



Proposal on a new manner of Indicating a Date

A proposal on a manner of describing a date.

For example, in the case of a date “August 5th, 2012”, the United States Patent Office officially indicates it as “08/05/2012” while the European Patent Office adopts “05.08.12”. For those who, including myself (a former Japanese patent engineer), are not accustomed to the systems of the respective offices, these are misleading: One would wonder “Is it August 5th or May 8th?” In the case of EPO, there are theoretically no less than 6 ways of reading it. I fear the same kind of ambiguity is happening in various other fields worldwide. So, I want to propose a simple but non-misreading manner of indicating a date. Of course, those who are satisfied with August 5th, 2012 or the like manner can stop wasting their time here; but those who prefer not spelling out the month names entirely or even in abbreviation, please follow me.

After using various manners of describing dates one after another without satisfaction, I came to a new manner and have found it satisfying. As of 2012 5 10th, I started adopting this new method of dating and have had no problem nor come up with a better method.

Now, in this new system, the order of the year, month, and day is not limited. So, there are 3! or 6 ways of arraying them. I personally prefer the order of “year, month, date”.

The year shall be in 4-digit form so that this year it is 2019, rather than the misleading 19.

Then, the month shall be in one-digit (1, 2...9) or two-digit form (10, 11, 12). The 01, 02...09 form is not used to spare the ink and labor.

Next, the day number is added with a suffix st, nd, rd or th, when the number is 12 or smaller so as to distinguish it from month. When the day number is 13 or greater, the suffix is omitted. Also, in any case where the month number and the day number are the same, no suffix is added to the day number either; for example, 2014-9-9, which is invariably September 9th of 2014. (I actually used 2014-9-9 in a document submitted to US patent office and there was no problem.)

It is also added that when this system is adopted in a non-English context, the suffixes may be translated into their respective counterparts in the language of the context, if they exist; but I am sure st, nd, rd and th are now so much everybody’s language that translation of them is not recommended.

Next, as for the marking between the year, month and day, it can be anything but number. One space would spare toner a little (e.g. 2014 9 9). I prefer to use hyphen personally, especially when I am handwriting. Thus, in the case of above August 5th of 2012, my system will describe it as 2012-8-5th or 5th 8 2012 or 8.5th.2012, etc. Such would not allow a misunderstanding, except:

There is a little possibility that a rare person would take, for example, 2012 5 10th to mean the day 5 of the 10th month of the year 2012, namely October 5, 2012. I do not care, for such a person lives off my time table.

I welcome anyone to use this method, and appreciate any critical opinion or any better method

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国際的にも通用する年月日簡易記載法の提案

例えば、2012年8月5日は欧米では08/05/2012（米国特許庁）とか05.08.12（欧州特許庁）とかの標記がなされ、日と月と年の不明瞭さがあり、不便を感じる。

そこで、平成の終わる年にあたって年月日の簡易記載法の提案をしたい。私はこれを2012年5月10日（2012-5-10th）から使っていて、国内外の書類に用いてきて、問題や不便を生じていない。（例えば、米国の特許出願で、出願明細書中で、出願日を「2014-9-9」としたが、注意を受けなかった。）

1. まず平成×年というような言い方は国際的に通じないし、西暦に直すとき誤りが生じる可能性もあるので、用いない。
2. 次に、年月日の記載順は、年-月-日の順が好ましいが、これに限定しない。すなわち3!=6通りの順が可能である、私はもっぱら、年-月-日の順にしているが。
3. 年と月は、そのまま数字で記載する。すなわち年は西暦年4桁で示す。今年は2018だ。次に月は1桁または2桁である。できるだけ簡略化させるために、1月を01のようにゼロを付けることはしない。
4. 次に、日にちであるが、これは1から12までは月と区別するために、1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, とし(1st, 2nd, 3rd などとなっても構わない)、13日以降は、

数字2桁とする。ただし、月と日とが同じ数字になる場合も、できるだけ簡略化するために、st, nd, rd, thのsuffix(接尾辞)を省略する（上記米国特許出願日参照）。

5. 年、月、日の間の区切りマークは同じマークを使うなら何であってもいい。ワンスペースでもいい。私はハイフンを愛用しているのできょうは2018-11-26となる。
6. 例えば、2018-11-12thを2018年12月11日と混同する人が皆無ではないかもしれない。しかし、そのような人は私のタイムテーブルに乗っていない。

お気に召したらご自由に採用ください。また批判的意見も歓迎します。