

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN NEWS

PAJ News is distributed overseas to provide the latest patent information of Japan and to maintain solid communication with foreign patent offices.

No. **30**
2003

Development of PAJ

The first part of this issue of PAJ News is to give a brief description about how PAJ has been developed until now. It may be helpful for retrieval to take those facts into consideration. In the columns on the right hand side, related important events are also mentioned.

1. Issuance of the first PAJ (1976)

The Japan Patent Office (JPO) starts to issue PAJ in paper format. PAJ consists of English abstracts, with a representative drawing, of published unexamined patent applications. The PAJ has been issued:

- (1) To introduce technologies developed by Japanese and disclosed in Japanese patent applications,
- (2) To prevent conflict in international trade stemming from the difficulty in accessing the Japanese patent information,
- (3) To assist prior art search of PCT applications, and
- (4) To promote technology transfer from Japan to other countries.

1984 Paperless Project started

Initial PAJ covers the field of chemistry, physics, machinery, and electronics, and each booklet includes 500 items. The JPO starts to send PAJ to IP related organizations overseas free of charge for official use, and it is also sold to private sectors.

1990 On-line filing (for patent and utility model)

1993 CD-ROM gazette (for patent and utility model)

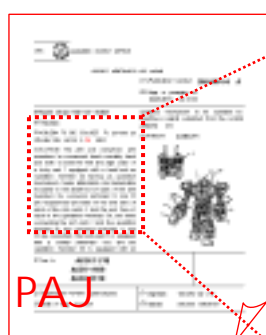
2. PAJ in CD-ROM format (1995)

The PAJ CD-ROM is produced with the MIMOSA software which is jointly procured by Trilateral Offices (EPO, USPTO and JPO). The coverage is as follows:

- (1) “Front File” –covers the PAJ of which unexamined patent applications were published in 1994 onwards. (applications by foreign applicants are excluded)
- (2) “Back File” –covers the PAJ of which original publications were published between 1976 and 1993, i.e. re-publication of paper version. 99 disks, classified into 69 technical fields.

1995 Modification in abstract of patent application
 [purpose][constitution] →
 [problem to be solved][solution]
 (see the following chart)

Format change in abstract of patent application



(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To obtain cat-playing toy readily producible and having high added value as special product by forming handball-like hollow frame body using vine-like material as a frame and making hollow spherical body with braiding scantling of silvervine along the frame body.

CONSTITUTION: For instance, vine of AKEBI (Lardizabalaceae), etc., is wound round a cup G to form a hollow frame body 2 as a frame material 1 and scantling 3 of silvervine is braided along the hollow frame body 2, then a hollow spherical body is formed to afford the

(57) Abstract

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a **toy** which can be easily handled even by children by adding a fresh function to a **toy** expressing a specific object, which can remember the object from its appearance and solving the problem on operability.

SOLUTION: When the **toy** 300 is placed on a reader 200, environment-set information stored in the **toy** 300 placed thereon by the data transfer with a contactless data carrier system to be performed between the reader 200 and the **toy** 300 is read out by the reader 200. The setting of the parameter necessary

3. PAJ INDEX CD-ROM(1997)

For more quick and effective retrieval, the JPO starts production of PAJ Index CD-ROM. PAJ Index stores bibliographic data, English abstract, and disk number of each PAJ. Released quarterly, and its coverage accumulates up to one year.

1996 Report of Information Committee of Industrial Property Council: “*Dissemination Policy of Industrial Property Information in Advanced Information Society*”
 “Effective use of patent information is crucial to assure smooth operation of the industrial property system. From this standpoint, JPO and other sections should optimize their strength so that patent information should be made available as widely as possible throughout the country.”

1996 The JPO’s website opened

4. PAJ coverage extends to foreign applicants (1998)

Since April 1998, PAJ’s coverage extends to patent applications filed by foreigners. For publications from 1989 to 1997, PAJ CD-ROM is produced according to IPC Sections (back files).

