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From the Editors Desk: Patinformatics - The Art of Mining Technical Knowledge through Patents

Generally, when individuals think about patent information they conjure up an image of a diligent searcher, poring over reams and reams of information, looking for the one reference out of hundreds, maybe thousands that will satisfy their client. The idea of searching for a "needle in a haystack" comes readily to mind when referring to the activities in which these professionals commonly find themselves. More recently, however, information professionals find themselves being asked to look at the bigger picture. Instead of trying to identify a single grain of sand on a vast beach, business decision-makers are increasingly asking information professionals to identify trends and provide general overviews to put information in context when compared to a much larger collection of materials. Instead of finding a needle in a haystack, today's searchers are becoming analysts and being asked to identify haystacks from space and then forecast whether the haystack is the beginning of a new field or the remainder from last year's harvest.

The term patinformatics is borrowed from the names of some of the common technological fields such as bioinformatics, cheminformatics, etc. The term patinformatics is used to define the process of analyzing patent documents to uncover the trends and relationships camouflaged amongst them. Commonly, computational methods or computer software are used to study the patent documents. Patinformatics could be considered as macro level analysis as opposed to bioinformatics where in the biological data are analyzed on a one-on-one basis. But since 80% of technical knowledge is embedded in patents and there are 35 million patents available for study, analysis worldwide, it is not feasible to adopt one-to-one analysis approach. However, the concept of micro level analysis could also be employed provided the amount of data to be studied is confined to a few patent documents. But the requirements of accuracy and precision remain unaltered for both types of analysis. Micro level analysis could be performed with the aid of computer software, but macro level analysis requires human intervention.

The term patinformatics is said to include all macro level analyses processes includingpatent intelligence(the process of using the patent information to identify the technical capabilities of an organization and to build a competitive,

strategic technical plan), patent mapping(the process of utilization of published patent data to create a graphical representation of the art pertaining to a specific subject area or an invention), and patent citation analysis(the process of studying patent citations to determine a patent's value and also to identify potential licensing partners and to obtain leads based on the citation of an organization's patent by another organization which may or may not belong to the same market space).

Patinformatics can also cover additional applications of patent information involving a subsequent analysis step. The key underlying property in each of these diverse areas is the analysis step. One might imagine that the same rules which apply to conducting patinformatics also apply to patent searching. This is not entirely the case. In analogy to the field of physics, in which quantum mechanics outlines the principles for understanding the microscopic world, while Newtonian principles apply to the macromolecular world of large bodies in motion, one can distinguish two different approaches to patent information. Traditional patent searching deals with the micro level, in which very small changes become extremely important and details and precision are imperatives. Patinformatics, by comparison, deals with thousands or tens of thousands of documents.Since small details will not be seen across such a vast landscape, it takes a more macroscopic view of the data, using different methods and reaching different conclusions.

The difference between patent searchers and analysts is one of perspective. Searchers are trained to find a needle in a haystack, while analysts want to identify haystacks from space. A comparison of the two approaches can illustrate how each practitioner will deal with the search, review/analysis, and final presentation of the data discovered.

28th Annual Convention and Conference of SIS

In a globally competitive environment, Indian companies are not only forced to create new products, but also to ensure that they generate an IP of value and have freedom to operate. Use of patent information for research and business planning is, therefore, receiving increasing attention.India has also become an attractive destination for value-added patent information services because of availability of technical human resource and cost-effectiveness. This calls for appropriate human resource development and upgradation of skills of existing information professionals.Realizing the importance of this newly emerging area, the Society for Information Science (SIS), incollaboration with CSIR's Unit for Research and Development of Information Products (CSIRURDIP), Pune, is organizing a three day Conference on"Patinformatics for Research and Business Planning" during19-21 March 2012 at Pune.

After the inaugural session of the Conference on the opening day (19th March 2012), a workshop will be held on the tools and techniques of Patinformatics. On the second day (20th March 2012), presentations will be made by the experts on the topic of Patinformatics forresearch planningfocusing on landscaping, white space mapping, product development, technology foresight, patentability studies, etc. On 21st March, the focus will be on Patinformatics for business planning covering topics like competitive intelligence, business diversification, mergers & acquisitions, freedom to operate and related subjects.In addition, many database and software vendors will be displaying their products for the benefit of delegates.

