. We have to address it if it comes up through that channel.

Karon King (IA): Are there plans to create an abandoned trademark index for old trademarks?

Martha: We have to look through the indexes. We do not know how to do it before 1984. We will add it to the wish list.

Jim Miller (MD): Are there plans to include missing Marks in USA Mark and TESS? There are 40,000 marks at least.

Tom: OEIP took notice of that. They plan to scan this.

Martha: Put this on the wish list. We have done some scanning, but there were quality issues and the results.

Margaret Collins (IL): All of us did not get copies of Newsletter, since some of us did not pay their PTDL dues as they were not at conference last year.

Charlotte: Additional copies were on the back table. We need to make sure non-attendees pay annual association dues.

Margaret Collins: Concerned about the database transfers in May to July.

Martha: We will keep you apprised, by getting the word out. Servers will be transferred over the weekend. Care been taken to make this a smooth effort. If you are planning to do a training seminar, plan wisely.

Margaret was further concerned that the DVDs were not complete and were not being read by CASSIS

Martha: Explained what PTDLs should have:

USAPAT 1994-2000 completely replaced the DVDs
Six years to cut over from Microfilm to DVDs: Completely replaced the whole run
New Cassis reads all DVDs. You need to follow up with Brookey if you have problems.
Plan around transfers. Rely on PUBWEST

Dawn Rohan (WY): Asked about the color Plant Patent Disc

Martha: We have resolved the color issue.

Virginia Baldwin (NE): Can PTDLs dispose of microfilm?

Amanda: We are encouraging libraries to move microfilm to remote storage.

Karon King (IA): Are there any plans for a new look for the search pages of a patent?

Pam: We are looking at all pages. We will be moving to a PORTAL Environment and trying a new look.

Leslie Brown (Washington, DC): Why are patent images in TIFF format?

Pamela: TIFF is an archival format. Examiners have to convert to PDF on the fly. Monetary issues and legal restrictions prevent us from converting to PDF.

Connie Wu (NJ): What non-patent literature is searched by examiners? For example, commercial databases. Can you provide a list of databases you search?

Harold: In addition to granted patents, we search the STIC databases, Dialog, and the Biosequence database. We also delve into the lists of things these databases search.

(OPEN FORUM continues on page 40)
A Message From the Program Office

New people, new programs, and reorganization—this past year at the USPTO and in the PTDL Program (PTDLP) has been busy and exciting. On November 28, 2005, Congress approved the USPTO reorganization of the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) that will allow OCIO to more effectively carry out the USPTO mission. As a result of this reorganization, PTDLP has also undergone some changes. Mande Putnam, PTDLP manager, is currently serving as acting manager of the Public Records Division on a temporary assignment, and I am serving as the acting manager of PTDLP during this time. PTDLP still reports to Martha Sneed, manager of the Public Information Services Division, whom many of you know from her time as PTDLP manager. Martha now reports to Ted Parr, director of Customer Information Services, as Kay Melvin has new responsibilities leading the OCIO Business Relationship Management team. Be sure to check your seminar registration packets for updated organization charts.

We welcomed Chris Black to PTDLP in September who joined us from the USPTO’s Scientific and Technical Information Center. To avoid confusion with two librarians named “Chris” on staff, the dynamic duo has dubbed themselves “Chris B” and “Chris K”. Throughout the past year we were supported by the cheerful presence of Karon King, the 20th PTDLP Fellow, hailing from the Des Moines PTDL, at the State Library of Iowa. Karon left us in December to return to her home institution.

To recap for all the new PTDL representatives, PTDLP currently consists of the following staff:
- Chris Kitchens, Acting Manager
- Jim Arshem, Librarian Publications Specialist
- Cynthia Banicki, Electronic Services Librarian
- Chris Black, Librarian Training Specialist
- Mary Gomez, Management Analyst
- Michael Hydorn, PTDL Partnership Manager
- Latonya Suggs, Reports and Financial Assistant
- Tom Turner, Partnership Librarian and Training Specialist
- Anthony Wilkinson, Administrative Support Assistant

Even with reorganization and change, we continued our daily support to the PTDLs and provided a number of public seminars and staff training sessions at various PTDLs. We also exhibited at a number of annual conferences to promote the PTDL network’s services. For more detailed information on these activities, be sure to read our newsletter *Ad Libs* and the articles submitted by the PTDLs within this issue of the *PTDLA Newsletter*.

Behind the scenes, PTDLP has worked to coordinate activities between various USPTO offices and the PTDLs to support new public outreach programs. Town Hall meetings, “American Competitiveness Initiative Presentations” and “Intellectual Property in the Global Marketplace” are among these ongoing USPTO outreach efforts. Efforts to promote the new patent Electronic Filing System will also involve PTDL cooperation, so look to hear more about this at the annual training seminar.

And speaking of the seminar, PTDLP is looking forward to providing a comprehensive annual training seminar with a multitude of learning opportunities tailored to your ongoing feedback. In response to a request by the PTDLA Board, the Sunday through Friday format is returning. Based on your many comments from last year, we are providing various levels of training. While you are here on the USPTO campus do not hesitate to ask the PTDLP staff questions or pass along any comments. Your input is taken seriously and used to guide PTDLP in the daily performance of its activities. I especially want to encourage all new representatives to speak up. There are no “stupid” questions, and no question is too basic. We are here to help you learn.

I would also like to ask that everyone please take the opportunity at seminar to discuss among yourselves any thoughts you have about a possible name change for the program and give your input during the “Rebranding Round Table”. We have heard individually from some of you and your directors during the year, and this is your opportunity to discuss this topic as a group.

On behalf of all of us in the PTDL Program Office, thank you for all your hard work over the year, and we look forward to seeing you at the 29th Annual PTDL Training Seminar.

—Chris Kitchens, Acting Manager
Akron, Ohio
Akron-Summit County Public Library

2005 was a busy year in Akron. After settling into our new main library, we began celebrating our 10th anniversary as a PTDL. As part of our celebration, we hosted Tom Turner, Cynthia Banicki and M. Neil Massong for a fabulous patent and trademark training seminar in May. With nearly 130 attendees, we were quite happy with our turnout and a chance to show off our new building. We also provided a day of training attended by staff from other libraries, local universities and the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Patents are located in our Science & Technology Division. Our patent team is made up of Curtis Bower, Francie Labriola, Cheryl Luck and Valerie Sherman, Science & Technology Division Manager. All Science & Technology librarians know the basics of patents and can provide anyone with information to get started on a search.

We continue to offer training for the public with our “Introduction to Online Patent Searching” classes. Held once a month in our new computer training lab, we are able to simultaneously teach 15 people how to use the wonderful PTO website. The classes are increasing in popularity as word is getting out—training for free!

This year, we have been asked to give presentations at the Inventors Connection of Greater Cleveland and hope to continue to expand outreach services in the upcoming year. We are currently planning a PubWEST training session to offer to the public and hope to have a presentation on an overview of intellectual property that we will offer at branches throughout our system this fall.

We are proud of Curtis, who continues to work diligently on our Local Inventors Index as we try to find patents issued to Summit County residents before 1900. So far, he has compiled a list spanning 1790–1884. Our goal is to create a database that will be accessible online so that our genealogy patrons, historians and the Summit County Historical Society may take advantage of it.

Our requests for patent information continue to increase as the public embraces our new facility and realizes what fabulous finds are available in our patent alcove.

—Cheryl Luck

Albany, New York
New York State Library

The year’s most interesting project was offering two patent and trademark searching presentations for a group of lawyers in the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. Their training officer attended one of our public workshops early in the year and approached us about offering the presentation to his law staff for Continuing Legal Education credit.

The training officer took care of getting the class certified for the credit. That involved submitting a copy of my PowerPoint presentation and all the handouts I was going to use, and writing a description of my background in the field. Attendance at our training seminars carried a lot of weight there.

I worked with him to tailor the presentation to their needs. He stressed citing the US and NYS statutory and constitutional authorities that patent and trademark practice are based on. They were actually interested in the Manuals of Examining Procedure.

At the sessions the lawyers were more interested in searching for patentees, trademark owners and assignments than they were in classification searching. They described that some of their work involves dealing with NY-based companies who assign their IP rights to out-of-state intellectual property holding companies as a way (continued on page 12)
of avoiding NYS corporate income taxes. It was an interesting departure from the usual patent searching questions we get from inventors. It was also less intimidating than I expected.

**Other Things**

This winter we have mounted a display of some beautiful color plant patent illustrations to get people in the mood for spring. I decided the criteria would be New York State patentees and the search for them uncovered some interesting things. Jackson & Perkins, though based on the West Coast now, was founded in upstate New York. Members of their research staff have received hundreds of patents for rose varieties. At one time, a small upstate community, Newark, NY, was considered the rose capital of the USA. One of their researchers, Eugene S. Boerner, became known as “Papa Floribunda.”

Many thanks go out to Brookey Givens for his help in solving problems we had with our PubWEST computer. The icons were disappearing from the desktop. Brookey helped us with troubleshooting, then finally sent a new computer and things have been fine ever since.

—Bill Schilling

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**Amherst, Massachusetts**

**W.E.B. Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts at Amherst**

Patents and trademarks at the University of Massachusetts, W.E.B. Du Bois Library, are flourishing and active. I’ve now been the patent and trademark librarian for about 3½ years and have enjoyed every minute of it. I’ve also been training my colleague, Terry Billiel, in the basics of patent searching so that she can help walk-in patrons if I’m not around. She has taken to it like a duck takes to water so I’m a lucky supervisor to have such an eager, interested assistant. I’ve tried to do more outreach this past year for public librarians. I helped put together a program on patents at the 2005 New England Library Association (NELA) annual conference, did a presentation at the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System, and will do the same at the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System after I return from this conference. We updated our patent and trademark webpage to include a set of very basic instructions on how to do a simple patent search. Since Hartford Public Library dropped its patent depository status, we have been getting more questions and requests for consultations from Connecticut folks. While this is great for our statistics, it’s not so great for aspiring inventors who must trek to Amherst for training in patent searching. Hopefully, a Connecticut library will step up to the plate and volunteer to become a patent depository.

—Leonard Adams

Visit the PTDLA Home page:

http://www.ptdla.org
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Art, Architecture and Engineering Library, University of Michigan

The Ann Arbor, Michigan PTDL is located in the Art, Architecture and Engineering Library (AAEL) in the Duderstadt Center at the University of Michigan. AAEL houses the Art & Design, Architecture & Urban Planning and Engineering Collection. The patent collection is available on the second floor.