1998 On-line filing by PC (for patents / utility models)

Development of JPO's IPDL

PAJ has been made retrievable on the Internet from 1997, as explained below. Internet is one of the main resources of information in the field of IP. In this page, you can see how the JPO's IPDL (English menus only) has improved its accessibility and availability. Although the IPDL was established in 1999, there were some databases which had been available before that (PAJ and Famous Trademarks).

1. PAJ / Japanese Well-known Trademarks made available on the web (1998)

The JPO has been testing PAJ retrieval service since 1997, and it implements the system in full scale from 1998.

Contents of the database of Japanese Well-known Trademarks are (1) registered trademarks for which defensive trademarks are granted, and (2) registered trademarks endorsed as well-known by trial decisions of the JPO or by judicial decisions. Search criteria include transliteration of registered trademarks consisting of Japanese language, owner, and so on.

2. Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL) launched (1999)

Initial menus include Japanese Trademark Database as well as PAJ and Japanese well-known trademarks.

2000 On-line procedure before the Office(design, trademark, PCT (national phase), and trial)

Format change in document number
(yy-xxxxxx → yyyy-xxxxxx (4
digits of Christian era is prefixed instead of
Japanese one))

3. Japanese Figure Trademarks / Automatic Translation made available (2000)

Trademarks consisting of figurative elements are made searchable, by entering "Figure Term" which is Japan's unique classification system for figurative marks.

Also, for publications since 1993 (CD-ROM), automatic translation is provided in PAJ search.

4. List of Goods and Services (2000)

Retrievable items include Classes (based on Nice classification), name of goods and services, and Similar Group Code, which infers the scope of similarity among goods or services.

5. Patent Map Guidance / FI/F-term Search (2001)

Patent Map Guidance: Structures and descriptions of FI and F-term, which are Japanese unique patent classification, become retrievable.

FI/F-term Search: By using FI and/or F-term, users can effectively retrieve documents issued since 19th century.

2001 PC filing system is fully implemented (filing from dedicated terminal is no longer allowed)

6. Japanese Trademark Database (2001)

Users can use several kinds of criteria to find pending trademark applications or registered trademarks. However, trademarks consisting of Japanese characters only cannot be searchable.

7. Patent / Utility Model Gazette DB / Concordance (2002)

In Gazette DB, PAJ, original publication and its automatic translation are available. In P&U Concordance, you can enter any document number to find other document numbers related to the same application.

2003 XML format introduced to application forms of patent and utility model

8. Design Gazette DB (2004)

Like the Patent and Utility Model Gazette DB, design gazettes will be made searchable in 2004.

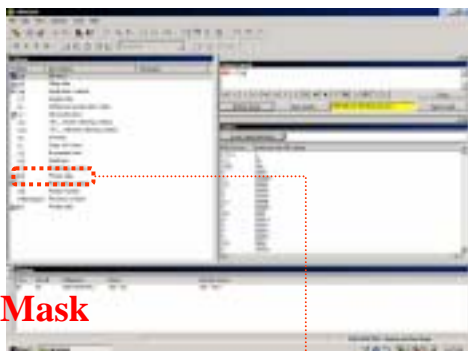
2004 DVD-ROM gazette issued (for P & U)
On-line filing of PCT application (international phase)

PAJ search in MIMOSA and JPO's IPDL—(1) MIMOSA

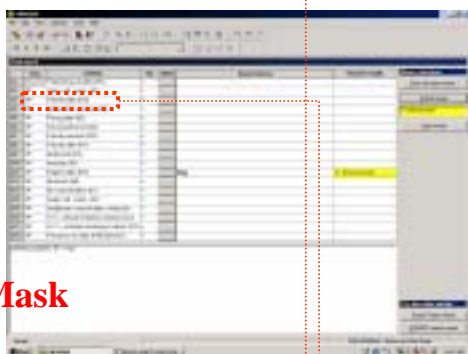
In this and the following page, some differences of PAJ's in MIMOSA and JPO's IPDL will be overviewed.

