

WEEKLY NEWS - NOVEMBER 27, 2009 USPTO to use Indian traditional knowledge library

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The Indian government is to allow US patent examiners to access its database of traditional knowledge

India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy developed the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL).

The TKDL is a 30 million-page searchable database of traditional knowledge translated from Hindi, Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Urdu and Tamil into English, Japanese, French, German and Spanish.

"We have urged countries to create, and make available to examiners around the world, digital libraries of their traditional knowledge to prevent erroneous patent grants," said USPTO deputy director Sharon Barner. "India's TKDL is just such a library, and we are pleased that our examiners now have access to it."

On February 2 this year the EPO [started using the same database](#).

A list of other traditional knowledge tools available to USPTO examiners can be found on the [Organisation's website](#).

The USPTO and India's Department of Industrial Property and Promotion have also signed a memorandum of understanding on IP protection and enforcement.

The MOU will focus on building capacity, developing human resources and raising awareness of the importance of IP.