

From: Don Bauer
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 3:44 PM
To: WorldClassPatentQuality
Subject: Improving the IDS Process

I would like to see the PTO institute the following for Information Disclosure Statements:

The process would start with the Applicant submitting an IDS, as usual.

However, the PTO would then provide an IDS-number that the Applicant could use in the future for updating the IDS.

Thereafter the list may be updated at least by the following methods

- a) Applicant submits a followup IDS identifying the IDS number and providing additional **references** to be added to the list.
- b) Applicant may also add additional **application** numbers to the list.
- c) Thereafter the Examiners for all **applications in the list**, upon identifying any additional citations, add those as references in the list.

This method would remove the burden for the applicant of

- a) submitting multiple IDSs for applications in the same family
- b) wondering whether other office actions or citations should be submitted as IDS references in other related applications.

This would also give the Examiners on related cases a very good insight on what is happening in the other cases.

Thanks
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