Basically, in terms of contents in retrieved PAJ (e.g. bibliographical data and image), most of the items are identical. However, there are number of different features between the two, and you can effectively conduct searches by choosing the right one fit for your purposes. Please note that the explanation presented below is for the purposes of comparison in PAJ search only, and the explanations are not intended to be comprehensive.

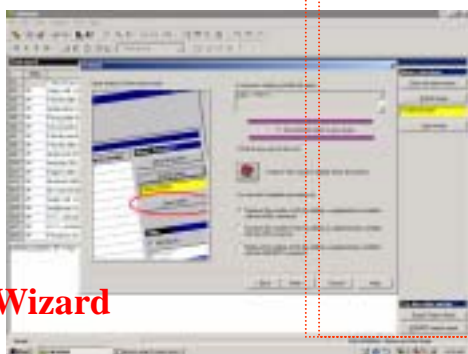
Expert Mask



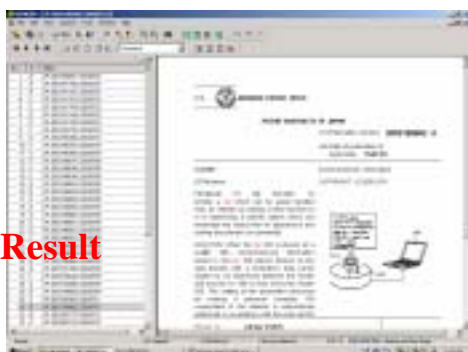
Form Mask



Query Wizard



Search Result



MIMOSA provides some different interfaces aimed at different levels of users. For example, Expert Mask (users need to create search formula by themselves), Form Mask (a query can be automatically formed by using grids), and Query Wizard (users are guided to create a query, step by step).

You have much more criteria in MIMOSA than IPDL. Moreover, unlike PAJ's Text Search, you can designate each criterion, for which the number of the result is provided after the retrieval.

Furthermore, in MimoBatch, you can have almost the same coverage of database by copying the contents of every PAJ CD-ROM into a hard disk drive. You can share the database with other terminals by using LAN.

It should also be noted that, in Mimobatch, you can utilize Synonyms to retrieve different kinds of documents (like PAJ and ESPACEWorld) at the same time.

Attention: One of the criteria available in each of the interfaces is "Priority Date (PD)." However, this is actually for "Date of Publication of Application." The criterion for Priority Date is "PY."

With regard to the document display, MIMOSA also provides handy features: for example, choice of document / notice, flexible layout of the document, and easy transition between prior document and next document.

Difference in MIMOSA and JPO's IPDL—(2) JPO'S IPDL

Text Search



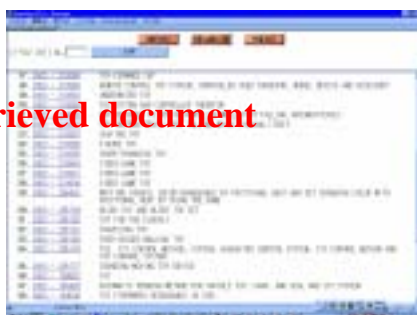
In Text Search, the retrieval is conducted in Applicant, Title of Invention and Abstract of PAJ. Unlike MIMOSA, you cannot designate criteria for each of entered keywords. This simplicity provides easy retrieval for beginners. You can also limit the scope of your search by adding publication dates. *

Number Search



In Number Search, you need to select a kind of document among Application number, Publication number, Patent number, Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection, and then enter appropriate document numbers. On the contrary, you can select several kinds of document at the same time in MIMOSA.

List of retrieved document



Here, each retrieved document is listed with its title of invention, thereby making it easy to spot desirable items from the listed items.

Legal Status



One of the good points of PAJ/IPDL is legal status information. In this frame, please note that the updated information of patent application is reflected a few months after the actual legal procedures take effect. (Legal Status will be explained in the following page.)

