ACCESS TO RELEVANT PRIOR ART (RPA) INITIATIVE

A new initiative called Access to Relevant Prior Art (RPA)\(^1\) Initiative is underway through the development of an automated tool for the examiners to import relevant prior art and pertinent information into pending US patent applications, provide a simplified application process for applicants, speed up examination process, to increase efficiency of prosecution procedures, and improve prosecution quality. The automated tool for viewing a master reference list, including references cited in the instant application (by applicant and examiner) and imported references from immediate US parent applications (cited by applicant and examiner, but not third parties), with the user interface to provide enhanced functionality, such as filtering the reference list and creating a search string of US patent documents that could be imported into existing or new search tools into pending US patent applications from existing resources, including Global Dossier, Common Citation Document, WIPO’s PatentScope, and USPTO internal IT systems, together with a functionality to provide notice to the applicant of relevant information and references imported and considered by the examiner.

On 1 November 2018, the initiative will be released to Art Unit 2131 (ELECTRICAL COMPUTERS AND DIGITAL PROCESSING SYSTEMS: SUPPORT) in Technology Center 2100. On January 1, 2019, the initiative will be released to the following eight additional art units: 1616, 1731, 2431, 2675, 2879, 2922, 3635, and 3753. The USPTO will determine whether an application meets the conditions for inclusion in the first phase of the RPA Initiative after the Office of Patent Application Processing completes pre-examination processing of the continuing application. Applicant will receive a Notice of Imported Citations informing the application’s inclusion in the RPA Initiative and listing the citations from the immediate parent application that have been imported into the application.

REFERENCES AND NOTES\(^2\)


\(^2\) In addition to the primary sources cited above, additional references include:

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of items in the Quarterly IP Law Update. However, readers are urged to check independently on specific matters from their corresponding foreign agents. For further information or support, please contact the editor.

"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, Where knowledge is free Where the world has not been broken up into fragments, By narrow domestic walls." Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), Gitanjali, 1912.

One World One Family

AUM! SWASTI!

Om! Atoma Sadgama, Tamasoma jyothirama, Mrityoram Amritagama, Om Shanthih, Shanthih, Shantihi! [Aum! Lead the world from wrong path to the right path, from ignorance to knowledge, from mortality to immortality, and peace!]

SWASTI! AUM!