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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

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First Inventor	Walther, Eckart
Title	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS
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APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. ☐ **Fee Transmittal Form** (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
   (Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☐ **Applicant claims small entity status.** See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. ☒ **Specification** [*Total Pages* 52]
   Both the claims and abstract must start on a new page
   (For information on the preferred arrangement, see MPEP 608.01(a))
4. ☒ **Drawing(s)** *(35 U.S.C.113)* [*Total Sheets* 15]
5. **Oath or Declaration** [*Total Sheets* _____]
   a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)
   b. ☐ A copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d))
   (for a continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)
   i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
   Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. ☒ **Application Data Sheet.** See 37 CFR 1.76
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ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. ☐ **Assignment Papers** (cover sheet & document(s))
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10. ☐ **37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement** *(when there is an assignee)* ☐ **Power of Attorney**
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16. ☐ **Nonpublication Request** under 35 U.S.C. 122 (b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or its equivalent.
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18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, *check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in the first sentence of the specification following the title, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:*

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: .....

Prior application information: *Examiner* _____ *Art Unit:* _____

19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☒ The address associated with Customer Number: **20350** *OR* ☐ Correspondence address below

Name					
Address					
City		State		Zip Code	
Country		Telephone		Fax	

Signature	Cathy E Cretsinger	Date	March 15, 2005
Name (Print/Type)	Cathy E. Cretsinger	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	51,588

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PATENT APPLICATION

SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

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SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of the following two U.S. Provisional Patent Applications:

- Application No. 60/553,607, filed March 15, 2004, entitled "Search Systems and Methods with Integration of User Judgments"; and
- Application No. 60/614,232, filed September 28, 2004, entitled "Search Systems and Methods with Integration of User Judgments."

The respective disclosures of these applications are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

[0002] The following three regular U.S. patent applications (including this one) are being filed concurrently, and the entire disclosures of the other two are incorporated by reference into this application for all purposes:

- Application No. _____ (Attorney Docket No. 017887-013720US), entitled "Search Systems and Methods with Integration of User Annotations";
- Application No. _____ (Attorney Docket No. 017887-013730US), entitled "Search Systems and Methods with Aggregated User Annotations"; and
- Application No. _____ (Attorney Docket No. 017887-013740US), entitled "Systems and Methods for Collecting User Annotations."

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The present invention relates in general to searching and navigating a corpus of documents or other content items, and in particular to search and navigation systems and methods with integration of user-supplied metadata (referred to herein as "annotations") related to individual items in the corpus.

[0004] The World Wide Web (web) provides a large collection of interlinked information sources (in various formats including documents, images, and media content) relating to virtually every subject imaginable. As the Web has grown, the ability of users to search this collection and identify content relevant to a particular subject has become increasingly important, and a number of search service providers now exist to meet this need. In general, a search service provider publishes a web page via which a user can submit a query indicating what the user is interested in. In response to the query, the search service provider generates and transmits to the user a list of links to Web pages or sites considered relevant to that query, typically in the form of a "search results" page.

[0005] Query response generally involves the following steps. First, a pre-created index or database of Web pages or sites is searched using one or more search terms extracted from the query to generate a list of hits (usually target pages or sites, or references to target pages or sites, that contain the search terms or are otherwise identified as being relevant to the query). Next, the hits are ranked according to predefined criteria, and the best results (according to these criteria) are given the most prominent placement, e.g., at the top of the list. The ranked list of hits is transmitted to the user, usually in the form of a "results" page (or a set of interconnected pages) containing a list of links to the hit pages or sites. Other features, such as sponsored links or advertisements, may also be included on the results page.

[0006] Ranking of hits is often an important factor in whether a user's search ends in success or frustration. Frequently, a query will return such a large number of hits that it is impossible for a user to explore all of the hits in a reasonable time. If the first few links a user follows fail to lead to relevant content, the user will often give up on the search and possibly on the search service provider, even though relevant content might have been available farther down the list.

[0007] To maximize the likelihood that relevant content will be prominently placed, search service providers have developed increasingly sophisticated page ranking criteria and algorithms. In the early days of Web search, rankings were usually based on number of occurrences and/or proximity of search terms on a given page. This proved inadequate, and algorithms in use today typically incorporate other information, such as the number of other sites on the Web that link to a given target page (which reflects how useful other content providers think the target page is), in addition to the presence of search terms on the page. One algorithm allows querying users to provide feedback by rating the hits that are returned.

The user's ratings are stored in association with the query, and previous positive ratings are used as a factor in ranking hits the next time the same query is entered by any user.

[0008] Existing algorithms, however, fail to take into account differences between individual users. For example, two users who enter the same query could actually be interested in different things; a page or site that is relevant to one user might not be relevant to another. In addition, users may have personal preferences, e.g., regarding how content is organized and displayed, which content providers they trust, and so on, that will affect how they evaluate or rate a given site. Thus, a site that satisfies one user (or many users) might not satisfy the next user who enters the same query, and that user might still give up in frustration.

[0009] Another tool for helping individual users find content of interest to them is "bookmarking." Traditionally, bookmarking has been implemented in Web browser programs, and while viewing any page, the user can elect to save a bookmark for that page. The bookmark usually includes the URL (uniform resource locator) for the page, a title, and possibly other information such as when the user visited the page or when the user created the bookmark. The Web browser program maintains a list of bookmarks, and the user can navigate to a bookmarked page by finding the page in his list of bookmarks. To simplify the task of navigating a list of bookmarks, most bookmarking tools allow users to organize their bookmarks into folders. More recently, some Internet-based information services have implemented bookmarking tools that allow a registered user to create and access a personal list of bookmarks from any computer connected to the Internet.

[0010] While bookmarking can be helpful, this tool also has its limitations. For instance, organizing bookmarks into folders typically requires substantial user effort, and even with folders, it can be difficult for a user to remember which bookmarked page had a particular item of information that the user might be looking for at a given time. Also, existing bookmarking tools generally do not help the user identify whether he has already bookmarked a given page, nor do they provide any facilities for searching bookmarked information.

[0011] Thus, it would be desirable to provide improved tools for helping individual users collect and search content that is of interest to them.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] Embodiments of the present invention provide systems and methods allowing users to annotate content items found in a corpus of documents or other content items (e.g., the World Wide Web). As used herein, the term "annotation" refers generally to any descriptive and/or evaluative metadata related to a document (e.g., a Web page or site) that is collected from a user and thereafter stored in association with that user. In embodiments of the present invention, annotations may include various fields of metadata, such as a rating (which may be favorable or unfavorable) of the document, a list of keywords identifying a topic (or topics) of the document, a free-text description of the document, and/or other fields. An annotation is advantageously collected from a user of the corpus and stored in association with an identifier of the user who created the annotation and an identifier of the document (or other content item) to which it relates.

[0013] In one embodiment, a user viewing a search results page is able to annotate the search hits and save the annotations. In another embodiment, a user can create and save an annotation for any page or site she visits. In still other embodiments, stored annotations can be used in various ways to enhance and personalize search and browsing operations. Examples of such enhancement and personalization include: highlighting hits in a listing of search results that correspond to annotated pages and/or allowing the user to view annotation data from the search result page; extracting user rating information from the annotations and using such information to affect the manner in which search results are presented; allowing the user to search his or her annotated pages (or annotation metadata) in addition to or instead of page content; or allowing the user to view and/or edit his or her annotation every time he or she visits an annotated page or site.

[0014] According to one aspect of the present invention, a method for responding to a user query includes receiving a query submitted by a user and searching a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, where each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query. A library of annotations created by the user is accessed; each annotation in the library is associated with one of the documents in the corpus and includes user specific metadata related to that document. Each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations is identified as an annotated hit. A search report is generated; the search report includes a listing of the hits and further indicates, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit. The search report is transmitted to the user. The

corpus can be, for example, the World Wide Web, and the user might be a human or a computer (or a human operating a computer).

[0015] In some embodiments, a visual highlight element applied to each hit in the search report that is an annotated hit. If the user specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating, the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit can depend on the rating included in the matching annotation. Generating the search report may also include, for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user specific metadata of the matching annotation, or for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user specific metadata from the matching annotation.

[0016] Generating the search report may also include generating a separate listing including only annotated hits, and in embodiments where the user specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of the associated document, the separate listing might include only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating. In still other embodiments where the user specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of the associated document, generating the search report might also include determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits, and an annotated hit might be eliminated from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating.

[0017] In some embodiments, generating the search report also includes, for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit. A new annotation can be received from the user and added to the library of annotations. Thereafter, the search report can be regenerated to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit, and the regenerated search report can be transmitted to the user.

[0018] In some embodiments, the method also includes searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, where each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query, and incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page. For example, where searching the corpus includes extracting a search term from the user query and identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term, searching the

store of annotations can include identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the user specific metadata includes the search term.

[0019] In some embodiments, the library of annotations includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus, and any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit.

[0020] The user specific metadata advantageously includes an item of information explicitly input by the user, such as a rating of the associated document, a keyword describing the associated document, a label selected from a predefined vocabulary, a free text description of the associated document, and so on.

[0021] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method for responding to a user query includes receiving a query from a user and accessing a library of annotations created by the user, where each annotation is associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus and includes user specific metadata related to the associated document. One or more hits are identified among the documents associated with the annotations; each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query. A search report including a listing of the hits is generated. The listing includes only documents for which the library has an associated annotation. The search report is transmitted to the user. The corpus can be, for example, the World Wide Web, and the user can be a human or a computer.

[0022] In some embodiments, identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations. For example, a search term can be extracted from the query, and for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, it can be detected whether the search term is present in the document; the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

[0023] In other embodiments, identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user specific metadata of the annotations in addition to or instead of comparing the query to contents of the documents. For example, a search term can be extracted from the query, and for each of the annotations, it can be detected whether the search term is present in the user specific metadata; the associated document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user specific metadata. For each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, it can also be detected whether the search term is present in the

document, and the document can be identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document. In addition, where the user specific metadata includes multiple fields, the query might specify which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting, and the query might also specify whether the document content is to be considered.

[0024] In another embodiment, the user can limit the search to a portion of the library, and the method may further include receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, with the act of identifying one or more hits being performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library.

[0025] In some embodiments, the search report includes, for each hit, a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user specific metadata of the matching annotation. In addition or instead, the search report might include, for each hit, at least some of the user specific metadata from the associated annotation. In embodiments where the user specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of the associated document, the documents in the listing can be placed in an order determined based at least in part on the ratings of the hits.

[0026] According to another aspect of the present invention, a computer system for responding to user queries includes an index data store, a personalization data store and a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store. The index data store is configured to store a searchable representation of documents from a corpus. The personalization data store is configured to store a library of annotations created by users, with each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user specific metadata related to that document. The search server includes input control logic, search control logic, personalization control logic, and reporting control logic. The input control logic is configured to receive a query from a querying user. The search control logic is configured to search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query. The personalization control logic is configured to identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user. The reporting control logic is configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit, and the reporting control logic is further configured to transmit the search report to the user.

[0027] According to still another aspect of the present invention, a computer system for responding to user queries includes an index data store, a personalization data store and a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store. The index data store configured to store a searchable representation of documents from a corpus. The personalization data store is configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user specific metadata related to that document. The search server includes input control logic, search control logic, and reporting logic. The input control logic is configured to receive a query from a querying user. The search control logic is configured to identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user. The reporting control logic is configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user; the reporting control logic is further configured to transmit the search report to the user.

[0028] The following detailed description together with the accompanying drawings will provide a better understanding of the nature and advantages of the present invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0029] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an information retrieval and communication network according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0030] FIG. 2 is a block diagram of an information retrieval and communication network according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0031] FIG. 3 is a schematic representation of an annotation record according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0032] FIG. 4 is a schematic representation of a folder record for organizing annotations according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0033] FIG. 5 is an example of a user interface page for viewing and organizing annotations according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0034] FIG. 6 is an example of a search result page according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0035] FIG. 7 is an example of a search toolbar for a Web browser according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0036] FIG. 8 is a flow diagram of a process for creating an annotation according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0037] FIG. 9 is an example of a user interface page for creating an annotation according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0038] FIG. 10 is an example of a search result page according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0039] FIG. 11 is an example of a search toolbar for a Web browser according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0040] FIG. 12 is an example of another search results page according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0041] FIG. 13 is an example of a page overlay displaying an annotation according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0042] FIG. 14 is a flow diagram of a process for executing a search according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0043] FIG. 15 is an example of a search interface page for searching a library of annotations according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0044] Embodiments of the present invention provide systems and methods allowing users to annotate content items found in a corpus of documents or other content items (e.g., the World Wide Web). As used herein, the term "annotation" refers generally to any descriptive and/or evaluative metadata related to a document (e.g., a Web page or site) that is collected from a user and thereafter stored in association with that user. In embodiments of the present invention, annotations may include various fields of metadata, such as a rating (which may be favorable or unfavorable) of the document, a list of keywords identifying a topic (or topics) of the document, a free-text description of the document, and/or other fields. An annotation is advantageously collected from a user of the corpus and stored in association with an

identifier of the user who created the annotation and an identifier of the document (or other content item) to which it relates.

[0045] In one embodiment, a user viewing a search results page is able to annotate the search hits and save the annotations. In another embodiment, a user can create and save an annotation for any page or site she visits. In still other embodiments, stored annotations can be used in various ways to enhance and personalize search and browsing operations. For example, when the user searches the corpus, any hits corresponding to pages that the user has annotated (referred to herein as "annotated hits") can be highlighted, with a link being provided to allow the user to view her annotation. Where the annotation includes judgment data such as a numerical rating, the annotated hit can be highlighted to indicate whether the user's judgment was favorable or unfavorable. The ratings can also be used for ranking search results in response to the user's queries, with favorable judgments tending to increase the ranking of a given page or site and unfavorable judgments tending to decrease the ranking. Where the annotation includes user-supplied free text and/or descriptive keywords or labels, the user may have the option to search her annotations in addition to or instead of page content. In other embodiments, any time the user visits a page she has annotated, a control is provided allowing the user to view and/or edit her annotation.

[0046] For purposes of illustration, the present description and drawings may make use of specific queries, search result pages, URLs, and/or Web pages. Such use is not meant to imply any opinion, endorsement, or disparagement of any actual Web page or site. Further, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to particular examples illustrated herein.

I. Overview

A. Network Implementation Overview

[0047] FIG. 1 illustrates a general overview of an information retrieval and communication network 10 including a client system 20 according to an embodiment of the present invention. In computer network 10, client system 20 is coupled through the Internet 40, or other communication network, e.g., over any local area network (LAN) or wide area network (WAN) connection, to any number of server systems 50_1 to 50_N. As will be described herein, client system 20 is configured according to the present invention to communicate with any of server systems 50_1 to 50_N, e.g., to access, receive, retrieve and display media content and other information such as web pages.

[0048] Several elements in the system shown in FIG. 1 include conventional, well-known elements that need not be explained in detail here. For example, client system 20 could include a desktop personal computer, workstation, laptop, personal digital assistant (PDA), cell phone, or any WAP-enabled device or any other computing device capable of interfacing directly or indirectly to the Internet. Client system 20 typically runs a browsing program, such as Microsoft's Internet Explorer™ browser, Netscape Navigator™ browser, Mozilla™ browser, Opera™ browser, or a WAP-enabled browser in the case of a cell phone, PDA or other wireless device, or the like, allowing a user of client system 20 to access, process and view information and pages available to it from server systems 50_1 to 50_N over Internet 40. Client system 20 also typically includes one or more user interface devices 22, such as a keyboard, a mouse, touch screen, pen or the like, for interacting with a graphical user interface (GUI) provided by the browser on a display (e.g., monitor screen, LCD display, etc.), in conjunction with pages, forms and other information provided by server systems 50_1 to 50_N or other servers. The present invention is suitable for use with the Internet, which refers to a specific global internet work of networks. However, it should be understood that other networks can be used instead of or in addition to the Internet, such as an intranet, an extranet, a virtual private network (VPN), a non-TCP/IP based network, any LAN or WAN or the like.

[0049] According to one embodiment, client system 20 and all of its components are operator configurable using an application including computer code run using a central processing unit such as an Intel Pentium™ processor, AMD Athlon™ processor, or the like or multiple processors. Computer code for operating and configuring client system 20 to communicate, process and display data and media content as described herein is preferably downloaded and stored on a hard disk, but the entire program code, or portions thereof, may also be stored in any other volatile or non-volatile memory medium or device as is well known, such as a ROM or RAM, or provided on any media capable of storing program code, such as a compact disk (CD) medium, a digital versatile disk (DVD) medium, a floppy disk, and the like. Additionally, the entire program code, or portions thereof, may be transmitted and downloaded from a software source, e.g., from one of server systems 50_1 to 50_N to client system 20 over the Internet, or transmitted over any other network connection (e.g., extranet, VPN, LAN, or other conventional networks) using any communication medium and protocols (e.g., TCP/IP, HTTP, HTTPS, Ethernet, or other conventional media and protocols).

[0050] It should be appreciated that computer code for implementing aspects of the present invention can be C, C++, HTML, XML, Java, JavaScript, etc. code, or any other suitable scripting language (e.g., VBScript), or any other suitable programming language that can be executed on client system 20 or compiled to execute on client system 20. In some embodiments, no code is downloaded to client system 20, and needed code is executed by a server, or code already present at client system 20 is executed.

B. Search and Annotation System Overview

[0051] FIG. 2 illustrates another information retrieval and communication network 110 for communicating media content according to an embodiment of the invention. As shown, network 110 includes client system 120, one or more content server systems 150, and a search server system 160. In network 110, client system 120 is communicably coupled through Internet 140 or other communication network to server systems 150 and 160. As described above, client system 120 and its components are configured to communicate with server systems 150 and 160 and other server systems over the Internet 140 or other communication networks.

[0052] According to one embodiment, a client application (represented as module 125) executing on client system 120 includes instructions for controlling client system 120 and its components to communicate with server systems 150 and 160 and to process and display data content received there from. Client application 125 is preferably transmitted and downloaded to client system 120 from a software source such as a remote server system (e.g., server systems 150, server system 160 or other remote server system), although client application module 125 can be provided on any software storage medium such as a floppy disk, CD, DVD, etc., as described above. For example, in one aspect, client application module 125 may be provided over the Internet 140 to client system 120 in an HTML wrapper including various controls such as, for example, embedded JavaScript or Active X controls, for manipulating data and rendering data in various objects, frames and windows.

[0053] Additionally, client application module 125 includes various software modules for processing data and media content, such as a specialized search module 126 for processing search requests and search result data, a user interface module 127 for rendering data and media content in text and data frames and active windows, e.g., browser windows and dialog boxes, and an application interface module 128 for interfacing and communicating with various applications executing on client 120. Examples of applications executing on client

system 120 with which application interface module 128 is preferably configured to interface according to aspects of the present invention include various e-mail applications, instant messaging (IM) applications, browser applications, document management applications and others. Further, user interface module 127 may include a browser, such as a default browser configured on client system 120 or a different browser.

[0054] According to one embodiment, search server system 160 is configured to provide search result data and media content to client system 120, and content server system 150 is configured to provide data and media content such as web pages to client system 120, for example, in response to links selected in search result pages provided by search server system 160. In some variations, search server system 160 returns content as well as, or instead of, links and/or other references to content. Search server system includes a query response module 162 configured to receive a query from a user and generate search result data therefore, as well as a user annotation module 164 configured to detect and respond to user interaction with the search result data as described below.

[0055] Query response module 162 in one embodiment references various page indexes 170 that are populated with, e.g., pages, links to pages, data representing the content of indexed pages, etc. Page indexes may be generated by various collection technologies including an automatic web crawler 172, and/or various spiders, etc., as well as manual or semi-automatic classification algorithms and interfaces for classifying and ranking web pages within a hierarchical structure. These technologies may be implemented in search server system 160 or in a separate system (e.g., web crawler 172) that generates a page index 170 and makes it available to search server system 160. Various page index implementations and formats are known in the art and may be used for page index 170.

[0056] Query response module 162 in one embodiment also references a personalization database 166. Personalization database 166, which may be implemented using conventional database technologies, includes user-specific information, in particular records of user-supplied annotations for various Web pages or sites. As described below, the annotations can include any type of user-supplied metadata including descriptive and/or evaluative information; the metadata might include free text, keywords or labels, numerical ratings reflecting a user judgment (e.g., favorable or unfavorable) as to the merits of particular Web pages or sites, and so on. Examples of content and formats for annotations

and techniques for collecting annotations to be stored in personalization database 166 are described below.

[0057] Query response module 162 is configured to provide data responsive to various search requests (queries) received from a client system 120, in particular from search module 126. As used herein, the term "query" encompasses any request from a user (e.g., via client 120) to search server 160 that can be satisfied by searching the Web (or other corpus) indexed by page index 170. In one embodiment, a user is presented with a search interface via search module 126. The interface may include a text box into which a user may enter a query (e.g., by typing), check boxes and/or radio buttons for selecting from predefined queries, a directory or other structure enabling the user to limit search to a predefined subset of the full search corpus (e.g., to certain web sites or a categorical subsection within page index 170), etc. Any search interface may be used.

[0058] Query response module 162 is advantageously configured with search related algorithms for processing and ranking web pages relative to a given query (e.g., based on a combination of logical relevance, as measured by patterns of occurrence of the search terms in the query; context identifiers associated with query terms and/or particular pages or sites; page sponsorship; connectivity data collected from multiple pages; etc.). For example, query response module 162 may parse a received query to extract one or more search terms, then access page index 170 using the search terms, thereby generating a list of "hits", i.e., pages or sites (or references to pages or sites) that are determined to have at least some relevance to the query. Query response module 162 may then rank the hits using one or more ranking algorithms. Particular algorithms for identifying and ranking hits are not critical to the present invention, and conventional algorithms may be used.

[0059] In embodiments of the present invention, query response module 162 is also configured to retrieve from personalization database 166 any annotation data associated with the user who entered the current query and to incorporate such annotation data into the search results. For example, where at least some of the annotations include ratings (or other data reflecting a user's evaluation of the page or site), query response module 162 might generate a separate list of "favored" results based on favorable user ratings of particular pages or sites previously annotated by that user; or query response module 162 might incorporate the user's ratings of particular pages of sites in the ranking of search results; or query response module 162 might use unfavorable user ratings of particular pages or sites to determine whether to

drop a hit from the list of results. Where the annotations include free text, keywords or labels, the appearance of a search term in any of these elements may be considered during identification and/or ranking of search hits.

[0060] User annotations may be provided to personalization database 166 in various ways. In some embodiments, search result data is presented as a results page including a list of hits. For each hit, the results page may include, e.g., a page or site title, a link to the page or site, one or more excerpts from the content of that page or site (e.g., showing the context in which search terms occur), and other options, such as a link to a cached copy of the content. The result data may also include buttons or other interface elements allowing the user to annotate any of the hit pages or sites. For example, the user can be invited to rate the page or site on a predefined scale (e.g., thumbs-up or thumbs-down, zero to four stars, numerical ratings from 1 to 10, etc.), to enter a free-text description of the page or site, to select labels describing the page or site from a predefined list, or to enter one or more keywords to describe the page or site.

[0061] When the user elects to annotate a hit page or site, user annotation module 164 receives the new annotation data from the user (e.g., via client system 120) and updates personalization database 166. In one embodiment, user annotation module 164 also initiates an automatic refresh of the results page in response to the new annotation data. During this refresh operation, the hits listed on the results page may be reran ked using the new data, and an updated results page reflecting the new rankings is transmitted to the user. In cases where the new annotation includes a favorable rating, the new page may also list the newly annotated site among the "favored" results. Accordingly, the user's new annotations can have an immediate effect on the displayed results of the current search, as well as being stored for use in processing future queries from that user.

[0062] To enable search personalization features such as user annotations, search server 160 advantageously provides a user login feature, where "login" refers generally to any procedure for identifying and/or authenticating a user of a computer system. Numerous examples are known in the art and may be used in connection with embodiments of the present invention. For instance, in one embodiment, each user has a unique user identifier (ID) and a password, and search server 160 prompts a user to log in by delivering to client 120 a login page via which the user can enter this information. In other embodiments, biometric, voice, or other identification and authentication techniques may also be used in

addition to or instead of a user ID and password. Once the user has identified herself, e.g., by logging in, the user can enter and/or update her annotations by interacting with user annotation module 164 as described below. Further, each query entered by a logged-in user can be associated with the unique user ID for that user; based on the user ID, query response module 162 can access personalization database 166 to incorporate the user's stored annotations into responses to that user's queries. User login is advantageously persistent, in the sense that once the user has logged in (e.g., via client application 125), the user's identity can be communicated to search server 160 at any appropriate time while the user operates client application 125. Thus, personalization features described herein can be made continuously accessible to a user.

[0063] In addition to using the user's own annotations in responding to a query, query response module 162 may also use aggregate information about other users' annotations. For example, in one embodiment, an aggregate rating (e.g., an average rating) for a page or site is computed from the ratings of every user who has provided an annotation with a rating for that page or site. In another embodiment, aggregate keywords or labels describing a page or site may be determined, e.g., by identifying those keywords or labels that have most frequently been applied to that page or site by the users who have annotated it. Such aggregate annotations for a given page may be stored, e.g., in page index 170, and used by query response module 162 to rank hits in response to a query, regardless of whether the user is known to search server 160.

[0064] In one embodiment, user annotation module 164 forwards new annotation data as it is received to an aggregator module (not shown in FIG. 2) that updates the aggregate annotation data stored in page index 170. Aggregate annotation data may be updated at regular intervals, e.g., daily or hourly, or approximately in real time. Collection ad use of aggregate annotation data is described further below.

[0065] It will be appreciated that the search system described herein is illustrative and that variations and modifications are possible. The content server and search server system may be part of a single organization, e.g., a distributed server system such as that provided to users by Yahoo! Inc., or they may be part of disparate organizations. Each server system generally includes at least one server and an associated database system, and may include multiple servers and associated database systems, and although shown as a single block, may be geographically distributed. For example, all servers of a search server system may be located

in close proximity to one another (e.g., in a server farm located in a single building or campus), or they may be distributed at locations remote from one another (e.g., one or more servers located in city A and one or more servers located in city B). Thus, as used herein, a "server system" typically includes one or more logically and/or physically connected servers distributed locally or across one or more geographic locations; the terms "server" and "server system" are used interchangeably. In addition, the query response module and user annotation module described herein may be implemented on the same server or on different servers.

[0066] The search server system may be configured with one or more page indexes and algorithms for accessing the page index(as) and providing search results to users in response to search queries received from client systems. The search server system might generate the page indexes itself, receive page indexes from another source (e.g., a separate server system), or receive page indexes from another source and perform further processing thereof (e.g., addition or updating of various page information). In addition, while the search server system is described as including a particular combination of component modules, it is to be understood that a division into modules is purely for convenience of description; more, fewer, or different modules might be defined.

[0067] In addition, in some embodiments, some modules and/or metadata described herein as being maintained by search server 160 might be wholly or partially resident on a client system. For example, some or all of a user's annotations could be stored locally on client system 120 and managed by a component module of client application 125. Other data, including portions or all of page index 170, could be periodically downloaded from search server 160 and stored by client system 120 for subsequent use. Further, client application 125 may create and manage an index of content stored locally on client 120 and may also provide a capability for searching locally stored content, incorporate search results including locally stored content into Web search results, and so on. Thus, search operations may include any combination of operations by a search server system and/or a client system.

[0068] In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, users may interact with search server 160 to annotate search result and other pages via user annotation module 164. The annotations may include positive or negative ratings (or other information reflecting a user's favorable or unfavorable opinion of the subject page or site), keywords, free-text descriptions, and/or other elements that provide descriptive and/or evaluative

information about a page or site. Each user's annotations are stored in personalization database 166 and are advantageously used in responding to current and future queries submitted by that user. In some embodiments, user annotations can also be used to provide various customized search services as described below.

[0069] In embodiments of the present invention, annotations can be collected from users in a variety of ways, including annotations entered from a search results page, annotations entered using a toolbar interface, and the like. Examples of collecting annotation data are described below.

II. User Annotation Data Formats

[0070] User annotations may be collected in a variety of formats and may provide various information about a page or site. While an example format is described herein, it is to be understood that user annotations are not limited to the particular content or format of this example and that an annotation may include any combination of user-provided and/or automatically generated metadata related to a page or site.

[0071] As used herein, a "page" refers to a unit of content that is identifiable by a unique locator (e.g., a URL) and displayable by a suitably configured browser program. A "site" refers to a group of one or more pages related to common subject matter and located on the same server. In some embodiments of the invention, the user who creates an annotation can indicate whether that annotation should apply to a single page or to a group of related pages In the latter case, the user can advantageously define the scope of the site, as described below. In some embodiments, there is no difference between a page annotation and a site annotation other than the number of pages to which the annotation applies.

A. Content of Annotations

[0072] In one embodiment, each annotation is a structured entry in a personalization database 166. FIG. 3 illustrates the content fields of an annotation 300. Fields in left column 302 can be automatically generated and updated by user annotation module 164; fields in right column 304 are preferably user-supplied.

[0073] The automatically generated fields include an "Author ID" field 306 that stores the user ID of the user who created the annotation and a "URL" field 308 that identifies the page or site to which the annotation pertains. "Host flag" field 310 indicates whether the annotation applies to a page or to a site. If the host flag is set to "page," the annotation applies only to the page whose URL exactly matches the string in field 308, whereas if the

host flag is set to "site," the annotation applies to any page whose URL begins with the string shown in field 308. Thus, an annotation with host flag set to "site" could apply to any number of pages. Host flag field 310 may be automatically set to a default value (e.g., "page"), and the user can be given the option to change the value.

[0074] "Title" field 312 stores a title for the subject page (or site). This field is advantageously filled by default with a page title extracted from the subject page's source code; in some embodiments, the user is allowed to change the title. "Abstract" field 314 stores a text abstract of the subject page or site; this abstract can be automatically generated as described below, or the user can be invited to apply an abstract.

[0075] The remaining fields in column 302 provide historical information about the annotation. For instance, "referral" field 316 provides contextual information about how the user arrived at the subject page or site. In the case of an annotation entered from a search results page, referral field 316 advantageously includes the query in response to which the results page was produced, as shown in FIG. 3. Where the user supplies an annotation for a currently displayed page via a toolbar interface, the referral field 316 might include historical information about what the user was viewing prior to navigating to and annotating the subject page. For instance, if the user navigated to the subject page by following a link from another page, referral field 316 might contain the URL of that other page. If the user navigated to the subject page by clicking on a link in another program (e.g., an e-mail client or word processor), referral field 316 might identify the program. If the user entered the URL for the subject page manually (e.g., typing it into an address bar of the browser window), referral field 316 might indicate manual entry. It should be noted that the referral field is not limited to a single entry; for instance, in some embodiments, the referral field might store a longer navigation trail (e.g., the entire browser session leading up to navigating to and annotating the subject page, including any search queries entered during that session regardless of whether the subject page was returned as a hit or visited by the user).

[0076] Where a user has annotated a page and later revised that annotation, referral field 316 is advantageously updated to identify the referral source that led to the revised annotation. "Old referral" field 318 can be used store contextual information related to the previous annotation; this information would be similar to information stored in referral field 316. Any number of old referrals may be maintained.

[0077] "Last updated" field 320 provides a timestamp indicating when the user last updated the annotation. "Last visited" field 322 provides a timestamp indicating when the user last visited the annotated page. While FIG. 3 shows these timestamps in a YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS format, it is to be understood that other formats and any desired degree of precision might be substituted. This information can be used, e.g., to identify older annotations as possibly being less reliable (especially where the annotated page has been updated more recently than the user's last visit to that page).

[0078] The fields in column 304 are supplied by the user and are advantageously left empty until and unless the user supplies data. In preferred embodiments, the user is not required to enter data for all of these fields, and any empty fields can be ignored when the annotation data is used in search processing as described below.

[0079] "Keywords" field 324 stores one or more user-supplied keywords or user-selected labels describing the annotated page. As used herein, "keyword" (also sometimes referred to in the art as a "tag") refers to a word or short phrase provided by the user, who is free to choose any word or phrase, while "label" refers to a word or short phrase selected by the user from a system-defined vocabulary, such as a hierarchical list of category identifiers. In some embodiments where keywords are used, various prompts or other techniques may be incorporated into the system to encourage the user to adopt "normalized" keywords (e.g., standard spellings, standard choices among synonyms such as "bicycling" vs. "cycling" vs. "biking," or the like). Keyword normalization is particularly helpful where aggregate keywords for a page are derived from annotations by different users as described below. In some embodiments, the user may be limited to some maximum number (e.g., 10, 20, or another number) of keywords or labels.

[0080] "Description" field 326 stores a user-supplied free text description of the page or site. In populating this field, the user is not limited to words or short phrases or to any particular length. In some embodiments, description field 326 allows the user to compose and store a fairly lengthy discussion of the content (e.g., up to 500 or 1000 words), and the user may also be allowed to include links to other content as part of the description. Links could be included, e.g., to identify other sites that provide more detail about topics mentioned by the annotated page.

[0081] "Rating" field 328 stores a numerical value or other indicator reflecting the user's opinion or judgment of the page. Ratings may be provided using various scales, and the scale

preferably allows at least "favorable," "unfavorable" and "neutral" ratings. For example, in one embodiment the user is prompted during creation of an annotation to give a favorable (e.g., thumbs-up) or unfavorable (e.g., thumbs-down) rating to the annotated page. The favorable and unfavorable ratings are each assigned a numerical value (e.g., +2 and –2 respectively); unrated pages are given a default (neutral) rating of zero. Other rating systems, e.g., zero to four stars, a 1 to 10 rating, or the like, may also be used. The rating indicator stored in field 328 need not match the rating scale used by the user (e.g., if the user rates a site on a scale of 1 to 10, this could be translated to a rating indicator in the range from -4 to 5). Any sites the user annotates but does not rate are advantageously treated as having a neutral rating.

[0082] It is to be understood that annotation entry 300 is illustrative and that other annotation formats with different fields may also be used. For instance, in some embodiments, the annotation may include a representation of part or all of the content of the subject page in a compressed or uncompressed form. In other embodiments, the user can connect a description to a specific portion of the content of the subject page, and the portion to which the description is connected may be stored in the annotation. In another embodiment, search server 160 may also categorize pages or sites according to some taxonomy, and such category data may be saved as part of the annotation.

[0083] Other metadata related to the annotated page (or site) may also be collected in the annotation record and automatically updated as the user continues to browse. For example, a counter might be provided to count the number of times the user visits an annotated page or site. The counter and/or the last-visited timestamp can be automatically updated each time the user visits the page or site. In some embodiments, only visits that occur while the user is logged in to search server 160 result in automatic updating.

[0084] Annotations in some embodiments may also include metadata that is not user-specific. For example, metadata might also include a real-world location (e.g., latitude and longitude coordinates, street address or the like) or phone number related to the subject page or site, a UPC (universal product code) or ISBN (international standard book number) or ISSN (international standard serial number) related to the subject page or site, and/or other similar information. In addition, metadata relating to various attributes or behaviors of the subject page or site, such as whether it includes adult content, what human language(s) it uses

(e.g., English, Japanese, Spanish, etc.), or whether it includes pop-up windows or the like, could also be incorporated into an annotation independently of user input.