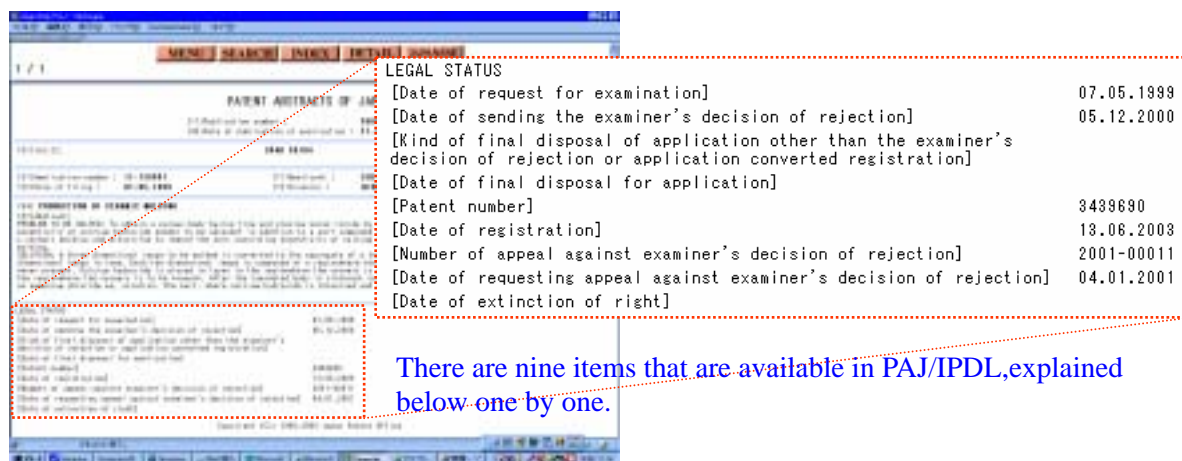
Automatic Translation



Another benefit to use PAJ/IPDL is that you can have the automatic translation of each original publication of PAJ (publications on and after 1993). The dictionary for this feature is regularly updated, and the quality of translation is improving.

***Since April 2003, a feature of the Text Search (n-gram model) is replaced by word-gram model. See Help in PAJ Search screen for further information.**

Legal Status Information in PAJ/IPDL



LEGAL STATUS	
[Date of request for examination]	07.05.1999
[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]	05.12.2000
[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]	
[Date of final disposal for application]	
[Patent number]	3439690
[Date of registration]	13.06.2003
[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]	2001-00011
[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]	04.01.2001
[Date of extinction of right]	

There are nine items that are available in PAJ/IPDL, explained below one by one.

[Date of request for examination]

An applicant is required to request the examination of his/her application within three years from the filing date. * Otherwise, the application is deemed to be withdrawn.

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

When an examiner decides that an application is not patentable, he/she sends decision of rejection to the applicant. This item is the date of the service.

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

“Final disposal” includes such as registration, withdrawal, abandonment, conversion of application. If the application is deemed to be withdrawn based on non-request of examination, that fact will also be indicated in this item.

[Date of final disposal for application]

If any of the items takes effect, the date thereof will also be indicated here.

[Patent number] [Date of registration]

Patent number and date of registration is given after the payment of annual fee.

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

An applicant may demand a trial against an examiner's decision of rejection within thirty days from the date of service thereof.

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

If an applicant requests the above-mentioned trial, the effective date will be shown here.

[Date of extinction of right]

If 20 years have passed from the filing date, or the applicant abandons his right, or he neglects the payment of annual fee, the date of extinction is indicated in this item.

***Please note, however, that the period is seven years from the filing date with respect to applications filed before October 2001.**

