

Pierre Buffet's biography

Pierre Buffet received a degree in Engineering in Informatics in 1969 at Ecole Centrale de Lille. He worked for the Operational Research group of the French Navy before beginning his career in the electronic information industry over 35 years ago. He served as Head of the CNRS Documentation Center's Computer Department, where he established the Pascal System. This gave him the opportunity to build international relationships through co-operations in the field of STM around ICSTI, the International Council of Scientific & Technical Information.

He then co-founded Questel in 1978 and served there as Database Manager. Currently, he is Executive Vice President at Questel.Orbit, in charge of strategic issues.

In practical terms, he started in the field of Patent information when he joined Questel.

In a first stage, he worked with INPI, the French Patent & Trademark Office, and subsequently with the European Patent Office and the World Intellectual Property Organization, to build and offer the online databases of these Patent & Trademark Offices.

Then he has been the Questel representative who initiated technical discussions with Derwent for loading and serving the DWPI file early in 1984.

From that date onward, he has been a major contributor to the cooperation between Derwent, INPI and Questel aimed at developing the Merged Markush Service.

The next milestone that can be mentioned is a major contribution to the development of the famous EPOQUE system in close co-operation with the European Patent Office in The Hague.

In parallel he has been in permanent contact with the Japanese Community, especially the Japan Patent Office, JAPIO and, more recently PATOLIS Corp. He also is an active participant to working groups or trade associations like the Patent Documentation Group in Europe, WON in the Netherlands, PIUG in the US, PATCOM (he is member of the Executive Committee of that trade association) or GFII (Groupement Français de l'Industrie de l'Information) in France, without mentioning the former OLPI (Online Patent Information Group) set by WIPO in the eighties.

Beyond the numerous papers he produced, he is a programme committee member of the International Chemical Information Conference organized by Infonortics and a Trustee of the Chemical Structure Association Trust. Previously, he served for 10 years as Associate Editor of the ACS Journal of Chemical Information and Computer Sciences and has been President of EUSIDIC, the European Association of Information Services, for 3 years.

Excellent teacher, he is always supporting others, creating networks among professionals worldwide, whenever possible putting efforts in co-operations with the permanent aim to build value and quality, which, at the end of the day is beneficial to all the players, especially the users and the company he his working for.

Last, but not least, he already received 2 awards:

- in 1987, the EUSIDIC Personality of the Year Award,
- in 2001, the Online Silver Jubilee Lifetime Achievement Award.