I have been a PTDL representative since January of 2000. I am also the coordinator for Arts & Engineering Collections. Other reference staff that help out PTDL users with patents and trademarks are David Carter, Rebecca Price, Bob Tolliver, Paul Grochowski, Annette Haines, Suzanne Chapman, Elizabeth Pickard, and Jacob Glenn.

We have been a PTDL for more than 20 years, since 1983. We have relocated two times during this period. In 1992, we relocated all the way across campus to what is known as the North Campus in the Dow Building and in 1996 diagonally across into a new building called the Media Union now the Duderstadt Center. We will be celebrating our 10th anniversary in the Duderstadt this fall.

As in every year, I worked with the design classes in Engineering on patents. In addition, I also did a workshop for faculty, staff and students in May 2005 and this semester I am working with an Engineering class on patent fundamentals for engineers. This year we have seen many Business School students working on projects involving patents. We also have had an increase in the number of patent attorneys coming in to search PubWEST and general public coming in to do regular searches as a result of changes at Detroit Public Library. In general I have seen an increase in activity compared to previous years.

—Leena Lalwani

Atlanta, Georgia
Georgia Tech Library and Information Center, Georgia Institute of Technology

The Atlanta, Georgia PTDL is located in the Georgia Tech Library & Information Center on the Georgia Tech campus in Midtown Atlanta. For the convenience of our patrons we have two patent workstations located near our front door. One station houses CASSIS II and the other allows access to the USPTO website and to PubWest. Joanne Tobin and one other staff member can access PubWest from their office computers as well.

Joanne has been the PTDL representative since 2000. Georgia Tech has been a Patent Depository library since 1946, and one of the original 22 PTDLs. We are the only PTDL in Georgia, so people often travel a long distance to get here.

Our PTDL is part of our Information Services Department. Cathe Cannon, a department library assistant, has been providing patent assistance to patrons for more than 14 years. Brian Franklin provides invaluable computer support and makes sure the CASSIS updates are installed and running.

All department information consultants are scheduled at our Information Services Desk. At one of our monthly department meetings this year Joanne presented a training session on patent and trademark searching. Staff working our reference desk provide patent and trademark assistance to any walk-in patrons. For more in-depth help students, faculty and staff schedule appointments.

Georgia Tech supports our PTDL outreach efforts. This year Joanne has returned to Wheeler High School where she presented patent information.

6,585,119
Modular Storage System for Multiple Stacks
Saul Palder (Hyde Park, Massachusetts)
Issued July 1st, 2003

(continued on page 14)
(continued from page 13)

Joanne has also visited several elementary schools as well as presented patent information to undergraduate and graduate students both on the Atlanta campus and on the Savannah campus via videoconferencing.

The IAG, Inc. (Inventors Associates of Georgia) is an active and growing inventors’ organization in Atlanta. Joanne attends many of their meetings and particularly enjoys their guest speakers such as Saul Palder, inventor of the “Smart Spin” food storage container system.

—Joanne Tobin

Auburn, Alabama
Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University

The PTDL at Auburn had a quiet year. Activities included a liaison with the University’s Technology Transfer Office emphasizing not only the patent databases that the library has, but also the other databases that access technical literature. What has been most fun is working with a local historian who is researching some of the history of monorail that was used in Opelika, AL in the 1880s.

—Andrew Wohrley

Austin, Texas
McKinney Engineering Library, The University of Texas at Austin

The big news at the McKinney Engineering Library is our new patent statistics tutorial. We get a lot of questions from MBA students and others involved with the McComb School of Business, Business Innovation Program. These students are sent by their professor because he wants them to use patents as one predictor of business activity — this they can do with certain caveats. However, they want to cross-tabulate SIC/NAICS codes with measures of patent activity and they can’t believe this is impossible. To say they can’t believe the USPTO doesn’t use SIC/NAICS codes on patents is an understatement. To inform these users of what they can do and how to do it, we created a tutorial, which you can see at http://www.lib.utexas.edu/engin/patent-stat/index.html

We also created a tutorial for use with our electrical engineering senior design classes. This tutorial attempts to demonstrate an actual preliminary search. You can see this at http://www.ardis.org/ipforee/

—Susan Ardis
Birmingham, Alabama
Birmingham Public Library

Birmingham’s PTDL continues to make progress on its Alabama Inventors Database. As of February 2006, the database covers the years 1821-1941 and includes more than 7,500 entries. We are also attempting to identify women and black inventors by using census and/or World War II draft registration records. Our goal is to include this information in the public access version of the database. We believe the first black inventor was Powell Johnson of Barton (Colbert Co., AL), who in 1880 received patent no. 234,039 for an eye-protector. The first patent issued to a female inventor in Alabama may have been Louisa C. Huff of Louina, in Randolph County (patent no. 140,417). The database is located on the library webpage at: http://bpldb.bplonline.org/bpldb/inventors/inventors_search.php

We are also continuing to link photographs and newspaper clippings of Alabama inventors from the library’s digital collection to the Alabama Inventors Database: http://www.bplonline.org/resources/Digital_Project/Collections.asp

“So You’ve Got a Great Idea – What’s Next?” was the topic of a library sponsored brown bag lunch program in August of 2005. Bruce Koeppenhoefer, a local entrepreneur, presented this program. Also in 2005, Becky Scarborough conducted a session on classification how-to’s for Invent Alabama, a local inventor’s group.

Our entire staff is looking forward to continuing our work with the Alabama Inventors Database and using the results to learn about Alabama’s contribution to the patent literature and to enhance the knowledge of our state’s history.

—Becky Scarborough and Michelle Andrews

Burlington, Vermont
Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont

Another interesting year in Burlington. Our PTDL is part of Documents & Maps which is in turn part of Information and Instruction here at the University of Vermont Libraries. We have a new head of Information & Instruction, Keith Gresham. We have had a lot of interest in older patents this year. The interest has come from Historic Preservation students and faculty, local historical societies and K-12 teachers.

Quite a few folks are coming in with questions on marketing and selling their ideas. We help them get started and have made many referrals to local inventor groups and small business development programs.

On a personal note, I got married last August. We live in Middlebury.

—Scott Schaffer
Butte, Montana
Montana Tech Library, University of Montana

In October, 2005, Jean Bishop taught two patent sessions for an engineering class, “Engineering and Scientific Concepts”. The first session used a PowerPoint presentation, which defined patents and procedures. The second session was held in the Library’s computer lab. Hands-on patent search problems were completed by the students. PubWest was demonstrated. Foreign patent Web links were introduced during the lab.

Later in the fall, Noni conducted an in-house training session for the reference staff, demonstrating techniques for searching PubWest. Noni has written a detailed log-on procedure for the staff and tabbed the PubWest training manual for easy finding of search topics.

A large percentage of Montana’s patent questions come to Montana Tech Library through telephone inquiries and e-mail. Walk-in inventors usually come for individualized search training and information. Our independent inventors often drive a few hours to reach us. Many also need help with basic computer skills just to use the USPTO website search tools. We try to be especially attentive to these folks through the ups and downs of the application process. Engineering design students come to the reference desk for instruction about finding design technology in the patent Internet database.

—Jean Bishop and Noni

Cheyenne, Wyoming
Wyoming State Library

Much of the past year has been consumed with planning the State Library’s move to the temporary location. Due to the less than desirable locale, security will be increased and all patrons must be conducting specific research to be admitted. Please advise any PTDL patrons referred to us to call ahead before arriving. The actual move will be taking place this summer and the Library will remain open the entire time.

We have also started our next database project – a state trademark database. The database will include scanned images of the application papers and marks for all Wyoming trademarks back to the beginning (around 1898). We have just finished scanning the active trademark files which took two librarians 186 hours to complete. Our next step will be image cleanup and metadata. Once we have a beta database of the active trademarks ready, we will begin scanning the 10,000 inactive files in the State Archives. We estimate that this scanning will take more than 1200 hours.

After being in press for a very long time, an article I wrote on using patents for genealogy research was published by HeritageQuest Magazine. Unfortunately by the time it was published, the resource list was no longer up-to-date and many great new state databases were left off. I do, however, maintain a current list of special and state databases on my PTDL website, so keep informing me of your projects.

—Dawn Rohan
Cincinnati, Ohio
Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, Ohio

This year was a challenging time for the depository in Cincinnati. Due to financial cuts with Ohio Public Library funding, our former Public Documents and Patents Department was merged within the Government & Business Department at the Main Library. Fortunately this did not affect our patent patrons, as our patent and inventor program attendance continued to grow. Over the last three years, attendance to all of our intellectual property programs continues to grow. We continue to present our inventor marketing forum entitled, “From Dreams to Dollars: How to Make Money with your Invention.” New for 2006, is “PatentQuest.” This is a series of free programs for inventors using the library’s patent and trademark collection and the USPTO website. These new programs fit various patent searchers’ needs with more convenient times, more instruction levels, and more search resource formats. Our partnership with the Inventors Council of Cincinnati (and subject-related guest speakers) continues to draw up to 75 people to each of their monthly meetings at the main library. InventorFest 2005 at Wright State University in Dayton was a great success and we have a PLCH committee already planning the 3rd Annual InventorFest in Cincinnati for Saturday, October 14th. New for InventorFest 2006 is a family branch of the event called “Inventing Is For Everyone,” featuring programs dedicated to educating younger inventors about patents, copyright, entrepreneurial business, and creativity. We are expecting at least 500 people to attend. David Pressman, author of Patent It Yourself, is our scheduled keynote speaker, along with nearly 60 exhibitors, a kids technology exhibit, expert panel discussions, kids inventing contest, a gaming technology presentation, and much more.

—John Schlipp

Clemson, South Carolina
R.M. Cooper Library, Clemson University

Greetings from Clemson University, home of the Clemson Tigers, winners of the 2005 Champs Sports Bowl. (Okay it’s not the Super Bowl, but it was a very important event in our year.)

