

PIUG 2011 Annual Conference Workshop

It's a Jungle Out There. Encountering Exotic Species in the World of IP

Time and location

Saturday, May 21: 9:00am-12:30pm

Abstract

The spread of the vigorous TRIPS monoculture and other major changes in the legal and political environment over the last three decades have driven some of the more exotic IP species, such as the patent of importation, to the edge of extinction. Others, such as the Soviet inventor's certificate, have disappeared altogether. Nonetheless, there remain pockets of territory where the lesser-termed utility model continues to thrive in large numbers. The invasion of patent habitat by minority populations like designs and SPCs is not considered a threat, but the expert traveller in the IP jungle needs to be aware of when they may come across these variants. There is also pressure from the increasingly-demanding trade mark species, as it spills over from the familiar word and graphic into new habitats such as sound and colour.

A safari through the IP jungle will provide a basic field-guide to the unusual, exotic and occasionally downright bizarre (sui) genera which searchers may encounter in their travels.

Presenter

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Stephen Adams completed a B.Sc. degree in Chemistry at the University of Bristol, UK, followed by an M.Sc. in Information Science from The City University, London, UK. For a number of years, he worked as a technical information searcher in the field of food science at the UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. Following a period as editor of "International Packaging Abstracts" at Pira International, he moved to ICI Agrochemicals (later Zeneca Agrochemicals) to become their principal patent searcher in 1988. He founded Magister Limited in 1997.

Stephen served as the first non-US "Director at Large" for the Patent Information Users Group (PIUG Inc) between 2002 and 2006. He received a Special Recognition Award from the PIUG in May 2008. The citation recorded that this was in Recognition of:

- Stephen's Tireless Service to PIUG,
- Ten Years of Excellent Patent Searching Workshops,
- Membership of the PIUG Board of Directors 2002 to 2006,
- Having been voted Favorite Speaker Countless Times

Stephen is a member of the Association of Independent Information Professionals ([AIIP](#)) and is on the editorial board of [World Patent Information](#), The International Journal for Industrial Property Documentation, Information, Classification and Statistics.