

What is CSDB?

In May 2003, Computer Software Database (CSDB: Japanese service only) was made available at Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL). Documents, useful for prior art search on computer software-related invention, are stored on this database. Since October 2004, the contents and abstracts of documents have been provided through IPDL under license from authors in addition to their bibliographic data.

The 36th issue of PAJ News focuses on the outline and services of CSDB.

→ # コンピュータソフトウェアデータベース(CSDB) 検索へ

Computer Software Database (CSDB) search button



<Background behind the establishment of CSDB>

1. Revisions to the Examination Guidelines

In order to respond to the significant progress in software-related technology, in April 1997, the Japan Patent Office (JPO) revised the Examination Guidelines on computer software-related inventions and started the practice based on the revised guidelines, under which "storage medium having programs recorded thereon" and "storage medium having structured data recorded thereon" were patentable. In December 2000, the JPO further revised the Examination Guidelines so as to treat "computer programs not recorded on medium" as an "invention of a product. With the development of software technology, more patent applications in relation to software and business-related inventions have been filed.

2. Necessity to increase documents for examination

In the past, software and business-related inventions were considered to be irrelevant to patents. However, software and business related patent application increased and non-patent documents on software and business method got to be cited more frequently as prior art documents in patent examination. Under such circumstances, in FY1997, the JPO set out to establish CSDB that accumulated such non-patent documents.

<Outline of CSDB>

CSDB includes the following documents.

- Manuals
- Corporate Disclosures
- Scientific Association Journals
- Draft Papers for Academic Meetings
- Magazines (technical, non-technical)
- Hardcover Books
- Agency Bulletins

Documents currently available at IPDL are as follows.

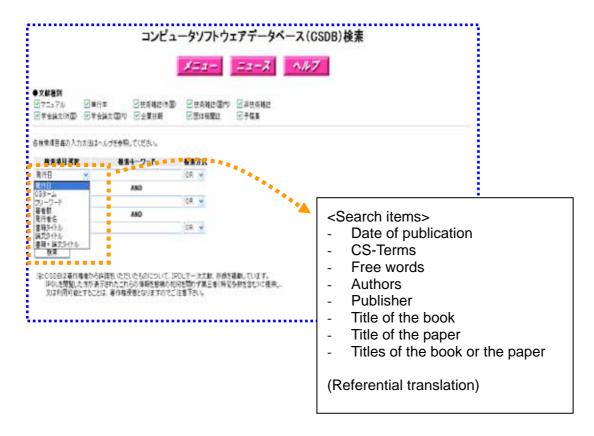
Documents stored at CSDB (As of April 2005)

Manuals	Corporate Disclosures	Scientific Association Journals	Draft Papers for Academic Meetings
29,213	13,476	76,390	198
Technical journals	Non-technical journals	Hardcover Books	Agency bulletins
127,274	28,190	5,085	779

^{*} Unit

Number of volumes for Manuals, Hardcover Books, and Draft Papers for Academic Meetings Number of articles for Corporate Disclosures, Scientific Association Journals, Magazines and Agency bulletins

<CSDB search at IPDL>



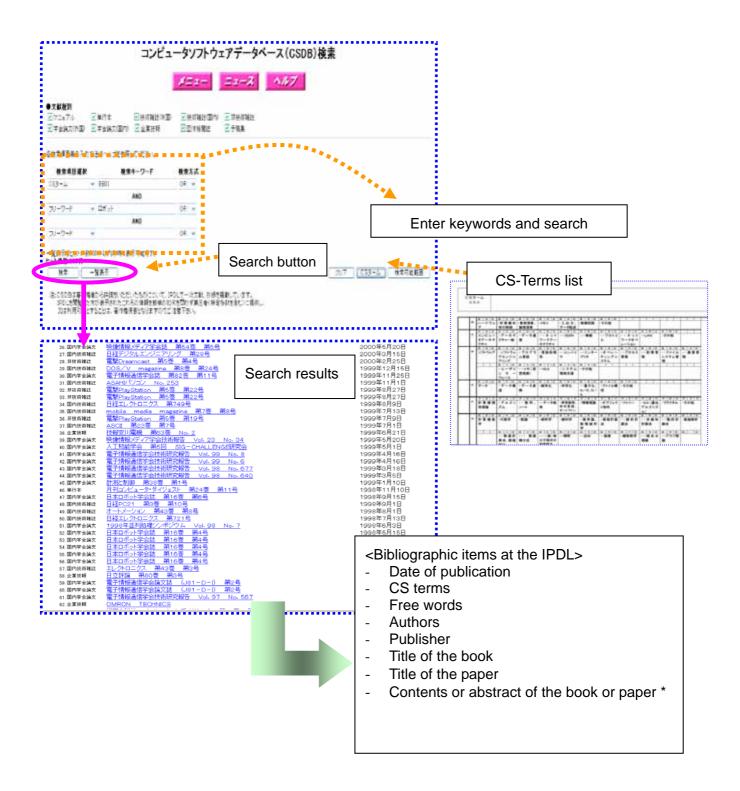
* CS-Terms

CS-Terms consist of multi technical viewpoints useful for classifying software-related documents. All documents are given CS-Terms that indicate their features.