But the undisputed grand highlight of our year at the R.M. Cooper Library was the program we hosted called “Researching Patent and Trademark Information: A Seminar for Inventors.” This was our first big program in a very long time - in fact it was way back in 1992 when we last hosted this big of a production. Tom Turner and Neil Massong were our very special guests. It was Tom’s first trip to Clemson, but in an amazing twist of fate, Neil was making a repeat performance, as he had come to Clemson for our 1992 program. (Luckily, he did not need to repeat his return trip drive to the airport from that year. The airlines had cancelled their original flight, and Neil had to drive at a breakneck speed to get them to the airport in time for their re-scheduled flight.) A lot has changed in the intervening years; we now have a top-notch conference facility located on a picturesque lake with over 900 miles of shoreline. The weather was perfect too, prompting some participants to say that they were glad there were no windows in the seminar room, as it was such a beautiful day.

Tom and Neil did an excellent job presenting information of interest to our small but very enthusiastic crowd. We had a great mix of faculty, staff, students and independent inventors. Tom really won them over with his Clemson spirit, evident in the examples he used for searching. We also had several guest librarians who enjoyed the program so much that they stayed over and attended our intensive staff training session the next day. Thanks so much, Tom and Neil!! Along the way we had a chance to hang out together, and have a couple of great meals. Neil even shared his mother’s prize recipe for chocolate cake. Maybe he will share it with you, too, if you ask him nicely. : )

—Jan Comfort
Cleveland, Ohio
Cleveland Public Library

Cleveland Public Library has been a PTDL since 1890, and is housed in the Government Documents Department of the main library. Our staff makeup includes Robin Gray, head; Jim Bettinger, librarian; Mona Brown, library assistant; and two clerks: Valerie Benson and new to staff Tristan Wheeler. Two part-time pages assigned to the Department round out our staff.

The Department began a monthly “Patent Searching” class in 2003. It is held on site in our computer lab. We have done outreach with our local inventors group, as well as to two of our local universities: Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland State University. Local academic libraries are an area for potential growth to our target audience.

The Friends of Cleveland Public Library held its second annual “Treasures Night” in October. In line with this year’s theme, “Treasures: Experience the Magic”, staff researched and displayed plant patents containing the word “magic” in its title, e.g. “Black Magic” and “Magic Wand”. Utility patents for a magician’s hat, deck of cards, and Houdini’s patent for a diver’s suit, along with other “magical” patents were also on display.

In addition to serving our walk-in patrons, the staff continues to provide information through email, telephone, and our online KnowItNow24x7 live reference service (http://www.KnowItNow.org).

—Jim Bettinger

College Park, Maryland
Engineering and Physical Sciences Library, University of Maryland

Jim Miller has been PTDL Rep since Judy Erickson’s retirement in 1998. Bob Kackley is very active, especially in classroom instruction and outreach to faculty and students. Neal Kaske, our outstanding manager and supporter of the PTDL, left in July to become Director of Statistics at NCLIS (National Council of Library & Information Services). We are happy for him, but really miss his creative and energetic reference work, as well as his management smarts. The PTDL is in the Engineering & Physical Sciences Library, and gets a lot of use from students and faculty as well as from outside inventors and entrepreneurs. We became a PTDL in 1984. E-mail and phone reference is increasing rapidly, with a number of genealogical research queries forwarded from the National Archives about 2 miles away. Our access to Lexis Academic and WEST helps them out very much.

Highlights of the year were the Independent Inventors Conference at PTO headquarters and the PIUG conference in Crystal City. I finally made it to a meeting of the Inventors Network of the Capitol Area in Falls Church, VA. They have over 50 regular attendees at their meetings. Because of staff shortages our PTDL has not done much to increase outreach, but I did get to our Technology Commercialization Office’s annual “Technology Startup Bootcamp” in October. See: http://www.venturecatalyst.umd.edu/Boot_Camp/2005/, or http://www.venturecatalyst.umd.edu/Boot_Camp/2004/ for earlier presentations. PTDL efforts are primarily patent instruction to 500-600 new Engineering students each year, and three or four regular two-hour presentations to Library School classes.

—Jim Miller
PTDLA Newsletter

College Station, TX
Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A&M University

PTDL Changes at Texas A&M University

Texas A & M University Libraries closed the doors on the Texas Intellectual Property Partnership (Tip2), a program it sponsored in partnership with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, in February 2006.

Texas A & M University Libraries has served as a Patent & Trademark Depository since 1983, and will continue this status. However, the PTDL will be moving from the Sterling C. Evans Library to the West Campus Business Library.

According to Leslie Reynolds, Director of the West Campus Library, this move will provide faculty, students and local inventors, small businesses owners and entrepreneurs with more convenient access to PTDL resources.

Karen MacDonald, Assistant Professor and Business Reference Librarian, will be taking over as Patent & Trademark Depository Librarian, replacing Brian Carpenter, who left the university last June.

—Karen MacDonald

Columbus, Ohio
Science and Engineering Library, The Ohio State University

In the spring of 1999, the PTDL at The Ohio State University moved from the Main Library to the Science and Engineering Library. As one of six PTDLs in Ohio (others are at Wright State University and the public libraries of Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Toledo), we see but a portion of Ohioans interested in patents and trademarks. The industrial nature of Columbus is different from that of the other Ohio PTDL locales; Columbus has mainly banking, insurance, state government, information industries, and higher education.

Since 2003, we have noticed an increase in on-site users from the campus population, and a decrease in visitors from off campus. Off-campus users prefer to use the USPTO website at locations more convenient to home; thus we “phone-walk” more users through the website and coach them to read the small print, to use the “7 steps,” and to explore commercially published “how-to” books. Nevertheless, we advise and encourage users to visit SEL for initial instruction, as well as to use CASSIS and the ancillary print collection kept by the CASSIS station.

In addition to prior art and historical searching, our university population uses patents in class and research; some have discovered patents of interest through commercial databases such as METADEX and SciFinder Scholar.

Searching via CASSIS has lessened; printing via the USAPat DVDs remains popular. Non-university users often travel some time/distance to use CASSIS, so the speed, reliability, and ease of printing are especially important. On-site Web access for non-university users requires staff assistance and user authentication. There is always a student queue for machines; without the CASSIS station, the wait for the general public would be even longer. Our CASSIS remains a standalone for that reason.

We’ve not used WEST as much as anticipated, and we’re challenged to keep installation current because of local equipment replacement and administrative changes among our IT groups.

In general, patent and trademark use is on the increase in our population.

—Mary Jo Arnold
Dallas, Texas
Dallas Public Library

We have continued our relationship with local resources to provide legal access and product development advice for local independent inventors.

On a bi-monthly basis, Dallas patent attorney Bob Wise offered free “One-On-One: Question & Answer Sessions” to almost 50 local independent inventors regarding the patent process. Mr. Wise is a former U.S. Patent Office examiner with over 25 years of experience in the intellectual property field. He is a member of many legal organizations and is the current President of the Texas Inventors’ Association, donating additional time to help independent inventors begin and understand the patent process.

The Dallas PTDL maintains “Honorary Member” status in the Texas Inventors Association (TIA), which meets locally on a monthly basis. This organization’s leaders did their initial patent research at our library, viewing many patents on microfilm before the days of access to the USPTO’s Internet database. The TIA graciously assists us by using their email lists to publicize our intellectual property-related events. They will sponsor a workshop at our library in May. Topics will include product publicity and marketing, presented by Jeff Crilley (author of Free Publicity, and the experiences of local patentees Mary Russell Sarao and Barbara Russell Pitts (authors of The Everything® Inventions and Patents Book) in the patenting and product development process. Sarao and Pitts are the developers of Ghostline® poster board and also maintain their own website offering resources for those wanting to develop their product ideas: http://www.asktheinventors.com.

On October 15th, we hosted a free inventor workshop, “Beginners Guide to Preparing Patent Drawings: Practical Tips and Resources.” With patent agent Robert Frantz as the instructor, the class received high marks from its 21 attendees. Mr. Frantz has partnered with Dallas Public Library to provide free programs on the patent process to local inventors since 1998.

—Cynthia Mayo

Des Moines, Iowa
State Library of Iowa

Greetings. The State Library is located in an 1897 limestone building with a copper dome, has a gorgeous stained glass window of a lady in red, and sits right across the street from the State Capitol of Iowa (with a gold dome). Come and visit us!

As the “designated patent and trademark person” I’m happy to be back home after spending a year in Virginia at the PTDL Fellowship Library Program. When I got back to Des Moines, CASSIS didn’t work, nor did PubWEST. But now, after ONLY two months (does this sound like YOUR institution?), CASSIS is back up and PubWEST is pulling up those images like nobody’s business. Yeah!!!

X PATENTS — this is an important message — Calling all interested parties to join forces and hunt down X patents!! (Remember; patents from 1790-1836 were not originally numbered and were later assigned numbers followed by an X, hence X patents). Out of approximately 9,500 patents granted during these years (which were burned in the 1836 fire at the Patent Office), only 2,002 are available on the USPTO patent database. As patently minded as we all are, wouldn’t it be exciting to form a committee to search for these telling inventions of America’s past? I’d like to talk more about it at our seminar this April. At the end of my Fellowship term, I did a little project which identified over 500 of these X patents on a microfilm collection, that are NOT on the USPTO patent database. P.S. Several PTDLs own this set of microfilm, by Research Publications Inc. Is your library one of them?

—Karon King
My name is Eileen Fischlschweiger. I’ve been the Fort Lauderdale PTDL representative for nine years and have worked at the PTDL as Patent and Trademark Librarian for 11. I have worked for the Broward County Library System for more than 17 years.

The Fort Lauderdale PTDL has been housed at the Broward County Main Library in downtown Fort Lauderdale since its inception in November 1984. Originally part of the Government Documents Department, it has been part of the Business, Law, and Government Section since the Library reorganization in November 1996.

**Big Changes to Come**

There are several plans in the works for the Main Library. The Computer Center, a public computer lab, is expected to move this year to its new expanded and updated facility on the 7th floor. There are also plans for a Hispanic Cultural Center, which may have some implications for the possible reorganization of our area, although specific details have yet to be ironed out.

**2005-2006 Highlights**

On April 29, 2005, Eileen Fischlschweiger participated in a third “Datapalooza: Research Rocks!” event, this time by providing two sessions of an overview on how to do a patent search.

On September 12, 2005, Eileen Fischlschweiger presented a program titled “Intellectual Property and Depository Libraries” for a class from the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale.

Eileen Fischlschweiger has worked on a paper for the *Intellectual Property (IP) Journal* of the PTDLA on a very challenging topic. The paper still needs some final touches and checking for accuracy, but it should provide a very interesting read.