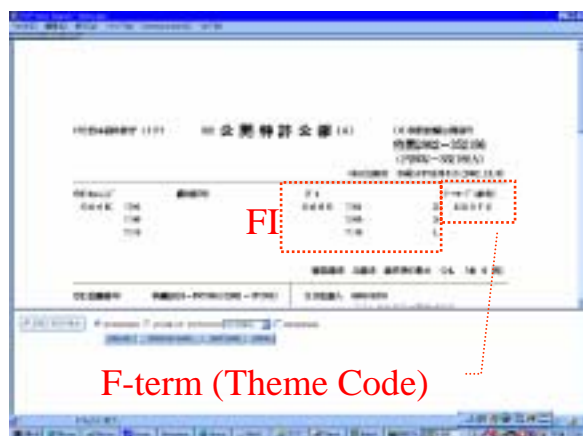
How to use Patent Map Guidance

Lastly, here is an example of how to retrieve documents by F-term. F-term and FI is retrievable in “Patent Map Guidance.” Unlike Japanese version, however, natural language (e.g. machine, chemical) is not available in English version. Therefore, you need to find a proper Theme code from “F-term Theme Selection,” or use original publications (in Japanese) for reference therefor (see (1) below).

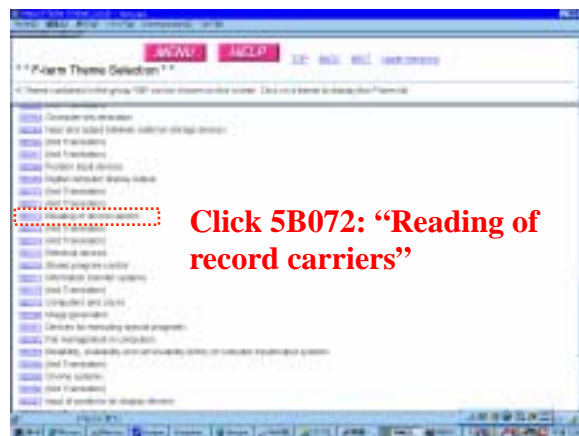
If you wish to find disclosed documents relevant to the following art:

Bar code reader equipped with a buzzer which signals reading is successfully completed

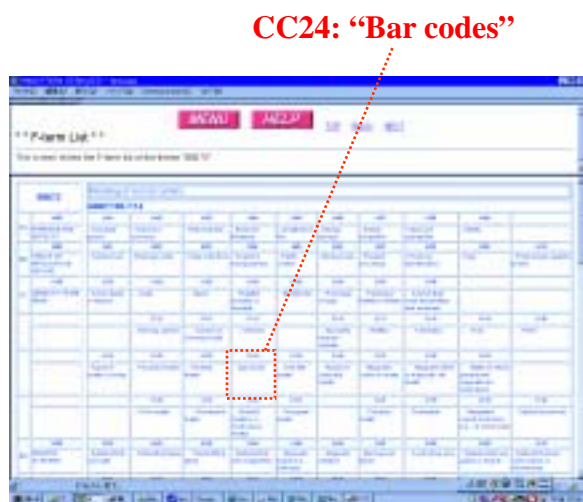
(1) You may use PAJ for keyword search to find F-term code included in retrieved original publications.



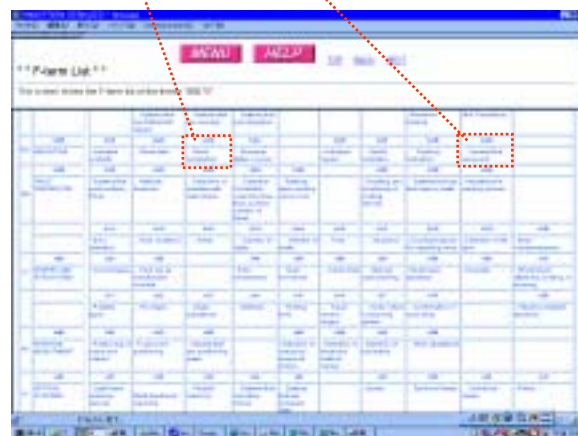
(2) Please find appropriate F-term theme from “F-term Theme Selection” in Patent Map Guidance.



(3) Please find appropriate F-term codes from the matrix in 5B073.



GG03: “Read completion”
GG09: “Variants that use sound”



(4) You can have search formula like this: **CC24*GG03*GG09**. Please enter theme code 5B072 and this formula into the columns in “FI/F-term Search” to find appropriate prior documents.