

# International Standard Application Format (ISAF)

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# Topics:

- ISAF Basics
- ISAF Benefits
- Parts of the ISAF
- What's Happened So Far
- What's Next

# What is a Standard Format?


- **A Standard Format presents information**
  - In an defined sequence
  - With recognized headings
  - With well defined data elements
  - In a clean, easily scanned layout
- **Proposal:** All papers submitted during prosecution of International Application are in a Standard Format that we and our international partners will design.

# Sample ISAF Sheet

<Identifier>	<b>Applicant and/or inventor</b>	
<Identifier>	This person is:	applicant and inventor
<Identifier>	Applicant for	US only
<Identifier>	Name (LAST, First)	VERNE, JULES
<Identifier>	Address:	123 MAIN STREETT MT AIRY, MD 22222 United States of America
<Identifier>	State of nationality	US
<Identifier>	State of residence	US
<Identifier>	<b>Agent or common representative;</b>	agent
<Identifier>	Name	JOE DOWN
<Identifier>	Address:	5253 Main Street Mt Airy, MD 22222 United States of America
<Identifier>	Telephone No.	301 456 6789
<Identifier>	Facsimile No.	301 456 6666
<Identifier>	e-mail	jdown@erols.com
<Identifier>	<b>Designation of States</b>	
<Identifier>	Regional Patent	AP: GH GM KE LS MW SD SZ UG ZW and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol AL AM AT AU AZ BA BB BG BR BY CA CH&LI CN CU CZ DE DK EE ES FI GB GE GH GM GW

# Glossary

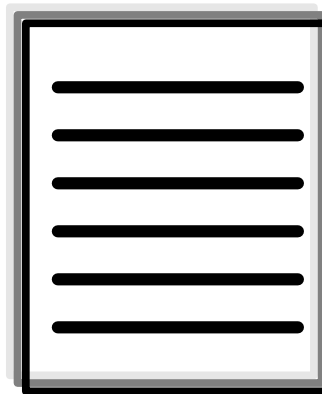
## Standard Data Identifier- Language Neutral

 **Applicant and/or inventor**  
<Identifier> This person is:  
<Identifier> Applicant for  
<Identifier> Name (LAST, First)  
<Identifier> Address:


  
**Home Language Descriptor**

### SGML Document

- \* Defined by DTD, document type definition
- \* Data elements have SGML tags taken from Identifier



## Applicant entered data

  
applicant and inventor  
US only  
VERNE, JULES  
123 MAIN STREETT  
MT AIRY, MD 22222  
United States of America

### The DTD contains:

- > Tags- SGML identifiers of the data
- > Data elements organized according to DTD

# What is the International Standard Application Format?

- A Standard Format for *all papers* of the International Applications submitted under the PCT
- Replaces all pre-printed forms with a published format for submission of all papers
- Templates will be widely circulated, but not required
- Documents are suitable for SGML capture
  - Conform to their Document Type Definition -DTD
  - Use SGML Tags for all elements

# Why a Standard *Paper* Format?

- Paperless electronic filing is coming
- Large investment in IT equipment to be leveraged
- Conversion to electronic filing will be gradual
- Paper will be submitted for foreseeable future
  - Electronic cannot be mandated (PCT/ PLT)
  - Users' computer systems not yet compatible
  - Many less-sophisticated users

## Why a Standard *Paper* Format? (cont)

- Paper submissions a reality for foreseeable future
- Office need to convert paper to electronic images and usable electronic text efficiently
- Text is important for automated screening, classification, searching and publication
- Require a standard format for accurate conversion
- Start with PCT Framework; expand to national/ regional application papers
- Natural transition to electronic filing