[0085] Annotation entries may be formatted in any format suitable for storing in personalization database 166 (e.g., relational database schema, XML records or the like) and can be accessed by reference to various fields. In one embodiment, the annotation record is accessible by at least author ID, URL, title, and keywords.

B. Organization of Annotations

[0086] In some embodiments, users can organize their annotations using folders. For example, each user may have a "Main" folder, into which that user's new annotations are placed by default. The user may create additional folders as desired. In some embodiments, the user may also define subfolders within folders. User interfaces for creating and managing folders may be of generally conventional design.

[0087] In one embodiment, each folder is defined using a folder entry in personalization database 166. FIG. 4 illustrates a folder entry 400 according to an embodiment of the present invention. Folder entry 400 includes a references field 404 that provides references (e.g., persistent pointers) to the annotations and/or subfolders belonging to folder 400; a linked list or other suitable data structure may be used to implement references 404.

[0088] Folder entry 400 also advantageously includes other fields usable for folder management. In one embodiment, those fields include an "Author ID" field 406 that stores the user ID of the user to whom the folder belongs and a "Name" field 408 that stores a user-supplied folder name (e.g., with an upper limit of 80 characters). "Name" field 408 may default to "New Folder" or some other suitable string. "Description" field 410 stores a user-editable free text description of the folder's purpose or content; this field may default to an empty state. "Active" field 412 stores a flag (e.g., a Boolean value) indicating whether the annotations in that folder should be used in responding to queries.

[0089] It will be appreciated that folder formats may vary and that other fields may be included. With the exception of the "Main" folder, the user may freely create, rename, and delete folders. In some embodiments, multiple folders can store a reference to the same annotation; in other embodiments, each annotation is assigned to exactly one folder at a time, and users can move annotations from one folder to another or create a copy of an annotation in a different folder. In some embodiments, each annotation entry may also include a "folder ID" field that stores a reference back to the folder(s) to which the annotation is assigned.

[0090] While folders are optional, providing folders allows an additional degree of user control over the search experience. For example, a user can arrange her annotations in multiple folders, with the "active" flag set to true for one or more of the folders and to false for others. When the user enters a query, only annotations in the active folder(s) would affect the results. The user may also use folders to collect and organize annotated pages in a manner somewhat similar to "bookmarks" or other personal site lists supported by various Web browser programs or Internet portal services. In preferred embodiments, the folders and annotation data described herein are maintained for the user by search server 160 and can be made available to the user regardless of the location from which she accesses search server 160.

[0091] In another embodiment, folders are not used, and use of annotations is instead managed based on the user-supplied keywords or labels in the annotation records. For example, the active flag and/or publication flag may be defined per keyword rather than per folder.

C. Interface Page to Annotations

[0092] As users find and annotate various pages or sites, each user will build up a personal "library" of Web content that is useful to that user. In some embodiments, user annotation module 164 (FIG. 2) provides an interface that allows a user to manage her library of annotations and to interact with her annotation data in a variety of ways. For example, user annotation module 164 may be configured to generate and provide to each user a customized "My Library" page. A user who is logged in to search server 160 can request this page, e.g., by following a link from a search interface or search results page, by following a link from a personalized or generic portal page or site hosted by search server 160, or by activating a button on a browser toolbar or other persistent interface. In some embodiments, a user who is not logged in can request her "My Library" page, then be prompted to log in before the page is displayed.

[0093] FIG. 5 is an example of one implementation of a library interface page 500 for a user according to an embodiment of the present invention. Page 500 includes a section 501 that displays annotations from the user's library. Various fields from each annotation (e.g., the fields shown in FIG. 3) can be displayed, and a link to each annotated page or site is advantageously provided. An "Edit" button 503 allows the user to edit an annotation. The

editing interface can be generally similar to the creation interface, which is described below, and may also allow the user to move or copy annotations from one folder to another.

[0094] Section 502 provides interface controls for selecting and arranging annotations to be displayed in section 501. For instance, button group 504 allows a user to select one or more folders to be viewed. The default selection is "all," and activating the "Select Folders" option in group 504 takes the user to a folder selection interface (not shown), which may be of generally conventional design and may allow the user to select one folder, a group of folders, or a folder and its subfolders. When the user finishes selecting folders to view and returns to page 500, the page is updated to reflect the current folder selection.

[0095] A checkbox 506 allows the user to request a display of only those annotations that include one or more user-specified keywords. After checking box 506 and entering one or more desired keywords in a text box 508, the user activates "Refresh" button 510 to refresh the listing. In response to activation of button 510, search server 160 searches the keyword field of the user's annotations for the keyword(s) from text box 508 and updates the listing in section 501 to include only the annotations having matching keywords.

[0096] Radio buttons 512 allow the user to specify whether all annotations, or only annotations with favorable (or unfavorable) ratings, should be displayed. Radio buttons 512 advantageously default to selecting all annotations, and the user can change this setting at will.

[0097] Button group 514 allows the user to specify how the list of annotations in section 501 should be arranged, e.g., by folder, by title, by rating, by keywords, or by the timestamp of the last update of the annotation or last visit to the annotated page or site.

[0098] It should be noted that the various controls in section 502 can be used together. For instance, the user can specify that only annotations in a particular folder that include a particular keyword should be displayed, or that only annotations with positive ratings in a particular folder (or group of folders) should be displayed, and so on.

[0099] In other embodiments, other arrangements of annotations can be viewed. For example, a list of some number (e.g., 5, 10, 20, 50) of most frequently visited annotated pages, most recently visited annotated pages, or most recently annotated pages might be viewable. In other embodiments, the user can also view contextual information about the

annotation (e.g., the contents of Referral field 316 and/or Old Referral field 318 shown in FIG. 3).

[0100] In various embodiments, page 500 can support other user interactions with annotations. For example, using text box 530, the user can provide the URL of a new page or site to be annotated, then activate "Go" button 532 to create the annotation. In some embodiments, if the URL entered in text box 530 matches a URL of an existing annotation, the user is shown the existing annotation and invited to update it.

[0101] "Search My Web" button 540 initiates a search operation using the user's library (or a portion thereof) as the search corpus. This operation is described below.

[0102] It will be appreciated that the library interface page described herein is illustrative and that variations and modifications are possible. Any interface that allows the user to view, organize, and search her annotations may be used, and the interface may have more features, fewer features, or different features from the particular combination shown.

III. Collection of Annotation Data

[0103] In preferred embodiments, various interfaces are provided by which the user can indicate a desire to annotate a particular page or site and thereby initiate creation of an annotation. FIG. 6 is an example of a search results page 600 (also referred to herein as a search report) that provides an interface for annotating hit pages or sites. Search results page 600 is generated in response to a user query as shown in text box 602; "submit" button 604 is used to submit queries. Each result 605 includes various information, such as the title, an automatically generated abstract, a URL, and the like. Next to (or below) each result is a "Save This" button 606 that launches a page or dialog box via which the user can annotate that particular hit. An example of a suitable page is described below.

[0104] FIG. 7 is an example of a toolbar-based interface for annotating any page the user happens to be viewing. A Web browser window 700 includes conventional elements such as a viewing area 702 for displaying Web content and default toolbars providing navigation buttons (back, forward, and the like) and a text box 704 that shows the URL of the currently displayed page and also allows the user to enter a URL for a page to be displayed in viewing area 402. Browser window 700 also includes a search toolbar 706 that may be provided as an add-in to a conventional browser program or as a standard feature of a browser program.

[0105] Search toolbar 706 advantageously includes a text box 708 and "Search" button 709 via which the user can submit queries to search server 160 (FIG. 2), a "List Saved" button 710 allowing the user to view her saved annotations and to navigate to annotated pages, and a "Save This" button 712 that opens a page or dialog box allowing the user to annotate the currently displayed page. In some embodiments, search toolbar 706 also includes a "Show My Comments" button 714 that appears in an active state whenever the user is viewing a page that she has previously annotated; the user can operate button 714 to view her previous annotation. Where the annotations include ratings, the appearance of button 714 may depend in part on the rating (e.g., the rating may be reflected by an icon included in the button). Search toolbar 706 may also include other components in addition to or instead of those shown. In addition, any other persistent interface (i.e., an interface accessible while the user is viewing any Web page) may be substituted; a search toolbar is not required.

[0106] In some embodiments, search toolbar 706 can be configured such that it is usable in a "generic" state by users who are not logged in to search server 160 and in a "personalized" state by users who are logged in. In the generic state, the toolbar provides access to basic search services (e.g., via text box 708 and "Search" button 709) and a button allowing the user to log in for access to personalized services. In the personalized state, personalization features can be supported through the toolbar. For instance, "Save This" button 712 might be provided only in the personalized state of toolbar 706; alternatively, button 712 might also be provided in the generic state, with the browser being redirected to a log-in page if button 712 is activated while the toolbar is in the generic state.

[0107] In some embodiments, the user may be offered multiple options for initiating creation of an annotation, including, e.g., the URL entry box 530 on "My Library" page 500 (FIG. 5) described above and/or the various "Save This" buttons shown in FIGS. 6 and 7. Regardless of how creation of an annotation is initiated, the process for creating the annotation is advantageously the same.

[0108] FIG. 8 is a flow diagram of a process 800 by which a user creates an annotation for a page (or site) according to an embodiment of the present invention. At step 802, the user activates a "Save This" button, such as button 710 on search toolbar 706 (FIG. 7) or one of the "Save This" buttons 606 on search results page 600 (FIG. 6). At step 804, the server identifies the URL of the page to be annotated (referred to herein as a "subject page").

[0109] At step 806, an annotation editing interface for the subject page is displayed. The editing interface is advantageously displayed in a separate window or dialog box that opens when a "Save This" button is activated. In some embodiments, the editing interface is arranged on the user's display in such a way that the user can look at both the subject page and the annotation or easily flip back and forth between the two. At step 808, the user enters annotation information into the interface.

[0110] Various editing interfaces can be used. FIG. 9 is an example of an editing interface page 900 according to an embodiment of the present invention. Page 900 may be displayed at step 802 of process 800. Page 900 displays, in area 902, the URL of the subject page. The URL, which uniquely identifies the subject page, is advantageously pre-populated when page 900 is created and is not user-editable. The page title is displayed in text box 904; box 904 may be filled by default with a page title extracted from the source code of the subject page, and the user may be allowed to edit the title for the annotation by modifying the content of box 904.

[0111] In area 906, the user is invited to assign a scope (host flag) to the annotation using radio buttons 908, 910. In one embodiment, the host flag defaults to "page," meaning that the annotation applies only to the URL displayed in area 902. The user can change the host flag to "site" and can also adjust the scope of the site by editing the URL displayed in text box 912 to reflect the intended scope of the site. For example, a host server (identified by the portion of the URL between the double slash and the next slash) might be shared by a number of independent Web sites whose content could be completely unrelated. Where the scope is set to "site," a user might be able to specify a subset of pages on that host server to which the annotation should be applied, e.g., by modifying text box 912 to further specify a directory on the host server that encompasses the desired subset of pages.

[0112] Area 914 accepts user input. For example, the user can enter one or more keywords in text box 916. The keywords may be entered, e.g., as a comma-separated list. In some embodiments, keywords may be limited to a maximum number (e.g., 5, 10, 20) or to a maximum number of characters per keyword (e.g., 40, 80), or to a maximum total number of characters. In another embodiment, the user may be able to select one or more labels to be applied to the page or site from a system-supplied list; conventional interface elements for selecting labels from a list can be used. Text box 918 is available for free-form text entry and advantageously accepts a fairly large number of characters (e.g., up to about 5000). The user

can also rate the page or site using rating radio buttons 920. In one embodiment, the default is no rating, and the user can change the default by selecting a different one of buttons 920. In preferred embodiments, the user is not required to complete all of the fields in section 914.

[0113] Referring again to FIG. 8, at step 810, the user indicates that the new annotation is complete. For example, in interface 900 of FIG. 9, the user indicates completion by activating either a "Save" button 922 and "Cancel" button 924. "Save" button 922 indicates that the completed annotation should be saved, and "Cancel" button 924 indicates that the annotation should be discarded.

[0114] At step 812, it is determined whether the annotation is to be saved, e.g., whether the user activated "Save" button 922 or "Cancel" button 924. If the annotation is not to be saved, process 800 exits (step 814). If the annotation is to be saved, then at step 816, an abstract for the annotation is automatically generated. In one embodiment, the abstract is generated by using the user-supplied keywords and/or description to identify the most relevant portion(s) of the page content. This algorithm can be similar to conventional algorithms for generating abstracts for search hits based on query terms. At step 818, the new annotation is added to personalization database 166. Step 818 may include creating a database record; populating the record with information supplied via editing page 900; compressing the annotation data for efficient storage, search and retrieval; and so on.

[0115] At step 820, the page the user was viewing when she activated the "Save This" button is redisplayed. In preferred embodiments, the redisplayed page (or the search toolbar) is updated to reflect the existence of the new annotation. For example, in the case where the user activated a "Save This" button 606 on search result page 600 (FIG. 6), the search result page 600 is updated based on the annotation, as described below. Where the user activated "Save This" button 712 of search toolbar 706 (FIG. 7), "Show My Comments" button 714 can become active to indicate that the new annotation exists.

[0116] It will be appreciated that the process for creating annotations and the editing interface described herein are illustrative and that variations and modifications are possible. Process steps described as sequential may be executed in parallel, order of steps may be varied, and steps may be modified or combined. In some embodiments, the user may be able to activate a "Save This" button or similar button before the user's identity is known to search server 160. In that event, search server 160 may prompt the user to log in before displaying the editing interface.

[0117] In one embodiment, client application 125 (FIG. 2) includes an annotation creation module that displays page 900 or another user-editable form for supplying annotation data, and user annotation module 164 of search server 160 does not participate in process 800 until the user chooses to save the annotation. At that point, if the user is not logged in to search server 160, she may be prompted to log in so that the annotation can be associated with her user ID.

[0118] The annotation editing interface advantageously conforms to the particular content of the annotation data structure in a given embodiment. For instance, FIG. 10 is an example of an in-line annotation editing interface 1000 that allows the user to enter a rating for a search hit. Interface 1000 is integrated in-line into a search results page 1002. The user is invited to rate each hit using one of buttons 1004, 1006, 1008. (If the user does not select a rating, the page is not annotated.) Similarly, FIG. 11 is an example of a browser window 1100 with a toolbar-based annotation editing interface 1020 that allows the user to enter a rating for a page being viewed. Interface 1020 is part of a search toolbar 1022, which can be generally similar to search toolbar 706 of FIG. 7 described above. Interface 1020 appears when the user is viewing an unannotated page and includes button 1024, 1026, 1028 for entering a favorable, neutral, or unfavorable rating. It is to be understood that different interfaces adapted to different rating schemes could be substituted. Different interfaces could also be combined; for instance, the user could enter a rating and then be invited to provide additional metadata.

IV. Search Using Annotation Data

[0119] Once collected, annotation data can be used in various ways to enhance the user's searching and Web browsing experience. Examples of such enhancements will now be described; it is to be understood that the use of annotations is not limited to any particular feature or set of features.

A. Enhanced Web Search

[0120] In one embodiment, search server 160 accesses a user's library of annotations to provide additional information on a search results page generated in response to a query from that user. For example, a separate list of annotated hits (i.e., hits that correspond to annotated pages in the user's library) may be included in the search results, or annotated hits may be highlighted wherever they happen to appear in the results list. Where the annotations include ratings, a separate list of favorably-rated hits might be provided, rated hits might be

highlighted in a manner that reflects the querying user's ratings, or ratings data might be used as a factor in ranking the hits.

[0121] FIG. 12 is an example of a search results page 1200 enhanced with annotation information according to an embodiment of the present invention. Results page 1200 might be generated by query response module 162 in response to a user's query. In this embodiment, results page 1200 includes a banner section 1202. In addition to page identifying information, banner section 602 includes a search box 1204, which shows the current query (e.g., "chinese food sunnyvale") in editable form together with a search button 1206 enabling the user to change the query and execute a new search. These features may be of generally conventional design.

[0122] Section 1208 is a personalized results area ("My Results"), in which any hits that the user has previously annotated are displayed. In some embodiments, section 1208 may show only results for which the user's annotation included a favorable rating; in other embodiments, all annotated pages may be listed in section 1208. Each page is advantageously accompanied by a "Show My Comments" button 1210 that the user can activate to view her previous annotation. In some embodiments, hits may be highlighted based on the ratings (if any) the user has assigned to various sites.

[0123] FIG. 13 is an example of an annotation view page 1300 that may be generated when a user activates button 1210. Annotation view page 1300 is advantageously an overlay (e.g., a pop-up window) displayed over page 1200 such that page 1200 is at least partially visible. In some embodiments, page 1300 is displayed as an overlay over the annotated page itself rather than page 1200. In other embodiments, the annotation may be displayed in-line in page 1200 or in-line with the annotated page. Where the annotation includes metadata (e.g., a description) connected to a specific portion of the page content, such metadata may be displayed overlaying or near (e.g., immediately before or immediately after) the part of the page to which it is connected.

[0124] Page 1300 includes, in section 1302, the title, description, keywords and ratings retrieved from the annotation stored in personalization database 166. "Edit" button 1304 allows the user to edit the annotation; in one embodiment, activating button 1304 opens editing interface 900 (FIG. 9), and the various text blocks and other elements of editing interface 900 may be pre-populated using the current content of the annotation. "Close" button 1306 closes page 1300.

[0125] Referring again to FIG. 12, results section 1216 displays some or all of the hits with a ranking determined by query response module 162. Conventional ranking algorithms may be used to generate this ranking. Each entry 1218 in section 1216 corresponds to one of the hits and includes the title of that page (or site) and a brief excerpt (or abstract) from the content of that page. Excerpts or abstracts may be generated using conventional techniques. The URL (uniform resource locator) of the site is also displayed. For hits that the user has not annotated, a "Save This" button 1218 may be displayed, and while viewing page 1200, the user may elect to annotate an unannotated hit by activating a button 1218. "Save This" button 1218 is advantageously the same as button 606 in FIG. 6 above.

[0126] Any hits in section 1216 that the user has annotated may be visually highlighted to indicate the existence of the annotation. Various designs for highlighting may be used, including, e.g., borders, shading, special fonts, colors or the like. In some embodiments where the annotations include ratings, the type of highlighting depends on the rating, and the rating may be displayed on page 1200. For example, hit 1220 has a favorable rating while hit 1222 has an unfavorable rating.

[0127] In one embodiment, annotations entered by a user while viewing a results page are used in real time to update the displayed results for the current query, in addition to storing the information in personalization database 166 for future use. Thus, if the user viewing page 1200 activates a "Save This" button 1218, thereby initiating process 800 (FIG. 8) described above, the redisplayed page 1200 can be modified to reflect the new annotation. For example, the newly annotated hit might be highlighted, or results might be reranked using a rating newly given to the hit.

[0128] FIG. 14 is a flow diagram of a process 1400 that may be implemented in query processing module 162 (FIG. 2) for incorporating a user's previously stored annotations into a response to a current query from that user. At step 1402, the query is received. At step 1404, a list of hits corresponding to the query is obtained, e.g., from page index 170 (FIG. 2). At step 1406, query processing module 162 ranks the hits, e.g., using conventional algorithms.

[0129] At step 1408, query processing module 162 determines whether the user is logged in. If not, query processing module 162 may send the results page to the user without personalization at step 1410, enabling users to perform searches and obtain results without logging in to (or even being registered with) search server 160. If the user is logged in, then

the results page is customized for that user based on information in personalization database 166.

[0130] More specifically, at step 1412, query processing module 162 provides the user's ID to personalization database 166 and retrieves the annotations created by that user. At step 1414, the URLs of the retrieved annotations are compared to URLs of the hits to detect any hits that match URLs for which the user has previously created annotations. For annotations whose host flag is set to "site," a match (also referred to herein as a "partial match") is detected if the beginning portion of the hit URL matches the URL (or partial URL) stored in the annotation (e.g., in URL field 308 in FIG. 3). If the host flag is set to "page,: an "exact" match between the URL of the annotation and the hit URL is required. For each partial or exact match, it is determined at step 1416 whether the annotation includes a favorable rating, e.g., by reference to "rating" field 328 of annotation 300. If so, then the hit is added to the favored results ("My Results") list. In other embodiments, all annotated hits, regardless of any rating, might be added to the "My Results" list.

[0131] At step 1420, after comparisons between hits and annotations are completed, the results list is optionally reranked using ratings contained in the annotations. For example, a base score can be generated for each hit (whether it has an annotation or not) using a conventional ranking algorithm. For hits that have an annotation with a favorable or unfavorable rating, a "bonus" can be determined from the rating. The bonus is advantageously defined such that favorably rated sites tend to move up in the rankings while unfavorably rated sites tend to move down. For instance, if low scores correspond to high rankings, the bonus for a favorable rating may be defined as a negative number and the bonus for an unfavorable rating as a positive number. In some embodiments, partial URL matches may be given a smaller bonus than exact URL matches. Unrated (or neutrally rated) hits would receive no bonus. This bonus can be added (algebraically) to the base score to determine a final score for each hit, and reranking can be based on the final score.

[0132] In some embodiments, reranking at step 1420 may also include dropping any hits that match unfavorably rated pages or sites from the list of hits to be displayed. In such embodiments, the search results page delivered to the user may include an indication of the number of hits that were dropped due to unfavorable ratings and/or a "Show all hits" button (or other control) that allows the user to see the search results displayed with the unfavorably

rated hits included. In another variation, the user can click on a link to see just the unfavorably rated hits.

[0133] At step 1422, the "My Results" list is ranked and added to the search results page. In some embodiments, this ranking may be based on the base score or final score described above. In other embodiments, hits in the "My Results" list are sorted by user rating; hits with the same rating may be further sorted according to the base score described above. At step 1424, the search results page is modified to indicate the existence of any annotations; e.g., highlighting and/or "Show My Comments" buttons may be added to the annotated hits. The modified search results page, in this case including the personalized "My Results" section, is sent to the user at step 1410.

[0134] It will be appreciated that the process described herein is illustrative and that variations and modifications are possible. Steps described as sequential may be executed in parallel, order of steps may be varied, and steps may be modified or combined. In some embodiments, some or all of the content of the annotation might be displayed in-line in the search results page prior to viewer action. For instance, a visual highlighting element that indicates a favorable or unfavorable rating can be displayed, or the user's keywords or description might appear under the automatically generated abstract, and so on. Where the annotation's content is displayed in-line, a "Show My Comments" button (or other control element allowing the user to view the annotation) may be omitted.

[0135] In other embodiments, a user's annotations may be used to identify hits during a search operation. For example, in addition to searching page index 170, query response module 162 may also search selected fields of the user's annotations using some or all of the same search terms used to search page index 170. In one such embodiment, the keywords and description fields of the annotations are searched, and an annotated page is identified as a hit if the search terms appear in one of these fields, regardless of whether the annotated page was identified as a hit in the search of page index 170.

[0136] In still other embodiments, inferences can be made about the relative importance of different annotations (or different annotated pages) to the user and used in organizing the presentation of the search hits. For example, it may be inferred that annotated pages that the user accesses more frequently are more valuable to that user than pages accessed less frequently. Thus, when one of the user's most frequently accessed pages appears in a search result, that page might be displayed more prominently (e.g., moved up in the rankings),

marked with a special indication distinct from the normal annotated page indicator, or included in a special "favorites" area.

[0137] In some embodiments, the annotations used in responding to a query may be limited to a subset of the user's annotations. For instance, only annotations in folders for which the active flag is set to "true" might be used for identifying hits and/or highlighting results.

B. Search in the User's Library

[0138] In other embodiments, the user can search her personal library of annotated content rather than the entire Web. For example, "My Library" page 500 of FIG. 5 includes a "Search My Library" button 540 that can be used to initiate a search of the user's library. Although not explicitly shown, a similar button can also be included on toolbar 706 of FIG. 7. Activating a "Search My Library" button advantageously launches a library search interface page via which queries can be directed to the user's library.

[0139] FIG. 15 is an example of a library search interface page 1500 according to an embodiment of the present invention. Page 1500 provides a user interface for field-specific searching within all of the user's library of annotated pages or sites or within any subset of the user's library. Scope section 1502 supports selection of the pages to search. In this instance "All Pages" option 1504 (which may be the default) is selected, and all pages that the user has annotated will be searched. If "Selected Folders" option 1506 is chosen, area 1508 would provide a list of folders with each folder having a checkbox or other selection/deselection toggle. Similarly, if "Selected Pages" option 1510 is chosen, area 1508 would provide a list of annotated pages (which may be initially displayed as an expandable list of folders) with each page having a checkbox or other independent selection/deselection toggle. Pages can be identified by title, URL, or any other field(s) from the user annotation. In another embodiment, the user may opt to search only those portions of the library (folders and/or individual annotations) for which the "active" flag is set to true or to search all library contents without regard to the active flag.

[0140] Query section 1512 provides various text boxes into which the user can enter search terms for searching page content and/or searching particular fields in the annotation. In this example, the user can separately specify search terms for the page content (box 1514), annotation title (box 1516), keywords field (box 1518), description (box 1520), and/or referral (box 1521). Radio buttons 1522 can be used to constrain a rating of the hits. By default, "Any rating" is selected, so that the rating (or absence thereof) does not limit the

search; the user can opt to limit the search, e.g., to hits with favorable ratings or to hits with unfavorable ratings. "Search" button 1526 submits the query for processing, and "Reset" button 1528 clears all fields in query section 1512.

[0141] Processing of the search depends on which boxes in query section 1512 provide search terms. Where the page content is to be searched, data can be obtained either from page index 170 or from the annotation in personalization database 166 if a representation of the page content is stored therein. Other fields are searched using the user's annotations in personalization database 166. It is to be understood that the user may leave some or all of the boxes in section 1512; where a box is empty, the corresponding field is not used to constrain the search. For example, the user could search the page content of her annotated pages by entering search terms in box 1514 and leaving the other boxes empty; the actual search could be performed using page index 170, with any hits that do not correspond to an annotated page or site being discarded before transmitting the results to the user. Results of the search are advantageously delivered using a search result page similar to page 1200 (FIG. 12) described above, except that in searches limited to the user's library, every page has an annotation.

[0142] The query interface may be varied. For example, in another interface, a single text box is provided, and the user is prompted to select whether search terms in the text box should be searched in the page contents and/or in various fields of the annotation record (e.g., title, keywords, description, and/or other fields). In still another embodiment, a "basic" search interface with a single text box is provided by default, and the search is performed over the page content and the annotation fields. The user can accept this basic search configuration or opt to view query section 1512 (or another query interface) to perform a more advanced search. Other query interfaces and combinations of interfaces are also possible.

[0143] In embodiments where users can search their annotations by keywords, a user can advantageously develop a personalized keyword scheme for indexing content she discovers on the Web. Using the search and/or toolbar-based interfaces described above, the user can, by creating an annotation, assign keywords to any page she finds interesting and add the page to her personal library. Later, the user can search using the keywords field to find the pages in her library related to a particular subject. Thus, searchable annotations provide a powerful tool for individual users to organize and classify Web content in a manner that is useful to them.

[0144] It will be appreciated that search page 1500 is illustrative and that variations and modifications are possible. In some embodiments, search page 1500 may also be accessible via a button on a toolbar or other suitable element of a persistent user interface, or from a search provider's main page. If a user who is not logged in to search server 160 attempts to access page 1500, the user may be prompted to log in before page 1500 is displayed.

C. Search for Related or Similar Pages

[0145] In some embodiments, users can also search for other documents (e.g., pages or sites) that are similar to or related to pages or sites in their libraries. "Similar" documents are documents that contain content meeting some similarity criterion relative to an annotated page. Examples of similarity criteria include: having some number of words, phrases, or other multi-word units in common; having similar patterns of occurrence of words, phrases or other multiword units; belonging to the same category or closely related categories in a system-defined taxonomy; or the like. Algorithms for determining similarity between two pages are known in the art and may be used with the present invention. "Related" documents share portions of a URL (e.g., at least a domain name) with the rated page; again, known algorithms for determining relatedness may be used.

[0146] In one embodiment, from search page 1500 (FIG. 15), the user can select all or any subset of her annotated pages using scope section 1502 as described above, then activate button 1536 to search for similar documents or button 1538 to search for related documents. Searches for similar or related documents are advantageously not limited to annotated pages or sites and can be performed by search server 160 using page index 170. In some embodiments, searches for related or similar pages can also include search term qualifiers, and search terms may be specified using query section 1512 as described above or other interfaces. In some embodiments, the relative frequency with which a user accesses different annotated pages within the selected subset can be used to assign different weights to different annotated pages in the active subset for purposes of determining which other documents are most similar or most closely related to the selected documents; more frequently accessed pages are advantageously assigned a higher weight than less frequently accessed pages.

D. Iterative Search Using Annotations

[0147] The above-described techniques can be leveraged to support iterative search workflows in which users can filter annotated pages or sites to create subsets and perform further filtering on the subset. For example, the folders available to a user may include a

"Working" folder that is automatically created and used to support iterative search. A user may search all of her annotated pages (e.g., by using search interface 1512 of page 1500) with a desired query term in Referral box 1521. The user can then review the results and save any interesting ones to the "Working" folder, with or without filling in the various annotation fields. In one embodiment, search results page (see FIG. 12) may also include an "Add to Working Folder" button.

[0148] In another embodiment, the "Working" folder can also be populated as the user navigates the Web using the browser. For instance, an "Add to Working Folder" button may be provided via a toolbar (e.g., toolbar 706 of FIG. 7) or other persistent interface. The user may also be able, via a suitable interface, to move or copy annotation records from other folders to the Working folder and to edit the contents of the Working folder directly (e.g., via page 500 of FIG. 5). In still another embodiment, the user initially searches the entire Web using some query, then populates the "Working" folder from the search results page, e.g., by adding some or all of the hits to the folder. An interface element to empty the "Working" folder may be included in page 500, or in a toolbar or other persistent interface as desired.

[0149] After populating the "Working" folder, the user can execute a further query, e.g., via page 1500 of FIG. 15, selecting just the "Working" folder. In some embodiments, the user can save all of the results of a search in the "Working" folder to some other folder (which may be, e.g., a new user-created folder) by activating an appropriate interface button. These results are available for browsing or further searching. In some embodiments, the user may save searches conducted on the "Working" folder as filters that can be applied to other pages or search results.

E. Toolbar Enhancements

[0150] In some embodiments, a browser toolbar, such as toolbar 700 (FIG. 7) described above, can be enhanced based on user annotations. For example, as described above, toolbar 700 advantageously provides a "Show My Comments" button 714 that indicates whether the user has already annotated the current page and that allows the user to view her annotation, e.g., in a pop-up window or overlay as shown in FIG. 13 and described above. Annotations can also be displayed in-line in the annotated page.

[0151] In other embodiments, further toolbar enhancements are provided. For instance, in some embodiments, annotations are integrated with a "Bookmark" feature. As is known in the art, browser toolbar add-ins provided by some Internet portal providers include a

"Bookmark" feature that allows registered users of the portal service to save bookmarks to pages as they browse. Each bookmark generally includes the URL and, in some instances, a page title. The user can access her bookmarks using any Web browser client that has the toolbar add-in installed, provided that the user first logs in to search server 160.

[0152] Annotations, in some aspects, can be used as enhanced bookmarks. Instead of just bookmarking a page, the user can save additional information (metadata) about the bookmarked page, such as keywords, ratings, or other descriptive and/or evaluative information. This information may, for instance, remind the user of what she thought was interesting or worthwhile about the page or site in question. Further, instead of trying to remember which of tens or hundreds of bookmarked page included a particular item of information, the user can search her library of annotations to find a desired page.

[0153] In some embodiments, a list of conventional bookmarks for the user is automatically generated from her library of annotated pages or sites (or just from those annotated pages or sites with a favorable rating). The user can choose not to enter any content when creating a new an annotation; in this case, the annotation would operate essentially as a conventional bookmark.

F. User Preferences

[0154] In some embodiments, registered users may be able to control the uses made of their annotation data. For example, "My Library" page 500 (FIG. 5) may include an "Options" button 550. Button 550 advantageously links to a preferences page (not explicitly shown) that enables the user to specify her preferences for various annotation-related features. Examples include whether the user's ratings should or should not be considered in generating search results, whether "global ratings" (described below) should be considered in generating search results, whether and how any of the user's annotations are to be published, and so on.

[0155] User preferences for these and any other options are advantageously stored in personalization database 166 and applied whenever the user logs in. In some embodiments, buttons and options controllable from search results pages (e.g., as described above) may temporarily override the user preferences specified via a user preferences page; the original preferences can be restored for the next query or the next time the user logs in.

V. Aggregation of Annotation Data

[0156] In some embodiments, search server 160 uses aggregated annotation data across the entire community of registered users to enhance the search experience for all users. Examples will now be described.

A. Global Ratings

[0157] For example, the ratings assigned to a page or site by different users can be averaged or otherwise aggregated to generate a "global" rating for that page or site. In one such embodiment, search server 160, or another server operated under common control with search server 160, periodically (e.g., once per day) executes an algorithm that searches the annotations in personalization database 166 by URL to collect all ratings that any user might have assigned to the page or site having that URL. These ratings are then averaged or combined in some other manner to determine a global rating for the page or site. The global rating may be cached, e.g., in page index 170.

[0158] Global ratings may be used in various ways. In one embodiment, the global rating of a page or site may be used as a factor in the search-results ranking algorithm when the URL of the page or site matches a hit for a given search. In another embodiment, the global rating may be displayed next to each hit on a search results page, along with the user's own rating (if the user has given one), regardless of whether the global rating is used in the page ranking.

[0159] In some embodiments, the user may have the option to show or hide global ratings, and/or to use or ignore global ratings when ranking search hits. Controls for such options may be included on a search results page or on a user preferences page as described above.

B. Folksonomy

[0160] As another example, aggregated annotation data may be used to classify or categorize Web content to create a "folksonomy." As used herein, a "folksonomy" refers to a system of classification for content that is based on and reflective of the way in which a community of users chooses to describe and classify the content. In embodiments where annotations include keywords (or labels), the pattern of keywords assigned to a particular page will tend to be indicative of its content. For instance, if 50% of the users who annotated a particular page used the keyword "cycling," then it can be inferred that the page relates to cycling.

[0161] In one such embodiment, search server 160, or another server operated under common control with search server 160, periodically (e.g., once per day) executes an algorithm that searches the annotations in personalization database 166 by URL to find all keywords that have been used to annotate that URL by registered users. Search server 160 analyzes the patterns of keywords to determine a set of "folksonomy keywords" for the page. This set may include, e.g., the most frequently used keywords (e.g., up to 5 or 10 or some other maximum number), the most recently used keywords, or the like. In some embodiments, a combination of frequency and recency is used to select the folksonomy keywords. Folksonomy keywords for a particular page can be added to page index 170 in association with the URL and used in responding to subsequent searches. For instance, a URL might be returned as a hit for any query (from any user) if one of the folksonomy keywords for the URL matches a search term of the query, regardless of whether the page content actually includes any of the search terms. Ranking of hits may depend in part on whether the search terms matched page content, folksonomy keywords, or both.

[0162] In some embodiments, users (either registered users or all users) can choose whether to search the folksonomy keywords instead of or in addition to page content.

