

From: Sonali Srivastava [mailto:sonali.srivastava@abbott.com]
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2009 11:20 AM
To: patent_quality_comments
Subject: Quality improvement in IDS process

Dear USPTO:

Please note that this is a personal observation, and does not reflect the views of Abbott Laboratories.

Here is my observation and comment:

With the developing jurisprudence, based on several case law, there is heightened need for filing IDS that cross refers related cases and related office actions, even if the office actions are generated by USPTO.

Currently , as an attorney, I submit, and re-submit references and office actions from related cases, which I believe, clutters our physical record, and requires lengthy submissions to the USPTO. This not only requires multiple megabytes of space/storage but also reduces accuracy/quality of examination by introducing fragments of information instead of complete reference to each case file (which may only be accomplished by complete electronic cross-reference).

In the electronic world, where storage/space is premium, I believe that USPTO can enable us to build efficiency with accuracy such that once a single reference is housed with the PTO, or in possession of the USPTO, it is not be re-submitted to USPTO. The better approach is to cross refer electronically to the desired document rather than re-submit an identical reference to the USPTO, esp when the reference is generated by USPTO, like in an office action of a related case. This efficiency/accuracy will benefit USPTO as well, since it will allow Examiners to reach into relevant cases within the database and obtain a complete picture of the reference, rather than a fragment of submitted reference.

I urge the USPTO to consider efficiency/accuracy/quality of electronic cross-reference as an important solution to accomplishing better quality examination and patents.

Best regards,
Sonali.

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