

Information dissemination

Patent protection enables inventors to publish their work, secure in knowing they retain ownership of that work. Trademarks protect consumers from counterfeiters, and businesses from imitators. Fast access to patent and trademark information brings the benefits of new ideas quickly to everyone.

Our mission is to promote awareness of the information we hold, and to provide fast, effective access to that information. Our goal is to deliver information when and where our customers need it, in the format required, and at a price that covers our costs but is affordable to the customer.



1999 Highlights

Internet Ordering and Delivery

PTO unveiled an online ordering system in March 1999, and now customers can use our website to order copies of certified and uncertified office records. In September 1999, the next generation Order Entry Management System (OEMS) was completed, and customers can now check the status of their orders, and receive copies of patents electronically. Also, in September 1999, the Patent and Trademark Assignment System (PTAS) was upgraded to receive requests by fax. By September 2000, customers will be able to send assignment-related documents via the Internet directly to the PTAS server for processing and recordation, and in the future we will be able to send back recordation notices electronically to those who submit assignment-related documents electronically.

New Patent and Trademark Databases on the Web

The PTO formally unveiled its new Internet databases in April 1999. The databases contain the text and images of more than two million patents dating back to 1976 and over one million registered and pending trademarks dating back to 1870. The more than 20 million pages in the databases comprise two terabytes of science and technology information and more than 100 years of creativity. Users of the databases on the PTO's website accessed an average of 372,000 pages a day during the last quarter of FY 1999.

Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries

Two new Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries (PTDLs) were designated on May 10, 1999. The Las Vegas–Clark County Library District in Nevada and the Rochester Public Library in New York joined the program, bringing the total number of PTDLs to 85.

Partnership Libraries

PTO's third Partnership Library was opened in Houston, Texas, in November 1998. Houston now joins Sunnyvale, California, and Detroit, Michigan, in providing enhanced services to their communities.

Plans for FY 2000

IDO will continue to focus on maintaining customer satisfaction, promoting the use and accessibility of our products, and delivering the highest quality information products and services. We will:

- maintain a diverse information dissemination program to achieve our service goals;
- use the Internet to deliver information, and make it possible to order and receive patent and trademark information products via the Internet;
- contain the cost of disseminating information;
- improve the accessibility of patent and trademark information from all regions of the United States.

We will continue to use the best-suited technology to disseminate information; we will expand our portfolio of information on products and services; and we will deliver the highest quality product to meet our customers' needs throughout the world. We will provide our products and services in response to orders received by Web, fax, and telephone; in our local search facilities, through our network of PTDLs, and through private companies who purchase source data from us, add value, and resell their products and services to thousands of their own customers.

