Collaboration & Partnerships with Different Stakeholders to Strengthen Patent Information Literacy Programmes at NUS Libraries

Libraries for Tomorrow Conference 2014

Presented by
Patent Resource Team
(Loh Mee Lan, Stephanie Ng, Iftikhar Hayat, Chew Shu Wen)
NUS Libraries
## Trends and Progress in IP Landscape

### Within NUS Environment

- Queries on patents
- Patents as part of ILPs
  - Graduate tutorials
- Past patent tutorials/briefings
  - Pharmacy Graduate Students (May 2006)
  - Physics Graduate Students (Mar 2010)
  - Patent Training to Library Staff (Feb 2010)

### Singapore as Whole

- IP Hub Master Plan in place since April 2013
- IPOS appointed as an International Searching Authority (ISA) & International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)
- Top 10 in Global Innovation Index 2014
Background of Patent Team

- Formed in early 2011 comprising librarians from Engineering & Computer Science, Medical & Science Resource Teams (RTs)
- Provide “specialized” ILPs
What is covered in currently literature:

- Mostly focus on integrating patent searching into information literacy programs (ILPs) for STEM students (MacMillan, D. (2005), Clairoux, N., Desbiens, S., Clar, M., Dupont, P. and St-Jean, M. (2013))

- Collaboration with teaching staff and IT staff in providing a curriculum-based ILP (Hules, P., St George, J., & Wang, L. (2009))

- Developing systematic patent training program using patent analysis and citation analysis techniques applied to patents held by university (Zhang, L. (2009))
Literature Review – Patent tutorials

Gaps in current literature:

• No examples of collaborating partners from non-teaching departments

• No examples of integrating patent searching into ILPs for non-STEM students.
Partnership & Collaboration with Different Stakeholders for Patent Tutorials

- NUS Industry Liaison Office (ILO) ([http://ilo.nus.edu.sg/](http://ilo.nus.edu.sg/))
- Division of Industrial Design at School of Design and Environment, NUS (DID) ([http://did.nus.edu.sg/](http://did.nus.edu.sg/))
- Design-Centric Programme at Faculty of Engineering, NUS (DCP) ([http://www.eng.nus.edu.sg/edic/dcp.html](http://www.eng.nus.edu.sg/edic/dcp.html))
Collaboration with ILO

NUS Industry Liaison Office (ILO)

• ILO staff attended our first patent tutorial (April 2012)

• Discussed how to leverage on each other’s resources for more effective tutorials and roadshows (May 2012)

• First joint tutorial in September 2012
  • Target audience: NUS academic staff, researchers, graduate students

• Feedback gathered showed that the understanding about patent filing criteria, patent application process in NUS and patent searching are all essential and relevant to the participants.
Partnership with Faculties/Departments (DID)

Division of Industrial Design at School of Design and Environment, NUS (DID)

- Unexpected collaboration
  - Research assistant attended patent tutorial and recommended to her Division Head

- 2013
  - 4th year – Regular honours ILP and patent session
  - 2nd Year - Basic patent session

- 2014 – A separate patent session for 4th Year
  - Invited ILO staff to jointly organize a patent session
  - ILO staff cover NUS IP policies and patent filing
  - Patent Team cover on patent searching.
Partnership with Faculties/Departments (DCP)

Design-Centric Programme at Faculty of Engineering (DCP)

• Unexpected collaboration
  • Instructor saw our April 2014 announcement on patent tutorial and contacted team for similar tutorial for her programme

• First collaboration in August 2014
  • Target audience: Design-Centric Programme 2nd to 4th Years students
  • Possibility of incorporating into their curriculum in future semester

• 2015: Joint tutorial with ILO staff (similar to DID programme).
Why Attend Patent Session?

- Intend to apply for patents: 41%
- For personal knowledge: 40%
- Useful for my studies/work/research: 19%

September 2012 - September 2014
Survey Question: If you have been searching patents prior to this session, tell us what are the general problems that you encounter. Select all that apply.
Some Comments from Participants

• “I think this should have been done when we were in year 2, so that by now (year 4) we would have already been well versed.” (Year 4, DID student)

• “some information can only be found in patents, so research on patents is useful” (DCP student)

• “I learnt how to search appropriate patents. The trainers were very knowledgeable on the topic and questions were answered efficiently and very well. So many of my queries were answered. I've used patsnap before and now i know i can save all my relevant searches. There are other avenues other than Google. What tools to use in hunting for patents.” (Year 4 DID student).
Feedback from DID Year 2 Coordinator

• “This is an appropriate tutorial session to introduce to Year 2 Industrial design students for giving them a sense of what is Patent, and the importance of filing a Patent.

• To me, as also a practicing industrial designer in the industry, I felt that the importance means to a sense of professionalism to the future design generations.

• It’s on one hand the need to respect so to protect our valuable innovations, and on the other hand the need to respect others’ innovation in order not to infringe/copy them.....”
Lessons Learnt

• Start them young
• Encourage and inspire innovation
• Value-add library instruction workshops by collaborating with relevant departments (more complete picture, different expertise)
• Understand the needs of the students/participants better with the help of lecturers and via feedback
References


THANK YOU!