We have been hard at work coordinating an Inventor Show and PTDLP visit for early August 2006. We hope that we will have the same turnout that we had the last time we hosted an Inventor Show in 2003.

On August 6, 2005, Eileen and Tom Fischlschweiger represented the PTDL at an Inventors Society of South Florida Inventor Show, which this year was held at the North Miami Beach Public Library. We had a great opportunity to do successful outreach to both inventors and the public, discussing the variety of services offered by our section, which includes the PTDL, the FLDP, and the Bank of America/Broward County Library Small Business Resource Center, or SBRC, for short. At our library, we also had our annual book display during National Inventors’ Month in August, using free materials from *Inventors Digest* to enhance the display.

We had the privilege of being a site for the Jules Verne exhibit titled “Journey through the Imagination of Jules Verne: An Exhibition” November 14, 2005–January 20, 2006, sponsored by the French government through their consulate in Miami, the Amiens & Nantes Jules Verne 2005, and others, on the occasion of the centenary anniversary of the great author’s death. Our section promoted our display of French patent drawings for the occasion. Tom Fischlschweiger presented an extraordinary program titled “The Submarine, the Nautilus, and Jules Verne,” with an excellent focus on the history of the submarine, and was invited by the Marine Historical Society (Fort Lauderdale) to provide an encore presentation. Eileen Fischlschweiger also put together a display for our glass case with various photographs of Jules Verne and images of drawings from first editions of his books and of original posters related to his works.

Eileen Fischlschweiger put another display together on the occasion of the exhibit of ancient Egyptian artifacts (a spectacular display) currently at the Museum of Art of Fort Lauderdale. Included in this display is a hand-made, full-size Egyptian-style collar that she made with plastic craft beads that simulate semi-precious stones and metals used in ancient Egyptian jewelry. After the display is over, the collar has been promised to Maximilian, a rather large teddy bear, who wears the collar very well.

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During the past year we have had major changes in our staffing. Most of our staff has been working in our area for a year or less. Where to begin? Starting with the Intellectual Property and State/Local Documents unit, Judy Li left our library for a position as business librarian for Nova Southeastern University. She was replaced by Christina DeStefano, who is now our state/local documents librarian. She supervises a full-time library aide, Lisa Amanna, who performs clerical work related to state/local documents and patents/trademarks. Our other paraprofessional staff members are Marcy Bullock and Helene Udell, both office support specialists, and Ludy Dorlean, part-time library page. Kathleen Carr, our serials librarian retired; Ric Johnson, our standing orders librarian transferred to one of our regional libraries. Their work assignments were reorganized. Tahir Sandhu holds the position of serials and standing orders librarian. Joe Richie and Kathy Makens, both librarians working in the Federal Documents Unit, transferred to other areas within the system. Those positions are held by Jannette Neuschaefer and Sarah Wright. Anita Magnotta, who worked with the SBRC, was replaced by Marianna Jovanovic after a re-structuring of our section’s organizational chart. Marianna supervises another of our new employees, Rich Ackerman, who handles the Career and Job Center, among other responsibilities.

Invent Broward was successful and exciting in both 2005 and 2006. Again, hundreds of invention models from Broward County area elementary schools were exhibited on the sixth floor of the Main Library. The current coordinator is Rita Lipoff, who did a great job coordinating the event. This program, introduced in 1992, includes a showcase of the inventions and a reception for participating students, their parents and their teachers. Eileen Fischlschweiger revised and provided two PowerPoint presentations she had produced in the past to be run as kiosk continuous loops during the reception: *Historical Patent Models: An Educational Slide Presentation* and *Patents, Trademarks, and Copyrights: They’re Everywhere*, which is based on a glass case display by the same title of fun everyday items appealing to children. Both presentations are designed so that attendees can start and stop watching at any point, any time during the event.

And, of course, there was Hurricane Wilma, which kept us closed for a week and wreaked havoc throughout Broward County, causing all library branches to be closed for at least that long.

—Eileen Fischlschweiger

Honolulu, Hawaii
Hawaii State Library

This past year has been eventful. I recently got to fill my second permanent position. Her name is Carole Suzui. You may see her at this year’s PTDL Training Seminar. She used to live on the East Coast in a previous career, so she should be better prepared for the cold than I was when I first went to the seminars. She is looking forward to seeing the new facilities. Of course, I’m sure this will also include some sightseeing too. She is very eager to absorb your collective knowledge. Make it so.

Just as I finished Carole’s basic training in all things government documents, my other librarian (Cindy Yen, you may have seen her in a previous seminar) is preparing to go to our Electronic Services Support Section to start a temporary assignment as an Automation Trainer. She was previously in this position before a massive reshuffling of the technical services sections back in the mid-90s. This will mean more uncertainty and the possibility of going through the hiring process again. Oh joy. The revolving door makes another turn.

The pre-Halloween flood of 2004 at the University of Hawaii-Manoa has provided the incentive to do a retrospective conversion of the entire collection for inventory control. Unfortunately, the effort is being done in-house and the progress is slow. However, this has given me the opportunity to identify all the PTDLP-related
publications and separate them from the regular FDLP collection. This procedure will end any accidental discarding of PTDL documents.

Our library currently has 42 hours of public service over five days. We plan to increase our public hours to 49 over six days on March 6th. So by the time you read this, we will have already changed our hours.

I am also preparing to teach my first government documents class, at UH, on what we do as a PTDL. I have saved some of the ideas that have been provided by the many generous donors over the listserv and from materials provided at the previous training seminars. I thank everyone for their ideas and look forward to putting together a nifty lesson plan. I just hope I don’t embarrass myself.

Have a safe and happy seminar everyone.

—Stewart Chun

Houston, Texas
Rice University

The PTDL at Rice University, along with the rest of the Government Publications and Microforms Department, moved to a newly renovated space in the library this winter. The new space includes a patent and trademark searching alcove located conveniently near the government publications and microforms reference desk. We are using a new library instruction classroom for our patent searching classes, which we continue to offer 3-4 times each month. Our new space is light, bright and comfortable for both staff and customers. We have had one major staffing change. In January Samantha Hager left Houston and her position as a government information librarian at Rice to move to Colorado. We miss her and are very grateful for the excellent work she did for our library and continues to do for PTDLA. Also in January Linda Spiro accepted a fulltime position as a government information librarian. Previously Linda worked in our department in a temporary position.

—Esther Crawford

Kansas City, Missouri
Linda Hall Library

Linda Hall Library has been a patent depository since it opened in 1946. The library is privately endowed and is open to the public. It is a special library collecting in the sciences and engineering. I’ve been the PTDL representative since 1994.

What’s new: We have been undergoing a large expansion and renovation project over the past year. We have managed to stay open throughout and provide service with fairly minimal disruption, although we have had to supply earplugs to patrons because there are many times that the noise level is quite high.

Trying to locate items in collections that have been moved around to different locations in the library three or four times is challenging. And it seems like the dust is an inch thick. But as areas are being finished, it is starting to look better and better. We hope to have most of the work completed by this fall.

One of the local inventor groups had been using our auditorium for their monthly meetings before the project began. But the auditorium is undergoing renovation also and thus is not available for the public. So the group had to find another location to meet in during the construction. Hopefully they will be able to come back when the building project is completed.

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Over the past year, patent and trademark reference activity has been moderate. Yet in just the past two months (Jan-Feb 2006), the number of patent and trademark patrons contacting the library has increased dramatically. There is no specific pattern that I can discern: some people have been referred to us by the PTO, some have read about the library in a book or brochure, some are referred by friends or family, some find us on the Web, some are returning patrons, some are referred by other library staff. Just one of those periodic flurries of creativity, I guess.

—Shannon Stipe

Lincoln, Nebraska
Engineering Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Engineering Library at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln houses the PTDL for the state of Nebraska. It was established in January 1978 and has its own dedicated search room. The Engineering Librarian, Virginia (Ginny) Baldwin, is in her sixth year of service as a PTDL librarian. The UNL Engineering Library Web site has two prominent links for our PTDL, one that describes the library’s research resources and services, and a second that links directly to a printable version of our brochure (http://www.unl.edu/libr/libs/engr/ptdl2.pdf).

The first floor of the Engineering Library houses the patent search room. During the past year we made significant progress in enhancing the appeal of our library setting. Walls were freshly painted a light cream color and new shelving whose color nearly matches the painted walls was installed throughout the first floor. Waist high shelving replaced the floor to ceiling shelving in the reference area and new soft chairs, tables and carpet were purchased to intersperse with the shelving. The result is a much brighter and more open and inviting library. New signage was installed, including a sign designating the patent search room that is located just off the reference area.

Our new staff member, Marla Miller, has beautifully arrayed our library’s display case with a collection of books, pictures, and copy that tells a story of women engineers and inventors. We plan to include displays that promote invention and patent aspects on a continuing basis.

Virginia continues to promote patent resource topics through library instruction sessions for engineering students. Sessions for the academic year 2005-2006 included online instruction and computer graded assessment of learning with several questions that lead the student through patent classification and searching principles. Virginia gave presentations and online instruction and assessment to more than 500 engineering students this academic year through sophomore career and senior professional ethics classes.

—Virginia (Ginny) Baldwin

Little Rock, Arkansas
Arkansas State Library

I recently made a report to the State Library Board about our PTDL activities, including the following information.

A few weeks ago, Ron Sitton, a writer for Free Press, called and said he was doing an article on inventors. He asked questions about the patent and trademark depository library and our role in the invention process. In addition, Mr. Sitton talked to inventors, staff in the Arkansas Attorney General’s Office, the Arkansas Small Business Development Center and an invention promotion firm. His four page article was published in the January edition.

The Arkansas PTDL was designated in January 1985. During our 21 years of service, we have had onsite visits from the USPTO staff five times. In addition to these statewide workshops, we have had several newspaper articles, have been the focus of “7 on Your Side” (consumer protection program) two times, and have participated in many local workshops with the SBDC. Mary Leckie worked with Jason Pedersen and Donna Catrone of KATV, Channel 7, to spotlight Arkansas patent owners on the “Bright Ideas” display.
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segment on “Daybreak Arkansas”. For a couple of years, the State Library was shown at the beginning of each segment, which aired every other Friday.

