This English version of Handbook is a provisional translation of the original Japanese version.
If there are any discrepancies between this provisional translation and the original, the original shall prevail in all cases.

Patent Information Retrieval APIs Handbook

Ver. 2.0

Information Technology and Patent Information Management Office, General Coordination Division, Policy Planning and Coordination Department, Japan Patent Office (JPO)

Revision History

Ver.2.0 2025/5/20	The content of Version 1.4 has been updated, and some of the information has been migrated to the Japan Patent Office website and the API Information Website.

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Article 1. Introduction

The Japan Patent Office (JPO) has been providing patent information using an API since January 2022 to promote the utilization of patent information. This API (hereinafter referred to as the "Patent Information Retrieval APIs") enables the retrieval of certain application information related to: patents, designs, and trademarks (excluding utility model applications) provided through J-PlatPat ; Patent Information Standardized Data, and application information from the IP5 Offices (Japan Patent Office, United States Patent and Trademark Office, European Patent Office, China National Intellectual Property Administration, and Korean Intellectual Property Office) available through the One Portal Dossier (OPD).

To maintain stable operation, the provision of information via the Patent Information Retrieval APIs is regulated by access limits. This provision is currently in a trial phase aimed at assessing the utility of the Patent Information Retrieval APIs and understanding user needs. Therefore, user registration is required to facilitate smooth communication regarding stable operation and user needs assessment.

Information Provision Site for the Patent Information Retrieval APIs

➢ Provision of Patent Information Using API on a Trial Basis
https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/system/laws/koho/internet/api-patent_info.html
This site contains information about the API overview and user registration.

➢ API Information Website
https://ip-data.jpo.go.jp/pages/top_e.html
This site contains technical information such as specifications and access methods.

Article 2. Basic Information for Use

(1) Information Provided by our APIs, Access Limits, and File Formats

Patent Information Retrieval APIs can be divided into two categories based on the information available. For details on the information that can be retrieved, access limits, and file formats for each API, please refer to the "API List" on the API Information Website.

➢ Japan Patent Information Retrieval APIs
This API provides access to certain application information related to patents, designs, and trademarks from the JPO, but not to utility model applications, through J-PlatPat and Patent Information standardized Data.

- OPD-API

  This API provides access to certain application information from the IP5 Offices (Japan Patent Office, United States Patent and Trademark Office, European Patent Office, China National Intellectual Property Administration, and Korean Intellectual Property Office) available through the One Portal Dossier (OPD).

(2) Scope of Information and Update Frequency

  The information provided by the JPO includes the following: The types, scope, and update frequency of information provided by other IP offices are determined by each office's operations.

- Scope of Information

  Information related to patent applications filed from July 2003, and information related to design and trademark applications filed from January 2000 are available; although some APIs may allow you to retrieve information filed prior to these dates, please note that such information may be incomplete.

- Update Frequency

  The frequency of updates of the information is daily, and in general, any procedures conducted on the day will be reflected in the accumulated data the following day.

(3) Available Time

  Patent Information Retrieval APIs are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in principle. However, you may not be able to use them temporarily due to server maintenance or other reasons. The JPO will notify users about scheduled maintenance and other instances of unavailability in advance via the API Information Website.

Article 3. Matters Related to User Registration

(1) Compliance Matters

  Users of the Patent Information Retrieval APIs must agree to the Terms of Use posted on the JPO website and comply with the provisions outlined in the Terms of use and the Patent Information Retrieval APIs Handbook.

(2) User Registration Procedures

  Those who wish to use the Patent Information Retrieval APIs are required to register with us after giving consent to the Terms of Use to receive an ID and password. Please note that there is a possibility that new registrations may be closed when the number of users exceeds the predetermined number. For the latest information on user registration, please check the

JPO website.

I. Submission of the Registration Form

Those who wish to register as users for our APIs should fill out the application form available on the JPO website and send it via email to the designated department listed on the same website.

II. User Verification

To prevent fraudulent registrations, the JPO may contact the email address and phone number provided on the application form for user verification. If contact cannot be established, registration will not be permitted.

III. Issuance and Notification of ID and Password

After completing the registration process, the JPO will notify users of their ID, password, and the URL for obtaining access tokens via email.

(3) Important Notes Regarding the Application Form

➢ Consent to Terms of Use

Users must check the box to indicate their consent to the Terms of Use after reviewing them. If consent is not given, registration will not be permitted.

➢ Email Address and Phone Number

Users must provide a reliable email address and phone number for communication with the JPO. Corporate users may register up to three contact persons.

➢ Purposes of Use

Please describe your purposes of use (in relation to your businesses) as clearly as possible. It is also permissible to use the information for paid services that the users provide or for machine learning purposes using AI."

➢ ID

The JPO shall issue an ID and password to those who wish to use our APIs, but users can request specific ID strings that meet the following conditions:

A) Must include at least two of the following three types:
Numbers, lowercase letters, symbols ('-'(hyphen), '_'(underscore), '.'(dot);

B) Must be 8 to 15 characters in total; and

C) Must not include personal information.

Please clearly differentiate each confusing letters and symbols, such as '0' (zero) and 'O' (the letter O). If the requested ID strings you request don't satisfy all the above -mentioned conditions, the relevant department of the JPO may designate an ID.