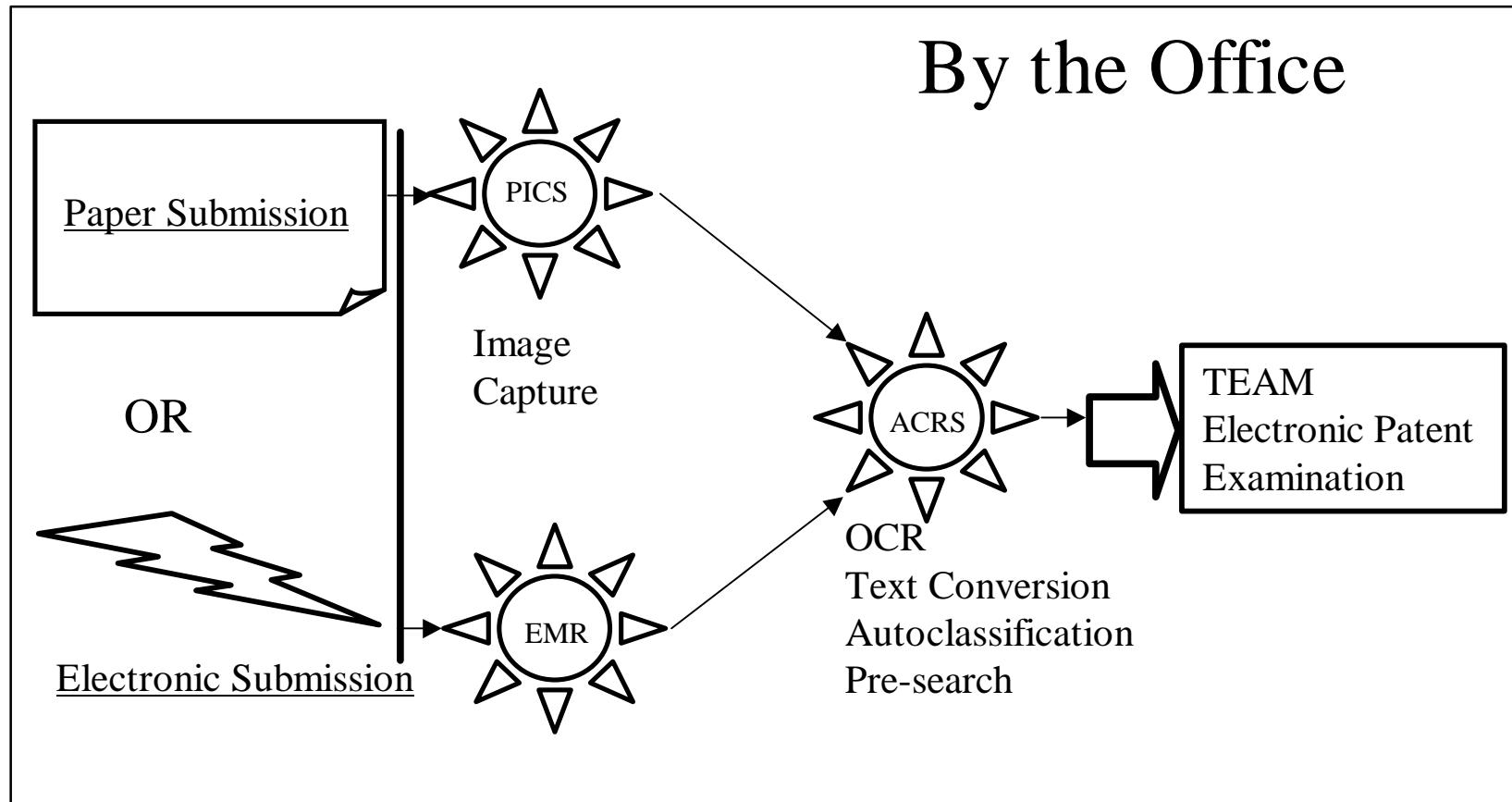


# How is the ISAF used?

## By the Applicant

- Fills in information in a template using Word Processor
- Or uses EASY to print paper
- Or types information onto plain paper
- Applicant can “cut and paste” spec, claims etc. into ISAF using standard Windows<sup>TM</sup> programs