C. Identifying User Interests

[0163] User annotations may also be used by the search provider (e.g., the owner of search server 160) to develop user profiles. For example, annotated pages or sites may be classified into categories using various proprietary or non-proprietary classification schemes, including the folksonomy keywords described above, or they may be classified based on the keywords a particular user has assigned. By analyzing the categories to which a user's various rated pages or sites belong, the search provider can identify subjects in which the user is particularly interested. For instance, if a user has annotated many pages that belong to a single category, it can be inferred that the user is generally interested in content in that category. The search provider may also use statistics about which annotated pages the user visits most often as a further aid in identifying a user's interests.

[0164] The search provider can use information about a user's interests gleaned from the annotations in various ways to enhance the user's experience. In one embodiment, knowledge of a particular user's interests can be used to resolve ambiguities in search queries received from that user, including queries for which the search is to be conducted over the entire Web and/or queries for which the search (or search hits) is limited to the user's library.

For instance, the term "jaguar" in a search query might refer to an automobile or to an animal. If the user has annotated relatively many sites related to automobiles and relatively few related to animals, it can be inferred that this user is more likely interested in the automobile than the animal. This information can be used to enhance the likelihood that information relevant to the user's actual interest will receive prominent placement in the search results, e.g., by adjusting page rankings based on whether the page relates to an identified user interest.

[0165] As another example, knowledge of a particular user's interests can be used to customize Web content for delivery to that user. In one embodiment, a user's interests can be used in determining how to arrange content on a Web page; for example, a news page requested by a user might be arranged so that stories related to that user's known interests appear first. In another embodiment, a user's interests are taken into account when selecting sponsored content (e.g., advertisements) for displaying on a Web page. Other types of customization based on a known interest of a particular user can also be performed.

[0166] Information about user interests obtained from annotations can also be aggregated across subgroups of users (e.g., all users, or users fitting some geographic or demographic profile). In situations where the user's identity or particular interests are not known, this aggregate information can be used for purposes such as resolving ambiguity in search queries, selecting and arranging content of a Web page, and so on. In some embodiments, aggregations across different subgroups of users are performed in parallel and used in situations where only partial information about the user (e.g., the user's geographic location or a demographic characteristic) is known.

[0167] In other embodiments, a search provider might also use aggregate information about user interests in making other strategic decisions, such as setting advertising rates, determining content or layout of portal pages, and the like.

D. Inferring Opinions

[0168] In some embodiments where a user's annotation for one page or site includes a rating, search server 160 can infer the user's likely opinion of other (unannotated) pages or sites from that rating. Such inferences might be based on relatedness of the URL and/or similarity of content between the annotated page and the unannotated page. Similarity of content can be determined, e.g., based on titles, abstracts, patterns of word use in the content, categorization (based on the folksonomy keywords or other classification schemes), etc. The

unannotated page can be assigned an inferred rating, e.g., based on the user's average rating of annotated pages or sites that are determined to be similar.

[0169] Where inferred ratings are used to rank search hits, the inferred ratings should be accorded less weight than direct ratings, reflecting uncertainty about the inference. For example, if a user gave a negative rating to page or site X, the same rating might be inferred for another page or site Y that is similar to or related to page or site X. The direct negative rating might cause page or site X to be removed from the search result list, while the inferred negative rating of page or site Y might result in page or site Y being included in the result list but with a lower ranking than it otherwise would have.

[0170] In some embodiments, the weight is determined based in part on how many pages (or sites) having that property the user has rated and how consistent the ratings given to such pages are. For instance, if the user has consistently given negative ratings to a large number of pages belonging to a particular category, the inferred negative rating of an unannotated page belonging to that category might be weighted more strongly than if the user had given ratings to only one or two pages in that category.

[0171] In another embodiment, the weight is also based in part on the degree of similarity between the annotated and unannotated pages. For instance, if the pages are nearly identical in content, the inference of a similar rating can be accorded a higher weight than if the similarity is less strong.

VI. Further Embodiments

[0172] While the invention has been described with respect to specific embodiments, one skilled in the art will recognize that numerous modifications are possible. For instance, the appearance of various search result and user interface pages or windows may differ from the examples shown herein. Interface elements are not limited to buttons, clickable regions of a page, text boxes, or other specific elements described herein; any interface implementation may be used.

[0173] It should also be understood that in its rating-related aspects, the invention is not limited to any particular rating scheme, and some embodiments might offer users the option of choosing among alternative rating schemes (e.g., thumbs up/thumbs down or rating on some scale). In some embodiments, only favorable or neutral ratings might be supported. In other embodiments, ratings might not be collected at all.

[0174] Annotations can include any number of fields in any combination and may include more fields, fewer fields, or different fields from those described herein. For example, in some embodiments, the user may be invited to create an abstract or to edit an automatically generated abstract. In another embodiment, the user may be prompted to indicate whether a page or site being annotated belongs to some general category of content, e.g., "adult" or "foreign" or "spam." The user can then choose to include or exclude content in that category during searches. In addition, information about which pages or sites different users have categorized in one or another of these categories can be used to infer that the page or site in question should be treated as such. Thus, for instance, if a large number of users identify a particular page as spam, that page might be excluded from future search results.

[0175] Other interfaces for viewing and interacting with annotations may also be provided. For example, in some embodiment, the browsing user's annotation data and/or aggregated annotation data can be automatically displayed (e.g., in line with page content or in an overlay) every time an annotated page is displayed in the user's browser. In one such embodiment, each user may be able to indicate preferences for whether their own annotations, aggregate metadata, or both should be automatically displayed.

[0176] As described above, some embodiments allow the user to control whether an annotation should apply to a single page or to a group of pages (a site). In addition, in some embodiments, users might also be able to apply an annotation to all pages registered to the same domain name registrant as the rated page. The existence of a common domain name registrant may be determined using WHOIS or another similar service.

[0177] In other embodiments, a provider of search server 160 may also offer sponsored links, in which content providers pay to have links to their sites provided in search results. Sponsored links are usually displayed in a designated section of the results page, segregated from the regular search results. In one embodiment of the present invention, any sponsored links that the user has annotated can also be marked. For instance; a sponsored link might have highlighting to indicate that the user has an annotation for that page, and the user's rating (if any) for the sponsored link might be used in determining the highlighting, just as for the regular search results shown in FIG. 12 above. Sponsored links may also be accompanied by a "Save This" button, a "Show My Comments" button, or similar buttons or interface controls.

[0178] The embodiments described herein may make reference to Web sites, URLs, links, and other terminology specific to instances where the World Wide Web (or a subset thereof) serves as the search corpus. It should be understood, however, that the systems and methods described herein can be adapted for use with a different search corpus (such as an electronics database or document repository) and that results or annotations may include content as well as links or references to locations where content may be found.

[0179] Computer programs incorporating various features of the present invention may be encoded on various computer readable media for storage and/or transmission; suitable media include magnetic disk or tape, optical storage media such as CD or DVD, flash memory, and carrier signals adapted for transmission via wired, optical, and/or wireless networks conforming to a variety of protocols, including the Internet. Computer readable media encoded with the program code may be packaged with a compatible device or provided separately from other devices (e.g., via Internet download).

[0180] While the present invention has been described with reference to specific hardware and software components, those skilled in the art will appreciate that different combinations of hardware and/or software components may also be used, and that particular operations described as being implemented in hardware might also be implemented in software or vice versa.

[0181] Thus, although the invention has been described with respect to specific embodiments, it will be appreciated that the invention is intended to cover all modifications and equivalents within the scope of the following claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user;

searching a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

accessing a library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document;

identifying, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations;

generating a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the search report to the user.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report includes:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising:

receiving the new annotation from the user; and

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

regenerating the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

generating a separate listing including only annotated hits.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of the associated document and wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of the associated document and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating.

13. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query; and

incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus includes:
extracting a search term from the user query; and
identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the user-specific metadata includes the search term.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of the associated document.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing the associated document.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary.

21. The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of the associated document.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages.

23. The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a human.

24. The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a computer.

25. A method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:
receiving a query from a user;

accessing a library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to the associated document;

identifying one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

generating a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation.; and

transmitting the search report to the user.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document,

wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

28. The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein identifying one or more hits further includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata,

wherein the associated document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata.

30. The method of claim 29 further comprising:

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document,

wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

31. The method of claim 29 wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting.

32. The method of claim 25 further comprising:

receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched,

wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library.

33. The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

34. The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, at least some of the user-specific metadata from the associated annotation.

35. The method of claim 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of the associated document and wherein the documents in the listing are placed in an order determined based at least in part on the ratings of the hits.

36. The method of claim 25 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any document that is one of the group of documents is identified as a hit.

37. The method of claim 25 wherein the corpus is the World Wide Web.

38. The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a human.

39. The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a computer.

40. A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store,

the search server including:

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user;

search control logic configured to search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query;

personalization control logic configured to identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user.

41. A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store,

the search server including:

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user;

search control logic configured to identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library of

annotations includes an annotation by the querying user, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user.

SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Computer systems and methods allow users to annotate content items found in a corpus such as the World Wide Web. Annotations, which can include any descriptive and/or evaluative metadata related to a document, are collected from a user and stored in association with that user. Users are able to annotate and view their annotations for any document they encounter while interacting with the corpus, including hits returned in a search of the corpus. Users are also able to search their annotations or to limit searches to documents they have annotated. Metadata from annotations can also be aggregated across users and aggregated metadata applied in generating search results.

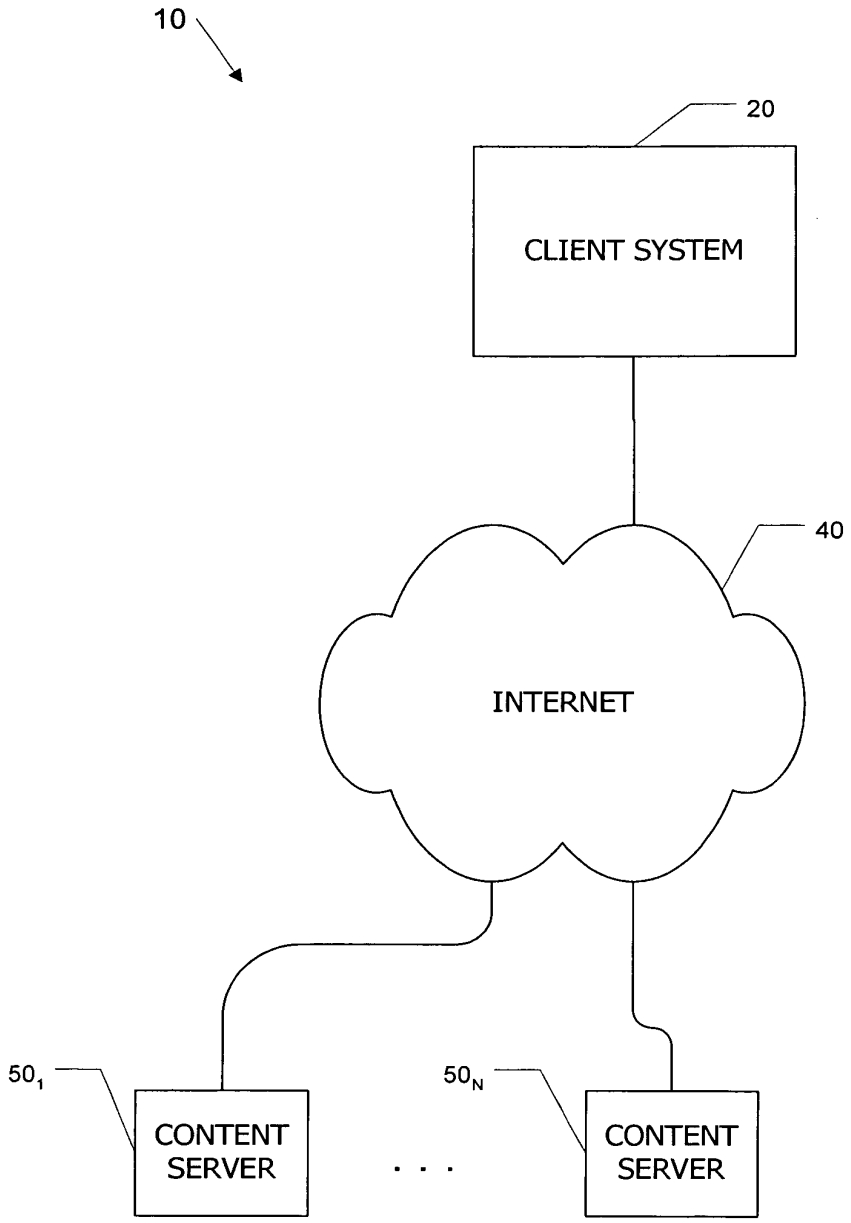

10
20
CLIENT SYSTEM
40
INTERNET
50_1
50_N
CONTENT SERVER
CONTENT SERVER

FIG. 1

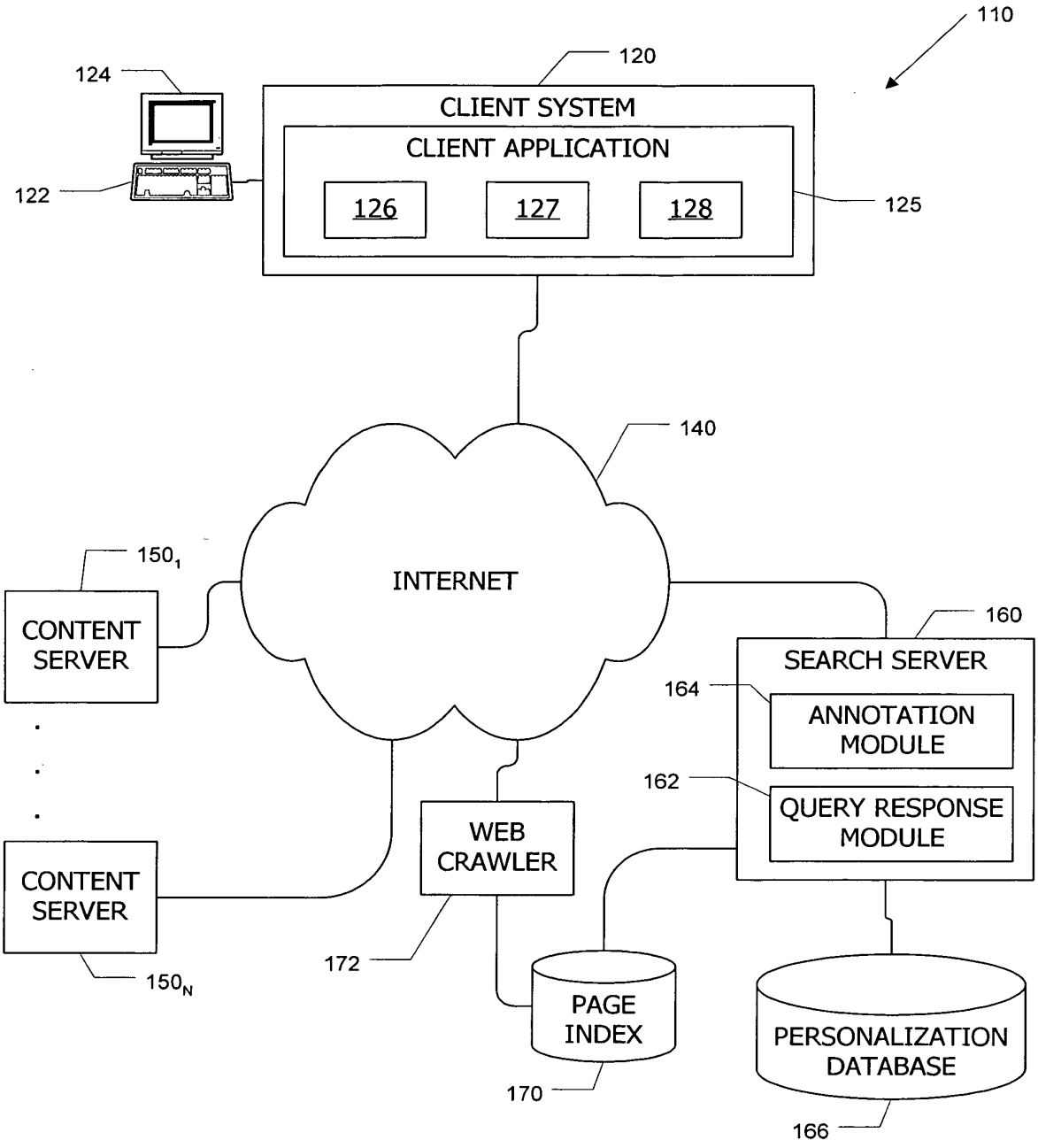

110
120
124
CLIENT SYSTEM
CLIENT APPLICATION
126
127
128
122
125
140
INTERNET
150$_1$
CONTENT SERVER
CONTENT SERVER
150$_N$
160
SEARCH SERVER
164
ANNOTATION MODULE
162
QUERY RESPONSE MODULE
WEB CRAWLER
172
PAGE INDEX
170
PERSONALIZATION DATABASE
166

FIG. 2

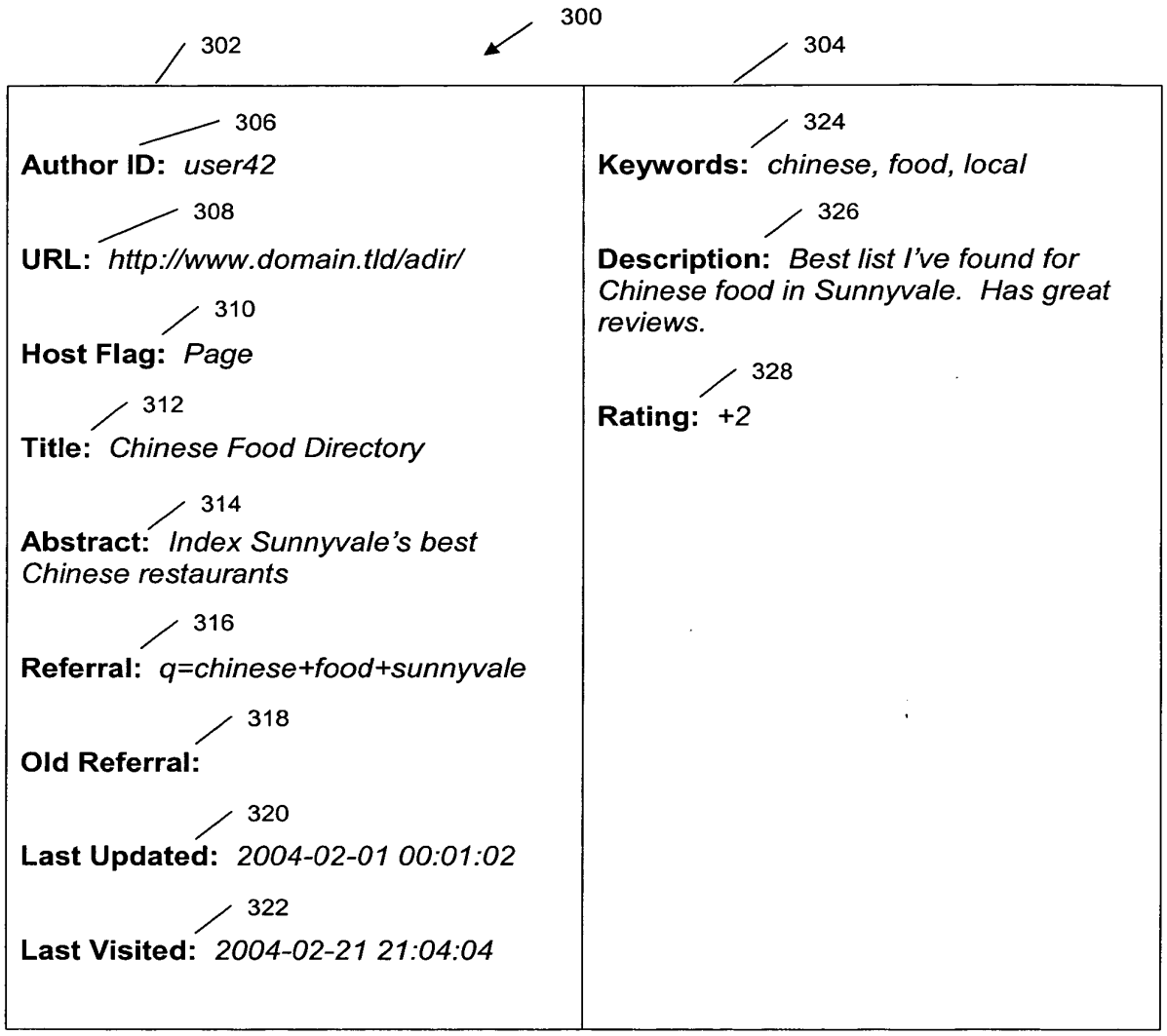

300
302
304
306
Author ID: user42
308
URL: http://www.domain.tld/adir/
310
Host Flag: Page
312
Title: Chinese Food Directory
314
Abstract: Index Sunnyvale's best Chinese restaurants
316
Referral: q=chinese+food+sunnyvale
318
Old Referral:
320
Last Updated: 2004-02-01 00:01:02
322
Last Visited: 2004-02-21 21:04:04
324
Keywords: chinese, food, local
326
Description: Best list I've found for Chinese food in Sunnyvale. Has great reviews.
328
Rating: +2

FIG. 3

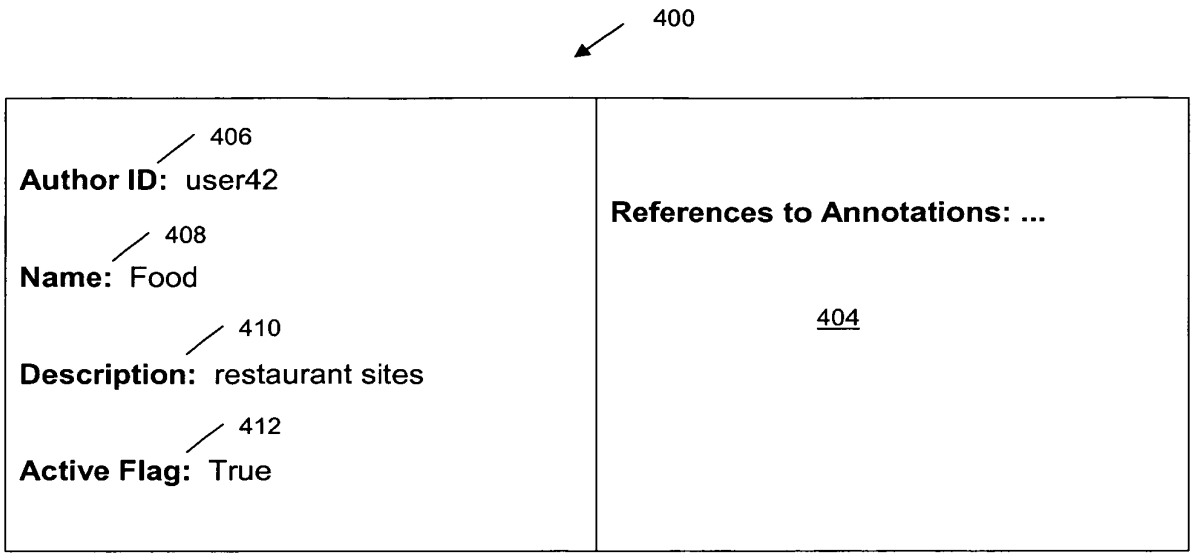

400
406
Author ID: user42
408
Name: Food
410
Description: restaurant sites
412
Active Flag: True
References to Annotations: ...
404

FIG. 4

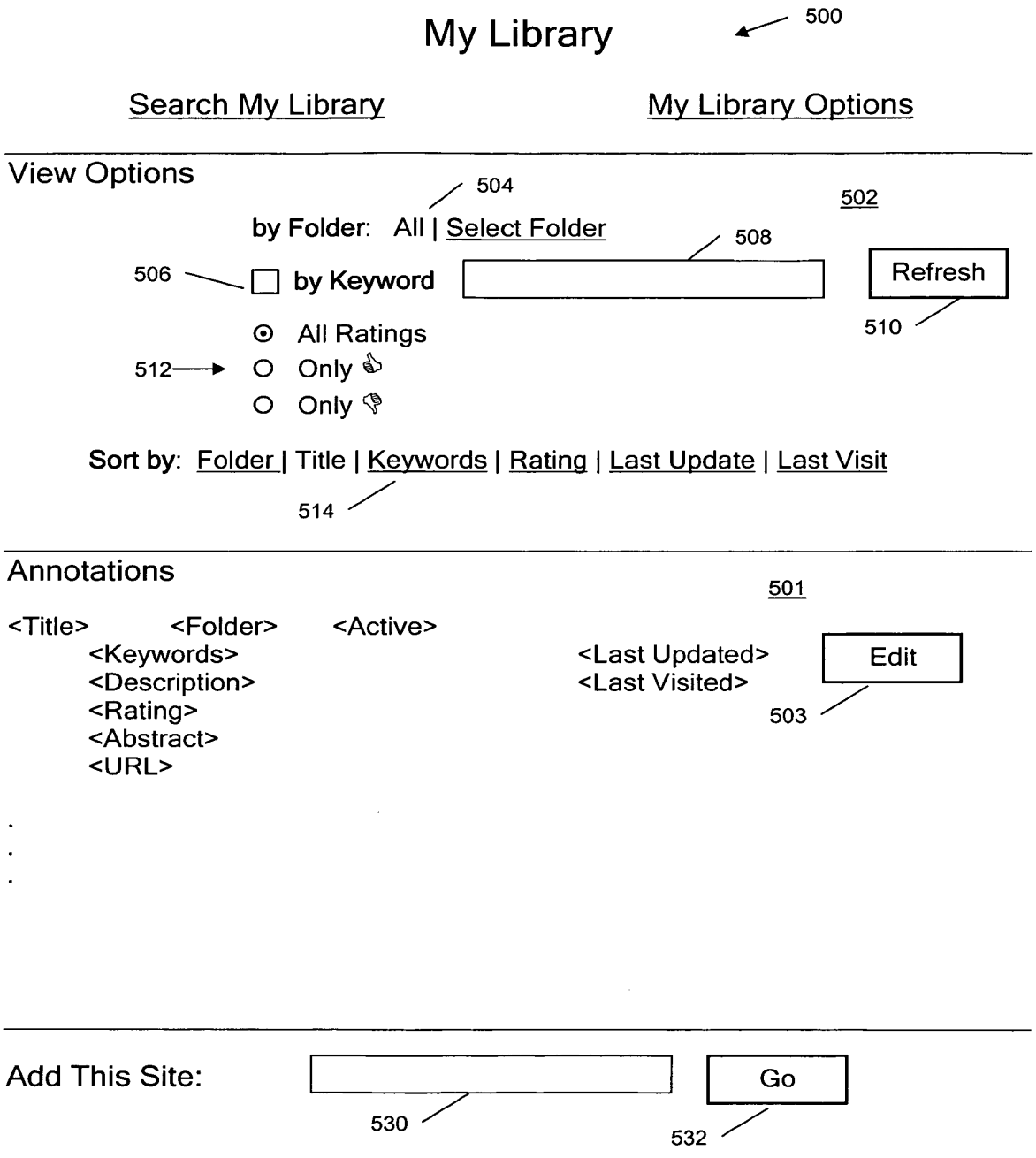

My Library
500
Search My Library
My Library Options
View Options
504
502
by Folder: All | Select Folder
508
506
by Keyword
Refresh
510
All Ratings
512
Only
Only
Sort by: Folder | Title | Keywords | Rating | Last Update | Last Visit
514
Annotations
501
<Title> <Folder> <Active>
<Keywords>
<Description>
<Rating>
<Abstract>
<URL>
<Last Updated>
<Last Visited>
Edit
503
Add This Site:
Go
530
532

FIG. 5

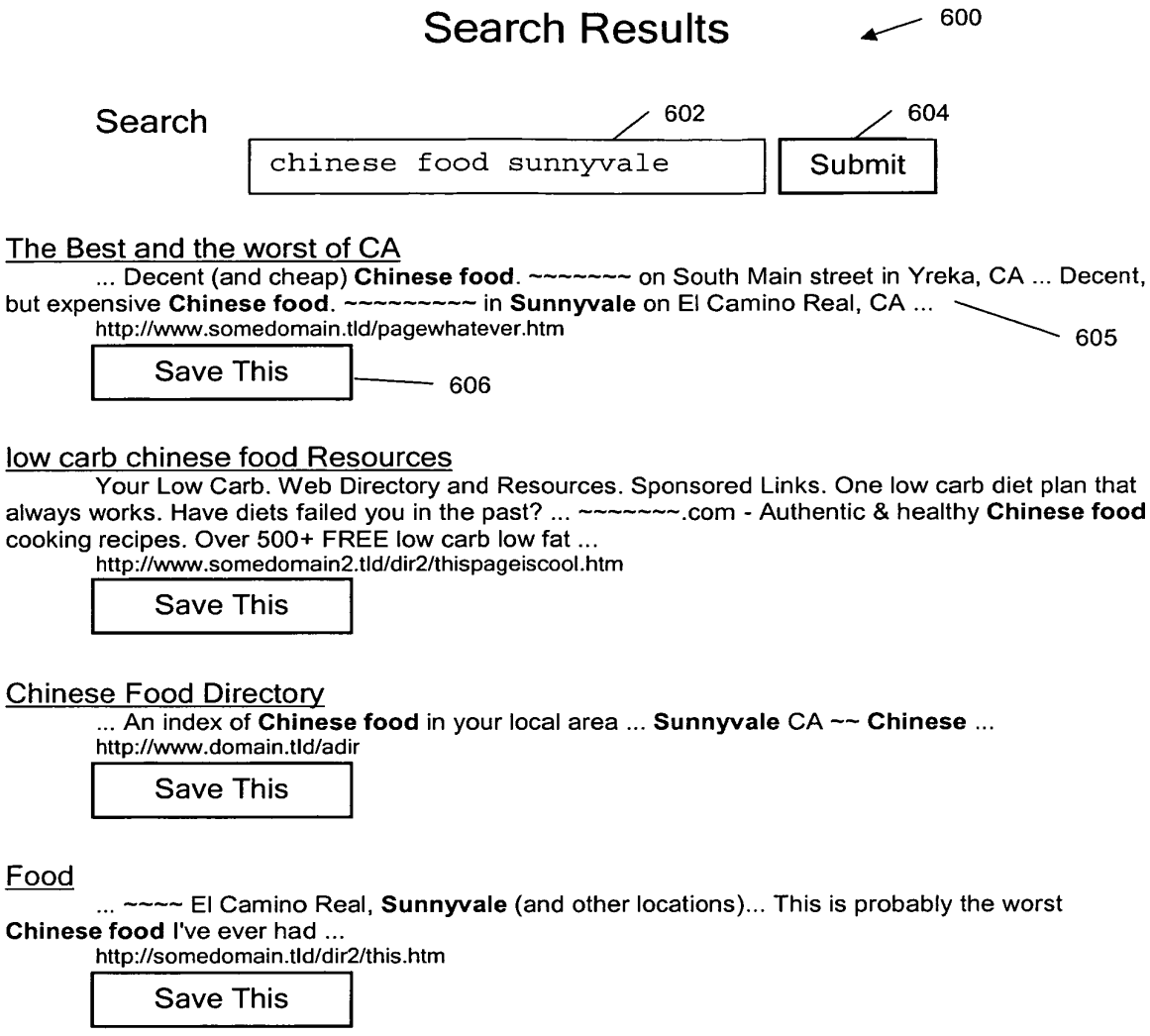

Search Results
600
Search
602
604
chinese food sunnyvale
Submit
The Best and the worst of CA
... Decent (and cheap) Chinese food. ~~~~~~~ on South Main street in Yreka, CA ... Decent, but expensive Chinese food. ~~~~~~~~~ in Sunnyvale on El Camino Real, CA ...
605
http://www.somedomain.tld/pagewhatever.htm
Save This
606
low carb chinese food Resources
Your Low Carb. Web Directory and Resources. Sponsored Links. One low carb diet plan that always works. Have diets failed you in the past? ... ~~~~~~~.com - Authentic & healthy Chinese food cooking recipes. Over 500+ FREE low carb low fat ...
http://www.somedomain2.tld/dir2/thispageiscool.htm
Save This
Chinese Food Directory
... An index of Chinese food in your local area ... Sunnyvale CA ~~ Chinese ...
http://www.domain.tld/adir
Save This
Food
... ~~~~ El Camino Real, Sunnyvale (and other locations)... This is probably the worst Chinese food I've ever had ...
http://somedomain.tld/dir2/this.htm
Save This

FIG. 6

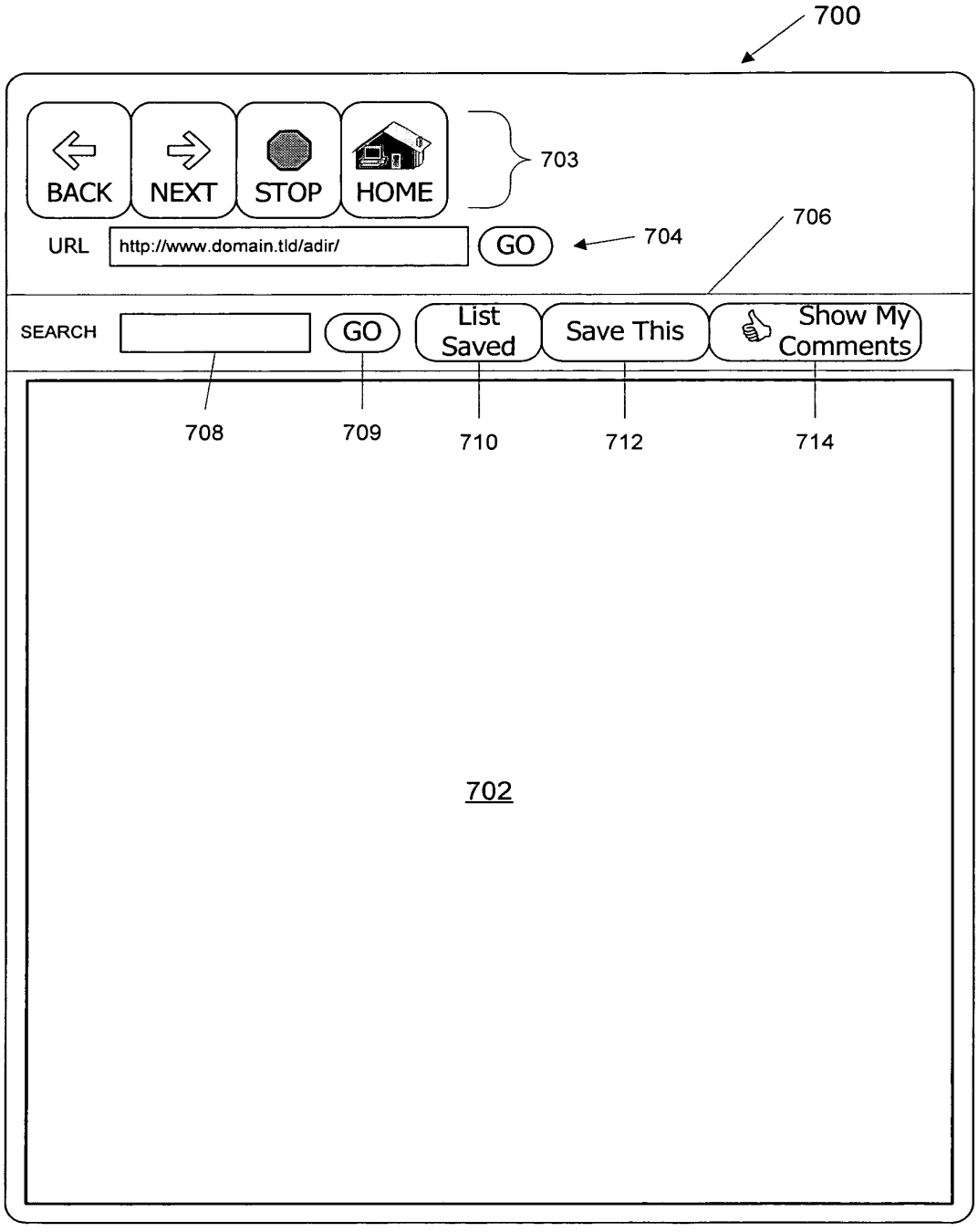

700
BACK
NEXT
STOP
HOME
703
URL
http://www.domain.tld/adir/
GO
704
706
SEARCH
GO
List Saved
Save This
Show My Comments
708
709
710
712
714
702