Elizabeth Danley made a presentation to the Small Business Development Center’s NxLevel Group during the Fall semester. It is a good method of identifying our resources to outside groups. In the weeks following the presentation, many of the students come to the library to use our databases.

Carolyn Ashcraft became the State Librarian in November, 2005. We will have a new Associate Director later this year.

—Mary Leckie

Los Angeles, California
Los Angeles Public Library

Los Angeles PTDL became a patent depository in 1870 and was one of the “Original 22” libraries so designated. I have been the PTDL Representative since August 1979 and was preceded immediately by Betty Gay Teoman (who is now director of the Rye Free Reading Room library in Rye, New York).

LAPL’s PTDL is part of the Science, Technology and Patents Department at the Central Library. Maryjean Carroll is Senior Librarian and first-line supervisor of the Department. Staff members who work directly with the intellectual property collection are: Helen Haskell, Librarian III (Subject Specialist); Rita Cotton, Library Assistant II (who supervises the Patents Desk); Richard Acero; Debra Galindo; Mark Gutierrez; and Randall Hinson. Our reference librarians also have basic training and can be relied on to assist our clientele with intellectual property information needs if called on.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of an historical event that had tremendous impact on Los Angeles Public Library. In April, 1986, our complete intellectual property collection was destroyed by a major arson fire, along with a great deal of the Central Library collection. Through fundraising efforts in the Save the Books Campaign and through gifts of many libraries and individuals the PTDL was recreated. After operating in temporary quarters from May 1989 to June 1993, we were able to open in our expanded and renovated historic Central Library building on October 3, 1993. Our PTDL is located in the new wing of the building on Lower Level II.

During the past year (as well as the previous 15 years) we have done a great deal of community outreach to call attention to our outstanding collection and services. We have exhibited at various trade shows and we hosted several major meetings of the Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association in recent years. This past year we have presented one or more Saturday afternoon programs each month co-sponsored with inventors’ organizations, the U.S. Small Business Development Center, and several outstanding authors.

The Los Angeles PTDL has been represented at every PTDL Training Seminar by one or more staff members. The City has been very supportive by funding attendance of one person every year. On occasion our community support group, BEST Friends (Business Economics Science Technology Friends), has funded attendance by a second person. These seminars are essential to keeping us current and the attendees share knowledge with the rest of the staff upon return.

—Billie Connor-Domínguez
Louisville, Kentucky
Louisville Free Public Library

I’m Rae Shepherd-Shlechter and I’ve been in charge of the collection since 1998. I’m also the government documents librarian and the business reference librarian. As crazy as all those assignments can make me, it is rather useful being able to cobble those duties together. For instance, I teach a two-hour lab class each month in patents and trademarks as well as a two-hour lab class in business research. This way I can help intellectual property clients with the mechanics of researching patents, trademarks, etc. as well as helping them with the business end of the process.

Patents, trademarks, and copyright clients can also book me individually for one-hour sessions. Clients with purely business-related questions may also book the business library assistant or me for one-on-one help.

The local Small Business Development Center and our local SCORE chapter remain our best source of referrals. As a department, we’re getting between five and ten referrals a month for intellectual property and business research clients.

In September I gave two presentations (one on business sources and one on intellectual property) at a pre-conference session for the Kentucky Library Association. I did this in conjunction with the Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL). It was a great opportunity. KYVL has posted our PTDL’s services and my presentation and my business pathfinder on the “How to do Research” section of the KYVL website. Claudia Fitch, the business library assistant, gave a great presentation on government document sites for kids. Guess which one was her favorite? The PTO’s kids’ website, of course.

I also got to meet with the Department of Commercialization and Innovation for the state of Kentucky. It seems to have worked because this group is sending me referrals also.

I was hoping to have a joint conference with University of Louisville in 2005, but I lost my mother in December of 2004 and it was just too much to handle. My poor husband had to have cancer surgery this December, but he has come out of it splendidly. LFPL also went through a major move this December, and we’re still trying to put back the pieces. The new floor arrangement has actually created a quieter research area near our department, and I have great hopes that this will help us to better serve our clients.

—Rae Shepherd-Shlechter

Lubbock, Texas
Texas Tech University Library

This past year has been a time of great change for the University Library which has affected many aspects of Information Services which includes the federal documents depository and the Patents/Trademark depository.

The University Library has implemented an Information Commons this past summer on the main floor of the University Library. This has involved closing the basement documents desk and also beginning to close the separate Patents/Trademark Office in the basement and transferring all patents/trademark services and equipment to the reference room.

This has worked well and I am seeing an increase in academic patent research questions, such as incorporating patents into engineering capstone classes.

I also continue regular updates on patent and trademark searching to our Information Services staff—most of whom work the reference desk and will handle patent and trademark questions.

—Tom Rohrig
**Madison, Wisconsin**  
*Kurt F. Wendt Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

The Kurt F. Wendt Library serves the departments of Engineering, Computer Science, Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, and Statistics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Patents staff are Sarah Calcese, Head of Collections and Technical Services, and Patents/Reports Librarian Nancy Spitzer, who serves as our PTDL representative. This year, Sarah will attend the patent seminar in Alexandria.

Each fall and spring semester, Nancy and Sarah teach the patents component for about 15 sessions of advanced undergraduate courses in engineering professional development, technical communication and electrical engineering. Students are given an overview of the patent literature (what is a patent and why would you want to use patents in your research?), and a demo searching several patent databases. We then work with the students one-on-one doing patent searches on their research topics. Each semester, Nancy coordinates the patents module for a librarian team-taught on-line course called Technical Information Resources for Engineers and team-teaches a patents session for a mechanical engineering design class.

Nancy participated once again in a patenting seminar for engineering students who enter the annual Schoof’s Prize innovation competition. The winner is granted a $10,000 first prize. She was also a co-presenter of the Lindbergh Lecture, a graduate seminar on patenting and intellectual property.

In the fall of 2005, Nancy was part of the team that helped redesign Wendt Library’s website (http://wendt.library.wisc.edu) and she contributed the revised content for both the patents and trademarks pages.

We have made some modest use of PubWest this year, helping a research assistant do advance searching for a large body of nanotechnology patents. Our reference database records more than 150 questions and appointments related to patent and trademark searching in 2005.

—Sarah Calcese

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**Mayagüez, Puerto Rico**  
*General Library, University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez*

Hi, Ronaldo Martínez here from the PTDL in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. I have been the PTDL representative since January 2004.

Basically I’m responsible for all the operations (pennies and dimes) of the PTDL. However the Reference Collection staff members are at hand for any emergency. The PTDL started in 1995 under the Documents and Maps Collection, but in 2001 it was adopted and housed at the Reference Collection.

Last year we had a setback. Our main library building (Biblioteca General) is over 40 years old. It is a sick and old building. Some areas needed refurbishing, and the PTDL got a roughly 40 percent cut in space to accommodate our new neighbors, Gift and Exchange Section. Nonetheless, I tried to make a warm, cozy and friendly PTDL with the 60 percent I kept.

Not all is sad news. In 2005 I organized and made a full swing activity. It was called “Colloquium on Intellectual Property at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez.” I gathered two patent attorneys, two trademark attorneys, a patent agent, the head of the Trademark Office in Puerto Rico and the head of the UPR’s Office of Research, Technology Transfer and Commercialization, a total of seven top notch IP-related people. It was Web-cast and widely advertised. The presentations can be reached thru my Web page at http://www.uprm.edu/library/patent.html. Many people from Latin America have found the information useful for research purposes and consultation. The Colloquium was named the “Best Activity in the Library for 2005.”

One unexpected outcome from this effort is that right now almost the same group is forming a new organization that has the tentative title of: “Association of Intellectual Property Professionals of Puerto Rico.” Everything is still in the works, but the mission of the “Association” is “to promote the advancement, development and flourishing of all forms of IP in Puerto Rico”. This is the first attempt ever of this (continued on page 28)
kind in our land. During the last meeting I got informal recognition for being the fostering and promoting force behind this movement.

This past year, I also did two radio interviews and got extra media exposure (four newspaper articles and two electronic articles) to promote the PTDL services. I think I have raised sharply the awareness and presence of my PTDL within my home institution and the western part of Puerto Rico.

In another venue let me tell you that I love teaching. In my home institution we have ample opportunities to do so. We teach regular undergraduate 3-credit courses about library and bibliographic research in different disciplines (I often teach the one in Social Sciences.) We also have a bibliographic instruction program for specific courses on demand. From that program I was named the 2005 “Librarian with Highest Score Based on Students’ Evaluations”. Gee folks! I’m speechless.

—Ronaldo Martínez-Nazario

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Our monthly “Introduction to Patent Research” class alternates between the computer labs at the North and South Dade Regional Libraries and the training room at Main Library. The class, taught by Robert Klein and Charles Roig, emphasizes information about the USPTO website and the steps in performing a patent search. This class usually attracts 5–15 attendees per session. The participants at the February 14, 2006 class held at our North Dade Regional Library included staff from the libraries of the Southeast Florida Library Information Network (SEFLIN).

Robert Klein also presented a program for children at the North Miami Public Library, which included participation from North Miami Middle School students that had submitted ideas for inventions.

—Robert J. Klein

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before, I lost my power due to tornadoes and was studying my notes by candlelight. The most interesting presentation, however, was the one Karon King, then-PT-DLP fellow, and I did during Seminar 28. Karon had the great idea for us to assume the identities of Albert and sis Alberta Einstein. We got such good feedback that Mande Putnam asked us, I mean Alberta and Albert, to give a short presentation about the PTDLP to the Legal Secretaries and Administrators’ Conference the following week in Alexandria. In October, the Downtown Journal ran a nice story about our PTDL and the services we offer. So, 2005 was pretty much business as usual at MPL, but 2006 will be filled with all sorts of excitement and new challenges (to put it nicely) when the new library opens on May 20. In September we’ll be celebrating a full 25 years as a PTDL. Special thanks to Carrie Brunsberg and Helen Burke for taking on the IP questions when I wasn’t around.

—Walt Johnson

Morgantown, West Virginia
Evansdale Library, West Virginia University

My name is Marian Armour-Gemmen, and I have been a Patent & Trademark librarian at West Virginia University Libraries since October 2003. The Patent & Trademark collection is housed at the Evansdale Library which serves Engineering, Agriculture & Forestry, Education, Creative Arts and Physical Education. Our library has been a depository since 1991. WVU Libraries is a Regional Depository Library for the FDLP; our collections are managed separately, but we cooperate on items from the USPTO which are available through GPO.

