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Outsourcing of prior art search to CSIR is certainly a beneficial step. However, it still provides only a unilateral perspective for prosecution of a patent, which may be biased. Countries such as USA and Australia have moved on to an evolved concept of using a free resource; the crowd-source. These models are successful. With a slight monetary incentive, a similar model could be advantageously exploited in a first-of-its-kind model for the Indian Patent Office. We are working on such a model for commercial exploitation, with or without the incorporation of its use, officially at the Indian Patent Office. Of course, these models can be leveraged and / or customised to suit specific prior art search needs at the Patent Office. This kind of a model provides a multi-lateral perspective to gain digitized as well as non-digitized prior art documents, and also endeavours to build a proprietary repository of such information. Further, it also enables an examiner to study a varied variety of search strategies.

On a similar footing, the trademark search can be tried to be carried out on a crowd-sourced model.

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It has been seen that an office works wonders under a direct supervision of a superior who has authorization powers. Hence, a Director at each office, reporting directly to the Controller General, would be a good move to command each office.

Regards,

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Patent Agent