# How is the ISAF used (cont)?



# How is the ISAF used (cont)?

## By the Office

- Electronic version converted from paper will be usable for electronic examination and be indistinguishable from pure electronic filings
- Standard format allows intelligent OCR conversion to usable electronic text
- Electronic versions can be used for distribution to ISAs, DOs and EOs
- Electronic images available for verification

# Why use Formats instead of Forms?

- Information can flow from line to line, page to page. No size restrictions.
- ISAF can be created by any writer - typewriter, word processor, computer system
- Any paper will do - no special forms or papers required

# Why use Formats instead of Forms (2) ?

- Formats are only as long as required; do not waste paper nor bulk up files
- Each information (data) element has an unambiguous language neutral SGML data identifier with defined DTD - easily captured to electronic systems

# How does ISAF relate to Electronic Filing?

- ISAF is a paper-based, but pageless, standard format
- ISAF clearly defines the data elements submitted
- ISAF uses well defined SGML tags and DTDs
- ISAF will transition well to electronic filing, and simplify paper conversions

# ISAF Benefits

# ISAF is Language Neutral

- Templates have standardized SGML data *identifiers* with home language data *descriptors* for easy understanding
- ISAF Storage is language neutral - display can show *data* with *descriptors* in any language - auto translation
- Adaptable for processing requirements of individual R.O.s and D.O.s



# Processing Advantages

- Applicants can more easily and accurately prepare International Applications
- National or Regional formal requirements will be conformed to the ISAF, easing the burden of preparing multiple applications
- Conversion of all paper submissions to electronic applications is facilitated

# Pathway to Electronic Filing

- ISAF is fast track to eventual electronic filing and processing
- Applicants' templates are standard and e-mail compliant
- Receiving Offices can experiment with electronic conversion & transmission
- No burden on paper filers

# Parts of the ISAF

# An ISAF International Application

International Application papers w/ Standard Formats

- Fee transmittal letter (Request/Annex)
- Application Transmittal letter (PCT Request)
- Bibliographic Data Format (PCT Request)
- Statements for National Stage (e.g. oath)
- Appointment of Agent or Common Rep (Request)
- Description (to be described below)

# An ISAF International Application (cont)

## The International Application Includes

- Claims
- Abstract
- Drawings
- Sequence Listings
- Appendices (CRF, etc.)
- Other parts

Current electronic submissions (e.g. DNA) not affected.

**All subparts of the application are captured & tagged in ISAF.**

# Bibliographic Information

## Submission of Bibliographic Data:

- Common Standard Format (ISAF) bib data will be printed suitable for direct submission.
- EASY software for electronic filing can also produce formatted paper copies
- ISAF templates and EASY printed documents will follow same standards.

# Special Features of the ISAF

- Numbered paragraphs, tables, graphic elements and claims allow simple amendment processing by substitution of that paragraph, etc.
- Template contains a broad selection of national stage required documents suitable for most national/ regional applications

# Special Features of the ISAF (cont)

- Familiar look and feel of the specification; claim can be structured (indented) as usual
- Visual Presentation Integrity maintained by the exact electronic image format.
- Easily updated with changes to Templates
- Adaptable to augment PCT Automation proposals.



# What's Happened So Far

- ISAF concept introduced to Trilateral Partners at Fall Trilateral Conference
- Presented to WIPO Meeting on Patents during PLT Conference in November
- Presented to PCT AD Hoc Meeting on Modernization of PCT in November
  - Agreement to suggest a joint PCT-SCIT Project

# What's Next

- Create a project in the SCIT Working Program
- Suggest Development Model as in ST.25
  - Trilateral Offices to take the lead in developing a working draft
  - Other Offices in PCT and SCIT invited to provide comments and suggested amendments

# Suggested Project Title

Create an International Standard Application Format (ISAF) to facilitate the conversion of an applicants paper patent application submissions into electronic form