FIG. 7

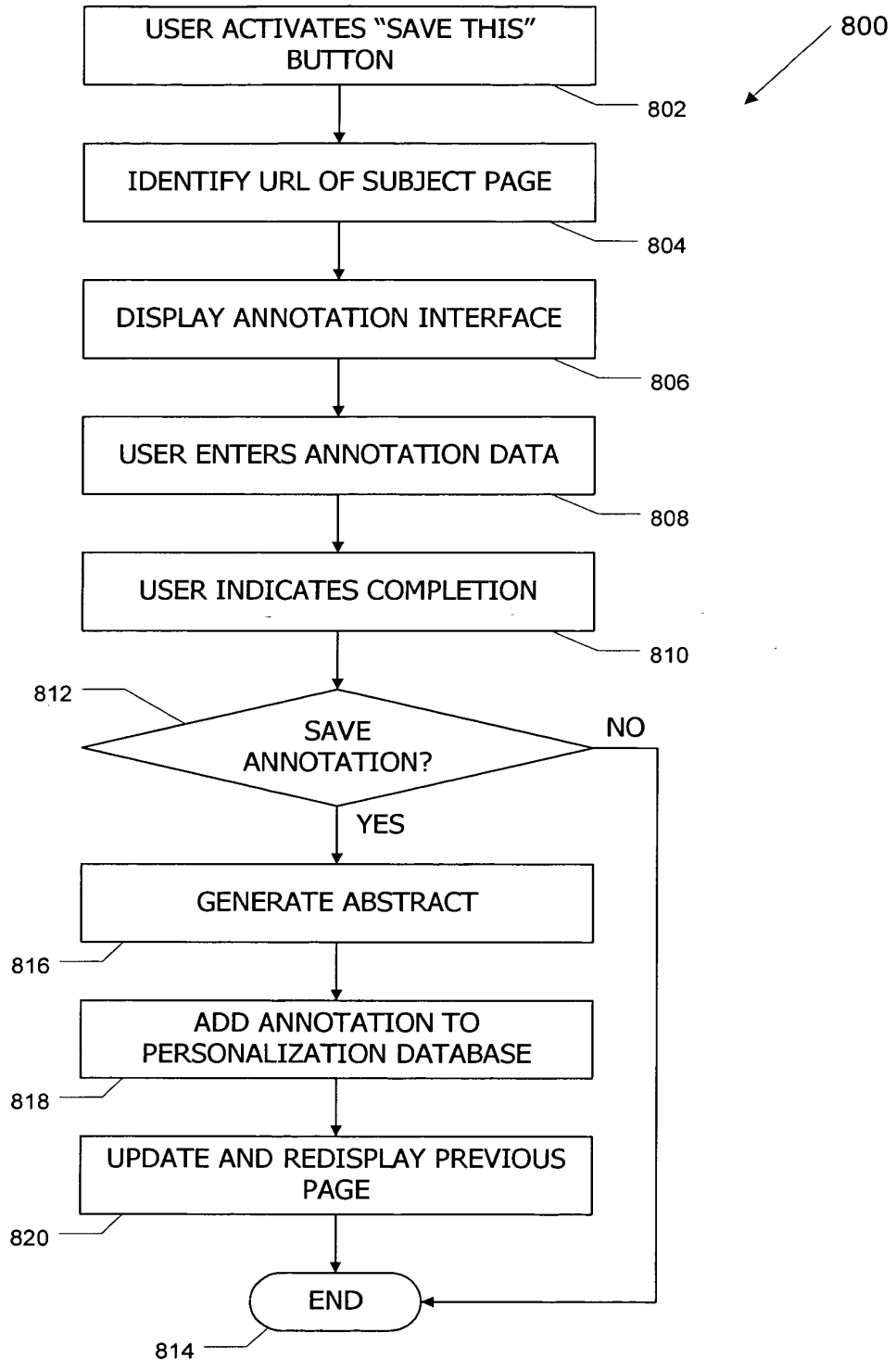

800
USER ACTIVATES "SAVE THIS" BUTTON
802
IDENTIFY URL OF SUBJECT PAGE
804
DISPLAY ANNOTATION INTERFACE
806
USER ENTERS ANNOTATION DATA
808
USER INDICATES COMPLETION
810
812
SAVE ANNOTATION?
NO
YES
GENERATE ABSTRACT
816
ADD ANNOTATION TO PERSONALIZATION DATABASE
818
UPDATE AND REDISPLAY PREVIOUS PAGE
820
END
814

FIG. 8

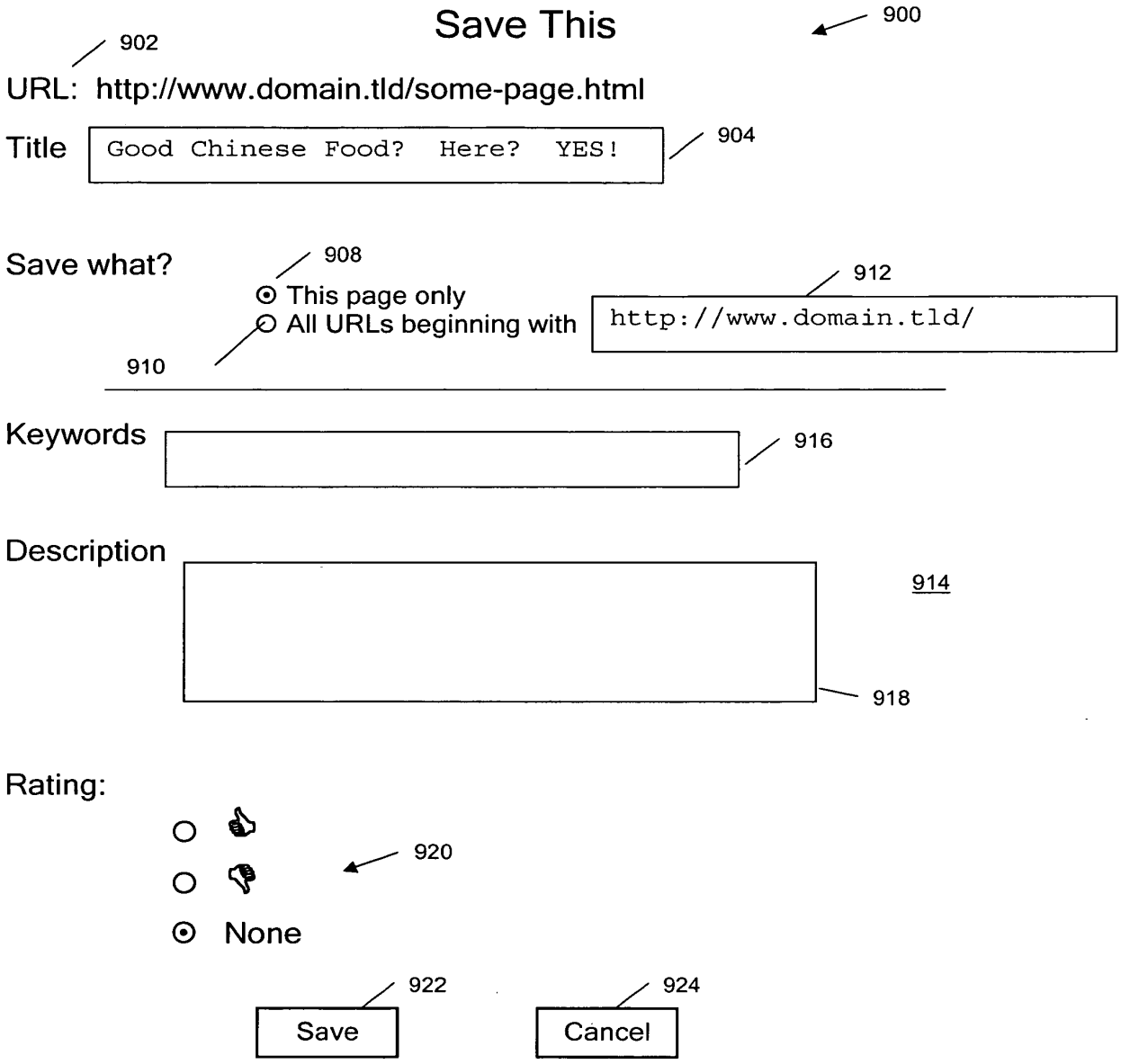
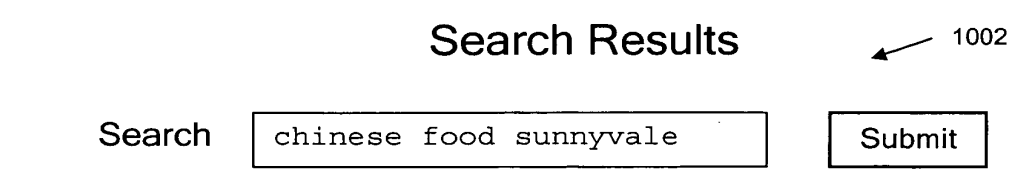

Save This
900
902
URL: http://www.domain.tld/some-page.html
Title
Good Chinese Food? Here? YES!
904
Save what?
908
This page only
All URLs beginning with
912
http://www.domain.tld/
910
Keywords
916
Description
914
918
Rating:
920
None
922
Save
924
Cancel

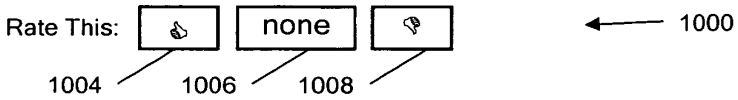
FIG. 9



The Best and the worst of CA

... Decent (and cheap) **Chinese food**. ~~~~~~~ on South Main street in Yreka, CA ... Decent, but expensive **Chinese food**. ~~~~~~~~~ in **Sunnyvale** on El Camino Real, CA ...

http://www.somedomain.tld/pagewhatever.htm



low carb chinese food Resources

Your Low Carb. Web Directory and Resources. Sponsored Links. One low carb diet plan that always works. Have diets failed you in the past? ... ~~~~~~~.com - Authentic & healthy **Chinese food** cooking recipes. Over 500+ FREE low carb low fat ...

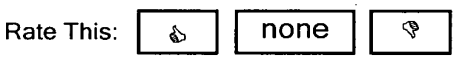
http://www.somedomain2.tld/dir2/thispageiscool.htm



Chinese Food Directory

... An index of **Chinese food** in your local area ... **Sunnyvale** CA ~~ **Chinese** ...

http://www.domain.tld/adir



Food

... ~~~~ El Camino Real, **Sunnyvale** (and other locations)... This is probably the worst **Chinese food** I've ever had ...

http://somedomain.tld/dir2/this.htm



FIG. 10

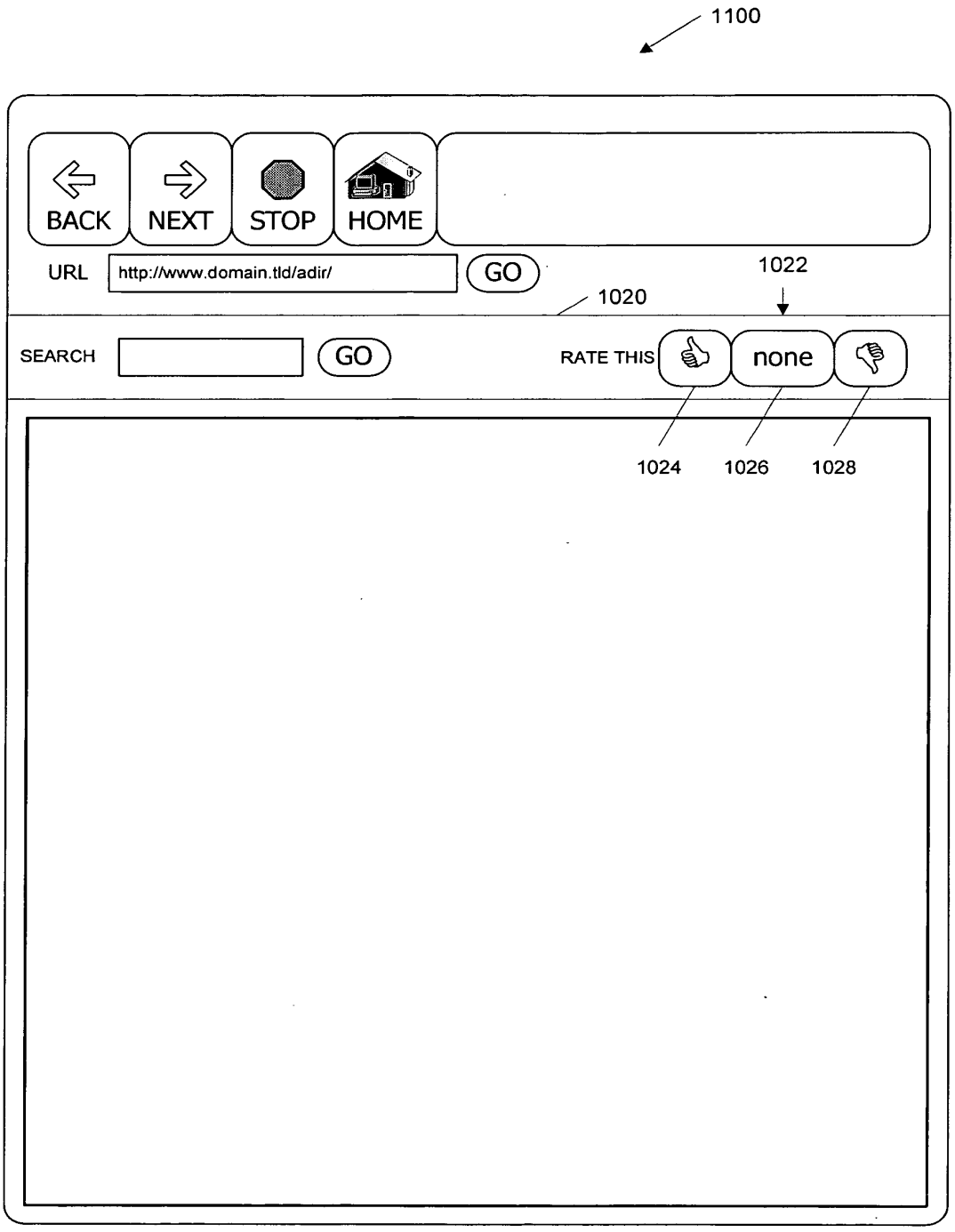

1100
BACK
NEXT
STOP
HOME
URL
http://www.domain.tld/adir/
GO
1022
1020
SEARCH
GO
RATE THIS
none
1024
1026
1028

FIG. 11

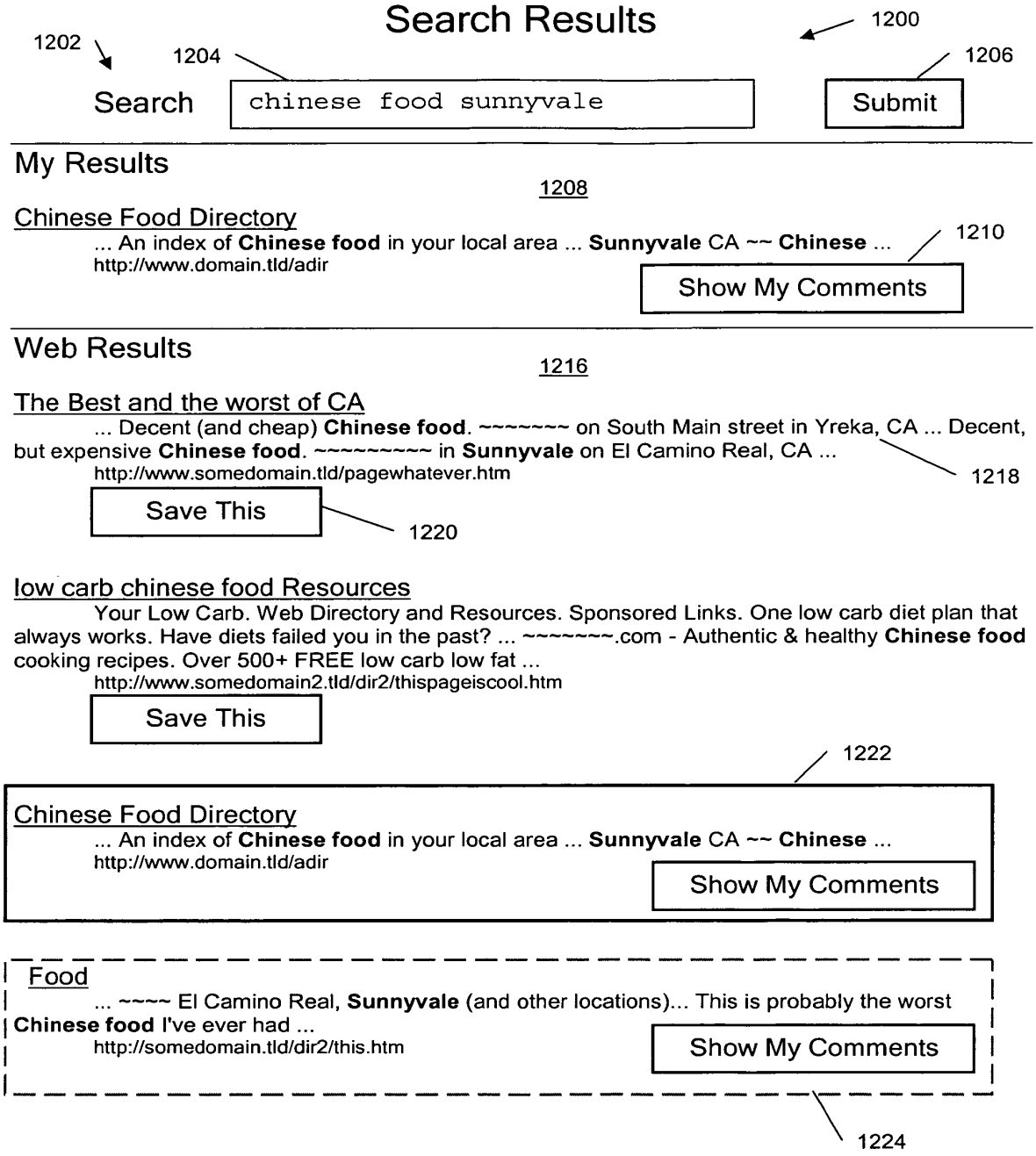

Search Results
1200
1202
1204
1206
Search
chinese food sunnyvale
Submit
My Results
1208
Chinese Food Directory
... An index of **Chinese food** in your local area ... **Sunnyvale** CA ~~ **Chinese** ...
http://www.domain.tld/adir
1210
Show My Comments
Web Results
1216
The Best and the worst of CA
... Decent (and cheap) **Chinese food**. ~~~~~~~ on South Main street in Yreka, CA ... Decent, but expensive **Chinese food**. ~~~~~~~~~ in **Sunnyvale** on El Camino Real, CA ...
http://www.somedomain.tld/pagewhatever.htm
1218
Save This
1220
low carb chinese food Resources
Your Low Carb. Web Directory and Resources. Sponsored Links. One low carb diet plan that always works. Have diets failed you in the past? ... ~~~~~~~.com - Authentic & healthy **Chinese food** cooking recipes. Over 500+ FREE low carb low fat ...
http://www.somedomain2.tld/dir2/thispageiscool.htm
Save This
1222
Chinese Food Directory
... An index of **Chinese food** in your local area ... **Sunnyvale** CA ~~ **Chinese** ...
http://www.domain.tld/adir
Show My Comments
Food
... ~~~~ El Camino Real, **Sunnyvale** (and other locations)... This is probably the worst **Chinese food** I've ever had ...
http://somedomain.tld/dir2/this.htm
Show My Comments
1224

FIG. 12

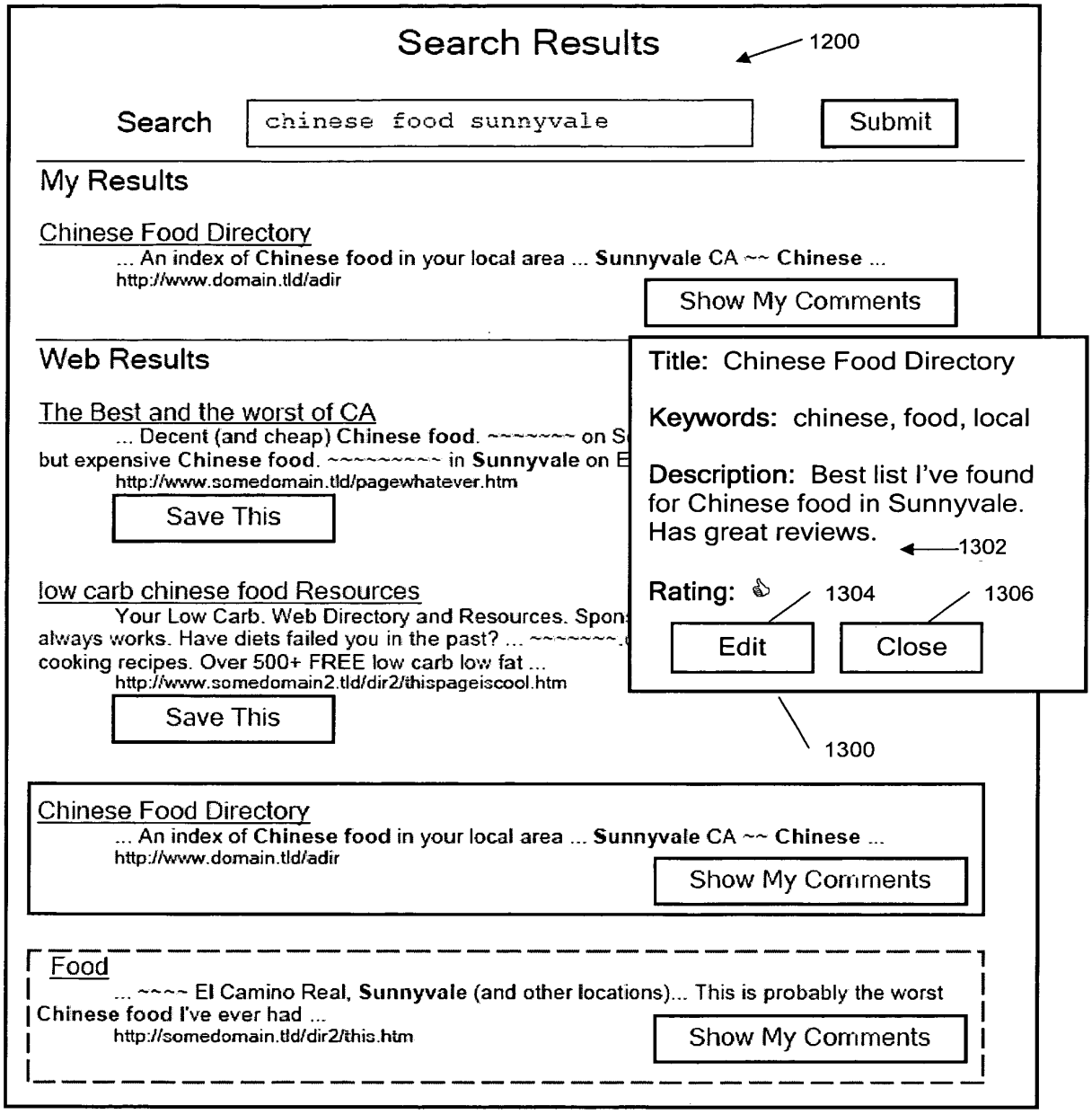

Search Results
1200
Search
chinese food sunnyvale
Submit
My Results
Chinese Food Directory
... An index of Chinese food in your local area ... Sunnyvale CA ~~ Chinese ...
http://www.domain.tld/adir
Show My Comments
Web Results
The Best and the worst of CA
... Decent (and cheap) Chinese food. ~~~~~~~ on S
but expensive Chinese food. ~~~~~~~~~ in Sunnyvale on E
http://www.somedomain.tld/pagewhatever.htm
Save This
low carb chinese food Resources
Your Low Carb. Web Directory and Resources. Spon
always works. Have diets failed you in the past? ... ~~~~~~~.
cooking recipes. Over 500+ FREE low carb low fat ...
http://www.somedomain2.tld/dir2/thispageiscool.htm
Save This
Title: Chinese Food Directory
Keywords: chinese, food, local
Description: Best list I've found for Chinese food in Sunnyvale. Has great reviews.
1302
Rating:
1304
1306
Edit
Close
1300
Chinese Food Directory
... An index of Chinese food in your local area ... Sunnyvale CA ~~ Chinese ...
http://www.domain.tld/adir
Show My Comments
Food
... ~~~~ El Camino Real, Sunnyvale (and other locations)... This is probably the worst Chinese food I've ever had ...
http://somedomain.tld/dir2/this.htm
Show My Comments

FIG. 13

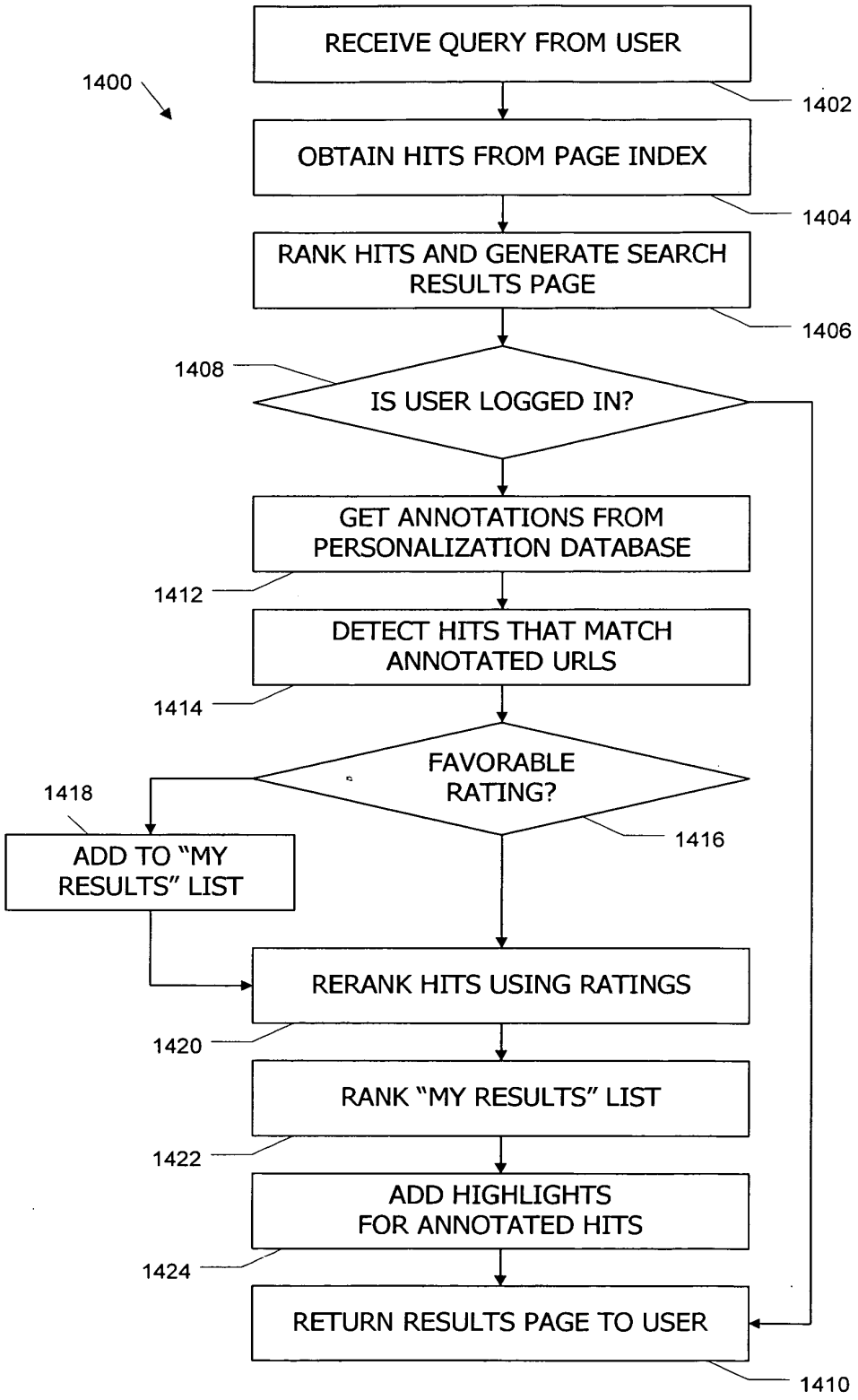

1400
RECEIVE QUERY FROM USER
1402
OBTAIN HITS FROM PAGE INDEX
1404
RANK HITS AND GENERATE SEARCH RESULTS PAGE
1406
1408
IS USER LOGGED IN?
GET ANNOTATIONS FROM PERSONALIZATION DATABASE
1412
DETECT HITS THAT MATCH ANNOTATED URLS
1414
FAVORABLE RATING?
1416
1418
ADD TO "MY RESULTS" LIST
RERANK HITS USING RATINGS
1420
RANK "MY RESULTS" LIST
1422
ADD HIGHLIGHTS FOR ANNOTATED HITS
1424
RETURN RESULTS PAGE TO USER
1410

FIG. 14

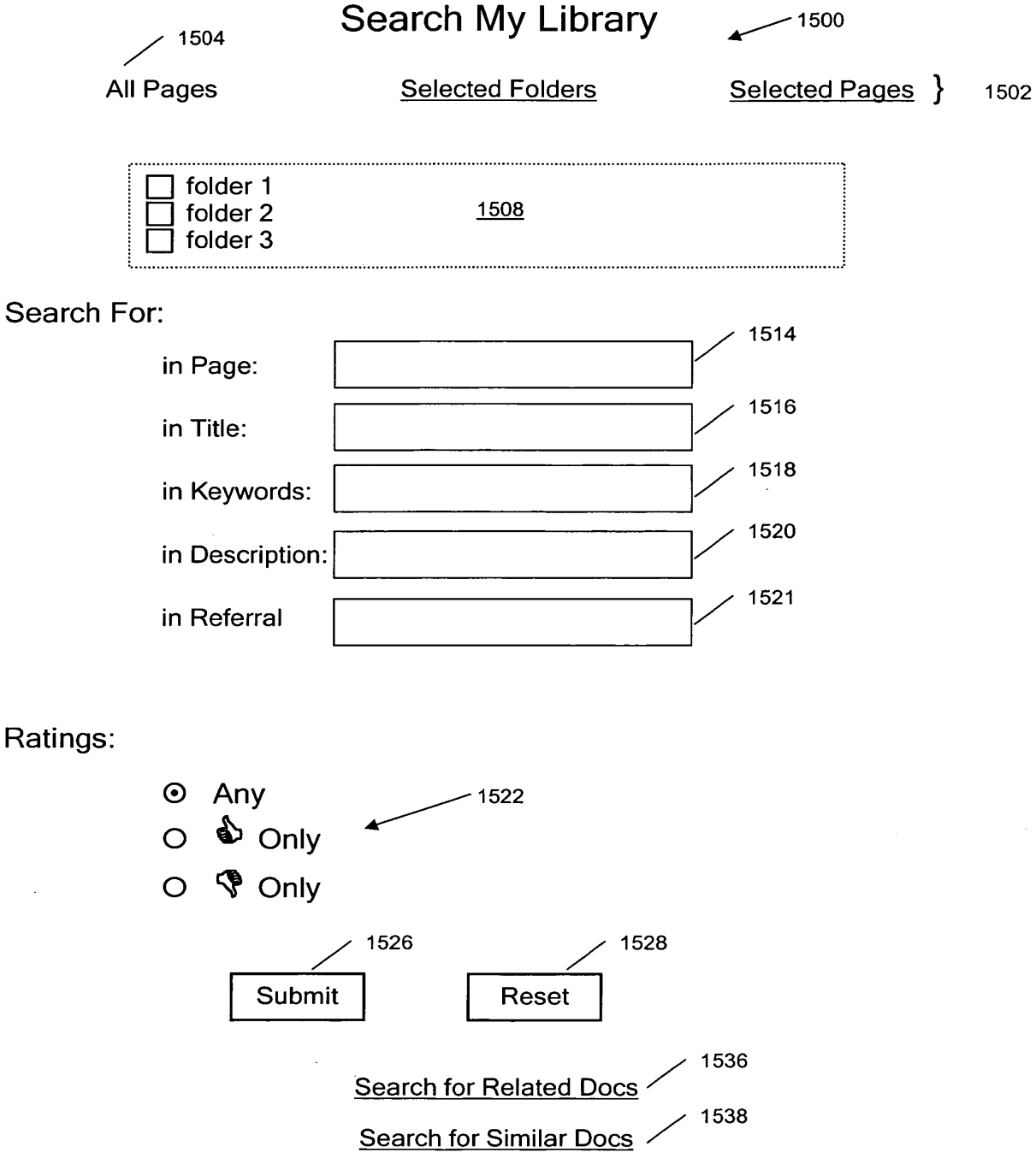

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FIG. 15

Application Data Sheet

Application Information

Application number::	
Filing Date::	03/15/05
Application Type::	Regular
Subject Matter::	Utility
Suggested classification::	
Suggested Group Art Unit::	
CD-ROM or CD-R??::	
Number of CD disks::	
Number of copies of CDs::	
Sequence Submission::	
Computer Readable Form (CRF)?::	
Number of copies of CRF::	
Title::	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS
Attorney Docket Number::	017887-013720US
Request for Early Publication::	No
Request for Non-Publication::	No
Suggested Drawing Figure::	
Total Drawing Sheets::	15
Small Entity?::	No
Latin name::	
Variety denomination name::	
Petition included?::	No
Petition Type::	
Licensed US Govt. Agency::	
Contract or Grant Numbers One::	
Secrecy Order in Parent Appl.::	No

Applicant Information

Applicant Authority Type::	Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country::	Germany
Status::	Full Capacity
Given Name::	Eckart
Middle Name::	
Family Name::	Walther
Name Suffix::	
City of Residence::	Palo Alto
State or Province of Residence::	CA
Country of Residence::	US
Street of Mailing Address::	1230 Parkinson Avenue
City of Mailing Address::	Palo Alto
State or Province of mailing address::	CA
Country of mailing address::	US
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	94301

Applicant Authority Type::	Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country::	US
Status::	Full Capacity
Given Name::	Qi
Middle Name::	
Family Name::	Lu
Name Suffix::	
City of Residence::	Saratoga
State or Province of Residence::	CA
Country of Residence::	US
Street of Mailing Address::	20847 Russell Lane
City of Mailing Address::	Saratoga
State or Province of mailing address::	CA

Country of mailing address::	US
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	95070

Applicant Authority Type::	Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country::	US
Status::	Full Capacity
Given Name::	David
Middle Name::	
Family Name::	Ku
Name Suffix::	
City of Residence::	Palo Alto
State or Province of Residence::	CA
Country of Residence::	US
Street of Mailing Address::	420 Hale Street
City of Mailing Address::	Palo Alto
State or Province of mailing address::	CA
Country of mailing address::	US
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	94031

Applicant Authority Type::	Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country::	US
Status::	Full Capacity
Given Name::	Kevin
Middle Name::	
Family Name::	Lee
Name Suffix::	
City of Residence::	East Palo Alto
State or Province of Residence::	CA
Country of Residence::	US
Street of Mailing Address::	905 Oakes Street
City of Mailing Address::	East Palo Alto

State or Province of mailing address::	CA
Country of mailing address::	US
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	94303

Applicant Authority Type::	Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country::	US
Status::	Full Capacity
Given Name::	Chung-Man
Middle Name::	
Family Name::	Tam
Name Suffix::	
City of Residence::	San Francisco
State or Province of Residence::	CA
Country of Residence::	US
Street of Mailing Address::	15 San Antonio Place #102
City of Mailing Address::	San Francisco
State or Province of mailing address::	CA
Country of mailing address::	US
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	94133

Applicant Authority Type::	Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country::	US
Status::	Full Capacity
Given Name::	Ali
Middle Name::	
Family Name::	Diab
Name Suffix::	
City of Residence::	Menlo Park
State or Province of Residence::	CA
Country of Residence::	US
Street of Mailing Address::	1204 SharonPark Drive #82

City of Mailing Address::	Menlo Park
State or Province of mailing address::	CA
Country of mailing address::	US
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	94025

Correspondence Information

Correspondence Customer Number::	20350

Representative Information

Representative Customer Number::	20350

Domestic Priority Information

Application::	Continuity Type::	Parent Application::	Parent Filing Date::
This Application	An Appn claiming benefit under 35 USC 119(e) of	60/614,232	09/28/04
	An Appn claiming benefit under 35 USC 119(e) of	60/553,607	03/15/04

Foreign Priority Information

Country::	Application number::	Filing Date::

Assignee Information

Assignee Name::	
Street of mailing address::	
City of mailing address::	
State or Province of mailing address::	
Country of mailing address::	
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD
Effective December 8, 2004

Application or Docket Number: 11881860

CLAIMS AS FILED - PART I

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)
TOTAL CLAIMS	41	
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA
TOTAL CHARGEABLE CLAIMS	41 minus 20=	* 21
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	4 minus 3 =	* 1
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT		☐

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2

SMALL ENTITY TYPE ☐		OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	FEE		RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE		OR	BASIC FEE	300.00
X$ 25=		OR	X$50=	1050.00
X100=		OR	X200=	200.00
+180=		OR	+360=	
TOTAL		OR	TOTAL	1550.00

CLAIMS AS AMENDED - PART II

AMENDMENT A	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA
Total	*	Minus	**	=
Independent	*	Minus	***	=
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				☐

SMALL ENTITY		OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X$ 25=		OR	X$50=	
X100=		OR	X200=	
+180=		OR	+360=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

AMENDMENT B	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA
Total	*	Minus	**	=
Independent	*	Minus	***	=
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				☐

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X$ 25=		OR	X$50=	
X100=		OR	X200=	
+180=		OR	+360=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

AMENDMENT C	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA
Total	*	Minus	**	=
Independent	*	Minus	***	=
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				☐

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X$ 25=		OR	X$50=	
X100=		OR	X200=	
+180=		OR	+360=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.
** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20."
***If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3."
The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	017887-013720US

CONFIRMATION NO. 1892

20350
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
EIGHTH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

FORMALITIES LETTER

OC000000015724802

Date Mailed: 04/14/2005

NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)

Filing Date Granted

Items Required To Avoid Abandonment:

An application number and filing date have been accorded to this application. The item(s) indicated below, however, are missing. Applicant is given **TWO MONTHS** from the date of this Notice within which to file all required items and pay any fees required below to avoid abandonment. Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- The statutory basic filing fee is missing.
  Applicant must submit $ **300** *to complete the basic filing fee for a non-small entity. If appropriate, applicant may make a written assertion of entitlement to small entity status and pay the small entity filing fee (37 CFR 1.27).*
- The oath or declaration is missing. *A properly signed oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63, identifying the application by the above Application Number and Filing Date, is required.*
  Note: If a petition under 37 CFR 1.47 is being filed, an oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63 signed by all available joint inventors, or if no inventor is available by a party with sufficient proprietary interest, is required.
- To avoid abandonment, a late filing fee or oath or declaration surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(f) of $130 for a non-small entity, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.