(4) User Registration under Corporate Name

As stipulated in Article 3 of the Terms of Use, the JPO will not issue multiple IDs and passwords to a corporate user. However, IDs and passwords can be issued to each corporation, even if they are related as parent and subsidiary companies or affiliated companies. Each corporation should register separately.

(5) User Registration under Individual Name

Individuals can register under their own names regardless of whether their corporation has registered. Users must confirm that their use of the Patent Information Retrieval APIs is for personal purposes (e.g., research and analysis related to industrial property rights) and check the box on the application form for individual users.

If individuals use their corporate titles for research or analysis, it would not be deemed as personal use. Additionally, if individuals use the API for purposes other than personal use, such as increasing access limits for their corporation, restrictions may be imposed on both the individual and the related corporation.

(6) Cost Burden

Users are responsible for any communication costs associated with using the Patent Information Retrieval APIs.

Article 4. Requests to Change Daily Access Limits for Corporations

The primary users of the Patent Information Retrieval APIs are corporations, patent attorney offices, and other entities that provide patent information (hereinafter referred to as "Information Provider(s)"). These entities may request changes to their daily access limits based on their needs (the change procedures can be conducted after usage begins). Afore mentioned Information Providers are defined as those who meet all the following conditions:
  A) They create their own database using the bulk download services of patent information and provide information services using that database.
  B) They add Patent Information Retrieval APIs functions to their information services and reduce the number of accesses to the API through caching and other functions.
  C) They comply with Article 4 (a) of the Terms of Use (Provision of Usage Information).

(1) Change Procedures

Users should fill out the "Increased daily access limits " section on the User Registration Form (Corporate Users). Reasonable grounds for requesting a change in access limits may include:

- Conducting more than 300 applications or procedures per year.
- Being recognized as an Information Provider as defined in this Handbook.

(2) Basic Information on Limit Changes

Users may request changes for up to three types of APIs, and further details are as follows:

Eligible Users	Range of Scope Changes	API Applicable Patent Information Retrieval APIs
All Corporations including Information Providers	Double the Access Limits listed in the "API List" on the API Information Website (per day)	Applicable Patent Information Retrieval APIs
Information Providers only	Up to five times	The following APIs that retrieve document information from the Japan Patent Information Retrieval APIs **No.** / **API Name** 1-8 / Patent Application Documents 1-9 / Mailed Patent Documents 1-10 / Notices of Reasons for Refusal (Patent) 2-7 / Design Application Documents 2-8 / Mailed Design Documents 2-9 / Notices of Reasons for Refusal (Design) 3-7 / Trademark Application Documents 3-8 / Mailed Trademark Documents 3-9 / Notices of Reasons for Refusal (Trademark)

Article 5. Matters Related to Access

(1) Access Methods

To access the Patent Information Retrieval APIs, users must authenticate using their ID and password and obtain an access token. Specific access methods are detailed on the API Information Website.

(2) Access Restrictions and Their Removal

The Patent Information Retrieval APIs has access limits set for stable operation. Access counts start at midnight for each ID and reset at midnight the following day. If a request exceeds the access limit, an error will be returned. Access restrictions will be lifted at midnight the next day.

(3) Simultaneous Access by Multiple Users with the Same ID

Multiple users can access the Patent Information Retrieval APIs simultaneously using the same ID. However, please note that access counts are tracked on a per-ID basis.

Article 6. Changes to User Registration Information

After starting to use the Patent Information Retrieval APIs, users must immediately contact the JPO when there are any changes to their registration information. The JPO may request copies of the registration form for identity verification.

➢ Email Address and Phone Number

If communication with users is lost after they start using the API, their registration may be cancelled.

➢ ID and Password

IDs and passwords can be changed. However, as stipulated in Article 3, users will not be issued multiple IDs and passwords, so the old ID and password will be deleted as soon as their new IDs and/or passwords are issued. The JPO may inform users of their ID and password again after confirming their identity.

Additionally, users may use the API for purposes other than those stated on their registration form as long as they comply with Article 6 of the Terms of Use. In this case, users do not need to contact the JPO.

Article 7. Privacy Policy

The JPO will use the IP addresses of users, information related to the APIs used, and personal information obtained during the user registration process for the smooth provision of the Patent Information Retrieval APIs, functional improvements, and as reference information for future patent information policies.

Except in cases where disclosure is requested based on laws and regulations, or in cases of fraudulent access, threats, or other illegal activities, the JPO shall not utilize and/or

provide any of the collected information to any third party for purposes other than those stated above. However, information aggregated and processed so as not to reveal any users' private information may be disclosed.

The JPO will take necessary measures for proper maintenance of the collected information so as to avoid leakage, loss and/or damage of it.

Article 8. Patent Information Retrieval APIs Support Center

For technical inquiries regarding the Patent Information Retrieval APIs, please contact the Patent Information Retrieval APIs Support Center. When making an inquiry, please include specific details about your situation (such as request and response content).

Please note that we are unable to address questions related to user-created programs. Additionally, depending on the nature of your inquiry, it may take several days to receive a response.

Patent Information Retrieval APIs Support Center: contact@ip-data-support.jpo.go.jp