

Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) Annual Training Seminar, 2003. USPTO, Crystal City, MD, March 2003.

The purpose of this Annual Seminar is to bring together the representatives of all 80+ PTDLs (Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries) in order to inform us of new developments in the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program Office and their plans for the near future, and to give us a lot of hands-on training. The PTDLA (PTDL Association) organizes part of the program, often consisting of practical sessions of networking and exchanging ideas for service delivery, publicity and best practices. Average of 45 different presentations, all taught by practicing USPTO experts.

Highlights:

Open Forum to meet face-to-face the USPTO experts and to ask questions and make our needs known: Pre-1976 Index by inventor has been requested for years. PTDLA may take up the production.

Inventors Assistance Program

25-28% of patent applications (out of 1000/day) are submitted by independent inventors; the PTO is increasing efforts to help these inventors to get their inventions from "Workbench to Market".

Orange Book: Contains drug products approved as safe and effective (clinical trials); Therapeutic equivalence determinations; shows when patents expire so that generic versions of drugs may be put on the market; 310 patents listed will expire in next 5 years.

Copyright by Carrie Russell/ALA

Spoke about "Subverting Automatic and Perpetual Copyright" by interpreting the law as liberally as possible.

Patent Family Searching: Patents submitted in different countries, and/or split up into several parts. U.S. accounts for only 40% of all patent filing worldwide.

Electronic Products Training

Very useful hands-on training to learn techniques and tricks to make full use of more and more electronic resources.

Trademarks:

Update on Madrid Protocol which essentially allows one application that will protect a trademark in 50 countries (cost is \$22,000).

There is a big push for electronic filing . This causes conflicts in libraries: patrons who are not computer literate need help which we cannot give; how does one file a specimen electronically?

Attended by Godlind Johnson

Long Island PTDL and Region 2 (DE, NJ, NY) Representative