The applicant needs to satisfy supplemental fees problems indicated below.

The required item(s) identified below must be timely submitted to avoid abandonment:

- Additional claim fees of $**1250** as a non-small entity, including any required multiple dependent claim fee, are required. Applicant must submit the additional claim fees or cancel the additional claims for which fees are due.

SUMMARY OF FEES DUE:

Total additional fee(s) required for this application is $**2380** for a Large Entity

- **$300** Statutory basic filing fee.
- **$130** Late oath or declaration Surcharge.

- The application search fee has not been paid. Applicant must submit **$500** to complete the search fee.
- The application examination fee has not been paid. Applicant must submit **$200** to complete the examination fee for a large entity

- Total additional claim fee(s) for this application is **$1250**

  - **$200** for **1** independent claims over 3.
  - **$1050** for **21** total claims over 20.

Replies should be mailed to: Mail Stop Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

A copy of this notice MUST be returned with the reply.

Office of Initial Patent Examination (703) 308-1202

PART 3 - OFFICE COPY

OIPE JC42 JUN 29 2005

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	017887-013720US

CONFIRMATION NO. 1892

20350
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
EIGHTH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

FORMALITIES LETTER

OC000000015724802

Date Mailed: 04/14/2005

NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)

Filing Date Granted

06/30/2005 SHASSEN1 00000014 201430 11081860

01 FC:1011	300.00 DA
02 FC:1051	130.00 DA
03 FC:1111	500.00 DA
04 FC:1311	200.00 DA
05 FC:1202	1050.00 DA
06 FC:1201	200.00 DA

Items Required To Avoid Abandonment:

An application number and filing date have been accorded to this application. The item(s) indicated below, however, are missing. Applicant is given **TWO MONTHS** from the date of this Notice within which to file all required items and pay any fees required below to avoid abandonment. Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- The statutory basic filing fee is missing.
  Applicant must submit $ **300** *to complete the basic filing fee for a non-small entity. If appropriate, applicant may make a written assertion of entitlement to small entity status and pay the small entity filing fee (37 CFR 1.27).*
- The oath or declaration is missing. *A properly signed oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63, identifying the application by the above Application Number and Filing Date, is required.*
  Note: If a petition under 37 CFR 1.47 is being filed, an oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63 signed by all available joint inventors, or if no inventor is available by a party with sufficient proprietary interest, is required.
- To avoid abandonment, a late filing fee or oath or declaration surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(f) of $130 for a non-small entity, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.

The applicant needs to satisfy supplemental fees problems indicated below.

The required item(s) identified below must be timely submitted to avoid abandonment:

- Additional claim fees of $**1250** as a non-small entity, including any required multiple dependent claim fee, are required. Applicant must submit the additional claim fees or cancel the additional claims for which fees are due.

SUMMARY OF FEES DUE:

Total additional fee(s) required for this application is $**2380** for a Large Entity

- **$300** Statutory basic filing fee.
- **$130** Late oath or declaration Surcharge.

- The application search fee has not been paid. Applicant must submit **$500** to complete the search fee.
- The application examination fee has not been paid. Applicant must submit **$200** to complete the examination fee for a large entity

- Total additional claim fee(s) for this application is **$1250**

  - **$200** for **1** independent claims over 3.
  - **$1050** for **21** total claims over 20.

Replies should be mailed to: Mail Stop Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

A copy of this notice MUST be returned with the reply.

Jena Jones

Office of Initial Patent Examination (703) 308-1202

PART 2 - COPY TO BE RETURNED WITH RESPONSE

JUN 29 2005 JC42 3
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PTO/SB/17 (12-04)

Effective on 12/08/2004.
Fees pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. 4818).

FEE TRANSMITTAL
For FY 2005

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT	($) 2380

Complete if Known	
Application Number	11/081,860
Filing Date	March 15, 2005
First Named Inventor	Lu, Qi
Examiner Name	To be assigned
Art Unit	2161
Attorney Docket No.	017887-013720US

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Money Order ☐ None ☐ Other (please identify): _____

☒ Deposit Account Deposit Account Number: 20-1430 Deposit Account Name: Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP

For the above-identified deposit account, the Director is hereby authorized to: (check all that apply)

☒ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, **except for the filing fee**

☒ Charge any additional fee(s) or underpayments of fee(s) under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 ☒ Credit any overpayments

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FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING, SEARCH, AND EXAMINATION FEES

Application Type	FILING FEES Fee ($)	FILING FEES Small Entity Fee ($)	SEARCH FEES Fee ($)	SEARCH FEES Small Entity Fee ($)	EXAMINATION FEES Fee ($)	EXAMINATION FEES Small Entity Fee ($)	Fees Paid ($)
Utility	300	150	500	250	200	100	1000
Design	200	100	100	50	130	65	
Plant	200	100	300	150	160	80	
Reissue	300	150	500	250	600	300	
Provisional	200	100	0	0	0	0	

2. EXCESS CLAIM FEES

Fee Description	Small Entity Fee ($)	Small Entity Fee ($)
Each claim over 20 or, for Reissues, each claim over 20 and more than in the original patent	50	25
Each independent claim over 3 or, for Reissues, each independent claim more than in the original patent	200	100
Multiple dependent claims	360	180

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee ($)	Fee Paid ($)
41	-20 or HP = 21	x $50	= $1,050

HP = highest number of total claims paid for, if greater than 20

Indep. Claims	Extra Claims	Fee ($)	Fee Paid ($)
4	-3 or HP = 1	x $200	= $200

HP = highest number of independent claims paid for, if greater than 3

Multiple Dependent Claims Fee ($)	Fee Paid ($)

3. APPLICATION SIZE FEE

If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).

Total Sheets	Extra Sheets	Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof	Fee ($)	Fee Paid ($)
_____ - 100 =	_____ / 50 =	_____ (round up to a whole number)	x _____	= _____

4. OTHER FEE(S)

	Fees Paid ($)
Non-English Specification, $130 fee (no small entity discount)	
Other: Late Oath or Declaration surcharge	130

SUBMITTED BY

Signature		Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 51,588	Telephone 650-326-2400
Name (Print/Type)	Cathy E. Cretsinger		Date June 27, 2005

60523984 v1

OIPE JC42 JUN 29 2005 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission	

Application Number	11/081,860
Filing Date	March 15, 2005
First Named Inventor	Lu, Qi
Art Unit	2161
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	017887-013720US

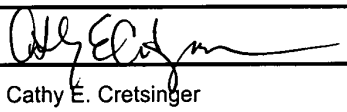
ENCLOSURES *(Check all that apply)*

- ☒ Fee Transmittal Form
  - ☐ Fee Attached
- ☐ Amendment/Reply
  - ☐ After Final
  - ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)
- ☒ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☒ Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
  - ☒ Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53
- ☐ Drawing(s)
- ☐ Licensing-related Papers
- ☐ Petition
- ☐ Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
- ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address
- ☐ Terminal Disclaimer
- ☐ Request for Refund
- ☐ CD, Number of CD(s) _____
  - ☐ Landscape Table on CD
- ☐ After Allowance Communication to TC
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
- ☐ Appeal Communication to TC **(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)**
- ☐ Proprietary Information
- ☐ Status Letter
- ☒ Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):

1. Copy of Notice to File Missing Parts of Nonprovisional Application, 2. Declaration For Utility or Design Application, 3. Supplemental ADS; 4. Statement Under 37 CFR 3.73(b) with copy of Assignment; 5. Power of Attorney to Prosecute Application before the PTO, and 6. Return Postcard

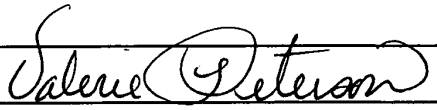
Remarks The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 20-1430.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	Cathy E. Cretsinger		
Date	June 27, 2005	Reg. No.	51,588

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Signature			
Typed or printed name	Valerie Peterson	Date	June 27, 2005

60523967 v1

OIPE JC42 JUN 29 2005 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) FY 2005 *(Fees pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. 4818).)*	Docket Number (Optional) 017887-013720US
Application Number 11/081,860	Filed March 15, 2005
For SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS	
Art Unit 2161	Examiner

This is a request under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above identified application.

The requested extension and fee are as follows (check time period desired and enter the appropriate fee below):

	Fee	Small Entity Fee	
☒ One month (37 CFR 1.17(a)(1))	$120	$60	$ 120
☐ Two months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(2))	$450	$225	$
☐ Three months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(3))	$1020	$510	$
☐ Four months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(4))	$1590	$795	$
☐ Five months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(5))	$2160	$1080	$

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

06/30/2005 SHASSEN1 00000015 201430 11081860
01 FC:1251 120.00 DA

☐ A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☒ The Director has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account.

☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 20-1430. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed (Form PTO/SB/96).

☒ attorney or agent of record. Registration Number 51,588

☐ attorney or agent under 37 CFR 1.34.
Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____

Signature — June 27, 2005 (Date)

Cathy E. Cretsinger, Reg. No. 51,588 (Typed or printed name) — (650) 326-2400 (Telephone Number)

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☐ Total of _____ forms are submitted.

60523972 v1

OIPE
JUN 29 2005
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: 017887-013720US
Client Ref. No.:

PTO/SB/01A (09-04)

DECLARATION (37 CFR 1.63) FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN APPLICATION USING AN APPLICATION DATA SHEET (37 CFR 1.76)

Title of Invention	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

As the below named inventor(s), I/we declare that:

This declaration is directed to:

☐ The attached application, or

☒ Application No. 11/081,860, filed on March 15, 2005,

☐ as amended on _____ (if applicable);

I/we believe that I/we am/are the original and first inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought;

I/we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above;

I/we acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me/us to be material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

All statements made herein of my/our own knowledge are true, all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

FULL NAME OF INVENTOR(S)

Inventor one: Eckart Walther — Date: 6/13/05
Signature: _____ — Citizen of: Germany

Inventor two: Qi Lu — Date: 6/19/05
Signature: _____ — Citizen of: United States

Inventor three: David Ku — Date: 6/13/05
Signature: _____ — Citizen of: United States

Inventor four: Kevin Lee — Date: 6/23/05
Signature: _____ — Citizen of: United States

☒ Additional inventors or a legal representative are being named on _____ additional form(s) attached hereto.

60473386 v1

Attorney Docket No.: 017887-013720US
Client Ref. No.:

PTO/SB/01A (09-04)

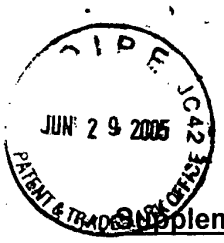
DECLARATION (37 CFR 1.63) FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN APPLICATION USING AN APPLICATION DATA SHEET (37 CFR 1.76) – ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)

Supplemental Sheet

(Total of 1 forms are submitted.)

FULL NAME OF INVENTOR(S)	
Inventor five: Chung-Man Tam	Date: 6/10/05
Signature:	Citizen of: United States
Inventor six: Ali Diab	Date: 6/22/05
Signature:	Citizen of: United States
Inventor seven:	Date:
Signature:	Citizen of:
Inventor eight:	Date:
Signature:	Citizen of:

60473386 v1



Supplemental Application Data Sheet

Application Information

Application number::	11/081,860
Filing Date::	03/15/05
Application Type::	Regular
Subject Matter::	Utility
Suggested classification::	
Suggested Group Art Unit::	
CD-ROM or CD-R??::	
Number of CD disks::	
Number of copies of CDs::	
Sequence Submission::	
Computer Readable Form (CRF)?::	
Number of copies of CRF::	
Title::	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS
Attorney Docket Number::	017887-013720US
Request for Early Publication::	No
Request for Non-Publication::	No
Suggested Drawing Figure::	
Total Drawing Sheets::	15
Small Entity?::	No
Latin name::	
Variety denomination name::	
Petition included?::	No
Petition Type::	
Licensed US Govt. Agency::	
Contract or Grant Numbers One::	
Secrecy Order in Parent Appl.::	No

Applicant Information

Applicant Authority Type::	Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country::	Germany
Status::	Full Capacity
Given Name::	Eckart
Middle Name::	
Family Name::	Walther
Name Suffix::	
City of Residence::	Palo Alto
State or Province of Residence::	CA
Country of Residence::	US
Street of Mailing Address::	1230 Parkinson Avenue
City of Mailing Address::	Palo Alto
State or Province of mailing address::	CA
Country of mailing address::	US
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	94301

Applicant Authority Type::	Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country::	US
Status::	Full Capacity
Given Name::	Qi
Middle Name::	
Family Name::	Lu
Name Suffix::	
City of Residence::	Saratoga
State or Province of Residence::	CA
Country of Residence::	US
Street of Mailing Address::	20847 Russell Lane
City of Mailing Address::	Saratoga
State or Province of mailing address::	CA

Country of mailing address::	US
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	95070

Applicant Authority Type::	Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country::	US
Status::	Full Capacity
Given Name::	David
Middle Name::	
Family Name::	Ku
Name Suffix::	
City of Residence::	Palo Alto
State or Province of Residence::	CA
Country of Residence::	US
Street of Mailing Address::	420 Hale Street
City of Mailing Address::	Palo Alto
State or Province of mailing address::	CA
Country of mailing address::	US
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	94031

Applicant Authority Type::	Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country::	US
Status::	Full Capacity
Given Name::	Kevin
Middle Name::	
Family Name::	Lee
Name Suffix::	
City of Residence::	East Palo Alto
State or Province of Residence::	CA
Country of Residence::	US
Street of Mailing Address::	905 Oakes Street
City of Mailing Address::	East Palo Alto

State or Province of mailing address::	CA
Country of mailing address::	US
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	94303

Applicant Authority Type::	Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country::	US
Status::	Full Capacity
Given Name::	Chung-Man
Middle Name::	
Family Name::	Tam
Name Suffix::	
City of Residence::	San Francisco
State or Province of Residence::	CA
Country of Residence::	US
Street of Mailing Address::	15 San Antonio Place #102
City of Mailing Address::	San Francisco
State or Province of mailing address::	CA
Country of mailing address::	US
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	94133

Applicant Authority Type::	Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country::	US
Status::	Full Capacity
Given Name::	Ali
Middle Name::	
Family Name::	Diab
Name Suffix::	
City of Residence::	Menlo Park
State or Province of Residence::	CA
Country of Residence::	US
Street of Mailing Address::	1204 SharonPark Drive #82

City of Mailing Address::	Menlo Park
State or Province of mailing address::	CA
Country of mailing address::	US
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	94025

Correspondence Information

Correspondence Customer Number::	20350

Representative Information

Representative Customer Number::	20350

Domestic Priority Information

Application::	Continuity Type::	Parent Application::	Parent Filing Date::
This Application	An Appn claiming benefit under 35 USC 119(e) of	60/614,232	09/28/04
11/081,860	An Appn claiming benefit under 35 USC 119(e) of	60/553,607	03/15/04

Foreign Priority Information

Country::	Application number::	Filing Date::

Assignee Information

Assignee Name::	Yahoo! Inc.
Street of mailing address::	701 First Avenue
City of mailing address::	Sunnyvale
State or Province of mailing address::	California
Country of mailing address::	US
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::	94089

O I P E
JUN 2 9 2005
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
JC42

PTO/SB/80 (12-03)

POWER OF ATTORNEY TO PROSECUTE APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE USPTO

I hereby appoint:

☒ Practitioners associated with the Customer Number **20350**

OR

☐ Practitioner(s) named below (if more than ten patent practitioners are to be named, then a customer number must be used):

Name	Registration Number

as attorney(s) or agent(s) to represent the undersigned before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in connection with any and all patent applications assigned only to the undersigned according to the USPTO assignment records or assignment documents attached to this form in accordance with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Assignee Name and Address:

Yahoo! Inc.
701 First Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94089

A copy of this form, together with a statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) (Form PTO/SB/96 or equivalent) is required to be filed in each application in which this form is used. The statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) may be completed by one of the practitioners appointed in this form if the appointed practitioner is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee, and must identify the application in which this Power of Attorney is to be filed.

SIGNATURE of Assignee of Record
The individual whose signature and title is supplied below is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee

Name			
Signature	Michael Callahan	Date	1/18/05
Title	Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary	Telephone	408-349-3300

60376191 v1

CIPE JUN 29 2005 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE JC42

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)

Applicant/Patent Owner: Eckart Walther et al.

Application No./Patent No.: 11/081,860 Filed/Issue Date: March 15, 2005

Entitled: SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

Yahoo! Inc., a corporation
(Name of Assignee) (Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.)

states that it is:

1. ☒ the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest; or
2. ☐ an assignee of less than the entire right, title and interest.
The extent (by, percentage) of its ownership interest is _____%

in the patent application/patent identified above by virtue of either:

A. ☐ An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application/patent identified above. The assignment was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

OR

B. ☐ A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application/patent identified above, to the current assignee as shown below:

1. From: _____ To :_____
The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

2. From: _____ To :_____
The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

3. From: _____ To :_____
The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

☐ Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet.

☒ Copies of assignments or other documents in the chain of title are attached.
[NOTE: A separate copy (*i.e.*, a true copy of the original assignment document(s)) must be submitted to Assignment Division in accordance with 37 CFR Part 3, if the assignment is to be recorded in the records of the USPTO. See MPEP 302.8]

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

Signature	June 27, 2005 Date
Cathy E. Cretsinger Printed or Typed Name	650-326-2400 Telephone Number
Patent Attorney, Reg. No. 51, 588 Title	

60523930 v1

Attorney Docket No.: 017887-013720US

ASSIGNMENT OF PATENT APPLICATION

JOINT

WHEREAS, Eckart Walther of 1230 Parkinson Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301; Qi Lu of 20847 Russell Lane, Saratoga, CA 95070; David Ku of 420 Hale Street, Palo Alto, CA 94031; Kevin Lee of 905 Oakes Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303; Chung-Man Tam of 15 San Antonio Place #102, San Francisco, CA 94133; and Ali Diab of 1204 Sharon Park Drive #82, Menlo Park, CA 94025, hereinafter referred to as "Assignors," are the inventors of the invention described and set forth in the below-identified application for United States Letters Patent:

Title of Invention:	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS
Filing Date:	March 15, 2005
Application No.:	11/081,860; and

WHEREAS, Yahoo! Inc., a corporation of the state of Delaware, located at 701 First Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94089, hereinafter referred to as "ASSIGNEE," is desirous of acquiring an interest in the invention and application and in any U.S. Letters Patent and Registrations which may be granted on the same;

For good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by Assignors, Assignors have assigned, and by these presents do assign to Assignee all right, title and interest in and to the invention and application and to all foreign counterparts (including patent, utility model and industrial designs), and in and to any Letters Patent and Registrations which may hereafter be granted on the same in the United States and all countries throughout the world, and to claim the priority from the application as provided by the Paris Convention. The right, title and interest is to be held and enjoyed by Assignee and Assignee's successors and assigns as fully and exclusively as it would have been held and enjoyed by Assignors had this Assignment not been made, for the full term of any Letters Patent and Registrations which may be granted thereon, or of any division, renewal, continuation in whole or in part, substitution, conversion, reissue, prolongation or extension thereof.

Assignors further agree that they will, without charge to Assignee, but at Assignee's expense, (a) cooperate with Assignee in the prosecution of U.S. Patent applications and foreign counterparts on the invention and any improvements, (b) execute, verify, acknowledge and deliver all such further papers, including patent applications and instruments of transfer, and (c) perform such other acts as Assignee lawfully may request to obtain or maintain Letters Patent and Registrations for the invention and improvements in any and all countries, and to vest title thereto in Assignee, or Assignee's successors and assigns.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignors have signed their names on the dates indicated.

Dated: 6/13/05

Eckart Walther

Dated: 6/19/05

Qi Lu

Dated: 6/13/05

David Ku

Dated: 6/13/2005

Kevin Lee

Dated: 6/10/05

Chung-Man Tam

Dated: 6/22/05

Ali Diab

60473374 v1

OIPE JC103
AUG 25 2005
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PTO/SB/21 (05-03)
Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	11/081,860
Filing Date	03/15/2005
First Named Inventor	Walther
Art Unit	2161
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Total Number of Pages in This Submission: 2	Attorney Docket Number: 017887-013720US

ENCLOSURES *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Fee Transmittal Form
  - ☐ Fee Attached
- ☐ Amendment/Reply
  - ☐ After Final
  - ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
  - ☐ Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53
- ☐ Drawing(s)
- ☐ Licensing-related Papers
- ☐ Petition
- ☐ Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
- ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address
- ☐ Terminal Disclaimer
- ☐ Request for Refund
- ☐ CD, Number of CD(s)
- ☐ After Allowance Communication to Group
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Group (**Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief**)
- ☐ Proprietary Information
- ☐ Status Letter
- ☒ Other Enclosure(s) *(please identify below)*:
  1) Return Postcard
  2) PTO/SB/83 Request to Withdraw as Attorney

Remarks: The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 20-1430.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual	Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP Phillip H. Albert Reg. No. 35,819
Signature	
Date	August 23, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Typed or printed name	Christopher R. Fitting		
Signature		Date	August 23, 2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

60569619 v1

OIPE JC109 AUG 25 2005 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PTO/SB/83 (09-03)

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL AS ATTORNEY OR AGENT AND CHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Application Number	11/081,860
Filing Date	03/15/2005
First Named Inventor	Walther
Art Unit	2161
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	017887-013720US

To: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Please withdraw me as attorney or agent for the above identified patent application, and

☐ all the attorneys/agents of record

☐ all the attorneys/agents (with registration numbers) listed on the attached paper(s), or

☒ all the attorneys/agents associated with Customer Number 20350

NOTE: This box can only be checked when the power of attorney of record in the application is to all the practitioners associated with a customer number.

The reasons for this request are: Client requests to transfer matter

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

1. ☐ The correspondence address is NOT affected by this withdrawal.
2. ☒ Change the correspondence address and direct all future correspondence to:

☒ Customer Number 29858

OR

☐ Firm *or* Individual Name					
Address					
Address					
City		State		ZIP	
Country					
Telephone		Fax			
Name	Philip H. Albert				
Signature		Registration No.	35,819		
Date	August 23, 2005				

NOTE: Withdrawal is effective when approved rather than when received. Unless there are at least 30 days between approval of withdrawal and the expiration date of a time period for response or possible extension period, the request to withdraw is normally disapproved.

60557341

IFW

PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

OIPE JC16 AUG 29 2005 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

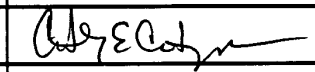
Application Number	11/081,860
Filing Date	March 15, 2005
First Named Inventor	Walther, Eckart
Art Unit	2161
Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	017887-013720US

ENCLOSURES *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Fee Transmittal Form
  - ☐ Fee Attached
- ☐ Amendment/Reply
  - ☐ After Final
  - ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
  - ☐ Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53
- ☐ Drawing(s)
- ☐ Licensing-related Papers
- ☐ Petition
- ☐ Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
- ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address
- ☐ Terminal Disclaimer
- ☐ Request for Refund
- ☐ CD, Number of CD(s) _____
  - ☐ Landscape Table on CD
- ☐ After Allowance Communication to TC
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
- ☐ Appeal Communication to TC **(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)**
- ☐ Proprietary Information
- ☐ Status Letter
- ☒ Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
  - Return Postcard
  - PTO Form SB/08A and SB/08B
  - Copy of PCT Search Report
  - Copies of 6 cited references

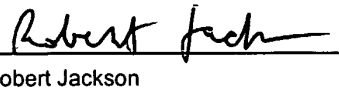
Remarks: The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 20-1430.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	Cathy E. Cretsinger		
Date	August 25, 2005	Reg. No.	51,588

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Signature			
Typed or printed name	Robert Jackson	Date	8-25-2005

60572335 v1

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On 8-25-2005

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Robert Jahn

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 017887-013720US



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Eckart Walther et al.

Application No.: 11/081,860

Filed: March 15, 2005

For: SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Art Unit: 2161

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The references cited on attached form PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B are being called to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the references in compliance with the requirements of 1287 OG 163 are enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the cited references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Also enclosed is a copy of the Search/Examination report corresponding to the PCT application.

As provided for by 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy E. Cretsinger
Reg. No. 51,588

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 650-326-2422
CEC:rlj
60571164 v1

OIPE JC151
AUG 29 2005
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PTO/SB/08A&B (08-03)

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known	
Application Number	11/081,860
Filing Date	March 15, 2005
First Named Inventor	Walther, Eckart
Art Unit	2161
Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	017887-013720US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS+

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Document Number Number Kind Code[2] (*if known*)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	US-6,675,213	01-06-2004	Schmonsees	
	2	US-6,181,336	01-30-2001	Chui et al.	
	3	US-5,392,428	02-21-1995	Robins	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Foreign Patent Document Country Code[3]	Number[4]	Kind Code[5] (*if known*)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T[6]
								☐

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No.[1]	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T[2]
	4	RB Almeida and VAF Almeida. *A Community-Aware Search Engine* In Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on World Wide Web, pages 413--421. 2004	
	5	"Dude, Check This Out!" downloaded from the internet at http://www.dudecheckthisout.com/index.aspx on March 10, 2004	
	6	"Dude, Check This Out! User Guide" downloaded from the internet at http://www.dudecheckthisout.com/user-guide.aspx on March 10, 2004	
	7	"How Eurekster Works" downloaded from the internet at http://home.eurekster.com/howitworks.htm on March 10, 2004	
	8	"Stumbleupon, How does it work?" downloaded from the internet at http://www.stumbleupon.com//how.html on March 10, 2004	
	9	"Stumbleupon, What is Stumbleupon?" downloaded from the internet at http://www.stumbleupon.com/what.html on March 10, 2004	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

[1] Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). [2] Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

60571164 v1

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Paper No.

Philip H. Albert
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND
CREW, LLP
Two Embarcadero Center
Eighth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-3834

MAILED

APR 2 7 2006

Technology Center 2100

In re Application of:
Walther
Application No. 11/081,860
Filed: March 15, 2005
For: SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

DECISION ON REQUEST TO WITHDRAW AS ATTORNEY OR AGENT

This is a decision on the Request To Withdraw from Representation filed August 25, 2005.

A grantable request to withdraw as attorney of record should indicate thereon the present mailing addresses of the attorney(s) who is/are withdrawing from the record and of the applicant. The request for withdrawal must be signed by every attorney seeking to withdraw or contain a clear indication that one attorney is signing on behalf of another/others. A request to withdraw will not be approved unless at least 30 (thirty) days would remain between the date of approval and the later of the expiration date of a time to file a response or the expiration date of the maximum time period which can be extended under 37 C.F.R. ∋ 1. 136(a). The effective date of withdrawal being the date of decision and not the date of request. See M.P.E.P. ∋ 402.06. 37 C.F.R. ∋ 1.36 further requires that the applicant or patent owner be notified of the withdrawal of the attorney or agent.

The request filed August 25, 2005 meets all the requirements. Accordingly the request is **GRANTED**.

All future communications from the Office will be directed to the below-listed address until otherwise notified by applicant. This correspondence address is provided by the withdrawn attorney(s). Applicant is reminded of the obligation to promptly notify the

Patent and Trademark Office (Office) of any change in correspondence address to ensure receipt of all communications from the Office.

James R. Matthews

for Vincent N. Trans
Special Program Examiner
Technology Center 2100
Computer Architecture, Software, and
Information Security
(571) 272-3613

cc: Customer Number 29858

EAST Search History

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S1	8216	(707/3).CCLS.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/05/16 14:02
S2	364613	annotat$3 or feedback	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/16 14:03
S3	3661952	hit or result	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/16 14:03
S4	466684	quer$3 or search$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/16 14:04
S5	3300171	rat$3 or rank$3 or relevan$2	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/16 14:04
S6	8216	(707/3).CCLS.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/05/16 14:05
S7	0	S6 SAME S2 SAME S3 SAME S4 SAME S5	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/16 14:05
S8	1292	S6 AND S2 AND S3 AND S4 AND S5	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/16 14:08
S9	1	("6675213").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/05/16 14:09
S10	1	("6181336").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/05/16 14:09
S11	1	("5392428").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/05/16 14:40
S12	712819	database or databank or (data structure)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/16 14:41
S13	1244	S8 AND S12	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/16 16:41
S14	1	("20040193696").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/05/16 15:16
S15	345	(web$5 near9 (rating or scor$4 or grad$4)) near9 (histor$5 or time)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/16 16:42
S16	1	("20040193696").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/05/21 08:43
S17	1	("20040193696").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/05/23 14:55
S18	347	(web$5 near9 (rating or scor$4 or grad$4)) near9 (histor$5 or time)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/23 14:55
S19	37	(electronic and diction$3 and search$3).ti,ab. and @py<="2005"	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/30 15:56
S20	0	S19 and (keyword$1 near5 rank$3)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/30 15:57
S21	0	S19 and (word$1 near5 rank$3)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/30 15:57

EAST Search History

S22	0	S19 and (word$1 near5 rank$3)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/30 15:57
S23	2	S19 and rank$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/30 16:01
S24	73	(document$1 and database$1 and rank$3).ti,ab. and @py<="2005"	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/30 16:02
S25	48	S24 and rank$3 and scor$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/30 16:02
S26	40	S25 and (search$3 near5 document$1)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/30 16:02
S27	14	S26 and (word$1 near5 frequency)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/30 16:02
S28	6	S27 and vocabulary	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/30 16:03
S29	0	S28 and meta$data	US-PGPUB; USPAT	ADJ	ON	2007/05/30 16:03
S30	1	("6701318").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/05/31 15:58
S31	0	("11082212").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/05/31 15:58
S32	1	("5907840").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/06/04 07:42
S33	1	("20050055329").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/06/05 09:26
S34	1	("6385604").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/06/05 10:43
S35	1	("6574632").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/06/05 10:43
S36	0	("2030182276").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/06/11 08:57
S37	1	("20030182276").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2007/06/11 08:57

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/081,860	WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tangerine M. Weinman	2109	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 March 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-41* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-41* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) __ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *15 March 2005* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *15 March 2005*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-41 are pending in this application.

Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 1 and 22-24 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 18-20 of copending Application No. 11/082,212, hereafter "212". Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both inventions are directed towards describing search systems and methods with integration of user annotations. The limitations of claims 1 and 22-24 of the instant application are similar or the same as the limitations in claims 1 and 18-20 of 212.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Instant Application	212
1. A method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:	1. A method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:
receiving a query submitted by a user;	receiving a query submitted by a querying user;
searching a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one of more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;	searching the corpus to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;
accessing a library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document;	accessing a store of annotations created by a plurality of annotating users, each annotation being associated with one of the annotating users and with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation including user-specific metadata related to the associated document;
identifying, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations;	
generating a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit; and	generating a search report including a list of the hits, wherein the listing is based at least in part on at least one of the aggregate attributes of the hits; and
transmitting the search report to the user.	transmitting the search report to the querying user.
	aggregating, across the plurality of annotating users, one or more items of user-specific metadata related to the same

	one of the documents, thereby generating one or more aggregate attributes for the document;
22. The method of claim 1 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages.	18. The method of claim 1 wherein the corpus is the World Wide Web.
23. The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a human.	20. The method of claim 1 wherein the querying user is a human.
24. The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a computer.	19. The method of claim 1 wherein the querying user is a computer.