In October, I presented “Searching U.S. Patents @ Your Library” at the West Virginia Library Association’s annual meeting in Shepherdstown, WV. I continue to work with the WVU Office of Technology Transfer and presented twice to them: once on “Patents and PublicPAIR” and the second time on “Searching U.S. Trademarks.” That office continues to send me referrals. As the only patent depository in the state of West Virginia, I also get calls and drop-ins from inventors from around our state.

—Marian Armour-Gemmen

Moscow, Idaho
University of Idaho Library

How often does it happen that a lovely young lady gets replaced as PTDL (or whatever its future appellation might be) representative by a gnarled, grizzly veteran like me? The aforementioned damsel, Karen Hertel, decided the rural nature of the Palouse region of Idaho was not quite grizzly enough and has moved on to the heart of grizzly country, the Montana Rockies just south of Glacier National Park and east of Flathead Lake, to manage a ranch. I, the vet, meanwhile am treading water with a 2-hour introduction to the job by Karen after becoming settled as a replacement at the last possible moment. It’s really not all that bad, as I have a good amount of experience in patents and trademarks, mostly from a previous engagement here at the University of Idaho Library, and plenty of reinforcement in a couple other positions, especially with trademarks. I am looking forward to the opportunities for improvement and interaction at the Training Seminar. Karen’s predecessor, Donna Hanson, is readily available to lend her expertise, for which I am thankful. She may be retired but that hardly retards her level of activity. She recently put together an excellent book, Frontier Duty: The Army in Northern Idaho, 1853–1876, from original records in the National Archives. I believe she started that effort in free time during the PTDLP meetings. I’m somewhat wary that I will be recruited to do some, similar archival research while in the capital region, due to the intensive publishing effort on the history of Idaho, especially

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northern Idaho, by the librarians here. Donna and Karen have also been partners in developing the Historical Idaho Patents Database, which can be accessed at http://db.lib.uidaho.edu/patents/. Karen left behind good documentation, including a comprehensive and informative web site at http://www.lib.uidaho.edu/reference/p_and_t/ and she also promised to be available via email. I don’t know how long that promise will last; perhaps there’s Internet access somewhere close, but the intent seems to be to get further away from all that.

—Mike Pollastro

Newark, Delaware
University of Delaware Library

The big news over the past year for the Morris Library was a large renovation project for the Reference Room, where the patent and trademark materials are located. The project was begun during the summer to avoid as much patron disruption as was possible, but of course there were some times when getting a patron what they needed was a challenge. Climbing over temporary stacks of books to attempt to find an item that was needed often presented a challenge and resulted in a few scraped knees.

The patent service was temporarily moved out into the main Information Area of the library and, while not the best situation, it did get the job done. Most of the project was completed by September and we were able to have everything back up and running by the beginning of the fall semester. One of the advantages to the redesigned room was the addition of three meeting/classrooms that have greatly expanded our ability to teach classes here in the library. One of these rooms is a small office space area that is completely wired and allows me to do patent and trademark instruction in a more private setting than ever before.

We are also having a major construction project on our lower level that will result in a large multi media production area within the library. In order to make room for this project many materials on the lower level have been removed to our off site Annex. These materials included all of our old patent microfilm and the printed editions of the Official Gazettes. We have also moved the file cabinets that contain the patent and trademark DVD sets, as well as the hard copies of the plant patents, up to the Reference Room. This has freed up a lot of space on the lower level and had the additional benefit of placing most of the patent and trademark materials in a central location in the Reference Room.

I’m currently working with our Special Collections Department to help identify some patent related documents that we have acquired as part of a collection of the Mergenthaler Linotype Company. This was one of the premiere linotype companies at the turn of the century and the collection contains many documents related to the patent activity of the company. Most of these appear to be transfer documents for the rights of patents from inventors or companies that were absorbed by Mergenthaler, as well as a number of private legal agreements dealing with the acquisition of patents and patent applications from both U.S. and foreign sources. The goal is to identify as many of the actual patents as we can (in many cases all I have to work with is a serial number and date) and to provide user guides for the collection so that researchers will be able to locate the actual patents if they desire to do so.

It’s been an interesting and busy year here in Newark.

—Tom Melvin
Hello from the Newark Public Library. My name is Jim Capuano and I am the PTDL representative. The PTDL collection and CASSIS workstation are now located on the second floor of the library, part of a new general reference desk that will centralize most reference functions.

This year Deirdre Schmidel, one of our reference librarians, will be attending the conference to represent the library. My other colleagues in the reference division are Elaine Gold, Curt Idrogo, Leslie Kahn, Nancy McConville, Monica Malinowski, Jane Seiden and Patricia Winship.

In the past year, a major renovation project at the library was completed. This included a new circulation area and media room on the first floor and new windows in the entire original 1901 building. The reference collections were moved as a part of this effort to update the library facilities and services.

During the spring semester of 2005, I spoke to a reference class at the Rutgers University School of Communication, Information and Library Studies on the patent and trademark collection. This was part of an ongoing “Newark Public Library Night” in which various members of the reference staff describe the collections and talk about the types of questions they are asked and how the reference staff handles such things as staffing and hours worked.

In this talk, I tried to explain the types of materials that we have and to show the steps involved in a patent search. I also talked about the types of patents and trademarks that individuals are interested in and gave examples of some New Jersey inventors and “local” trademarks. While I was giving the talk, I thought back to the fact that I had my first class in library school at Rutgers – in that very same classroom!

One of the pluses of helping patrons with the patent and trademark collection is seeing local inventors receive patents. It’s also great to help individuals with research assignments. An interesting project was to find the trademarks for the National Basketball League, Basketball Association of America and the National Basketball Association (NBA), which was created by a merger of the first two. The PTDL P Office (Tom Turner) was a great help.

Another plus of working with the collections is talking to relatives of inventors who are trying to track down older patents. A relative of Charles Birdseye (of frozen food fame) recently called and wanted advice on finding his non-U.S. patents. I learned some interesting stories about Mr. Birdseye and his companies. His other inventions were in the field of incandescent lighting, wood pulping and infrared heating.

—Jim Capuano

Piscataway, New Jersey
Rutgers University Library of Science and Medicine

This year, Connie Wu taught several sessions on patent searching for students of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

One noteworthy addition to her regular schedule of classes for engineering and science students was a new class at Rutgers, titled: “Intellectual Property Review for Women.” This class is offered at Douglass College, the women’s college of Rutgers University.

Once again, Connie was a featured speaker overseas. She made two trips to China this year, once in the summer and again in the fall of 2005.

As an invited speaker, Connie Wu gave four lectures at the Advanced Training Seminar of Patent Search and Analysis, Nov. 7-9, 2005 in Beijing, China. This seminar was organized by the State Intellectual Property Office of China and sponsored by the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs of China.

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More than 250 people were in attendance for this seminar. Connie received funding for the trip through a Lecture and Research Travel Grant awarded by the China National Foreign Expert Bureau. The titles of her lectures were: “Patent Databases on the Internet and Searching Techniques;” “IP Assessment or Analysis Systems;” “Patent Management Systems and Software;” and “US Patent Classification System.”

Connie was also invited in July 2005 to give two talks in China at the Beijing Guozhuang Intellectual Property Ltd., a subsidiary of the State Intellectual Property Office of China. The titles of these lectures were: “US Patent Legal System” and “Introduction to Global Patent Annuity Payment Services.”

On a more mundane level, we have tweaked our procedures for PubWEST login to maximize the hours that the system can be available to patrons. This is now basically whenever the reference desk is open. The few patrons that have used PubWEST were very pleased with it. It has been especially useful for people wishing to research patents granted to their relatives and doing inventor searches in the OCR file. Also new, we now have a brief discussion about patents at each of our monthly science librarian meetings. This was Connie’s initiative to raise our consciousness about patent search possibilities.

—Ellen Calhoun

Reno, Nevada
University Library, University of Nevada-Reno

The Reno Patent & Trademark Depository Library at the University of Nevada, Reno rolled out its Nevada Inventors Database at http://www.library.unr.edu/depts/bgic/nvinventors.html. The site allows users to retrieve United States patents issued to Nevada residents from the 1860s through the early 1920s. Patents are being added and the site will eventually cover patents issued through 1975. In a matter related to outreach, Brian Carpenter, former Texas A & M PTDLP Partnership librarian, contributed a chapter on patent searching to Reno PTDL Librarian Patrick Ragains’ forthcoming book, Programs and Techniques in Information Literacy Instruction (Neal Schuman). The chapter’s target audience is library personnel (not necessarily working in PTDLs) who need to instruct their users in patent searching.

—Patrick Ragains

Richmond, Virginia
James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University

The PTDL services at James Branch Cabell Library are housed in the Research & Reference Services department. All Research & Reference staff members provide basic patent and trademark assistance at our service desk, but one other staff member works closely with the PTDL collection—John Jovanovic, our government information specialist. Our library has been a PTDL since 1985, but I have only been here since fall of 2004. Yet what a difference one year makes!

After attending the PTDL seminar in April, I came back to Richmond full of good ideas (and a bit more confidence too!) and held two patent training seminars for reference staff. The first covered historical patent searching, and the second was on conducting a comprehensive patent search. For the second session, I adapted Terrence Mackey’s wonderful slides from his classification searching session at the PTDL seminar. PDF versions of my handouts from these sessions can be found on our redesigned patent Web pages at: http://www.library.vcu.edu/jbc/govdocs/patents.html. Take a look and tell me what you think—any feedback is greatly appreciated.

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Another exciting event here at Cabell Library was the creation of a Patent & Trademark Search Room. We moved the CASSIS workstation, printer, and a bookshelf of print resources into a recently vacated space to create a centralized and semi-private location for patent researchers. Our systems staff is in the process of networking the workstation, and we are really excited to move the use of WEST to this room as well. The stronger Web presence and nicer search space should significantly increase use of our collections and resources.

—Renee Bosman

Rochester, New York
Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County

The Chester F. Carlson Patent and Trademark Center has undergone a major staff change this year. Deb Leary, the manager since the Center opened in 1999, was promoted and became Director of the Winton Brach Library in Rochester, NY. I was appointed as the new Manager in October 2005. The first class I taught I quickly realized my audience knew a lot more than I did. So, I stopped my formal lecture and opened the floor to general discussion. Personally I was disappointed, but from their evaluation forms “they enjoyed the open forum” most. It’s a very humbling experience to learn right alongside our patrons who are looking for patent and trademark information.

The Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County has been a depository library since 5/10/1999, and our Patent and Trademark Center is housed in the Science and History Division of the library. Each staff member in the division is a PTDL representative, but I’m the point person. We continue to serve our patrons through monthly classes and one on one training sessions. Our innovative partnership with the Inventor’s Society of Western New York continues, and staff members are encouraged to attend one of their monthly meetings held at the library.

April promises to be busy! The Carlson Center will co-sponsor Roadmap for Inventors again. Representatives from the Small Business Development Center at SUNY Brockport, Patent Agents from Patent Education, and the President of the Inventor’s Society of Western NY will be presenters. The last time this program was offered, it drew 35 people.

Also in April, Jay Osborne and I are looking forward to attending the PTDL conference. Last year when I went, I knew nothing about Patents and Trademarks, and thought, “What in the world is CAS-SIS?” Needless to say, I am glad to be attending again. At least Jay has a little more knowledge than that, even though it’ll be his first time at the conference.

—Kate Meddaugh

Salt Lake City, Utah
Marriott Library, University of Utah

The Salt Lake PTDL is located in the Government Documents and Microforms Division of the University of Utah’s Marriott Library. The Marriott Library was first designated a PDL (note - no trademarks back then!) in 1984 through the efforts of then-Division Head Juli Hinz. In addition to our PTDL depository, the Marriott Library has been a GPO depository since 1893; a U.S. Department of Energy depository; United Nations, European Union, World Trade Organization, and UNESCO depository; and State of Utah depository.

Our current staff includes: Kate Holvoet, Documents/Microforms Head; Amy Brunvand; Peter Kraus; Dan Renak, our senior support specialist; and Wendy Ajax, our other support specialist who just completed her MLS from Emporia—way to go, Wendy!

As the PTDL representative, I have been one of the Marriott Library’s federal documents librarians since 1987, and a member of the PTDLA since my first conference in spring 1987. I have served the Association in a number of positions.

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Finance Committee member and Chair; PTDLA Chair in 1999/2000; and currently as Archives Committee Chair. I was delighted to be Thirteenth Patent Fellowship Librarian at the PTDL Program Office for eighteen months from 1996 to 1998, in the previous Crystal City location. What a great opportunity and experience! <smile>

In April 2005, I was happy to participate in our first PTDL Annual Training Seminar at the new USPTO campus in Alexandria, VA. In May 2005, Salt Lake City was the first PTDL to host a new conference on “Intellectual Property in the Global Marketplace” that is part of STOP (Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy), a major federal government effort to protect American businesses from falling victim to intellectual property theft both domestically and abroad. Our two-day community program was opened by Jon Dudas, Director of the USPTO, and presented by visiting USPTO staff. I addressed the audience on local USPTO resources, and was able to arrange for a short presentation on patenting in biotechnology to match the interests of many Utah firms.

New campus developments this year included the announcement by new University of Utah President Michael Young of a major technology ventures program under the direction of the School of Business. As a result, I’ve made some new contacts and opportunities for instruction within our Technology Commercialization Office—which is beefing up with new interns and staff—and our Office of the VP for Research—which provides training for campus administrators and offers three training certificates in research administration.

The Marriott Library is about nine months into a three-year renovation project, and as a result my daily focus continues on internal preparations for compact storage; retrospective cataloging of our documents collection; and on-going need for reference services to an increasingly challenged patron base!

—Dave Morrison

San Antonio, Texas
San Antonio Public Library

I am Wilson Plunkett and have been working in PTDLs, on and off, since 1990. Additional PTDL librarians at San Antonio PTDL are Dorothy Blow and Michael Kaminski. Our Patent and Trademark collection is within our Government Documents unit, with the same staff servicing both. We have been a PTDL since March 2000.

Most of our training for inventors consists of one-on-one training by appointment. Michael Kaminski, Wilson Plunkett, and Natasha Aguello (from our reference unit) did a half-day workshop last month that had 22 in attendance. Michael is also serving as Secretary of the local inventors group and sits on their board.

—Wilson Plunkett
San Francisco, California
San Francisco Public Library

The San Francisco Public Library PTDL is located in the Brooks Walker Patent and Trademark Center, which is housed near the Government Information Center (GIC) on the fifth floor of the Main Library. The Center, which opened in 1996, has three computers with access to the USPTO’s patents and trademarks, including the PTDL Cassis computer, and one printer. In addition, we have library computers, outside the Center that also have access to the U.S.P.T.O. web site. Our reference collection includes materials on patents, copyright and the marketing and licensing of intellectual property.

I have been the Patent and Trademark Librarian since April of 2005. Prior to that I was a law librarian and worked in both private law firms as well as a federal government agency—the U.S. Attorney’s office. I am happy to be, once again, in the public service arena. I’ve spent my first few months taking classes and reading as much as I could about intellectual property. In fact, I continue to take classes and read as much as I can. I’m also in the process of looking at our collection, and updating and ordering new items.

I’ve recently taught a class for the public, “Introduction to Patent & Trademark Searching.” I love dealing with inventors or individuals who are trademarking their products or services. They are enthusiastic and interesting people. I’ve had people wanting to patent or trademark a range of interesting items. Some won’t disclose their ideas, so I have a number of hand outs available. Of course, we have the great booklets put out by the USPTO, “General Information Concerning Patents,” “General Information About Plant Patents,” “Basic Facts About Trademarks” (My personal favorite), and others. We have also compiled brochures on a variety of subjects, including how to conduct a common law search and how to conduct a preliminary patent and trademark search.

In addition to patents and trademark materials, we have copyright forms available at the GIC Reference Desk and get steady traffic from the creative people in our community.

Along with my above responsibilities, I work at the GIC Reference Desk. Our department provides free access to United States, California, San Francisco, and Bay Area regional agency government documents, and to materials on public policy, political science, public administration, and the law.

We were very fortunate to have Mande Putnam and Chris Black visit us in November 2005. In addition to an update on U.S.T.P.O. proposals, Mande and Chris conducted a patent and trademark training for our GIC librarians as well as librarians from all departments.

I look forward to meeting many of my colleagues at the forthcoming Annual PTDL Training Seminar in April.


—Cella Mitchell
Seattle, Washington
Engineering Library, University of Washington

We continue to receive the bulk of our patent and trademark reference questions via phone and e-mail. I am heartened to see some folks come into the library to conduct searches in person after speaking with our reference staff or after attempting to search in home. I think those patrons definitely benefit from the one-to-one instruction.

I continue to train new reference assistants from our Information School. I also offer several “Introduction to Patent Searching” classes each quarter. One of my most rewarding experiences continues to be my annual lecture to the UW Information School’s Government Publications class. The students are always interested, and we usually have fun in the process!

On the horizon: We expect to have a new Dean for the College of Engineering. However, the biggest event in the Engineering Library in the coming year will be the replacement of shelving throughout the building! Some of you may remember a roundtable presentation I did at the PTDL Seminar in 2002 about the 2001 Nisqually earthquake and the interesting damage to our shelving that the Nisqually left in its wake. [If you are interested in the earthquake damage, we still have links to photos on our website at http://www.lib.washington.edu/engineering/ ] We are scheduled to get new shelving this summer! Directly after the quake, construction workers righted our stacks and installed metal bracing and struts as a “temporary” measure. We are excited that we will receive new shelving, but we will miss the industrial nature of our creative and effective temporary bracing.

—Christina Byrne

Illinois State Library PTDL
Springfield, Illinois

Change and continued success were hallmarks of the Illinois State Library Patent and Trademark Depository Library in 2005.

Cheryl Rowland left the PTDL after twelve years of service and has been succeeded by Dennis Weller.

Successful exhibits continued to be a centerpiece for the PTDL. The most successful exhibit was “Sculptured Greatness: Lincoln, Grant and Reagan: an Exhibition of Illinois Presidential Busts.” The most visited was a “For Dummies” exhibit.

We compiled several lists of online patent exhibits:

The Design Patents featuring Ulysses S. Grant comments included: “Nice display and compilation. I would never have guessed that many existed.”

The “Patented Turkeys” received raved reviews from everyone.

“Illinois Inventions: An Exhibit for the Christmas Holidays” drew comments that included, “fun exhibit Margaret. Thanks for sharing.”

The “Patently Black” exhibit comments included:

“I think you have the start of a really fascinating book—or at least a major journal article. It reminds me of one of the most interesting talks we heard at the old PDS luncheons at Seminar (maybe 5 or 6 years ago?). A professor (I think from U of Miami of Ohio?) gave a presentation on women’s inventions and how they reflected the society of the time; and how many of them were not even credited to women.

What you have here is a striking window into some subtle and other not at all subtle racial attitudes and perspectives. And some are truly clever designs—like that bobby pin holder.

I’ll be very interested to see where this project goes, and I really do hope it goes far!

“Ask the Attorney Seminars”
PTDL initiated “Ask the attorney seminars” that were offered quarterly to the public. Attorneys from a 90 mile

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radius of Springfield, IL were invited to conduct the sessions. The next one is scheduled for March 24, 2006 in cooperation with the Illinois Technology Enterprise Center. The seminars attracted an average of 15 participants per session.

Illinois Inventor of the Week

The weekly “Illinois inventor of the week” feature in the Illinois State Library’s electronic newsletter continues to focus attention on patents.

—Margaret J. Collins

St. Louis, Missouri
St. Louis Public Library

Many Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) Representatives are able to attend the annual Training Seminar. Some PTDLs choose to send the same person each year. Others may send a different staff person each time. One constant is that there are always first time attendees, so here is a bit of information about St. Louis Public Library’s (SLPL) PTDL. Much of the patent and trademark material is housed in the Business, Science & Technology Department (BST). Patents dating back to 1790 are on microfilm and are kept in the Microfilm Department across the hall from BST. St. Louis Public Library is one of the “Original 22” libraries to receive paper copies of patents and become what was then called a Patent Depository Library.

I have been a PTDL Representative for 16 years and have attended 15 Training Seminars. I had the good fortune to be the 12th PTDL Fellowship Librarian and have also served in the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA) as a regional representative and later as vice-president/president-elect.