CS-Terms have the following ten view points and each view point is not further developed by specific technological features.

<View points of CS-Terms>

View points	Definition		
BB	Hardware		
CC	Computer Architecture		
DD	Software		
EE	Data		
FF	Computer-related Theory		
GG	Computer Mathematics		
HH	Computer Methodology		
JJ	Information System		
KK	Computer-applied Files		
LL	Others		



^{*} CSDB stores contents and abstracts of documents under license from authors.

Introduction of the Internet Gazette

Since January 1993, the JPO has published patent and utility model gazettes in the SGML format with CD-ROMs, thereby saving space for references. Subsequently, in order to meet user needs, JPO changed the data format to XML and the publication medium to DVD-ROM in January 2004. In order to disseminate industrial property information on gazettes promptly and broadly in response to the recent rapid progress in information distribution technology, it has become necessary to adopt more convenient media and methods for the publication of gazettes.

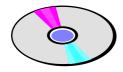
For the purpose of meeting such needs, law revision was made so as to publish official gazette via the Internet (put into force on April 1, 2005).

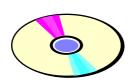
The use of the Internet for gazette publication will reduce the time actually required for pressing ROM media and shorten the period for gazette publication from seven weeks to about five weeks, thereby making industrial property information available earlier than ever before. It is expected to further increase convenience for users.

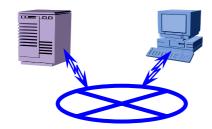
In response to large needs for earlier publication of registered utility model gazettes (shortening the period from registration to publication), the JPO will start to use the Internet for gazette publication in January 2006.

<History of gazette publication>









Publication on paper



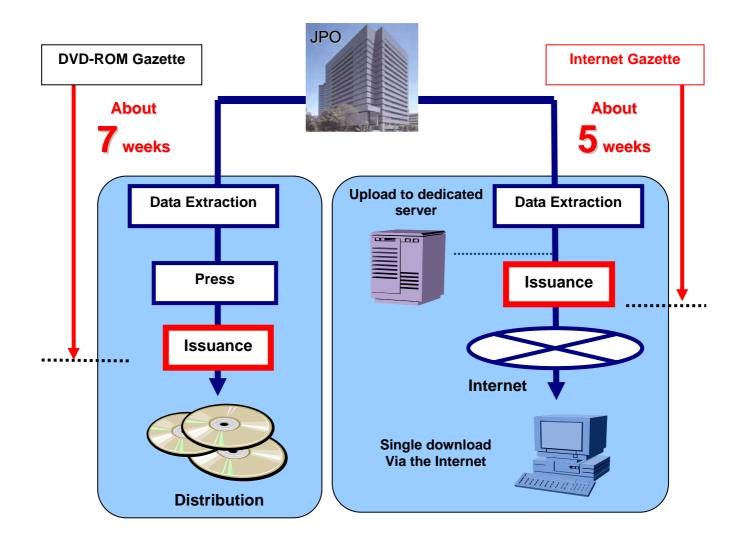
January 1993 Publication on CD-ROM (SGML format)



January 2004 Publication on DVD-ROM (XML format)



January 2006 Publication via the Internet (to be started with the publication of registered utility model gazettes)



Publication Schedule of Patent Abstracts of Japan (PAJ)

As of May, 2005

[January to December 2003]

Date of publication of PAJ	PAJ			PAJ index
	Serial number for the year	Total serial number	Number of PAJ stored	Coverage
2003	2003-1 ~ 2003-12	97 ~ 108	369,296	2003-1[097]/2003-12[108]

[2004]

[-00.]				
Date of publication of PAJ	PAJ			PAJ index
	Serial number for the year	Total serial number	Number of PAJ stored	Coverage
2004	2004-1 ~ 2004-12	109 ~ 120	346,655	2004-1[109]-12[120]

[2005]

Date of	PAJ			PAJ index
publication of PAJ	Serial number for the year	Total serial number	Number of PAJ stored	Coverage
Jan. 31 (Mon.)	2005-1	121	30,000	2004-1[097]/2004-12[120]
Feb. 28 (Mon.)	2005-2	122	32,000	
Mar. 31 (Thu.)	2005-3	123	27,500	
Apr. 28 (Thu.)	2005-4	124	27,500	2005-1[121]/2005-3[123]
May 31 (Tue.)	2005-5	125	24,500	
Jun. 30 (Mon.)	2005-6	126	35,000	
Jul. 29 (Fri.)	2005-7	127	30,900	2005-1[121]/2005-3[126]
Aug. 31 (Wed.)	2005-8	128	19,300	