Table 1

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to interpret matching one of the annotations particularly search report indicating each hit in the instant application as a metadata aggregate attribute for the document in 212, and would perform the same function.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 10, 11, 18, 19, 21, 25, 29 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. As to claims 10, 11, 18, 19, 21, 25, 29 and 35, the phrase "associated document" is not clearly understood rendering the claims indefinite. It is unclear whether this "associated document" refers to one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, as stated in line 3 of claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1-9, 11, 16-19, 21-24 and 40-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Howard et al. (US Pub. No. 2004/0193696 A1), hereinafter "Howard".

9. As to claim 1, Howard discloses a method for responding to a user query, the method comprising receiving a query submitted by a user (The network enables a communication of the request from the requestor to the provider, [0041], Lines 9-10; [0042], Lines 2-3; The query to the rating system may be a single input or it may be a plurality of inputs, [0058], Lines 1-2); searching a corpus comprising a plurality of

documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query (The rating system includes web service identifications for identifying one or more web services in the rating system, [0036], Lines 1-3; [0057], Lines 3-6); accessing a library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (The rating information input is interpreted by examiner to be the annotation; The rating information input is stored in some form in the web service information database and is compiled in part through use of the rating information input received, [0043], Lines 5-7);
identifying, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations (user can submit a particular parameter to the rating system to track data, [0050], Lines 5-8; rating information input stored in web service information database, [0043], Lines 5-7); generating a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit ([0054], Lines 17-21; and [0057], Lines 5-6); and transmitting the search report to the user (the rating system may provide output to users or systems, [0057], Lines 5-6).

10. As to claim 2, Howard discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit ([0043], Lines 5-7; [0045], Lines 3-11).

11. As to claim 3, Howard discloses the method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation ([0043], Lines 5-7; [0045], Lines 3-11).

12. As to claim 4, Howard discloses the method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation (The rating information input is stored in the web service information database and is compiled in part through use of the rating information input received, [0043], Lines 5-7; The reports may include information reporting past performance of a web service, [0045], Lines 5-7).

13. As to claim 5, Howard discloses the method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation (the outputs from the rating system may be a plurality of outputs that may include a series of ratings for different web services, [0058], Lines 7-13).

14. As to claim 6, Howard discloses the method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report includes for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (The

rating system may provide many different ways of analyzing historical data. In addition, the rating system may allow users to browse through historical data and analyze the information therein. Users may also build custom ratings formulas using the available information from the web services information database, [0055], Lines 3-9).

15. As to claim 7, Howard discloses the method of claim 6 further comprising: receiving the new annotation from the user (The rating system is configured to receive rating information input regarding a web service, [0042], Lines 1-2); and adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (The rating information input is stored in the web service information database and is compiled in part through use of the rating information input received, [0043], Lines 5-7).

16. As to claim 8, Howard discloses the method of claim 7 further comprising regenerating the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and transmitting the regenerated search report to the user (The output may be a single value rating for a particular web service, or it may be a series of ratings of difference criteria for a web service. Furthermore, the outputs may be a series of ratings for different web services, [0058], Lines 9-13).

17. As to claim 9, Howard discloses the method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes: generating a separate listing including only annotated hits ([0043], Lines 5-7; [0045], Lines 3-11).

18. As to claim 11, Howard discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of the associated document (The rating information input is stored in the web service information database and is compiled in part through use of the rating information input received, [0043], Lines 5-7) and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits (The rating information input is stored in the web service information database and is compiled in part through use of the rating information input received, [0043], Lines 5-7; The reports may include information reporting past performance of a web service, [0045], Lines 5-7).

19. As to claim 16, Howard discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit (The rating information input is stored in some form in the web service information database and is compiled in part through use of the rating information input received, [0043], Lines 5-7).

20. As to claim 17, Howard discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user (the requestor is able to determine what service it needs and it requests the service from a provider,

[0041], Lines 7-8; Users or systems may provide input to the rating system, [0057], Lines 2-3).

21. As to claim 18, Howard discloses the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of the associated document (The output may be a single value rating for a particular web service, or it may be a series of ratings of difference criteria for a web service, [0058], Lines 9-11).

22. As to claim 19, Howard discloses the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing the associated document (User-added Information, Fig. 5, Element 556).

23. As to claim 21, Howard discloses the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of the associated document (User-added Information, Fig. 5, Element 556).

24. As to claim 22, Howard discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages ([0006], Lines 1-3).

25. As to claim 23, Howard discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the user is a human (Users or systems may provide input to the rating system and may query the rating system for ratings or other information, [0057], Lines 2-5).

26. As to claim 24, Howard discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the user is a computer (A requestor is any type of computing device that is capable of accessing or requesting information, [0034], Lines 3-4).

27. As to claim 40, Howard discloses a computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus (A system which can access web services and stores that information in a web service information database, [0038], Lines 1-6); a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (rating system includes a web service information database, [0038], Lines 1-2; [0043], Lines 5-7; and [0050], Lines 5-8); and a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store (Web Service Identifications, Fig. 1, Element 112), the search server including:
input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user (The query to the rating system may be a single input or it may be a plurality of inputs, [0058], Lines 1-2); search control logic configured to search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query (The rating system includes web service identifications for identifying one or more web services in the rating system, [0036], Lines 1-3); personalization

control logic configured to identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user (The rating system includes web service identifications for identifying one or more web services in the rating system, [0036], Lines 1-3; web service information database compiled through use of the rating information input received, [0051], Lines 1-3); and reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits (the outputs from the rating system may be a plurality of outputs that may include a series of ratings for different web services, [0058], Lines 7-13), the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit (web service information database compiled through use of the rating information input received, [0051], Lines 1-3), the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user (The rating system prepares a response to a request and sends the response to the requestor, [0061], Lines 6-8).

28. As to claim 41, Howard discloses a computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus (A system which can access web services and stores that information in a web service information database, [0038], Lines 1-6); a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (rating system includes a web service information database, [0038], Lines 1-2; [0043], Lines 5-7; and

[0050], Lines 5-8); and a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store (Web Service Identifications, Fig. 1, Element 112), the search server including input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user (The query to the rating system may be a single input or it may be a plurality of inputs, [0058], Lines 1-2); search control logic configured to identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user (The rating system includes web service identifications for identifying one or more web services in the rating system, [0036], Lines 1-3); and reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits (the outputs from the rating system may be a plurality of outputs that may include a series of ratings for different web services, [0058], Lines 7-13), the listing including only documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user (web service information database compiled through use of the rating information input received, [0051], Lines 1-3), the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user (The rating system prepares a response to a request and sends the response to the requestor, [0061], Lines 6-8).

29. Claims 25-27, 32 and 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fox et al. (US Patent 6,574,632), hereinafter "Fox".

30. As to claim 25, Fox discloses a method for responding to a user query, the method comprising receiving a query from a user (receiving at least one user search

query, Col. 4, Lines 6-7); accessing a library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to the associated document (A dictionary is defined, a random assignment of a context vector is made to each word in the dictionary, the dictionary words are trained, an axis representation is assigned to each dictionary word, at least one user search query is received, and a search of the document database is made based upon the user search query. The dictionary comprises a plurality of words related to a topic to be searched, Col. 4, Lines 2-10); identifying one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query (retrieving documents from the document database based upon the user search query, Col. 3, Lines 55-57); generating a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation (The visualization display means allow users to explore various aspects of the retrieved documents, and look for additional relevant documents by redefining the topic query corpus via the input interface, Col. 6, Lines 13-16); and transmitting the search report to the user (a ranked list of documents complete with score is returned to the user, Col. 16, Lines 3-4).

31. As to claim 26, Fox discloses the method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations (The visualization display means allow users to explore various

aspects of the retrieved documents, and look for additional relevant documents by redefining the topic query corpus via the input interface, Col. 6, Lines 13-16).

32. As to claim 27, Fox discloses the method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes extracting a search term from the query (receiving at least one user search query, and searching a document database based upon the user search query, Col. 4, Lines 6-8); and for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (retrieving documents from the document database based upon the user search query, Col. 3, Lines 55-57).

33. As to claim 32, Fox discloses the method of claim 25 further comprising: receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library (The visualization display means allow users to explore various aspects of the retrieved documents, and look for additional relevant documents by redefining the topic query corpus via the input interface, Col. 6, Lines 13-16).

34. As to claim 37, Fox discloses the method of claim 25 wherein the corpus is the World Wide Web (users retrieve distributed information from the Web via the user of search engines, Col. 1, Lines 31-32).

35. As to claim 38, Fox discloses the method of claim 25 wherein the user is a human (Col. 2, Lines 53-58).

36. As to claim 39, Fox discloses the method of claim 25 wherein the user is a computer (Col. 2, Lines 53-58).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

37. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

38. Claims 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard as applied to claims 1-9 and 11 above, in view of "StumbleUpon: How does it work?" <<http://www.stumbleupon.com/how.html>> published 3/10/2004, pp 1-2, hereinafter "StumbleUpon".

39. As to claim 10, Howard discloses the method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of the associated document ([0043], Lines 5-7; [0045], Lines 3-11). Howard, however, does not disclose wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating. StumbleUpon, on the other hand, discloses wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating (shares the sites rated as "I like it!" with other like-minded members, p. 2, Lines 9-10). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Howard and StumbleUpon in order to efficiently search large document collections and present the results in a meaningful manner to the user.

40. As to claim 12, Howard discloses the method of claim 11. Howard, however, does not disclose where generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating. StumbleUpon, on the other hand, discloses where generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating (shares the sites rated as "I like it!" with other like-minded members, p. 2, Lines 9-10 as opposed to the sites rated as "Not for me"). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Howard and StumbleUpon in order to efficiently

search large document collections and present the results in a meaningful manner to the user.

41. Claims 13-15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard as applied to claims 1 and 17 above, in view of Fox.

42. As to claim 13, Howard discloses the method of claim 1. Howard, however, does not disclose further comprising searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query; and incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page. Fox, on the other hand, discloses further comprising searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits (A dictionary is defined, a random assignment of a context vector is made to each word in the dictionary, the dictionary words are trained, an axis representation is assigned to each dictionary word, at least one user search query is received, and a search of the document database is made based upon the user search query. The dictionary comprises a plurality of words related to a topic to be searched, Col. 4, Lines 2-10), wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query (The retrieval system includes an input interface for accepting at least one user interface query, Col. 5, Lines 61-62);

and incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page (The documents retrieved from a document database are combined and ranked, Abstract, Lines 2-8). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Howard and Fox in order to efficiently search large document collections and present the results in a meaningful manner to the user.

43. As to claim 14, Howard and Fox disclose the method of claim 13. Howard, however, does not disclose wherein searching the corpus includes extracting a search term from the user query; and identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term. Fox, on the other hand, discloses wherein searching the corpus includes extracting a search term from the user query (receiving at least one user search query, and searching a document database based upon the user search query, Col. 4, Lines 6-8); and identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term (retrieving documents from the document database based upon the user search query, Col. 3, Lines 55-57). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Howard and Fox in order to efficiently search large document collections and present the results in a meaningful manner to the user.

44. As to claim 15, Howard and Fox disclose the method of claim 14. Howard further discloses wherein searching the store of annotations includes identifying as an

additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the user-specific metadata includes the search term (The rating system includes web service identifications for identifying one or more web services in the rating system, [0036], Lines 1-3).

45. As to claim 20, Howard discloses the method of claim 17. Howard, however, does not disclose wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary. Fox, on the other hand, discloses wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary (The dictionary comprises a plurality of words related to a topic to be searched, Col. 4, Lines 8-10). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Howard and Fox in order to efficiently search large document collections and present the results in a meaningful manner to the user.

46. Claims 28-31 and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fox as applied to claim 25 above, in view of Howard.

47. As to claim 28, Fox discloses the method of claim 25. Fox, however does not disclose wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations. Howard, on the other hand, discloses wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations (The rating information input is stored in the web service information

database and is compiled in part through use of the rating information input received, [0043], Line 5-7). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Fox and Howard in order to efficiently search large document collections and present the results in a meaningful manner to the user.

48. As to claim 29, Fox and Howard disclose the method of claim 28. Fox further discloses wherein identifying one or more hits further includes extracting a search term from the query (receiving at least one user search query, and searching a document database based upon the user search query, Col. 4, Lines 6-8); and detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata, wherein the associated document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata (retrieving documents from the document database based upon the user search query, Col. 3, Lines 55-57). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Fox and Howard in order to efficiently search large document collections and present the results in a meaningful manner to the user.

49. As to claim 30, Fox and Howard disclose the method of claim 29. Fox also discloses the method further comprising for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in

the document (receiving at least one user search query, and searching a document database based upon the user search query, Col. 4, Lines 6-8; retrieving documents from the document database based upon the user search query, Col. 3, Lines 55-57). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Fox and Howard in order to efficiently search large document collections and present the results in a meaningful manner to the user.

50. As to claim 31, Fox and Howard disclose the method of claim 29. Howard further discloses wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting (The query to the rating system may be a plurality of inputs, [0058], Lines 1-2). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Fox and Howard in order to efficiently search large document collections and present the results in a meaningful manner to the user.

51. As to claim 33, Fox discloses the method of claim 25. Fox, however, does not disclose wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation. Howard, on the other hand, discloses wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation (The rating information input is stored in the web service information database and is compiled in part through use of the

rating information input received, [0043], Lines 5-7; The reports may include information reporting past performance of a web service, [0045], Lines 5-7). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Fox and Howard in order to efficiently search large document collections and present the results in a meaningful manner to the user.

52. As to claim 34, Fox discloses the method of claim 25. Fox, however, does not disclose wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, at least some of the user-specific metadata from the associated annotation. Howard, on the other hand, discloses wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, at least some of the user-specific metadata from the associated annotation (The rating information input is stored in the web service information database and is compiled in part through use of the rating information input received, [0043], Lines 5-7; The reports may include information reporting past performance of a web service, [0045], Lines 5-7). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Fox and Howard in order to efficiently search large document collections and present the results in a meaningful manner to the user.

53. As to claim 35, Fox discloses the method of claim 25. Fox, however, does not disclose wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of the associated document. Howard, on the other hand, discloses wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of the associated

document (rating system includes a web service information database, [0038], Lines 1-2; and [0043], Lines 5-7) and wherein the documents in the listing are placed in an order determined based at least in part on the ratings of the hits ([0054], Lines 17-21; and [0057], Lines 5-6). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Fox and Howard in order to efficiently search large document collections and present the results in a meaningful manner to the user.

54. As to claim 36, Fox discloses the method of claim 25. Fox, however, does not disclose wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any document that is one of the group of the group of documents is identified as a hit. Howard, on the other hand, discloses wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus (The rating information input is stored in some form in the web service information database and is compiled in part through use of the rating information input received, [0043], Lines 5-7) and wherein any document that is one of the group of documents is identified as a hit ([0057], Lines 3-6). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Fox and Howard in order to efficiently search large document collections and present the results in a meaningful manner to the user.

Conclusion

55. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bakalash et al. (US Patent 6,385,604) teaches a relational database management having integrated non-relational multi-dimensional data store of aggregated data elements.

Bakalash et al. (US Pub. No. 2005/0055329 A1) teaches a database management system having data aggregation module integrated therein.

56. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tangerine M. Weinman whose telephone number is (571) 270-1911. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 0730-1700, F 0730-1600 EST (Alternate F off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nabil El-Hady can be reached on (571) 272-3963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TMW
06/25/2007

SRIRAMA CHANNAVAJJALA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

OIPE JC161
AUG 29 2005
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PTO/SB/08A&B (08-03)

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known	
Application Number	11/081,860
Filing Date	March 15, 2005
First Named Inventor	Walther, Eckart
Art Unit	2161
Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	017887-013720US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS+

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Document Number: Number Kind Code[2] (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
/T.W./	1	US-6,675,213	01-06-2004	Schmonsees	
/T.W./	2	US-6,181,336	01-30-2001	Chui et al.	
/T.W./	3	US-5,392,428	02-21-1995	Robins	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Foreign Patent Document: Country Code[3] Number[4] Kind Code[5] (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T[6]
						☐

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No.[1]	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T[2]
/T.W./	4	RB Almeida and VAF Almeida. *A Community-Aware Search Engine* In Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on World Wide Web, pages 413–421. 2004	
/T.W./	5	"Dude, Check This Out!" downloaded from the internet at http://www.dudecheckthisout.com/index.aspx on March 10, 2004	
/T.W./	6	"Dude, Check This Out! User Guide" downloaded from the internet at http://www.dudecheckthisout.com/user-guide.aspx on March 10, 2004	
/T.W./	7	"How Eurekster Works" downloaded from the Internet at http://home.eurekster.com/howitworks.htm on March 10, 2004	
/T.W./	8	"Stumbleupon, How does it work?" downloaded from the internet at http://www.stumbleupon.com//how.html on March 10, 2004	
/T.W./	9	"Stumbleupon, What is Stumbleupon?" downloaded from the internet at http://www.stumbleupon.com/what.html on March 10, 2004	

Examiner Signature	/Tangerine Weinman/	Date Considered	06/12/2007

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.
[1] Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). [2] Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

60571164 v1

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 11/081,860	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner Tangerine M. Weinman	Art Unit 2109	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-6,574,632 B2	06-2003	Fox et al.	707/102
*	B	US-2004/0193696 A1	09-2004	Howard et al.	709/217
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	"StumbleUpon: How does it work?" downloaded from the internet at http://www.stumbleupon.com/how.html on March 10, 2004, pp 1-2.
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

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Bib Data Sheet

CONFIRMATION NO. 1892

SERIAL NUMBER	FILING OR 371(c) DATE / RULE	CLASS	GROUP ART UNIT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
11/081,860	03/15/2005 RULE	707	2109	017887-013720US

APPLICANTS

Eckart Walther, Palo Alto, CA;
Qi Lu, Saratoga, CA;
David Ku, Palo Alto, CA;
Kevin Lee, East Palo Alto, CA;
Chung-Man Tam, San Francisco, CA;
Ali Diab, Menlo Park, CA;

**** CONTINUING DATA ***************************

This appln claims benefit of 60/614,232 09/28/2004 and claims benefit of 60/553,607 03/15/2004 DMB

**** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS ********************* None DMB

IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED **
04/12/2005

	STATE OR COUNTRY	SHEETS DRAWING	TOTAL CLAIMS	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS
Foreign Priority claimed ☐ yes ☒ no 35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ Met after Allowance Verified and Acknowledged Examiner's Signature DMB Initials	CA	15	41	4

ADDRESS
20350

TITLE

Search systems and methods with integration of user annotations

FILING FEE RECEIVED	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:	☐ All Fees ☐ 1.16 Fees (Filing) ☐ 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time) ☐ 1.18 Fees (Issue) ☐ Other _____ ☐ Credit
2380		

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Weinman, Tangerine M	2109

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE									
Final	Original	06/22/2007									
	1	✓									
	2	✓									
	3	✓									
	4	✓									
	5	✓									
	6	✓									
	7	✓									
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	31	✓									
	32	✓									
	33	✓									
	34	✓									
	35	✓									
	36	✓									

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Weinman, Tangerine M	2109

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007								
	37	✓								
	38	✓								
	39	✓								
	40	✓								
	41	✓								

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Weinman, Tangerine M	2109

SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
Help from TA, Srirama Channavajjala	06/12/2007	TMW
East search of 707/3 wit text, history attached	06/13/2007	TMW
Help from Trainer, Nabil El-Hady on Double Patenting	06/13/2007	TMW
Help from TA, Srirama Channavajjala	06/20/2007	TMW
Help from Trainer, Nabil El-Hady	06/21/2007	TMW

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

OIPE IAP27
AUG 17 2007
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PTO/SB/80 (01-06)
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I hereby revoke all previous powers of attorney given in the application identified in the attached statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b).

I hereby appoint:

[X] Practitioners associated with the Customer Number: 61834

OR

[X] Practitioner(s) named below (if more than ten patent practitioners are to be named, then a customer number must be used):

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
Jian Chen	55053	Richard Chen-Yu Liu	34377
Andrew Choon-Yi Chen	43544	Nancy K. Raber	47013
Eglia Nair Flores	54103	Paul M. Saracen	37712
Jeanine L. Hayes	44752	James J. Woods	47184
David M. Ishimaru	47676		

as attorney(s) or agent(s) to represent the undersigned before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in connection with any and all patent applications assigned only to the undersigned according to the USPTO assignment records or assignment documents attached to this form in accordance with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Please change the correspondence address for the application identified in the attached statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) to:

[X] The address associated with Customer Number: 61834

OR

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Country			
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Assignee Name and Address:

Yahoo! Inc.
701 First Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94089

A copy of this form, together with a statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) (Form PTO/SB/96 or equivalent) is required to be filed in each application in which this form is used. The statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) may be completed by one of the practitioners appointed in this form if the appointed practitioner is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee, and must identify the application in which this Power of Attorney is to be filed.

SIGNATURE of Assignee of Record

The individual whose signature and title is supplied below is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee

Signature		Date	9/7/07
Name	Duane Valz	Telephone	408-349-2534
Title	Associate General Counsel, Patents		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.31, 1.32 and 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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AUG 17 2007
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PTO/SB/96 (04-07)
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STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)

Applicant/Patent Owner: Yahoo! Inc.

Application No./Patent No.: 11081860 Filed/Issue Date: 3/15/2005

Entitled: SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS ~~WITH~~ INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

Yahoo! Inc., a Corporation
(Name of Assignee) (Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.)

states that it is:

1. ☑ the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest; or

2. ☐ an assignee of less than the entire right, title and interest
(The extent (by percentage) of its ownership interest is_____ %)

in the patent application/patent identified above by virtue of either:

A. ☑ An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application/patent identified above. The assignment was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel 016422, Frame 0058, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

OR

B. ☐ A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application/patent identified above, to the current assignee as follows:

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☐ Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet.

☐ As required by 37 CFR 3.73(b)(1)(i), the documentary evidence of the chain of title from the original owner to the assignee was, or concurrently is being, submitted for recordation pursuant to 37 CFR 3.11.

[NOTE: A separate copy (*i.e.*, a true copy of the original assignment document(s)) must be submitted to Assignment Division in accordance with 37 CFR Part 3, to record the assignment in the records of the USPTO. See MPEP 302.08]

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

Signature	Date: 8/13/07
Timothy J. Bechen	212-328-6100
Printed or Typed Name	Telephone Number
Attorney for Applicant	
Title	

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 3.73(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	017887-013720US

CONFIRMATION NO. 1892

OC000000025646170

20350
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
EIGHTH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

Date Mailed: 08/31/2007

NOTICE REGARDING CHANGE OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

This is in response to the Power of Attorney filed 08/17/2007.

- The Power of Attorney to you in this application has been revoked by the assignee who has intervened as provided by 37 CFR 3.71. Future correspondence will be mailed to the new address of record(37 CFR 1.33).

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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	017887-013720US

CONFIRMATION NO. 1892

OC000000025646178

61834
DREIER LLP
499 PARK AVE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

Date Mailed: 08/31/2007

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

This is in response to the Power of Attorney filed 08/17/2007.

The Power of Attorney in this application is accepted. Correspondence in this application will be mailed to the above address as provided by 37 CFR 1.33.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	Eckart Walther, et al.		
Serial No.:	11/081,860	Examiner:	Tangerine M. Weinman
Filed:	March 15, 2005	Group Art Unit:	2109
Title:	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed June 27, 2007 in connection with the above-identified application and in which:

Amendments to Claims begin on Page 2 of this paper; and

Remarks begin on Page 12 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user;

searching a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user;

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

accessing [a]the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document;

identifying, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations;

generating a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit; and transmitting the search report to the user.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report includes:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising:

receiving the new annotation from the user; and

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

regenerating the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

generating a separate listing including only annotated hits.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of ~~the associated document~~ one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of ~~the associated document~~ one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query; and

incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus

includes:

extracting a search term from the user query; and

identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations

includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the

user-specific metadata includes the search term.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of ~~the associated document~~ one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing ~~the associated document~~ one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of ~~the associated document~~ one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a human.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a computer.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user;

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of a plurality of documents from the user;

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

accessing [a] the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to ~~the associated document~~ one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus;

identifying one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

generating a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing

including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation.; and

transmitting the search report to the user.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein identifying one or more hits further includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata, wherein ~~the associated document~~ one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 further comprising:

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting.

32. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library.

33. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

34. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, at least some of the user-specific metadata from the associated annotation.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of ~~the associated document~~ one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the documents in the listing are placed in an order determined based at least in part on the ratings of the hits.

36. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in

the corpus and wherein any document that is one of the group of documents is identified as a hit.

37. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the corpus is the World Wide Web.

38. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a human.

39. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a computer.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document; ~~and~~

an annotation module communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user;

search control logic configured to search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query;

personalization control logic configured to identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document; ~~and~~

an annotation module communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user;

search control logic configured to identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 27, 2007, the Examiner provisionally rejects claims 1 and 22 through 24 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatenable over claims 1 and 18 through 20 of US Patent Application Serial No. 11/082,212. The Examiner further rejects claims 10, 11, 18, 19, 21, 25, 29 and 35 under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner further rejects claims 1 through 9, 11, 16 through 19, 21 through 24 and 40 through 41 under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0193696 to Howard, et al. ("Howard"). Claims 25 through 27, 32 and 37 through 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,574,632 to Fox, et al. ("Fox"). The Examiner further rejects claims 10 and 12 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Howard in view of "StumbleUpon: How does it work?" <<http://www.stumbleupon.com/how.html>>, published 3/10/2004, pp 1-2 ("StumbleUpon"). Finally, claims 13 through 15 and 20 stand rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Howard in view of Fox, while claims 28 through 31 and 33 through 36 stand rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Fox in view of Howard.

Claims 1 through 41 are currently pending in the present application, with claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 as the independent claims. By way of the present amendment, Applicants hereby amend independent claims 1, 25, 40 and 41, as well as dependent claims 10, 11, 18, 19, 21, 29 and 35. The present amendments introduce no new matter and are supported by the specification as originally filed. Accordingly, entry is

respectfully requested regarding the present amendments. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the amendments and following remarks submitted herewith.

The Examiner rejects pending claims 1 and 22 through 24 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1 and 18 through 20 of US Patent Application Serial No. 11/082,212. Applicants note that this is a provisional rejection as US Patent Application Serial No. 11/082,212 is still pending. In order to advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicants submits herewith a timely filed Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) to obviate the provisional rejection.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the Examiner rejects claims 10, 11, 18, 19, 21, 25, 29 and 35 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the phrase "associated document" of claims 10, 11, 18, 19, 21, 25, 29 and 35 is not clearly understood, thereby rendering the claims indefinite. In view of the above amendments, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejects claims 1 through 9, 11, 16 through 19, 21 through 24 and 40 through 41 under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Howard. Independent claim 1 is directed toward a method for responding to a user query. The method comprises receiving a query submitted by a user and searching a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query. The method further comprises

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user and adding the one or more annotations to a data store in order to create a library of annotations. The library of annotations created by the user is accessed, where each annotation is associated with one of the documents in the corpus and includes user-specific metadata related to that document. Each of the hits that are associated with a matching one of the annotations is identified as an annotated hit and a search report is generated that includes a listing of the hits and, further for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit. The search report is transmitted to the user. Independent claims 40 and 41 comprise substantially similar elements to those of claim 1, but are cast as computer program products.

By contrast, Howard discusses methods and systems for requestors to rate web services that are accessible from a communications network. ¶ 0026. The rating system is configured to receive rating information regarding a web service. ¶ 0044, lines 2-5. The received rating information is stored in a web service information database, which is compiled in part through use of the received rating information. ¶ 0043, lines 5-7. The rating system also allows for users who are interested in a particular parameter to submit the new parameter to the rating system as a request to track such data. ¶ 0050, lines 5-8. The different pieces of information may be used as factors in determining an overall rating for a web service that is of interest to a requestor. ¶ 0051, lines 2-3. Once a ranking value is determined for a plurality of web services, the requestor compares the ratings to select the web service with the highest rating. ¶ 0054. A final output may be provided to users or systems in response to a query on the rating system for ratings or other information. ¶ 0057, lines 3-6.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Howard fails to disclose "receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user", "adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations", and "accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document." Howard discusses a rating system for web services and does not disclose creating a library of annotations by a user where each annotation is associated with a document and includes meta-data relating to the document that is specific to the user. Therefore, Howard fails to disclose all of the elements of independent claims 1, 40 and 41, as currently amended.

The Examiner further rejects claims 25 through 27, 32 and 37 through 39 under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Fox. Independent claim 25 is also directed toward a method for responding to a user query. The method of independent claim 25 comprises receiving a query from the user and receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of a plurality of documents from the user. One or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user are added to a data store in order to create a library of annotations. The library of annotations is accessed by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus. One or more his are identified from among the document associated with the annotations, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the

query. A search report is generated that includes a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation, the search report being transmitted to the user.

By contrast, Fox discusses a computer based information retrieval and visualization system, including a related method for efficiently retrieving documents from a document database. The information retrieval system selectively retrieves documents from a document database using multiple search engines. Col. 2, lines 59-63. The document database is created by defining a dictionary, randomly assigning a context vector to each word in the dictionary, training the dictionary words, and assigning axis representation to each word. Col. 4, lines 2-6. The retrieval system uses an n-gram search engine and a Vector Space Model (VSM) search engine. Col. 6, lines 41-43. The n-gram search engine that Fox discusses partitions an input query into word fragments to determine whether a match exists, whereas, the VSM search engine is used to count the frequency of occurrence of words and phrases to build document queries. Col. 7, lines 15-18, col. 8, lines 51-53. The multiple search engines produce a common mathematical representation of each retrieved document, with the respective mathematical representations of the retrieved documents mapped onto a display. Col. 3, lines 1-5. The retrieved documents mapped onto a display can be manipulated to gain new views of document relationships. Fox asserts that manipulating the documents dimensionally on a display aids in further identification of relevant documents. Col. 3, lines 23-28.

Applicants respectfully reiterate that Howard fails to disclose "receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user", "adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in

order to create a library of annotations", and "accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus." Fox fails to cure the deficiencies of Howard. Fox discusses building document queries by using Vector Space Models (VSM) to count the frequency of occurrence of words and phrases in the individual document files and does not disclose creating a library of annotations by a user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus and further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus. Therefore, Fox, either alone or in combination with Howard, fails to disclose all of the elements of independent claim 25 as amended.

For at least the reasons presented above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over Howard. Because claims 2 through 24 depend from independent claim 1, and therefore include all the elements of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Additionally, presently amended Independent claims 40 and 41 recite elements that are substantially similar to Independent claim 1, cast as computer program products. Thus, for at least the reasons described above with reference to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Independent claims 41 and 41 are also allowable. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 25 is allowable over Fox. Because claims 26 through 39 depend from independent claim 25, and therefore include all the elements of claim 25, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons.

For these reasons, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections as they might be applied to the claims as pending following entry of this Amendment and allow the claims. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 29, 2007

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING SYSTEM ON OCTOBER 29, 2007.

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Customer No. 61834

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Eckart Walther
Application No.	:	11/081,860
Filing Date	:	3/15/2005
Examiner	:	T. M. Weinman
Art Unit	:	2109
Title	:	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

A one-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(b) to October 27, 2007 is hereby requested to respond to the Office Action dated June 27, 2007. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge $ 120.00 for the required fee for the extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a) and any additional fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **50-4026.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 29, 2007

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING SYSTEM ON October 29, 2007.

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Customer Number: 61834

TERMINAL DISCLAIMER TO OBVIATE A PROVISIONAL DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION OVER A PENDING SECOND APPLICATION	Docket No. 600189-368

In re Application of: **Eckart Walther**
Application No. **11/081,860**
Filed: **3/15/2005**
For: **SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS**

The owner, **Yahoo! Inc.** of **100** percent interest in the instant application hereby disclaims, except as provided below, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term defined in 35 U.S.C. 154 to 156 and 173 as shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to the grant of any patent granted on pending second Application Number **11/082,212**, filed on **3/15/2005**. The owner hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the instant application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that it and any patent granted on the second application are commonly owned. This agreement runs with any patent granted on the instant application and is binding upon grantee, its successors or assigns.

In making the above disclaimer, the owner does not disclaim the terminal part of any patent granted on the instant application that would extend to the expiration date of the full statutory term as defined in 35 U.S.C. 154 to 156 and 173 of any patent granted on the second application, as shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to the patent grant, in the event that any such granted patent: expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee, is held unenforceable, is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321, has all claims cancelled by a reexamination certificate, is reissued, or in any manner terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to its grant.

Check either box 1 or 2, if appropriate.

1. ☐ For submissions on behalf of an organization (e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.), the undersigned is empowered to act on behalf of the organization.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

2. ☒ The undersigned is an attorney of record.

3. Owner/applicant is ☐ Small entity ☒ Large entity

The terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) is **$130.00** and is to be paid as follows:

☐ A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.

☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number **504026**.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

PTO suggested wording for terminal disclaimer was

☒ unchanged. ☐ changed (if changed, an explanation should be supplied.)

Signature

Dated: **October 29, 2007**

Name and Address of Person Signing

Jeanpierre J. Giuliano
Reg. No. 55,206

Customer Number: 61834

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on

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(Date)

Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

P26/REV03

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11081860
Filing Date:	15-Mar-2005
Title of Invention:	Search systems and methods with integration of user annotations
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Filer:	Seth H. Ostrow
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368
Filed as Large Entity	

Utility Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Statutory disclaimer	1814	1	130	130
Extension-of-Time:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Extension - 1 month with $0 paid	1251	1	120	120
Miscellaneous:				
		Total in USD ($)		**250**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	2386736
Application Number:	11081860
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	1892
Title of Invention:	Search systems and methods with integration of user annotations
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Customer Number:	61834
Filer:	Seth H. Ostrow
Filer Authorized By:	
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368
Receipt Date:	29-OCT-2007
Filing Date:	15-MAR-2005
Time Stamp:	17:00:44
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$250
RAM confirmation Number	11348
Deposit Account	504026
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows: Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 and 1.17	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes) /Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Amendment - After Non-Final Rejection	00301441.pdf	670490 bacf9dd5ea01cb2cdfd9dc1982621089f4939421	no	18
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Extension of Time	00301443.pdf	33993 35e176f81037445117ad607d65f56daa1716ca7b	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Terminal Disclaimer Filed	00301442.pdf	91270 d4de6f8a2ac9fd2e3f53a780c2bab77fa74ea734	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Fee Worksheet (PTO-06)	fee-info.pdf	8305 7cf6a7e4db4834258b709c77c90f7be982ac1422	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	804058		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

PTO/SB/06 (07-06)
Approved for use through 1/31/2007. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

Application or Docket Number	Filing Date	☐ To be Mailed
11/081,860	03/15/2005	

APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

FOR	(Column 1) NUMBER FILED	(Column 2) NUMBER EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY ☐ RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ☐ FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X $ =			X $ =	
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).						
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))							
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.			TOTAL			TOTAL	

APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

AMENDMENT	10/29/2007	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 41	Minus	** 41	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $50=	0
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 4	Minus	***4	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $210=	0
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0

AMENDMENT		(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner:
debra a. savoy

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

T.D. INFORMAL MEMO: DO NOT MAIL THIS MEMO TO APPLICANT

Date:	02-Nov-07	APPL. S. N:	11081860
To Examiner:	zzzzz, zzzzz	Art Unit	2671
From	Gunter-Riley, Joyce PARALEGAL SPCECIALIST	Return This Memo To: Case Drop-Off Location	JEF-2D68

SUBJECT: Decision on Terminal Disclaimer(T.D.) filed:

INSTRUCTIONS: I have reviewed the submitted T.D. with the results as set forth below. If you agree, please use the appropriate form paragraphs identified by this informal memo in your next Office action to notify applicant of the T.D. If you disagree or have any questions, please see me or the Special Program Examiner. THIS IS AN INFORMAL, INTERNAL MEMO ONLY. IT MUST NOT BE (1) MAILED TO APPLICANT OR (2) PLACED OF RECORD IN THE APPLICATION FILE. When your action is complete,

please initial, date and return this memo to me. THANK YOU.