Patinformatics is a newly emerging science, which involves analyzing a set of patent data to discover relationship and trends that would be difficult to see when working with patent documents on a one-on-onebasis.A patent document is a complete disclosure of commercial, scientific and technological information. It is estimated that about 70% of the information disclosed in patents is never published anywhere else. Very often, it is also the earliest disclosure of a new technology or a new product. A unique and valuable source of scientific and technicalinformation, patent literature is often overlooked and under-utilized by researchers and information professionals. This is understandable, given that untilrecently it was difficult for everyone to access patent information. However Internet has

made a paradigm shift; patent information is now readily accessible for free on theWorld Wide Web. Patent offices in most developed nations, including new emerging economies, maintain web-enabled patent databases containing millions of patent records. The European Patent Office'sesp@cenet system alone has more than 65 millionpatent documents from approximately 70 countries, the earliest dating from the mid19th century.There are also very specialized value added paid databases, such as Delphion, Derwent, Micropatent,Patbase, Patent Café, Q Pat, Thomson Innovation, Total Patent, etc., which are available for patent document retrieval. The semantic patent search technology has revolutionized patent research.Patent analysis results can be displayed by visual representation using bar graphs, polygonal linegraphs, pie charts, radar charts and other charts/graphs, which are called Patent Maps. The various tools useful to generate patent maps are Vantage Point, Aureka Theme Scape, STNAnaVist, etc.There is now integration of latent semantic analysis/advanced linguistics patent search technology, portfolio management software, online patent analytics, international patent database into a DecisionSupport System (DSS) class of enterprise software applications.Patent information is more than just technological orlegal information. Some of the practical applications of patent information include: management of researchand development (R&D), as a tool for creative thinking, competitor monitoring, technology assessment, new venture evaluation, input for licensing strategy, supporting mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and human resource management. In today's complex knowledge-driven economy, effective use of patent information while developing and introducing a newproduct may determine the success or failure of the product and, in turn, the success or failure of the company itself.

SIS Fellowships & Young Information Scientist Awards

SIS Fellowship Awards

The Society for Information Science (SIS) awards Fellowships to individuals in recognition of their outstanding contributions in the areas of Information Science & Technology. So far 40 individuals have been awarded Fellowships by the Society.

Young Information Scientist Award

The Society instituted the Young Information Scientist Award in 1989 in the memory of Late Shri A.S. Raizada, Founder Secretary of SIS. It is awarded to young Information Scientists (below 35 years of age) for their outstanding contributions in the areas of information science and technology.

SIS declared the award of following SIS Fellowships and the SIS Young Information Scientist Awards for the year 2011. The awardees will be felicitated during the inaugural function of SIS 2012 at Pune:

SIS Fellowships-2011

· Dr. Rajesh Luthra, Head, CSIR-HRDG, CSIR-HRDG, N. Delhi

· Mr N. C. Ghosh, Head, KRC, IICB, Kolkata

· Dr. P. K. Jain, Librarian, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University, New Delhi

SIS Young Information Scienti st Awards-2011

· Dr. B Devi Prasad, Scientist, CSIR (PPD Div.), N. Delhi

· Abhishek Sharma, Scientist, CSIR- NPL (KRC), N. Delhi

SIS General Body Meeting

The Annual General Body meeting of the Society for Information Science will take place at the venue of the 28th SIS National Convention and Conference at URDIP, Puneon 20th March 2012 at 6.00 p.m.

Agenda

1. To consider and adopt the Secretary's Report on the activities of the Society for the year 2010-2011.

2. To consider and adopt the audited statement of accounts of the Society.

3. Any other item with the permission of the chair.

N K Wadhwa
Gen. Secretary
SIS

Training Programmes on "Patinformatics for Research and Business Planning" & "Effective Science Communication"

SIS organized two training programmes on"Patinformatics for Research and Business Planning" & "Effective Science Communication"on 23rd February 2012,at theNational Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Mohali and the Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh (IMTECH), Chandigarh.

A Report

Ever since its establishment, the SIS has played an active role in promoting information consciousness and development of S&T Communication skills amongst academia and researchers in general and its members in particular. Towards meeting such an objective, it has, over the years, organized a large number of learned workshops, seminars and conventions. These have always been well attended and well commented upon.

Keeping the same objective in view the Society organized on February 23,2012 two Workshops on two distinct themes, both at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Mohali and the Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh. While the first theme Workshop on "Patinformatics for Research and Business Planning" was conducted by Senior SIS Fellow, Dr. R. R.Hirwani, Head, CSIR-URDIP and his team of Sh. Nishad and Sh. Dash, the other on "Effective Science Communication" was conducted by Dr B. C. Sharma, a veteran of the field and one of the senior-most SIS Fellows. The sessions of the Workshops were so rotated that the participants at both the Institutions had the benefit of listening to both the facilitators.