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This past year the manager of the Government Documents Department at Washington University’s Olin Library asked me to mentor a Masters in Library Science student interested in documents librarianship. She noted that sharing information with her about patents, trademarks, and the questions patrons ask gave her a clearer idea of the wide range of materials that are encompassed by government documents.

In January 2006, I spoke to the Inventors Association of St. Louis (IASL) about patents, trademarks and the added value of getting assistance in their use from a trained PTDL staff person. I also explained some of the helpful features of the United States Patent and Trademark Office’s (USPTO) web site. All the attendees got packets of information including, among other material, the Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) Consumer Alert on “Free Grants” and their Facts for Consumers article on “Invention Promotion Firms.”

“African-American Women as Inventors and Patent Holders” was featured on a bulletin board display for February’s Black History Month. Conveniendly, it will remain displayed for March’s Women’s History Month. There was also a table display of books on black inventors, scientists, and those that have worked in medicine.

Biographical information about early black inventors is a question that occurs all year, not only in February. If the patent number is available, then patents give a clue where the inventor might have lived or worked. If there are libraries or historical societies in those cities or towns, I have offered contact information so the inquirer may call, write or email the organization. I would appreciate it if anyone reading this has other biographical information sources or suggestions to share because this information is often hard to find.

—Carol Giles-Straight

West Lafayette, Indiana
Siegesmund Engineering Library, Purdue University

The Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program in West Lafayette, Indiana is housed in the Siegesmund Engineering Library at Purdue University. Purdue’s large academic programs in science and engineering benefit from the program. Charlotte Erdmann is the PTDL representative and libraries’ coordinator of collections. The reference staff consists of three additional librarians and five library assistants. The librarians are Megan Sapp, Amy Van Epps and Michael Fosmire. The library assistants include Frances Christman, Mary Sego, Dianna Deputy, Lyndsay Tolen and Ralph Mickey.

This year, the libraries’ administration gave us $6,000 to buy books on intellectual property. This has permitted us to fill in many gaps in the collection and is much appreciated by our users.

Instructional sessions have been given to the following classes and groups:

**Mechanical Engineering Design, ME263**, two sections, fall and spring semester. Approximately 350 students. This is a continuing program emphasizing U.S.-issued patents, U.S.-published applications and international patents that are available through esp@cenet. Due to time constraints this year, classification searching has been emphasized, with patent basics covered by handouts from PowerPoint presentations.

**Innovation Realization Lab, MGMT 590V.** This group of 15 graduate students is connected to the Burton Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship. This is one of the most in-depth instruction sessions. It is also the most satisfying, because the students understand the importance of patents. These students have research projects that demand a more comple-

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Burton D. Morgan Entrepreneurial Competition. This evening lecture to 50 people started last year and has grown to an in-depth presentation for which I was paid this year. I revised my previous presentations to include a better-organized look at patent basics and the patent search process. Arriving early to test equipment was very helpful, since the videotape that was used got stuck in the VCR and had to be retrieved. A substitute machine was found.

Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS). In the fall, there was no scheduled training session for EPICS but there was a need for knowledge of the patent search process. As a result, Nancy Clement, a staff member who works with the students, recommended that they attend the December patent lecture sponsored by the Engineering Library. In the spring, there was a special training session for the EPICS Intellectual Property managers. The PTDL representative has also given one-on-one training to individual students in using the U.S. patent classification system and USPTO databases.

Engineering Library Training Session on Patents (December 2005 and April 2006). This patent lecture is part of a bigger series of Engineering Library training sessions. It covered basic information and searching techniques. Attendance was good from EPICS students. A spring session is scheduled in April and will cover searching the more comprehensive USPTO PubWest databases.

The introduction of PubWest Training will begin in April 2006. A lot of time was spent in the fall and winter troubleshooting computer software in order to print image patents. Once the new version of the Prism 7.0 viewer was sent by the USPTO, the problems were resolved in February. PubWest is a valuable resource that is used by patent examiners in their daily work. Our users will benefit from the improved access to these databases. We look forward to beginning the service.

Charlotte meets with a wide variety of patent and trademark clients for one-on-one instruction. Many students, community members and independent inventors with specialized projects have used the service. A patent attorney in a nearby community regularly uses the service.

—Charlotte Erdmann

Wichita, Kansas
Ablah Library, Wichita State University

Hello from Wichita, the “Peerless Princess of the Plains” (A 19th century Wichita real estate slogan!)

I am Nan Myers, Associate Professor and Librarian for Government Documents, Patents and Trademarks. I have been the PTDL representative since 1999 and, as you might surmise from my title, I also provide reference and research services for government documents. My library assistant, Jo Gregg, has been with our PTDL since its inception in 1991. She was initially hired to make patent copies full-time from our microfilm files and backfiles. Things have changed a lot since 1991! Jo now manages the office, trains our students and runs interference for me. Most of our patrons don’t even realize we have the microfilm backfiles!

Ablah Library at Wichita State University has been a patent depository since 1991. The depository is housed on the main floor of the library, adjacent to the Reference area, which has been rebranded as the “Information Commons.” CASSIS and two additional computer terminals are available for the exclusive use of patent/trademark or government documents clients. In addition, a bank of eight computers has been set aside as a “Community Resource Center” for the general public, who frequently use our library. These terminals do not require authentication from users.

Our PTDL services reach a diverse clientele, as we are located in a metropolitan university in the largest city in Kansas (MSA 500,000). I visit with many inventors and people seeking trademark assistance. In 2005 I provided 228 consultative sessions (some over the phone) with patrons for patents and trademarks.

Outreach efforts of our PTDL include my eight Patent Training Workshops given on Saturdays from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in January, February, March, April, July, September, October and November. These free training sessions are open to faculty, staff, students and the general public. Usually 15-20 people attend to learn about the

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In mid-2004, I received a grant from the Kansas Library Network Board to develop the Kansas Inventors Database. This project is still in process, but we are nearing a time when we can announce it for public use. I hope this will be our headline news for the 2007 PTDLA Newsletter!

—Nan Meyers

Open Forum (continued from page 9)

Leslie Brown: I attended a NCBI workshop and the trainers were not aware of what databases the USPTO has for Genetic searching?

Response: PTO has its own biotech database. It is on the Internet, under Patent Business Center.

Charlotte: Graduate students have been asking questions on economic information. They have asked questions about patents that have more claims adding more value to the portfolio of company. Do you think that this is true?

Jim Hirabayashi: A lot of people recognize patents are a good indicator of technology. This is one of the ways they show technology is important. There are several studies that say [the number of claims is an indicator of value] but if you look at it [the claims] individually, it does not look so. One of the things that Economists want to know is how many countries a patent is filed in and how many times they are cited which is valuable. Custom special CD-ROMS are available. We are selling them and have specification on the USPTO website.

Respectfully submitted,
Leena Lalwani, PTDLA Secretary

Patent no. 5,339,987
Issued August 23rd, 1994
Intellectual Property Quiz

Test your skills!

1. What invention did Louis Pasteur receive a patent for in 1873?

2. What is the trade name for patent 5,339,987?

3. What famous author patented a scrapbook in 1873?

4. Which song from “The Sound of Music” was registered by Rodger and Hammerstein in 1959?

5. In what year did a fire destroy the Patent Office building and many of the earliest patent documents?

6. Who invented a suitcase with a collapsible towing handle in 1994?

7. What Leonard Bernstein musical was registered for copyright in 1956?

8. Ronald Kay invented a “safety cap for medicine bottle” in 1984. What was the patent number, and what city was the inventor from?

9. Where is the company that has a registered trademark for Velcro? (name of country?)

10. Who registered a copyright for “Eensie Weensie Spider” in 1869?

Wheeled suitcase of luggage support with collapsible towing handle
Issued March 8th, 1994
Intellectual Property Quiz

*Did you find them all?*

1. Brewing beer and ale; patent no.135,245
2. Super Soaker
3. Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens)
4. “Do-re-mi”
5. 1877
6. Don Ku
7. “West Side Story”
8. Patent no. 4,452,364; Fort Worth, TX
9. The Netherlands
10. Yola De Meglio
L. PASTEUR.

Brewing Beer and Ale.

No. 135,245.

Patented Jan. 28, 1873.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Witnesses

E. Wolf
J. Heidel

Inventor

Louis Pasteur
By his Attorney
C. M. Keller
PTDLA Newsletter

PATENT AND TRADEMARK DEPOSITORY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (PTDLA)
29th PTDL Training Seminar Fee
April 2-7, 2006

The Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA) was established in 1983 for those employees of Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries (PTDLs) who work with the patent and trademark depository library collections. PTDLA's objectives are “to discover the interests, needs, opinions, and goals of the PTDLs, to advise the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in these matters” and “to assist the USPTO in planning and implementing appropriate services.”

The PTDLA helps defray the costs of the PTDL Annual Training Seminar by collecting a registration fee. The money is deposited in the PTDLA treasury and a check is issued which is applied toward the total seminar bill. This is a mandatory fee for all attendees. **For those attendees who work in PTDLs, the fee includes your annual membership dues.** Dues cover membership from the current Seminar to the end of the next year’s event. Only individual memberships are permitted, there is no provision for institutional or group memberships.

If you have any questions regarding your membership status, please direct them to Suzanne Holcombe, Interim PTDLA Treasurer, Oklahoma State University, 501 Edmon Low Library, Stillwater, OK 74078, phone: (405) 744-7086, e-mail: suzanne.holcombe@okstate.edu.

**PTDL Training Seminar Fee Form**

Name: ____________________________

Institution: ____________________________

Check one: □ PTDLA Membership Dues $25.00

(With this box if you are not attending the seminar this year but wish to maintain your PTDLA membership.)

□ PTDLA Members Seminar Fee – Total: $65.00

(With this box if you are attending the seminar. Includes $25 dues and $40 seminar fee.)

□ PTDLA Seminar Fee—Non-Members $75.00

Do you want a receipt? □ Yes □ No

(Check what you need) □ For PTDLA membership dues only

□ For both membership and seminar fees

□ For seminar registration fees only

Instructions

Please make checks payable to PTDLA (not to the PTDL program or the Treasurer). Do NOT send cash.

Mail this form and your check to the following address. **Checks may also be given to the Treasurer at the Seminar.**

Suzanne Holcombe, Interim PTDLA Treasurer
Oklahoma State University
501 Edmon Low Library
Stillwater, OK 74078