



### **PatBase and IPC 8**

PatBase welcomes IPC 8 as a major new classification system. The addition of IPC 8 will bring the number of classification systems in PatBase to five, the existing IPC, ECLA, USPC, and the Japanese patent classification being the others.

With the advent of IPC 8 it is hoped that the quality of patent searching will improve, as searchers increase their focus on searching by classification as opposed to keywords. With a dynamic classification system, i.e. one that includes retrospective re-classification, and one that is mostly propagated across patent families (see below) user should be able to leverage the experience of patent examiners around the world by using IPC8.

In PatBase the old IPC (editions 2-7) will remain as legacy data and will continue to be searchable at all levels. IPC 8 will be searchable at Core and/or Advanced levels, with further options to restrict to Invention and/or Non-invention classification(s).

Although the EPO will provide IPC8 propagated across families for the backfile (prior to 2006) the frontfile will not, and so each family member may have different classifications (as is the case with existing IPC classification). However, as PatBase is based upon one record = one extended family, in PatBase the frontfile classification will automatically be propagated across families. Therefore IPC 8 will be searchable across families for the entire search period in PatBase. The possibility to search by classification for individual countries will also be provided.

As with other classification systems in PatBase, Browse index facilities will also be provided, including hit counts for each classification.

For further information about PatBase and IPC 8, please email: [info@patbase.com](mailto:info@patbase.com)