☑ The T.D. is PROPER and has been recorded (see 14.23).

☐ The T.D. is NOT PROPER and has not been accepted for the reason(s) checked below (see 14.24):

- ☐ The TD fee of [ ] has not been submitted nor is there any authorization in the application file for the use of a deposit account
- ☐ The T.D. does not satisfy Rule 321 in that the person who has signed the T.D. has not stated the extent of his/her interest (and/or the extent of the interest of the business entity represented by the signature) in the application/patent (see 14.26 & 14.26.01).
- ☐ The T.D. lacks the enforceable only during common ownership clause – needed to overcome a non-statutory double patenting rejection, Rule 321(b) (see 14.27.01).
- ☐ The T.D. is directed to a particular claim(s), which is not acceptable since "the disclaimer must be for a terminal portion of the term of the entire patent to be granted" (MPEP 1490) (see 14.26 & 14.26.02).
- ☐ The person who signed the T.D.:
  - ☐ is not an attorney "of record" (see 14.29 and 14.29.01).
  - ☐ has failed to state his/her capacity to sign for the business entity (see 14.28).
  - ☐ is not recognized as an officer of the assignee (see 14.29 & possible 14.29.02).
- ☐ No documentary evidence of a chain of title from the original inventor(s) to assignee has been submitted, nor is the reel and frame number specified as to where such evidence is recorded in the Office (see 37 CFR 3.73(b) and 1140 O.G. 72). NOTE: This documentary evidence or the specifying of the reel and frame number may be found in the T.D. or in a separate paper of record in the application (see 14.30).
- ☐ The T.D. is not signed (see 14.26 & 14.26.03).
- ☐ The serial number of the application (or the number of the patent) which forms the basis for the double patenting rejection is missing or incorrect (see 14.32).
- ☐ The serial number of this application (or the number of the patent in reexam or reissue cases being disclaimed is missing or incorrect (see 14.26, 14.27.02 or 14.26.05).
- ☐ The period disclaimed is incorrect or not specified (see 14.26, 14.27.02 or 14.26.03).
- ☐ Other: [ ]
- ☐ Suggestion to request refund (see 14.36). NOTE: If already authorized, credit refund to deposit account and do not check this item.

I have appropriately notified applicant(s) of the status of the Terminal Disclaimer filed in this case.

Ex.Initials:_____ Date:_____ Log Date:

Application Number	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination	
	11/081,860	WALTHER ET AL.	

Document Code - DISQ	Internal Document – DO NOT MAIL

TERMINAL DISCLAIMER	☒ APPROVED	☐ DISAPPROVED
Date Filed : October 29, 2007	This patent is subject to a Terminal Disclaimer	

Approved/Disapproved by:
Henry D. Jefferson

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

TERMINAL DISCLAIMER TO OBVIATE A PROVISIONAL DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION OVER A PENDING SECOND APPLICATION	Docket No. 600189-368

In re Application of: **Eckart Walther**
Application No. **11/081,860**
Filed: **3/15/2005**
For: **SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS**

The owner, **Yahoo! Inc.** of **100** percent interest in the instant application hereby disclaims, except as provided below, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term defined in 35 U.S.C. 154 to 156 and 173 as shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to the grant of any patent granted on pending second Application Number **11/082,212**, filed on **3/15/2005**. The owner hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the instant application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that it and any patent granted on the second application are commonly owned. This agreement runs with any patent granted on the instant application and is binding upon grantee, its successors or assigns.

In making the above disclaimer, the owner does not disclaim the terminal part of any patent granted on the instant application that would extend to the expiration date of the full statutory term as defined in 35 U.S.C. 154 to 156 and 173 of any patent granted on the second application, as shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to the patent grant, in the event that any such granted patent: expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee, is held unenforceable, is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321, has all claims cancelled by a reexamination certificate, is reissued, or in any manner terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to its grant.

Check either box 1 or 2, if appropriate.

1. ☐ For submissions on behalf of an organization (e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.), the undersigned is empowered to act on behalf of the organization.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

2. ☒ The undersigned is an attorney of record.

3. Owner/applicant is ☐ Small entity ☒ Large entity

The terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) is **$130.00** and is to be paid as follows:

☐ A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.

☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number **504026**.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

PTO suggested wording for terminal disclaimer was

☒ unchanged. ☐ changed (if changed, an explanation should be supplied.)

Signature

Name and Address of Person Signing

Jeanpierre J. Giuliano
Reg. No. 55,206

Customer Number: 61834

Dated: **October 29, 2007**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on

_____.
(Date)

Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

P26/REV03

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	PATENT NUMBER	GROUP ART UNIT	FILE WRAPPER LOCATION
11/081,860		2164	26P1

Correspondence Address / Fee Address Change

The following fields have been set to Customer Number 76041 on 02/05/2008

- Correspondence Address

The address of record for Customer Number 76041 is:
YAHOO! INC.
C/O DREIER LLP
499 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK,NY 10022

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368	1892

76041 7590 02/22/2008

YAHOO! INC.
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499 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

EXAMINER	
LEWIS, ALICIA M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2164	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
02/22/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/081,860	WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alicia M. Lewis	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 October 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-41* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-41* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is responsive to communication filed October 29, 2007. Claims 1, 10, 11, 18, 19, 21, 25, 29, 35, 40 and 41 are currently amended, thus claims 1-41 remain pending in this application.

Terminal Disclaimer

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on October 29, 2007 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of any patent granted on Application Number 11/082,212 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-30 and 32-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Badros et al. (US 2005/0131866 A1) ('Badros').

With respect to claim 1, Badros teaches a method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user (paragraph 18);

searching a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query (paragraphs 20 and 28);

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user (paragraphs 35 and 39);

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations (paragraphs 37 and 39);

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33-34 and 44-45);

identifying, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations (paragraph 45);

generating a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17); and

transmitting the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46).

With respect to claim 2, Badros teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit (paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17).

With respect to claim 3, Badros teaches the method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating (paragraph 40) and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation (paragraph 49).

With respect to claims 4 and 33, Badros teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein generating the search report further includes: for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation (paragraph 35).

With respect to claims 5 and 34, Badros teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein generating the search report further includes: for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation (paragraph 31 lines 22-27, paragraphs 73 and 82).

With respect to claim 6, Badros teaches the method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report includes: for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing

a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (paragraphs 35 and 77).

With respect to claim 7, Badros teaches the method of claim 6 further comprising: receiving the new annotation from the user; and adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77).

With respect to claim 8, Badros teaches the method of claim 7 further comprising: regenerating the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 25 and 46); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user (paragraph 25).

Badros teaches that the results from the three sub-processes may be merged into one result listing. This is interpreted as regenerating a search report to further indicate an annotated hit (results from searching annotations).

With respect to claim 9, Badros teaches the method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes: generating a separate listing including only annotated hits (paragraphs 29, 50 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17).

With respect to claim 10, Badros teaches the method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (paragraph 40) and wherein the separate

listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating (paragraphs 46, 50 and 74).

With respect to claims 11 and 35, Badros teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (paragraph 40) and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits (paragraphs 31, 46 and 51).

With respect to claim 12, Badros teaches the method of claim 11 wherein generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating (paragraph 73).

With respect to claim 13, Badros teaches the method of claim 1 further comprising: searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query (paragraphs 45, 74 and 82); and incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page (paragraphs 46 and 74).

With respect to claim 14, Badros teaches the method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus includes: extracting a search term from the user query; and identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term (paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 15, Badros teaches the method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the user-specific metadata includes the search term (paragraph 45).

With respect to claims 16 and 36, Badros teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit (paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 17, Badros teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user (paragraphs 33 and 39).

With respect to claim 18, Badros teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (paragraph 40).

With respect to claim 19, Badros teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing the associated document one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (paragraphs 39 and 48).

With respect to claim 20, Badros teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary (paragraphs 40 and 57).

With respect to claim 21, Badros teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (paragraphs 34 and 45).

With respect to claims 22 and 37, Badros teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages (paragraphs 19-21).

With respect to claims 23 and 38, Badros teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user is a human (paragraph 18).

With respect to claims 24 and 39, Badros teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user is a computer (paragraphs 18 and 33).

With respect to claim 25, Badros teaches a method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user (paragraph 18);

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of a plurality of documents from the user (paragraphs 35 and 39);

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations (paragraphs 37 and 39);

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (paragraphs 33-34 and 44-45);

identifying one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query (paragraph 45);

generating a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation (paragraphs 29, 50 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17); and

transmitting the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46).

With respect to claim 26, Badros teaches the method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations (paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 27, Badros teaches the method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes: extracting a search term from the query; and for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 28, Badros teaches the method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations (paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 29, Badros teaches the method of claim 28 wherein identifying one or more hits further includes: extracting a search term from the query; and detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata, wherein the associated document one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata (paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 30, Badros teaches the method of claim 29 further comprising: for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 32, Badros teaches the method of claim 25 further comprising: receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library (elements 304, 306 and 308 in Figure 3, paragraph 43).

Badros teaches that searching may be performed on only annotations or only bookmarks, i.e., a subset of the bookmark database.

With respect to claim 40, Badros teaches a computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus (paragraph 14);

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33 and 35);

an annotation module communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including (paragraph 35):

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 35 and 39);

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 36-37); and

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 78, 82 and 44-45); and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including (paragraphs 20-21):

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user (paragraph 18);

search control logic configured to search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query (paragraphs 20 and 28);

personalization control logic configured to identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user (paragraph 45); and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 30-31, paragraph 74 lines 13-17), the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46).

With respect to claim 41, Badros teaches a computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus (paragraph 14);

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33 and 35); and

an annotation module communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including (paragraph 35):

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 35 and 39);

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 36-37); and

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 78, 82 and 44-45); and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including (paragraphs 20-21):

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user (paragraph 18);

search control logic configured to identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user (paragraph 45); and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the listing including only documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user (paragraphs 29, 50 and 74 lines 13-17), the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Badros et al. (US 2005/0131866 A1) ('Badros') in view of Weber et al. (US 2004/0177063 A1) ('Weber').

With respect to claim 31, Badros teaches claim 29.

Badros does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting (paragraph 43).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Weber because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting would enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The double patenting and 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejections have been withdrawn.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia M. Lewis whose telephone number is 571-272-5599. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9 - 6:30, alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on 571-272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Alicia Lewis
February 5, 2008

/Sam Rimell/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2164

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 11/081,860	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner Alicia M. Lewis	Art Unit 2164	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-2005/0131866	06-2005	Badros et al.	707/003
*	B	US-2004/0177063	09-2004	Weber et al.	707/003
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

EAST Search History

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S1	0	"20040193696"	USPAT	OR	OFF	2008/02/04 11:37
S2	1	"20040193696"	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2008/02/04 11:37
S3	783	(input$4 receiv$3) near3 (annotation rating feedback comment notes) with document	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/02/05 12:23
S4	44	S3 and 707/3.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/02/05 12:23
S5	743	(identif$4 highlight$3 mark$3 display$3) with (hit url result document) with user near2 (rating annotation comment feedback)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/02/05 12:39
S6	296	(identif$4 highlight$3 mark$3 display$3) near2 (hit url result document) with user near2 (rating annotation comment feedback)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/02/05 12:40
S7	0	S6 and 707/clas.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/02/05 12:40
S8	146	S6 and "707".clas.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/02/05 12:40
S9	137	(identif$4 highlight$3 mark$3) near2 (hit url result document) with user near2 (rating annotation comment feedback)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/02/05 12:41
S10	80	S9 and "707".clas.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/02/05 12:41

S11	19	"6574632"	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/02/05 17:36
S12	2	regenerat$3 with search with (report list $3 result page) with new$2 with (url hit document)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/02/05 18:01
S13	99	generat$3 with search with (report list$3 result page) with new $2 with (url hit document)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/02/05 18:09
S14	5	regenerat$3 with search with (report list $3 result page) with (url hit document)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/02/05 18:09
S15	638	707/3.ccls. and query with fields with search $3	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/02/05 18:23
S16	17	707/3.ccls. and query with fields with search $3 with metadata	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/02/05 18:23

2/11/2008 2:01:58 PM
C:\Documents and Settings\alewis5\My Documents\EAST\Workspaces\11081860.wsp

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008							
	1	✓	✓							
	2	✓	✓							
	3	✓	✓							
	4	✓	✓							
	5	✓	✓							
	6	✓	✓							
	7	✓	✓							
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	9	✓	✓							
	10	✓	✓							
	11	✓	✓							
	12	✓	✓							
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	29	✓	✓							
	30	✓	✓							
	31	✓	✓							
	32	✓	✓							
	33	✓	✓							
	34	✓	✓							
	35	✓	✓							
	36	✓	✓							

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008							
	37	✓	✓							
	38	✓	✓							
	39	✓	✓							
	40	✓	✓							
	41	✓	✓							

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
Help from TA, Srirama Channavajjala	06/12/2007	TMW
East search of 707/3 wit text, history attached	06/13/2007	TMW
Help from Trainer, Nabil El-Hady on Double Patenting	06/13/2007	TMW
Help from TA, Srirama Channavajjala	06/20/2007	TMW
Help from Trainer, Nabil El-Hady	06/21/2007	TMW
EAST- USPAT, USPGPUB (see search history)	2/5/08	AML

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

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APPLICATION NUMBER	PATENT NUMBER	GROUP ART UNIT	FILE WRAPPER LOCATION
11/081,860		2164	26P1

Correspondence Address / Fee Address Change

The following fields have been set to Customer Number 76041 on 03/20/2008

- Correspondence Address

The address of record for Customer Number 76041 is:
YAHOO! INC.
C/O DREIER LLP
499 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK,NY 10022

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	PATENT NUMBER	GROUP ART UNIT	FILE WRAPPER LOCATION
11/081,860		2164	26P1

Correspondence Address / Fee Address Change

The following fields have been set to Customer Number 76041 on 04/24/2008

- Correspondence Address
- Maintenance Fee Address

The address of record for Customer Number 76041 is:
YAHOO! INC.
C/O DREIER LLP
499 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK,NY 10022

Doc code: RCEX
Doc description: Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

PTO/SB/30EFS (03/08)
Approved for use through 05/31/2008. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION(RCE)TRANSMITTAL
(Submitted Only via EFS-Web)

Application Number	11081860	Filing Date	2005-03-15	Docket Number (if applicable)	600189-368	Art Unit	2164
First Named Inventor	Walther			Examiner Name	A.M. Lewis		

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. The Instruction Sheet for this form is located at WWW.USPTO.GOV

SUBMISSION REQUIRED UNDER 37 CFR 1.114

Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

- ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Enclosed

- ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)
- ☐ Other _____

MISCELLANEOUS

☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of months _____
(Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

☐ Other _____

FEES

☒ **The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.**
The Director is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No 504026

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

☒ Patent Practitioner Signature
☐ Applicant Signature

Doc code: RCEX
Doc description: Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

PTO/SB/30EFS (03/08)
Approved for use through 05/31/2008. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Signature of Registered U.S. Patent Practitioner			
Signature	/timothyjbechen/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2008-05-20
Name	Timothy J. Bechen	Registration Number	48126

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	Eckart Walther, et al.		
Serial No.:	11/081,860	Examiner:	Alicia M. Lewis
Filed:	March 15, 2005	Group Art Unit:	2164
Title:	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Preliminary Amendment

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted with a Request for Continued Examination in view of the Final Office Action dated February 22, 2008.

Amendments to Claims begin on Page 2 of this paper; and

Remarks begin on Page 13 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user;

searching a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user;

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document;

identifying, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations;

generating a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit; and transmitting the search report to the user, wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving the new annotation from the user;

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations;

regenerating the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

generating a separate listing including only annotated hits.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query; and

incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus includes:

extracting a search term from the user query; and

identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations

includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the

user-specific metadata includes the search term.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a human.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a computer.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user;

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of a plurality of documents from the user;

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus;

identifying one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

generating a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation; ~~and~~

~~transmitting the search report to the user~~

wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving the new annotation from the user;

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations;

regenerating the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein identifying one or more hits further includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata, wherein one of the plurality of documents belonging to the

corpus is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 further comprising:

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting.

32. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library.

33. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

34. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, at least some of the user-specific metadata from the associated annotation.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the documents in the listing are placed in an order determined based at least in part on the ratings of the hits.

36. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any document that is one of the group of documents is identified as a hit.

37. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the corpus is the World Wide Web.

38. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a human.

39. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a computer.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document;

an annotation module communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; ~~and~~

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user;

search control logic configured to search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query;

personalization control logic configured to identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic operative to , for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, the storage control logic operative to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server operative to regenerate the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is

an annotated hit; and reporting control logic operative to transmitting the regenerated search report to the user.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document;

an annotation module communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user;

search control logic configured to identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic operative to , for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, the storage control logic operative to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server operative to regenerate the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and reporting control logic operative to transmitting the regenerated search report to the user.

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action dated February 22, 2008, Applicants submit the following Preliminary Amendment in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination.

Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 have been amended to include limitations previously recited in claims 6-8 and accordingly do not add any new matter. More specifically, these claims are amended to include the additional steps wherein the user may take a search result listing and then add a new annotation with the hit, whereby the new annotation is added to a library of annotations and the search report is regenerated. These amendments do not add new matter as they were previously recited in claims 6-8. Applicants request entrance and examination. Claims 6-8 are accordingly cancelled.

Claims 1-30 and 32-41 stood finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Application No. 2005/0131866 ("Badros"). Applicants respectfully submit that Badros fails to identically disclose all of the limitations of amended claims 1, 25, 40 and 41.

As understood, Badros describes a technique for supplementing a user's search by including aspects of the user's personal bookmarks. Badros includes various techniques whereby search operations are performed on a regular web corpus of documents and a supplemental search is performed on the bookmark data. This search may be done on a persons individual bookmark or a collection of bookmarks for various users. Badros even includes the additional ability to perform searching that includes user annotations relating to the noted bookmarks. Badros performs the personalization search

solely and exclusively on the bookmarks and annotations. Moreover, Badros performs the single combined search of the full web and the bookmarks.

By contrast, claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 include that "for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit; receiving the new annotation from the user; adding the new annotation to the library of annotations; regenerating the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and transmitting the regenerated search report to the user."

In the previous Office Action, the Examiner cites to ¶¶ 35 and 77 of Badros regarding the limitations of previous claims 6-7 and ¶¶ 25 and 46 regarding previous claim 8. Applicants respectfully disagree. Paragraphs 35 and 77 describe, at best, bookmark annotations through user actions in the bookmark manager. The bookmark manager is wholly inconsistent with the claimed control element that is operable by the user to create a new annotation. In fact, under the Examiner's interpretation of Badros, if the element is bookmarked, it is already deemed "annotated" and therefore is not subject to the claimed creation of a "new annotation associated with the hit." Similarly, ¶ 77 describes an annotation mechanism relating to "an arbitrary page" which is inconsistent with the claimed "each hit that is not an annotated hit," as an arbitrary page is not necessarily a hit in the search results. Paragraphs 25 and 46 describe the general searching technique of searching the web corpus and then searching the bookmark database, neither of these passages (as well as Badros in general) disclose the regeneration of the search report based on the added new annotations to the library and transmitting a "regenerated search report to the user." Moreover, Applicants disagree

with the Examiner's interpretation of Badros's "three sub-processes" being merged into one result listing because Badros describes the performance of the original search which is wholly inconsistent with the "regeneration." Fig. 3 of Badros clarifies Applicant's position is the flowchart describes the search query 302 and the 3 concurrent searches (global 304, bookmarks 306 and annotations 308). There is no regeneration of any search in Badros and it is unreasonable to interpret the exact language and figures of Badros to support such position.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 recite patentable subject matter in view of Badros.

Claims 2-5, 9-24 and 26-39 recite further patentable subject matter and are allowable for at least the same reasons regarding claims 1 and 25. Accordingly, Applicants further submit these claims recite patentable subject matter and are allowable in view of Badros.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Badros in view of Published Application No. 2004/0177063 (Weber). Claim 31 depends from claim 25 and is patentable for at least the same reasons stated above. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection.

For these reasons, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections as they might be applied to the claims as pending following entry of this Amendment and allow the claims. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 20, 2008

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING SYSTEM ON May 20, 2008.

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Customer No. 61834

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11081860
Filing Date:	15-Mar-2005
Title of Invention:	Search systems and methods with integration of user annotations
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Filer:	Seth H. Ostrow/susan formicola
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368
Filed as Large Entity	

Utility Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Miscellaneous:				
Request for continued examination	1801	1	810	810
		Total in USD ($)		**810**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	3328147
Application Number:	11081860
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	1892
Title of Invention:	Search systems and methods with integration of user annotations
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Customer Number:	76041
Filer:	Seth H. Ostrow/susan formicola
Filer Authorized By:	Seth H. Ostrow
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368
Receipt Date:	20-MAY-2008
Filing Date:	15-MAR-2005
Time Stamp:	11:51:40
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$810
RAM confirmation Number	9104
Deposit Account	504026
Authorized User	
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows: Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees) Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes) /Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	00356711.pdf	79818 7598fa2beb8b60129863a35b99dabdbac7e6f592	no	2
Warnings:					
This is not a USPTO supplied RCE SB30 form.					
Information:					
2	Amendment Submitted/Entered with Filing of CPA/RCE	00356712.pdf	547337 8479c734f9219b8a9c62c81cb414442797f9968c	no	16
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Fee Worksheet (PTO-06)	fee-info.pdf	8181 1c9e8f3f0397e0ddb2abd41ab92546c7924aa946	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	635336		

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New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368	1892

76041 7590 08/01/2008

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EXAMINER	
LEWIS, ALICIA M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2164	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
08/01/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/081,860	WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alicia M. Lewis	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *20 May 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-5 and 9-41* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-5 and 9-41* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed May 20, 2008. Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 are currently amended, and claims 6-8 are canceled. Therefore, claims 1-5 and 9-41 remain pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5, 9-30 and 32-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) (*current application priority date3/15/2004*) as being unpatentable over Badros et al. (US 2005/0131866 A1, *filing date 12/3/2003*) ('Badros') in view of Hillis et al ('Hillis') (US 2004/0210602 A1, *filing date 12/15/2003)*.

With respect to claim 1, Badros teaches a method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user (paragraph 18);

searching a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query (paragraphs 20 and 28);

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user (paragraphs 35 and 39);

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations (paragraphs 37 and 39);

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33-34 and 44-45);

identifying, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations (paragraph 45);

generating a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17); and transmitting the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46);

providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 35 and 77);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

transmitting a search report to the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or regenerating search report to further indicate the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Hillis teaches a meta-web system (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (paragraph 81);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 81-82 and 110);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 81 and 110);

regenerating a search report to further indicate the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 72, 77-78, claim 23); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user (paragraphs 72, 77-78 and claim 23).

Hillis teaches that a user may select an item from a search result listing, and add annotations to said item using an annotation tool bar (paragraphs 81-82). He further teaches that search results may be augmented or modified by the registry (paragraph 72). For example, he teaches that rather than providing results from the search engine directly to the user, the meta-server may perform a look-up in the registry to determine if there are annotations associated with the results (paragraph 77; Hillis further teaches

that any annotations found in the registry may be added to the search results (paragraph 78). This process may be considered regenerating the search report to further indicate annotated hits because the original search results returned from the search engine are modified or augmented to include annotations or other metadata.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Hillis because providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report to further indicate the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable dynamic generation of search result listings based on available metadata (i.e. user opinions, comments, annotations usefulness, etc.) about said listings occurring in the search results, thus providing more useful search results (Hillis, abstract).

With respect to claim 2, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17).

With respect to claim 3, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating (Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each

annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 49).

With respect to claims 4 and 33, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein generating the search report further includes: for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 35).

With respect to claims 5 and 34, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein generating the search report further includes: for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 31 lines 22-27, paragraphs 73 and 82).

With respect to claim 9, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes: generating a separate listing including only annotated hits (Badros, paragraphs 29, 50 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17).

With respect to claim 10, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one

of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating (Badros, paragraphs 46, 50 and 74).

With respect to claims 11 and 35, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits (Badros, paragraphs 31, 46 and 51).

With respect to claim 12, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 11 wherein generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating (Badros, paragraph 73).

With respect to claim 13, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 further comprising: searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query (paragraphs 45, 74 and 82); and incorporating

the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page (Badros, paragraphs 46 and 74).

With respect to claim 14, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus includes: extracting a search term from the user query; and identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 15, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the user-specific metadata includes the search term (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claims 16 and 36, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 17, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user (Badros, paragraphs 33 and 39).

With respect to claim 18, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40).

With respect to claim 19, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing the associated document one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraphs 39 and 48).

With respect to claim 20, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary (Badros, paragraphs 40 and 57).

With respect to claim 21, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraphs 34 and 45).

With respect to claims 22 and 37, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages (Badros, paragraphs 19-21).

With respect to claims 23 and 38, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user is a human (Badros, paragraph 18).

With respect to claims 24 and 39, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user is a computer (Badros, paragraphs 18 and 33).

With respect to claim 25, Badros teaches a method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user (paragraph 18);

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of a plurality of documents from the user (paragraphs 35 and 39);

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations (paragraphs 37 and 39);

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (paragraphs 33-34 and 44-45);

identifying one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query (paragraph 45);

generating a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation (paragraphs 29, 50 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17);

providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 35 and 77);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

transmitting a search report to the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or regenerating search report to further indicate the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Hillis teaches a meta-web system (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (paragraph 81);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 81-82 and 110);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 81 and 110);

regenerating a search report to further indicate the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 72, 77-78, claim 23); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user (paragraphs 72, 77-78 and claim 23).

Hillis teaches that a user may select an item from a search result listing, and add annotations to said item using an annotation tool bar (paragraphs 81-82). He further teaches that search results may be augmented or modified by the registry (paragraph 72). For example, he teaches that rather than providing results from the search engine directly to the user, the meta-server may perform a look-up in the registry to determine if there are annotations associated with the results (paragraph 77; Hillis further teaches that any annotations found in the registry may be added to the search results (paragraph 78). This process may be considered regenerating the search report to further indicate annotated hits because the original search results returned from the search engine are modified or augmented to include annotations or other metadata.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Hillis because providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report to further indicate the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable dynamic generation of search result listings based on available metadata (i.e. user opinions, comments, annotations usefulness, etc.) about

said listings occurring in the search results, thus providing more useful search results (Hillis, abstract).

With respect to claim 26, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 27, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes: extracting a search term from the query; and for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 28, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 29, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 28 wherein identifying one or more hits further includes: extracting a search term from the query; and detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata, wherein the associated document one of the plurality of

documents belonging to the corpus is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 30, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 29 further comprising: for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 32, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 further comprising: receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library (Badros, elements 304, 306 and 308 in Figure 3, paragraph 43).

Badros teaches that searching may be performed on only annotations or only bookmarks, i.e., a subset of the bookmark database.

With respect to claim 40, Badros teaches a computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus (paragraph 14);

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33 and 35);

an annotation module communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including (paragraph 35):

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 35 and 39);

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 36-37); and

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 78, 82 and 44-45); and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including (paragraphs 20-21):

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user (paragraph 18);

search control logic configured to search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query (paragraphs 20 and 28);

personalization control logic configured to identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user (paragraph 45);

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 30-31, paragraph 74 lines 13-17), the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46);

the annotation module further including input control logic operative to provide a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77) and receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 35 and 77), the storage control logic operative to add the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

reporting control logic operative to transmit a search report to the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server

operative to regenerate the search report to further indicate the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Hillis teaches a meta-web system (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (paragraph 81);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 81-82 and 110);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 81 and 110);

regenerating a search report to further indicate the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 72, 77-78, claim 23); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user (paragraphs 72, 77-78 and claim 23).

Hillis teaches that a user may select an item from a search result listing, and add annotations to said item using an annotation tool bar (paragraphs 81-82). He further teaches that search results may be augmented or modified by the registry (paragraph 72). For example, he teaches that rather than providing results from the search engine directly to the user, the meta-server may perform a look-up in the registry to determine if there are annotations associated with the results (paragraph 77; Hillis further teaches that any annotations found in the registry may be added to the search results (paragraph 78). This process may be considered regenerating the search report to further indicate annotated hits because the original search results returned from the search engine are modified or augmented to include annotations or other metadata.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Hillis because providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report to further indicate the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable dynamic generation of search result listings based on available metadata (i.e. user opinions, comments, annotations usefulness, etc.) about said listings occurring in the search results, thus providing more useful search results (Hillis, abstract).

With respect to claim 41, Badros teaches a computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus (paragraph 14);

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33 and 35); and

an annotation module communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including (paragraph 35):

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 35 and 39);

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 36-37); and

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 78, 82 and 44-45); and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including (paragraphs 20-21):

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user (paragraph 18);

search control logic configured to identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user (paragraph 45);

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the listing including only documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user (paragraphs 29, 50 and 74 lines 13-17), the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46);

the annotation module further including input control logic operative to provide a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77) and receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 35 and 77), the storage control logic

operative to add the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

reporting control logic operative to transmit a search report to the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server operative to regenerate the search report to further indicate the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Hillis teaches a meta-web system (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (paragraph 81);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 81-82 and 110);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 81 and 110);

regenerating a search report to further indicate the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 72, 77-78, claim 23); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user (paragraphs 72, 77-78 and claim 23).

Hillis teaches that a user may select an item from a search result listing, and add annotations to said item using an annotation tool bar (paragraphs 81-82). He further teaches that search results may be augmented or modified by the registry (paragraph 72). For example, he teaches that rather than providing results from the search engine directly to the user, the meta-server may perform a look-up in the registry to determine if there are annotations associated with the results (paragraph 77; Hillis further teaches that any annotations found in the registry may be added to the search results (paragraph 78). This process may be considered regenerating the search report to further indicate annotated hits because the original search results returned from the search engine are modified or augmented to include annotations or other metadata.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Hillis because providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report to further indicate the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable dynamic generation of search result listings based on available metadata (i.e. user opinions, comments, annotations usefulness, etc.) about said listings occurring in the search results, thus providing more useful search results (Hillis, abstract).

3. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) (*current application priority date3/15/2004*) as being unpatentable over Badros et al. (US 2005/0131866 A1, *filing date 12/3/2003*) ('Badros') in view of Hillis et al ('Hillis') (US 2004/0210602 A1, *filing*

date 12/15/2003), as applied to claims 1-5, 9-30 and 32-41 above, and further in view of Weber et al. (US 2004/0177063 A1) ('Weber').

With respect to claim 31, Badros as modified teaches claim 29.

Badros as modified does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting (paragraph 43).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Weber because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting would enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 and 9-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

5. Regarding claims 40 and 41, Applicant is notified that any limitation preceded by the term "operative to" does not limit the claim. Claims that use such language appear to cover anything and everything that does not prohibit actions from occurring. Examiner suggests amending the claim to recite the language "configured to".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia M. Lewis whose telephone number is 571-272-5599. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9 - 6:30, alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on 571-272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alicia M Lewis/
Examiner, Art Unit 2164
July 29, 2008

/Charles Rones/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2164

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 11/081,860	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner Alicia M. Lewis	Art Unit 2164	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-2004/0210602	10-2004	Hillis et al.	707/104.1
	B	US-			
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

EAST Search History

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S17	220	(rating annotat $3 comment feedback) with (hit url document) with search near result	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 22:33
S18	0	creat$3 near (rating annotat $3 comment feedback) with (hit url document) with search near result	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 22:33
S19	0	new near2 (rating annotat $3 comment feedback) with (hit url document) with search near result	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 22:33
S20	70	(rating annotat $3 comment feedback) with (hit url) with search near result	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 22:34
S21	62	(rating annotat $3 comment feedback) with (hit url) with search$3 with (creat$3 add$3 new)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 22:42
S22	40	S21 not S20	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 22:43

S23	24	(creat$3 add$3 new) near2 (rating annotat $3 comment feedback) with (hit url) with search$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 22:43
S24	197	(creat$3 add$3 new) near2 (rating annotat $3 comment feedback) with (hit url website)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 22:50
S25	55	user near2 (creat $3 add$3 new input$4) near2 (rating annotat $3 comment feedback) with (hit url website)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 22:51
S26	78	determin$3 with (rating annotat $4 comment feedback) with (hit url listing link) same (creat $3 input$4 add $3 annotat$3) near2 (hit link url hyperlink listing)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 23:12
S27	78	determin$3 with (rating annotat $4 comment feedback) with (hit url listing link) same (creat $3 input$4 add $3 annotat$3) near2 (hit link url hyperlink listing)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 23:19

S28	28	(display$3 output$4) near2 search near (result listing) same (rating annotat$4 comment feedback) with (hit url listing link) with user	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 23:20
S29	52	(display$3 output$4) near2 search near (result listing) same (rat$3 annotat$4 comment feedback) with (hit url listing link) with user	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 23:25
S30	24	S29 not S28	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 23:25
S31	208	user near2 (creat $3 add$3 annotat$4 input $4) near2 (rat$3 feedback opinion comment $3 annotation) with (hit url link hyperlink)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 23:29
S32	21	S31 and 707/3.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 23:29
S33	120	S31 and "707".clas.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 23:33
S34	99	S33 not S32	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/22 23:33

S35	5	determin$3 with (rating annotat $4 comment feedback) with (hit url listing link) same new near2 (rating annotation comment feedback opinion)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/23 00:45
S36	1302	user with new near2 (rating annotation comment feedback opinion)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/23 00:49
S37	8	user with new near2 (rating annotation comment feedback opinion) with (hit url) and "707".clas.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/23 00:49
S38	14	user with new near2 (rating annotation comment feedback opinion) with (hit url)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/23 00:51
S39	65	user with new near2 (rating annotation comment feedback opinion) and 707/3.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/23 00:52
S40	61	S39 not S32 not S33	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/23 00:52
S41	63	S39 not S37 not S38	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/23 00:52

S42	6	user with new near2 (rating annotation comment feedback opinion) with no $1 near (rating annotation feedback comment)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/23 00:59
S43	8	user with new near2 (rating annotation comment feedback opinion) with no $1 near2 (rating annotation feedback comment)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/23 00:59
S44	37	user with (creat $3 add$3 input $4) near2 (rating annotation comment feedback opinion) with no $1 near2 (rating annotation feedback comment)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/23 01:02
S45	315	(highlight$3 mark$3 icon color indicat$3) with search near result with (rating annotation comment feedback score)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/23 02:17

S46	104	(highlight$3 mark$3 icon color indicat$3) with search near result with (url website webpage (web near page) hit document) with (rating annotation comment feedback score)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/06/23 02:18
S47	249	(option button icon) with (comment$3 annotat$3 remark opinion) with user with (hit url (search near result) list)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 16:14
S48	38	(option button icon) with (add $3 creat$3 generat$3 provid $3 insert$3) near3 (comment $3 annotat$3 remark opinion) with user with (hit url (search near result) list)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 16:15
S49	102	(add$3 creat$3 generat$3 provid $3 insert$3) with (comment $3 annotat$3 remark opinion) with search near result	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 16:19
S50	94	S49 not S48	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 16:28
S51	69	S49 not S48 and "707".clas.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 16:28

S52	1	"6683396".pn.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 17:09
S53	2	"366466".apn.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 17:10
S54	25	S50 not S51	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 17:15
S55	1925	(comment$3 rat $3 annotat$3 remark opinion) with search near result	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 17:18
S56	535	(comment$3 rat $3 annotat$3 remark opinion) with search near result with (url hit document page website webpage)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 17:18
S57	282	(comment$3 rat $3 annotat$3 remark opinion) with search near result with (icon button click$3 element)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 17:19
S58	157	S56 and S57	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 17:19
S59	139	S58 not S49	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 17:19
S60	110	S58 not S49 and "707".clas.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 17:19
S61	137	(comment$3 rat $3 annotat$3 remark opinion) with search near result with (icon button element)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 17:22

S62	78	S61 not S49 and "707".clas.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2008/07/28 17:23
S63	2	"474155".apn.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2008/07/29 16:53

7/30/2008 3:12:58 PM
C:\Documents and Settings\alewis5\My Documents\EAST\Workspaces\11081860.wsp

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008	07/30/2008						
	1	✓	✓	✓						
	2	✓	✓	✓						
	3	✓	✓	✓						
	4	✓	✓	✓						
	5	✓	✓	✓						
	6	✓	✓	-						
	7	✓	✓	-						
	8	✓	✓	-						
	9	✓	✓	✓						
	10	✓	✓	✓						
	11	✓	✓	✓						
	12	✓	✓	✓						
	13	✓	✓	✓						
	14	✓	✓	✓						
	15	✓	✓	✓						
	16	✓	✓	✓						
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	31	✓	✓	✓						
	32	✓	✓	✓						
	33	✓	✓	✓						
	34	✓	✓	✓						
	35	✓	✓	✓						
	36	✓	✓	✓						

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008	07/30/2008						
	37	✓	✓	✓						
	38	✓	✓	✓						
	39	✓	✓	✓						
	40	✓	✓	✓						
	41	✓	✓	✓						

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
Help from TA, Srirama Channavajjala	06/12/2007	TMW
East search of 707/3 wit text, history attached	06/13/2007	TMW
Help from Trainer, Nabil El-Hady on Double Patenting	06/13/2007	TMW
Help from TA, Srirama Channavajjala	06/20/2007	TMW
Help from Trainer, Nabil El-Hady	06/21/2007	TMW
EAST- USPAT, USPGPUB (see search history)	2/5/08	AML
EAST(updated) - USPAT, USPGPUB - See Search History	7/30/2008	AML

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

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www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368	1892

76041 7590 10/29/2008

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EXAMINER	
LEWIS, ALICIA M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2164	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/29/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/081,860	WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alicia M. Lewis	2164	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) *Alicia M. Lewis*. (3)_____.

