

Monday Afternoon Session 1:30 - 4:00

Where to Find Patent Information and Patent Documents - Session Chair: Sandra Unger

2:00 - 2:30

The F-Term Search System and its Application

by Alan Engel, Paterra, Inc

Abstract:

The F-term search term system developed by the Japan Patent Office is an important new approach to searching the patent literature. It has been applied retrospectively to the first Japanese patents granted in 1885 and can be used to search current Japanese patent documents within a week of publication. It is also used by JPO and EPO patent examiners in a systematic fashion that can be applied by patent searchers in their own work. Every patent information profession should become familiar with both its principles and its practical use. This presentation will touch on the background to the F-term system, explore some of the theme tables in illustrative detail and demonstrate the method that EPO and JPO examiners use in their searches.

Biography:

Alan received his Ph.D. from Rockefeller University in 1980. After three years at Dupont, he joined the Japan Science & Technology Corporation's ERATO projects in Tokyo. He returned to the U.S. in 1986 and founded Paterra's predecessor ISTA. Alan is a recipient of a 1983 Analytical Section Award from the Society of Plastics Engineers and a 1988 Noteworthy Invention Award from the Japan Science & Technology Agency. He is an inventor with patents in the areas of electronic polymer coatings and machine translation.

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