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Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attn: Mr. Ronald Hack
Acting Chief Information Officer

Re: Notice of Request for Comments on Development of
Plan to Remove the Patent and Trademark Classified Paper
Files From the Public Search Facilities

Dear Mr. Hack:

As a self-employed patent agent active as well as a patent investigator I wish to state my personal view with respect to the proposed file removal plan.

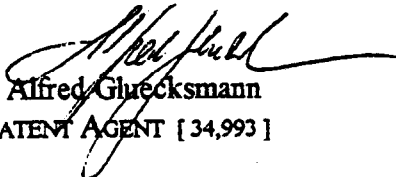
Inasmuch as the patent automation system as currently embodied by the EAST/WEST classified search and image retrieval systems allows us to conduct patent investigations in a vastly more efficient manner yielding additionally vastly increased integrity results I do not see a problem with the removal of the paper files.

What I would like to stress however is that (a) it is of uttermost importance that funding be allotted to the maintenance and ever continuing refinement of the extremely valuable USPC (United States Patent Classification) system for which there exists no "replacement", (b) that funding be allotted for the provision of access to the foreign art data bases beyond the limited access to European and Japanese patent abstracts, and (c) that funding be allotted for the improvement of the quality of the EAST/WEST systems particularly as relates to (i) image and text resolution quality and (ii) accommodation of work station quality.

With respect to item (c)(ii) it is noted that it is only in the CSIR facility in the Crystal Mall building that the accommodations are set up in the manner that is proper for high quality professional patent research. The PSR stations do not provide sufficient space for professional researchers to place background documentation relevant to a search, do not provide the adequate privacy required for said mostly confidential background documentation placement, and furthermore in the PSR environment the rules of proper silence that are expected in such a patent research center are not adequately enforced (socializing conversations and cell phone conversations continue to constitute a source of distracting acoustic pollution unbecoming of such an environment).

Your attention to these comments is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Alfred Gluecksmann
PATENT AGENT [34,993]