The participation at both the places was overwhelming as at neither of the institutions, Workshops on such distinct themes were ever held earlier. Dr Hirwani and his team focused on landscaping, white space mapping, product development, technology foresight, patentability studies highlighting therein its use for business planning covering competitive intelligence, business diversification, mergers and acquisitions, freedom to operate studies and related

subjects. The subject matter of the presentation being very topical, it led to a very lively interaction between the facilitators and the participants.

Dr B. C. Sharma in his presentations dealt with the purpose and characteristics of S&T communication in general and discussed the importance of effective S&T writing, the purpose of S&T writing and certain common characteristics of this type of writing and linked them to the goal of S&T writing, i.e., to share usable information. In hands-on style he took the participants through different stages of writing, which include generation of ideas or information, sorting of information, preparation of an outline, preparation of a rough draft and the final revised draft. In his presentation, Dr Sharma focused on the use of effective language for coherent and clear presentation of the information gathered by scientists in their researches. Through actual case examples he discussed the common errors found in S&T writing, which lead to low readability and/or miscarriage of intended message of the author. He concluded by sharing with the participants specific suggestions on how to avoid common traps that make language complex, ambiguous and difficult to follow.

For most of the participants at both the institutions, it was a unique learning opportunity and they thanked the Society for the opportunity offered.

Both the Workshops were coordinated by Prof. Naresh Kumar, President,SIS.

27th Annual Convention of SIS and Conference on, Open Access: Gateway to Open Innovation was organized by IICB, during 24- 26 November 2010 at Kolkata in association with Bose Institute, Kolkata

Society for Information Science (SIS)as professional body devoted to encourage interaction among information professionals scien-tists, managers and users organized its 27th Annual Convention and Conference on, Open Access: Gateway to Open Innovation at IICB- Kolkata, during 24-26 November 2010 in association with Bose Institute, Kolkata.

The main objective of the Symposium was to discuss some aspects of Open Access model, which provides opportunities for free and online access to scholarly literature that can be disseminated further with proper author attribution. The conventional research publications do not reach a wide audience even among scientific community, affecting both its visibility and impact. Hence, publishing in Open Access journals and setting up institutional archives/ repositories are important for scientific advancement. As it provides much greater visibility, it also improves impact for research work. Open Innovation has advantages, such as faster time to market, reducing R&D and product development costs, tapping global pool of experts, getting new product ideas, uncovering readymade solutions and sharing risk with others. The Conference was intended for motivation of scientific and technological community at national level for their active involvement in this direction. The meeting was attended by knowledge resource personnel nationwide from different institutions and libraries and also personnel from different international publishers. There were about 130 registered participants including young researchers and 10 invited talks were presented by important personalities during the Conference. A significant number of experts on Library and Information Sciences participated in the Conference.

In the Inaugural Function, Prof. SibajiRaha, Director, Bose Institute, presented the Welcome Address. Dr. KrishanLal, President Elect, INSA, New Delhi and former Director, NPL, New Delhi inaugurated the Symposium. Dr. Naresh Kumar, President, SIS presented a brief report on the activities of SIS followed by addresses from the Guest-in-Chief, Prof. Ajoy Kumar Roy, Vice-Chancellor, BESU and Guest of Honour, Prof. DhrubajyotiChattopadhyay,

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), University of Calcutta. The first day of the Conference ended with a cultural programme presented by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India.

The second day consisted of a Panel Discussion on Industry-Institute Partnership -Open Access Policy, invited lectures and four sessions, namely, Open Access Initiatives, Open Access: Paths & Players, Open Source Licensing and Diffusion and Open Standards.

The third day observed a Panel Discussion on, Open Access - Views of the Decision Makers, invited lectures and five sessions on Open Access Repositories, Open Access: Data Harvesting/Mining, Open Source Software and Discovery, Open Innovation and Open Knowledge Network followed by the Valedictory Session, which was presided over by Dr. Naresh Kumar, President SIS.

