## A hypertext Israeli Intellectual Property database and its Effects on Workflow in the Workplace / Debrah Marcus

## ABSTRACT

The paper deals with the subject of office automation and workflow, and offers the implementation of a hypertext database as a viable solution to document storage and retrieval. The specific instance described relates to the existing database and current method of retrieval within the firm of Dr. Reinhold Cohn and Partners, a firm of patent attorneys, located in Tel Aviv, as do the solutions proposed. The hypertext database seemed the natural follow on to its precursor, a document retrieval system. However, it should be emphasized that both the problem and the solution are universally applicable, and therefore should be seen as such. The specific firm mentioned, serves merely to provide a tangible example for the implementation of a hypertext database as part of an overall workflow system.

It should be noted that Intellectual Property can be and is used by any persons who have a need for such information. This may range from the patent attorney to the layman, from the R&D department to the marketing department. In this specific instance, the prototype was created to meet an existing need within a firm of patent attorneys.

The prototype hypertext database created, consists of Israeli patent and trademark cases and related material and is intentionally limited to the area of foodstuffs only.

A variety of legal databases exist on diskettes and CD-ROMs, but to the best of my knowledge, none of these deal exclusively with the realm of intellectual property in Israel.

Sample screens taken from the prototype database created, are included in this paper. The diskette containing the prototype is also included as an appendix to the paper.

The proposed system will provide a "one stop" solution for the storage and retrieval of patent and trademark decisions along with related material. This will aim to replace the current system which is computerized only as far as identifying and locating a document is concerned, but which is still based on the manual retrieval of a document and its subsequent photocopying from the master copy, if a hard copy is required for desk research. One of the outcomes of this research was the transfer from a system which was basically an indexing system, to a fulltext system. This was however a 'byproduct', and not the main aim of the research.

ToolBook was selected to create the prototype, as it was the best tool available at the time. It however is not able to support Hebrew at the software level. Hebrew does however appear as text within the prototype developed - in the form of the patents / judgments / trademarks themselves. The software itself was developed outside of the university laboratory due to lack of resources at the time.

The paper provides a basic review of intellectual property and its related terminology, and then goes on to examine existing databases. A literature survey is given relating to the latest and most relevant articles found, both with regard to workflow and legal hypertext systems. This is followed by a detailed description of the existing system and the hypertext system created. Finally an assessment is given of the prototype new hypertext system created, in the light of requirements set out for it initially.

This paper has served to realise the following:

- Development of an Israeli Intellectual Property Database
- Creation and implementation of a workflow model within a modern office setting
- Development of a prototype for office automation based on hypertext and hypermedia.

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