The Valedictory Address was given by Shri. K. K. Banerjee, Director, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata. The three days Conference and Annual Convention of SIS came to an end with presentation of certificates to the participants by Dr. Naresh Kumar, President, SIS. Avote of thanks was delivered by Mr. N. C. Ghosh, Organizing Secretary, SIS-2010.All the participants in the Conference had very interesting discussions and interactions among themselves. The Conference concluded with the resolution that initiatives at national level for more open online access to scholarly literatures and open innovation are needed. These enable organizations to expand their reach to the global brain comprising scientists, researchers, students, faculties, research institutes, inventors, consulting firms, small and medium sized businesses and entrepreneurs. Scientific and technological community and publishers should come forward in this direction. In this context, the setting up institutional archives/repositories was highly recommended for future scientific advancement.

SIS Life Members Directory

A sustained effort is being made to get all the available but scattered information related to our Life Members and bring it out in the form of a Directory. We admit that there might still be many missing details and a lot still needs to be done, but a start has been made and it can be improved further with the cooperation of all the members. The Society has created a facility on its website for registering the members, enabling them to update their personal information at their own convenience. This way, we will gradually be able to provide the updated information amongst our members and also communicate with them effectively.

The Society is planning to bring out an updated version of the Directory. All the members are requested to provide their details, address for communication along with E-mail ID to the Secretary SIS or can be emailed.

SISCOM Newsletter

We are trying our level best to bring our newsletter out regularly. The current issue is in your hands, and we request our members to provide more inputs to help us improve its quality and provide latest information through this medium. The Newsletter's online version is also available on the SIS official website.

Need for a Webometrics', 'Informetrics', 'Scientometrics' India Center

In September 2009, 4 Life Members of the Society, namely, Dr. R.R. Hirwani, Dr. Ramesh Kundra, Dr. Divya Srivastava and Mr. N.K. Wadhwa visited WISELAB in China,which focuses on the area of Bibliometrics & Scientometrics. The visit was quite enriching and it was felt that a similar institution or a sub-part of an institution should be created in India also to give a greater fillip to R & D work in the areas of 'Webometrics', 'Informetrics', and 'Scientometrics' in the country.

SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION SCIENCE
(FOUNDED 1976)
Life/ Individual Membership form*

Full Name   :

Date of Birth   :   **Sex**   : *Male / Female*

Mailing address   :

                                                            Pin code   :

Phone   :   **Fax**   :

E-mail   :

Academic qualifications   :

Professional qualifications   :

Post currently held   :

(please mention designation, department and institute)

Length and type of experience   :

Honours/awards won, if any   :

Publications during the last 2 years   :

Date   :   Signature of the applicant :

*Life Membership Subscription: Rs. 2500.00/- (w.e.f. August 2011), & *Institutional membership Subscription is Rs. 10000.00/- Cheque/DD should be in favour of Secretary, SIS payable at Syndicate Bank, NPL (PUSA) Branch, A/C Number: 91002010009238, IFSC Code: SYNB0009100 ; Micr Code "110025087" New Delhi. Filled application with Cheque /DD have to be sent to Mr N. K. Wadhwa, Secretary-SIS, C/o National Physical Laboratory,(NPL)(CSIR), Dr K S Krishana Marg, New Delhi- 110012, India*

Contact : (Mobile) +91 9350090040.

SIS to digitize its publications:

SIS supports open access and on this front, the Society has decided to digitizeall its publications including all its convention and conference proceedings. The digitized content will be made available on the SIS website.

Global news briefs:

How One Library Digitized Its Community's Newspapers : The Winona Newspaper Project, an open, noncommercial digital archive, isproviding access to a number of historic periodicals of Winona, Minnesota, a midsizedcity in the southeastern part of the state. The project is an indispensableresource for Winona State University's Darrell W. Krueger Library and university faculty and students, as well as for local journalists and historians.The success of the Winona Newspaper Project has hinged on decisions made bystate legislators, newspaper publishers, university administrators, and librarians. The project is unique in that it has been financed exclusively through funds from the Krueger Library's acquisitions budget. Considering the current economic climate andthe financial constraints under which many libraries are operating, it is remarkablethe project came to fruition...

Read more: http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/features/07202011/how-onelibrary-

Digitized-its-community-s-newspapers :

Ebook vending machines now showing up in Japan. A new ebook vending machine was on display at the Tokyo Ebook Fair last week.Japan is a country known for selling almost anything in vending machines (you should see the model that dispenses other vending machines), so it should come asno surprise to see one for ebooks.A Japanese company called Glory had their prototype on display. From what details Ican glean, you select and pay for the ebook on screen. The machine will print areceipt with a QR code and other info you'll need to download the ebook.The system is geared towards smartphones, which makes sense. There aren't anyebook readers that can support downloading 3rd party DRM edebooks in this manner.....

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