(2) *Timothy Bechen*. (4)_____.

Date of Interview: *16 October 2008*.

Type: a)☐ Telephonic b)☐ Video Conference
c)☒ Personal [copy given to: 1)☐ applicant 2)☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d)☐ Yes e)☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: *1*.

Identification of prior art discussed: *Hillis et al. (US 2004/0210602 A1)*.

Agreement with respect to the claims f)☐ was reached. g)☒ was not reached. h)☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: *Applicant's representative explained Applicant's invention, and the Examiner explained how the Hillis reference was interpreted to teach the "regenerating" limitation in claim 1* .

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

/Alicia M Lewis/ Examiner, Art Unit 2164	

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	Eckart Walther, et al.		
Serial No.:	11/081,860	Examiner:	Alicia M. Lewis
Filed:	March 15, 2005	Group Art Unit:	2164
Title:	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This Amendment is being submitted in response to the Office Action dated August 1, 2008.

Amendments to Claims begin on Page 2 of this paper; and

Remarks begin on Page 13 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user;

searching a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user;

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document;

identifying, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations;

generating a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit; and transmitting the search report to the user, wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving the new annotation from the user;

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations;

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

generating a separate listing including only annotated hits.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query; and

incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus

includes:

extracting a search term from the user query; and

identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations

includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the

user-specific metadata includes the search term.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of

information is a free-text description of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a human.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a computer.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user;

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of a plurality of documents from the user;

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus;

identifying one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

generating a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation;

wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving the new annotation from the user;

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations;

in response to the addition of the new annotations, automatically regenerating the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein identifying one or more hits further includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata, wherein one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 further comprising:

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting.

32. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library.

33. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

34. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, at least some of the user-specific metadata from the associated annotation.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of

documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the documents in the listing are placed in an order determined based at least in part on the ratings of the hits.

36. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any document that is one of the group of documents is identified as a hit.

37. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the corpus is the World Wide Web.

38. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a human.

39. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a computer.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document;

an annotation module communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user;

search control logic configured to search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query;

personalization control logic configured to identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic ~~operative~~ configured to, for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new

annotation from the user, the storage control logic ~~operative~~ configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server ~~operative~~ configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotations, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and reporting control logic ~~operative~~ configured to ~~transmitting~~ transmit the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document;

an annotation module communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user;

search control logic configured to identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic ~~operative~~ configured to , for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, the storage control logic ~~operative~~ configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server ~~operative~~ configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotations, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and reporting control logic ~~operative~~ configured to ~~transmitting~~ transmit the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 1, 2008. Applicants submit the following response with a one-month extension of time.

Initially, Applicants' Representative thanks Examiner Lewis for courtesies extended in granting and conducting the in-person Examiner Interview. As noted in the Interview Summary, the claimed step of "regenerating" was discussed, among other topics relating to the claimed invention and the asserted prior. While no agreement was reached, Applicants submit the proposed amendments noted herein consistent with the discussion topic of the Interview.

Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 have been amended to recite that the regenerating step is "automatic" "in response to the addition of the new annotations," the regenerating step updates "the search results of the search report" and the transmission of the regenerated search report to the user is "in response to the query submitted by the user." These amendments do not add any new matter beyond the specification as originally filed. Applicants request entrance and examination.

Claims 1-5, 9-30 and 32-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Published Application No. 2005/0131866 ("Badros") in view of U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0210602 ("Hillis"). Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that the combination of Badros and Hillis fails to teach or suggest the recited limitations of amended claims 1, 25, 40 and 41.

As understood, Badros describes a technique for supplementing a user's search by including aspects of the user's personal bookmarks. Badros includes various techniques whereby search operations are performed on a regular web corpus of

documents and a supplemental search is performed on the bookmark data. This search may be done on a persons individual bookmark or a collection of bookmarks for various users. Badros even includes the additional ability to perform searching that includes user annotations relating to the noted bookmarks. Badros performs the personalization search solely and exclusively on the bookmarks and annotations. Moreover, Badros performs the single combined search of the full web and the bookmarks.

As understood, Hillis describes a registry that receives meta information from a meta-web server. When a user performs a search in the Hillis system, the system uses the information in the registry to augment or modify search results. The meta-web server collates all the information and then generates a single search result page to the user. Hillis expressly states that "Any annotations or other metadata found in the registry may be added to the search results." and that the "Meta-Web server ... dynamically constructs a presentation for the user which is returned to the user." (¶ 078)

As noted in the in-person interview, Applicants submit that, among other shortcomings, the Badros / Hillis combination fails to teach or suggest the claimed regenerating step. First off, the exact language of the term regenerating claims that a search result is "re"generated, i.e. generated again. Neither Badros nor Hillis teach or suggest regenerating a search result, rather Hillis, at best, describes augmenting the search result from the search engine. But the augmentation of Hillis is performed when the search operation is performed, therefore Hillis is **not** a regeneration, but rather a first generation of the search results.

Applicants note that on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that "Badros ... does not explicitly teach ... regenerating [the] search report to further

indicate the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit." As such, Applicants focus the present discussion on the failures of Hillis as Applicants and the Examiner are in concurrence that Badros fails to teach or suggest the claimed "regenerating" step.

The failure of Hillis to teach or suggest the recited limitations is further emphasized in that "regeneration" is performed to indicate that the search results include the newly annotated hit as an annotated hit. Hillis is absolutely silent regarding regenerating for a "newly annotated hit," but at best would require a user to enter a search, annotate a hit, then the same user re-run the exact same search again, which is outside the teaching or suggestion of Hillis.

Applicants obviate any unreasonable interpretation by explicitly reciting that the regenerating step is "automatic," is "in response to the addition of the new annotations" and that the regenerating is "to update the search results of the search report." As noted above, Hillis does not teach or suggest that a regenerating step is automatic and in response to the addition of the annotations, rather Hillis teaches a system where the annotations (meta-data) would be from earlier sessions or other sources of user meta data, **not** the same search report. This is further noted by the flow diagram of Fig. 1 which illustrates that the registry is loaded with the results 1010 of the search engine 12, not content from the web browser 10, which is logically where any user-entered meta data would have to be received from for supporting the Examiner's application of Hillis to the present claims.

Applicants further obviate any unreasonable interpretation by explicitly reciting that the transmission of the regenerated search report is "in response to the query submitted by the user." As noted above, Hillis does not teach or suggest the updating of

annotations or other meta-data in response to the same search result, but rather Hillis uses a system that stores previously-entered meta-data information and augments the search result when the search results are processed by the meta-web server.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 recite patentable subject matter in view of Badros and Hillis.

Claims 2-5, 9-24 and 26-30 and 32-39 recite further patentable subject matter and are allowable for at least the same reasons regarding claims 1 and 25. Accordingly, Applicants further submit these claims recite patentable subject matter and are allowable in view of Badros and Hillis.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Badros in view of Hillis and further in view of Published Application No. 2004/0177063 (Weber). Claim 31 depends from claim 25 and is patentable for at least the same reasons stated above. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection.

For these reasons, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections as they might be applied to the claims as pending following entry of this Amendment and allow the claims. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 25, 2008

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING SYSTEM ON November 25, 2008.

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Customer No. 61834

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Eckart Walther
Application No.	:	11/081,860
Filing Date	:	3/15/2005
Examiner	:	T. M. Weinman
Art Unit	:	2109
Title	:	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

A one-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(b) to December 1, 2008 is hereby requested to respond to the Office Action dated August 1, 2008. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge $ 130.00 for the required fee for the extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a) and any additional fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **50-4026.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 25, 2008

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING SYSTEM ON November 25, 2008.

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Customer Number: 61834

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11081860
Filing Date:	15-Mar-2005
Title of Invention:	Search systems and methods with integration of user annotations
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Filer:	Seth H. Ostrow/susan formicola
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 1 month with $0 paid	1251	1	130	130

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Miscellaneous:				
			Total in USD ($)	**130**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	4354245
Application Number:	11081860
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	1892
Title of Invention:	Search systems and methods with integration of user annotations
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Customer Number:	76041
Filer:	Seth H. Ostrow/susan formicola
Filer Authorized By:	Seth H. Ostrow
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368
Receipt Date:	25-NOV-2008
Filing Date:	15-MAR-2005
Time Stamp:	16:13:46
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$130
RAM confirmation Number	1864
Deposit Account	504026
Authorized User	
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows: Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees) Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)	

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.19 (Document supply fees)	
Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		00410176.pdf	628360 6b4255655be94274d561f206ae954f5000c6f253	yes	17
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		**Start**	**End**	
	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject		1	1	
	Claims		2	12	
	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment		13	17	
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Extension of Time	00410179.pdf	32343 d66eb0a312df66d42161c10db422157cc2f2d058	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Fee Worksheet (PTO-06)	fee-info.pdf	29800 8f728168fb0425c91cf9c69a2746c5ae8a4b97b3	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	690503		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

PTO/SB/06 (07-06)
Approved for use through 1/31/2007. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

Application or Docket Number	Filing Date	☐ To be Mailed
11/081,860	03/15/2005	

APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

FOR	(Column 1) NUMBER FILED	(Column 2) NUMBER EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY ☐ RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ☐ FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X $ =			X $ =	
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).						
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))							
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.			TOTAL			TOTAL	

APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

AMENDMENT 05/20/2008	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 38	Minus	** 41	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $50=	0
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 4	Minus	***4	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $210=	0
☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0

AMENDMENT 11/25/2008	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)		RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 38	Minus	** 41	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $52 =	0
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 4	Minus	*** 4	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $220 =	0
☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/DORIS m. BURNS/

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368	1892

76041 7590 03/04/2009

YAHOO! INC.
C/O Ostrow Kaufman & Frankl LLP
The Chrysler Building
405 Lexington Avenue, 62nd Floor
NEW YORK, NY 10174

EXAMINER	
LEWIS, ALICIA M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2164	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
03/04/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/081,860	WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alicia M. Lewis	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *25 November 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-5 and 9-41* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-5 and 9-41* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is responsive to communication filed November 25, 2008. Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 are currently amended, and claims 6-8 are canceled. Therefore, claims 1-5 and 9-41 remain pending in this application.

Claim Objections

1. Claims 25, 40 and 41 are objected to because of the following informalities: The word "**annotations**" in the newly added limitation "in response to the addition of the new annotations, automatically regenerating the search report" is plural; however, the Examiner believes the word should be singular, i.e., "annotation" because the prior limitations all relate to a singular annotation (i.e. receiving **the new annotation** and adding **the new annotation** to the library of annotations). Appropriate correction is required.

2. Claims 1-5 and 9-39 are objected to because of the following informalities: The methods of claims 1-5 and 9-39 are not tied to a particular machine. There is no explicit recitation of a particular machine, and there are no limitations recited in the claims that inherently involve the use of a particular machine. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-5, 9-30 and 32-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) (*current application priority date3/15/2004*) as being unpatentable over Badros et al. (US 2005/0131866 A1, *filing date 12/3/2003*) ('Badros') in view of Willis (US 2004/0003096 A1, *filing date 1/30/2003)*, and further in view of Rubin et al. (US 2008/0195495 A1, *priority date 2/6/2004*) ('Rubin').

With respect to claim 1, Badros teaches a method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user (paragraph 18);

searching a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query (paragraphs 20 and 28);

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user (paragraphs 35 and 39);

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations (paragraphs 37 and 39);

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33-34 and 44-45);

identifying, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations (paragraph 45);

generating a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17); and transmitting the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46);

providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 35 and 77);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

transmitting a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating a search report to update the search results of the search report (paragraph 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search

results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

With respect to claim 2, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17).

With respect to claim 3, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating (Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 49).

With respect to claims 4 and 33, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein generating the search report further includes: for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 35).

With respect to claims 5 and 34, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein generating the search report further includes: for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 31 lines 22-27, paragraphs 73 and 82).

With respect to claim 9, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes: generating a separate listing including only annotated hits (Badros, paragraphs 29, 50 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17).

With respect to claim 10, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating (Badros, paragraphs 46, 50 and 74).

With respect to claims 11 and 35, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits (Badros, paragraphs 31, 46 and 51).

With respect to claim 12, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 11 wherein generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating (Badros, paragraph 73).

With respect to claim 13, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 further comprising: searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query (Badros, paragraphs 45, 74 and 82); and incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page (Badros, paragraphs 46 and 74).

With respect to claim 14, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus includes: extracting a search term from the user query; and identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 15, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the user-specific metadata includes the search term (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claims 16 and 36, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 17, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user (Badros, paragraphs 33 and 39).

With respect to claim 18, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40).

With respect to claim 19, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing the associated document one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraphs 39 and 48).

With respect to claim 20, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary (Badros, paragraphs 40 and 57).

With respect to claim 21, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraphs 34 and 45).

With respect to claims 22 and 37, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages (Badros, paragraphs 19-21).

With respect to claims 23 and 38, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user is a human (Badros, paragraph 18).

With respect to claims 24 and 39, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user is a computer (Badros, paragraphs 18 and 33).

With respect to claim 25, Badros teaches a method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user (paragraph 18);

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of a plurality of documents from the user (paragraphs 35 and 39);

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations (paragraphs 37 and 39);

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (paragraphs 33-34 and 44-45);

identifying one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query (paragraph 45);

generating a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation (paragraphs 29, 50 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17);

providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 35 and 77);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

transmitting a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or in response to the addition of the new annotations, automatically regenerating search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating a search report to update the search results of the search report (paragraphs 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would

enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

With respect to claim 26, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 27, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes: extracting a search term from the query; and for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 28, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 29, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 28 wherein identifying one or more hits further includes: extracting a search term from the query; and detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata, wherein the associated document one of the plurality of

documents belonging to the corpus is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 30, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 29 further comprising: for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 32, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 further comprising: receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library (Badros, elements 304, 306 and 308 in Figure 3, paragraph 43).

Badros teaches that searching may be performed on only annotations or only bookmarks, i.e., a subset of the bookmark database.

With respect to claim 40, Badros teaches a computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus (paragraph 14);

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33 and 35);

an annotation module communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including (paragraph 35):

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 35 and 39);

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 36-37); and

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 78, 82 and 44-45); and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including (paragraphs 20-21):

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user (paragraph 18);

search control logic configured to search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query (paragraphs 20 and 28);

personalization control logic configured to identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user (paragraph 45);

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 30-31, paragraph 74 lines 13-17), the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46);

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to provide a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77) and receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 35 and 77), the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

reporting control logic operative to transmit a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server

configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotations, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating a search report to update the search results of the search (paragraphs 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search

results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

With respect to claim 41, Badros teaches a computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus (paragraph 14);

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33 and 35); and

an annotation module communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including (paragraph 35):

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 35 and 39);

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 36-37); and

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 78, 82 and 44-45); and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including (paragraphs 20-21):

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user (paragraph 18);

search control logic configured to identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user (paragraph 45);

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the listing including only documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user (paragraphs 29, 50 and 74 lines 13-17), the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46);

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to provide a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77) and receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 35 and 77), the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

reporting control logic configured to transmit a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotations, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating a search report to update the search results of the search report (paragraphs 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would

enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

5. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) (*current application priority date3/15/2004*) as being unpatentable over Badros et al. (US 2005/0131866 A1, *filing date 12/3/2003*) ('Badros') in view of Willis (US 2004/0003096 A1, *filing date 1/30/2003)* and Rubin et al. (US 2008/0195495 A1, *priority date 2/6/2004*) ('Rubin'), as applied to claims 1-5, 9-30 and 32-41 above, and further in view of Weber et al. (US 2004/0177063 A1) ('Weber').

With respect to claim 31, Badros as modified teaches claim 29.

Badros as modified does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting (paragraph 43).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Weber because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting would

enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 and 9-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia M. Lewis whose telephone number is 571-272-5599. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9 - 6:30, alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on 571-272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. M. L./
Examiner, Art Unit 2164
February 25, 2009

/Charles Rones/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2164

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 11/081,860	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner Alicia M. Lewis	Art Unit 2164	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-2004/0003096	01-2004	Willis, Brian	709/228
*	B	US-2008/0195495	08-2008	Rubin et al.	705/14
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008	07/30/2008	02/24/2009					
	1	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	2	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	3	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	4	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	5	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	6	✓	✓	-	-					
	7	✓	✓	-	-					
	8	✓	✓	-	-					
	9	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	10	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	11	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	12	✓	✓	✓	✓					
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	14	✓	✓	✓	✓					
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	18	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	19	✓	✓	✓	✓					
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	21	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	22	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	23	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	24	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	25	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	26	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	27	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	28	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	29	✓	✓	✓	✓					
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	31	✓	✓	✓	✓					
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	33	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	34	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	35	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	36	✓	✓	✓	✓					

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008	07/30/2008	02/24/2009					
	37	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	38	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	39	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	40	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	41	✓	✓	✓	✓					

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
Help from TA, Srirama Channavajjala	06/12/2007	TMW
East search of 707/3 wit text, history attached	06/13/2007	TMW
Help from Trainer, Nabil El-Hady on Double Patenting	06/13/2007	TMW
Help from TA, Srirama Channavajjala	06/20/2007	TMW
Help from Trainer, Nabil El-Hady	06/21/2007	TMW
EAST- USPAT, USPGPUB (see search history)	2/5/08	AML
EAST(updated) - USPAT, USPGPUB - See Search History	7/30/2008	AML
EAST (updated) - USPAT, USPGPUB - See Search History	2/23/2009	AML

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

EAST Search History

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L1	91	indicat$3 with new$2 near3 annotat$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/24 18:39
L2	86	indicat$3 with new$2 near3 (rating comment review feedback) and "707".clas.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/24 18:47
S65	28	regenerat$3 with search with (new updat $4)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2009/02/19 19:56
S66	68	new near2 (annotation comment$5 review) with (regenerat$3 updat$3) with (report result hit list$4 display $3)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/19 20:00
S67	379	(updated additional add$3 new) near2 (annotation comment $5 review) same (regenerat$3 updat$3) with (report result hit list$4 display$3)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 11:57
S68	13	(updated additional add$3 new) near2 (annotation comment $5 review) same (regenerat$3 updat$3) with search near2 (report result hit list$4 display$3)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 11:57
S69	27	(annotation comment $5 review) with updat $3 with search near (report result hit list$4 display$3)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 11:59
S70	40	regenerat$3 with search near (result hit list$4 report)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 14:06

S71	5	(updat$3 regenerat$3) with search near (result hit list$4 report) same new near (rating comment annotation review)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 14:13
S72	321	annotat$3 with search near result	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 14:14
S73	10	annotat$3 with search near result with hit	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 14:14
S74	80	annotat$3 with search near result and 707/3.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 14:16
S75	58	(updat$3 regenerat$3) with search near (result hit list$4 report) with (rating comment annotation review)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 14:28
S76	14	recreat$3 with search near (result hit list$4 report)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 14:37
S77	233	reproduc$3 with search near (result hit list$4 report)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 14:38
S78	0	reproduc$3 with search near (result hit list$4 report) with annotation	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 14:38
S79	0	reproduc$3 with search near (result hit list$4 report) same annotation	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 14:38
S80	3	reproduc$3 with search near (result hit list$4 report) with updat$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 14:39
S81	367	updat$3 near2 (result hit list$4 report) with (rating comment annotation review)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 14:49
S82	58	updat$3 near2 (result hit list$4 report) with annotation	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/23 14:50

S83	1	(annotat$4 comment rating ranking) with refresh$3 with search near result	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/24 13:34
S84	237	(annotat$4 comment rating ranking) with (sort$3 updat$3) with search near result	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/24 13:35
S85	7	(annotat$4 comment rating ranking) same refresh$3 with search near result	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/24 13:36
S86	11	(score feedback rank) same refresh$3 with search near result	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/24 13:38
S87	112	refresh$3 with search near result	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/24 13:39
S88	13	refresh$3 with search near result and annotat $4	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/24 13:39
S89	20	refresh$3 with search near result with updat $3	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/24 13:41
S90	45	refresh$3 with search near result with user	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/24 13:43
S91	28	S90 not S89 not S88 not S86	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/24 13:43
S92	1	"20050234891"	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/24 13:58

2/24/2009 8:02:22 PM
C:\Documents and Settings\alewis5\My Documents\EAST\Workspaces\11081860.wsp

Doc code: RCEX
Doc description: Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

PTO/SB/30EFS (06-09)
Approved for use through 06/30/2009. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION(RCE)TRANSMITTAL
(Submitted Only via EFS-Web)

Application Number	11081860	Filing Date	2005-03-15	Docket Number (if applicable)	600189-368	Art Unit	2164
First Named Inventor	Walther			Examiner Name	Lewis		

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. The Instruction Sheet for this form is located at WWW.USPTO.GOV

SUBMISSION REQUIRED UNDER 37 CFR 1.114

Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

- ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Enclosed

- ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)
- ☐ Other _____

MISCELLANEOUS

☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of months _____ (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

☐ Other _____

FEES

☐ **The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.**
The Director is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No _____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

☒ Patent Practitioner Signature

☐ Applicant Signature

PTO/SB/30EFS (06-09)
Approved for use through 06/30/2009. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Signature of Registered U.S. Patent Practitioner			
Signature	/Timothy J. Bechen/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2009-06-03
Name	Timothy J. Bechen	Registration Number	48126

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these record s.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal	
Application Number:	11081860
Filing Date:	15-Mar-2005
Title of Invention:	Search systems and methods with integration of user annotations
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Filer:	Seth H. Ostrow/susan formicola
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368
Filed as Large Entity	

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Miscellaneous:				
Request for continued examination	1801	1	810	810
		Total in USD ($)		**810**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	5443013
Application Number:	11081860
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	1892
Title of Invention:	Search systems and methods with integration of user annotations
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Customer Number:	76041
Filer:	Seth H. Ostrow/susan formicola
Filer Authorized By:	Seth H. Ostrow
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368
Receipt Date:	03-JUN-2009
Filing Date:	15-MAR-2005
Time Stamp:	11:23:11
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$810
RAM confirmation Number	7427
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)

1		600189368preliminaryamd.pdf	179624 c9b1253244be5d6b140fd8178822f042f394f98f	yes	17

	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description		
	Document Description	**Start**	**End**
	Preliminary Amendment	1	1
	Claims	2	13
	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment	14	17

Warnings:

Information:

2	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	600189368rce.pdf	697111 e073aed2051d2116a3e6ceb1c23ab2be0315a070	no	3

Warnings:

Information:

3	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	29918 4d323c5211aff80d75bace0979a7c72b871b7320	no	2

Warnings:

Information:

Total Files Size (in bytes):	906653

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Eckart Walther, et al.
Serial No.	:	11/081,860
Examiner	:	Alicia M. Lewis
Filed:	:	March 15, 2005
Group Art Unit	:	2164
Title:		SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted with a Request for Continued Examination in response to the final Office Action dated March 4, 2009, wherein:

Amendments to Claims begin on Page 2 of this paper; and

Remarks begin on Page 14 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user;

searching a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user;

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting;

identifying, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations in the fields being considered;

generating a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit; and transmitting the

search report to the user, wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving the new annotation from the user;

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations;

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

generating a separate listing including only annotated hits.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query; and

incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus includes:

extracting a search term from the user query; and

identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations

includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the user-specific metadata includes the search term.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is

a label selected from a predefined vocabulary.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a human.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a computer.

25. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user;

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of a plurality of documents from the user;

adding, via a processing device, to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting;

identifying one or more hits among the documents associated with the

annotations in the fields being considered, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

generating, via the processing device, a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation;

wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving the new annotation from the user;

adding, via the processing device, the new annotation to the library of annotations;

in response to the addition of the new annotation ~~annotations~~, automatically regenerating, via the processing device, the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein identifying one or more hits further includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata, wherein one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 further comprising:

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library.

33. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, a control element operable by the user to request a display of the

user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

34. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, at least some of the user-specific metadata from the associated annotation.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the documents in the listing are placed in an order determined based at least in part on the ratings of the hits.

36. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any document that is one of the group of documents is identified as a hit.

37. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the corpus is the World Wide Web.

38. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a human.

39. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a computer.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the

corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields;

an annotation module, executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to, using the processing device, receive a query from a querying user the query specifying which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting;

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query;

personalization control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation ~~annotations~~, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and reporting control logic configured to transmit the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields;

an annotation module executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

retrieval control logic configured to, using the processing device, locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user the query specifying which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting;

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to, using the processing device, generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, using the processing device,, for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation ~~annotations~~, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and reporting control logic configured to transmit the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

REMARKS

This is in response to the final Office Action dated March 4, 2009. Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance as being patentable over the prior art of record.

Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 have been amended to recite limitations previously recited in claim 31. Claims 25, 40 and 41 have been amended correct a typographical error regarding the term "annotation" and have been amended to expressly recite machine language as per the Examiner's recommendation. These amendments do not add any new matter and as such, Applicants request entrance and examination.

Claims 25, 40 and 41 stand objected to based on informalities and failing to expressly recite a machine (e.g. processing device). As amended, Applicants submit this objection is overcome.

Claims 1-5, 9-30 and 32-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Published Application No. 2005/0131866 ("Badros") in view of U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0003096 ("Willis") in view of Published Application No. 2008/0195495 ("Rubin"). Claim 31 was amended based on the additional inclusion of Published Application No. 2004/0177063 ("Weber"). In view of the amendments, Applicants shall address the present rejection relative to the asserted 4 reference combination of Badros, Willis, Rubin and then Weber. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 recite patentable subject matter.

For the sake of brevity, Applicants re-submit the previously-offered characterizations of the prior art references from previously-filed responses.

Applicants submit that even if one skilled in the art was motivated and actually combined the four (4) references of Badros, Willis, Rubin and Weber, such combination would fail to teach or suggest **all** of the recited limitations.

Rubin is asserted for teaching the idea of regenerating a search result. The Examiner-cited passage of Rubin provides that when a user specifically enters a preference indicator on a search result field, the Rubin system will actively monitor the documents in the search result and then regenerate the search when the document has been updated. This is inconsistent with the claimed regeneration of the search report to indicate the annotated hit is an annotated hit. The regeneration of Rubin relates to the updated of specific content of the search result, which is different from the regeneration to indicate a change in annotation status, and accordingly a change in the display of the search results as indicated by the recited "indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit … wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit."

Applicants also submits that Weber fails to cure the noted deficiencies of the pending claims. Weber provides for the user to recognize various "metadata fields" relating to aspects of a media item, the given examples being the a name of an artist and a guest performance, as well as a genre, in the area of a music file. As explicitly noted in Paragraph 43 of Weber, "a user may specify the fields by order of importance." (emphasis added). Order of importance is wholly inconsistent with which fields are to be considered because order requires that all fields are considered, thus potentially providing a larger number of search results and the specification of which fields to consider allows a much more precise search with much more precise results, i.e. only relevant terms are

found compared with the ranking of Weber would provide that all results are found and various results are just prioritized towards the top of the list. It is more convenient to the user have a more precise search result, as well as computationally less intensive to have fewer results.

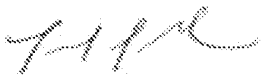
As understood, the pending independent claims would now be subject to at least a four reference 103(a) combination rejection. Applicants appreciate that under 35 U.S.C. s103(a), there is no prohibition against a large number of prior art references being used in combination, but Applicants submit that the larger volume of references, the more the present rejection begins to indicate hindsight reconstruction, using the present claims as a veritable blueprint for assembling prior art references.

Applicants appreciate the latitude Examiner's are granted in view of KSR v. Teleflex, but submit that it is not reasonable to assert that one skilled in the art would have combined these four references to assemble the claimed invention, which is rendered moot because even if one skilled in the art was motivated to combine these four teachings, the combination would still fail to teach or suggest all of the recited limitations, as noted above.

For these reasons, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections as they might be applied to the claims as pending following entry of this Amendment and allow the claims. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 3, 2009



THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING SYSTEM ON June 3, 2009.

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PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

Application or Docket Number	Filing Date	☐ To be Mailed
11/081,860	03/15/2005	

APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

FOR	(Column 1) NUMBER FILED	(Column 2) NUMBER EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)
☒ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	**300**
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X $ =			X $ =	
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).						
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))							
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.			TOTAL			TOTAL	**300**

APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

AMENDMENT		(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	06/03/2009									
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 37	Minus	** 41	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $52=	0
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 4	Minus	***4	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $220=	0
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	**0**

AMENDMENT		(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)		RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/TAMMY MCBETH BROWN/

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368	1892

76041 7590 08/19/2009

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EXAMINER	
LEWIS, ALICIA M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2164	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
08/19/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/081,860	WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alicia M. Lewis	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *03 June 2009*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-5,9-30 and 32-41* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-5,9-30 and 32-41* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed June 3, 2009. Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 are currently amended, and claim 31 is canceled. Therefore, claims 1-5, 9-30 and 32-41 remain pending in this application.

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 are objected to because of the following informalities: The claim language “operable to” should be changed to “configured to” to show that the control element is actually configured to perform the recited function (i.e. create a new annotation). Appropriate correction is required.

2. Claim 1 objected to because of the following informalities: The Examiner suggests adding claim language similar to claim 25 (i.e. "computerized method” and “via a processing device") to claim 1 to show that the method is tied to a particular machine Appropriate correction is required.

3. Claim 41 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 41, page 13, line 7, there are two commas after the added limitation “using the processing device”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 have each been amended to include the limitation "the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting". However, there is no previous recited act or step of detecting in the claims. Therefore, the above cited limitation is unclear. For the purposes of examination, the limitation will be interpreted as 'the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered'.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-5, 9-30 and 32-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) (*current application priority date3/15/2004*) as being unpatentable over Badros et al. (US 2005/0131866 A1, *filing date 12/3/2003*) ('Badros') in view of Willis (US 2004/0003096 A1, *filing date 1/30/2003)*, further in view of Rubin et al. (US 2008/0195495 A1, *priority date 2/6/2004*) ('Rubin'), and further in view of Weber et al. (US 2004/0177063 A1) ('Weber').

With respect to claim 1, Badros teaches a method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user (paragraph 18);

searching a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query (paragraphs 20 and 28);

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user (paragraphs 35 and 39);

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations (paragraphs 37 and 39);

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33-34 and 44-45);

identifying, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations in the data being considered (paragraph 45);

generating a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17); and transmitting the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46);

providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 35 and 77);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

transmitting a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating a search report to update the search results of the search report (paragraph 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

Further regarding claim 1, Badros in view of Willis and Rubin does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting (paragraph 43).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Weber because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting would enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

With respect to claim 2, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17).

With respect to claim 3, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating

(Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 49).

With respect to claims 4 and 33, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein generating the search report further includes: for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 35).

With respect to claims 5 and 34, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein generating the search report further includes: for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 31 lines 22-27, paragraphs 73 and 82).

With respect to claim 9, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes: generating a separate listing including only annotated hits (Badros, paragraphs 29, 50 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17).

With respect to claim 10, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating (Badros, paragraphs 46, 50 and 74).

With respect to claims 11 and 35, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits (Badros, paragraphs 31, 46 and 51).

With respect to claim 12, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 11 wherein generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating (Badros, paragraph 73).

With respect to claim 13, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 further comprising: searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is

determined to be relevant to the query (Badros, paragraphs 45, 74 and 82); and incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page (Badros, paragraphs 46 and 74).

With respect to claim 14, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus includes: extracting a search term from the user query; and identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 15, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the user-specific metadata includes the search term (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claims 16 and 36, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 17, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user (Badros, paragraphs 33 and 39).

With respect to claim 18, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40).

With respect to claim 19, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing the associated document one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraphs 39 and 48).

With respect to claim 20, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary (Badros, paragraphs 40 and 57).

With respect to claim 21, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraphs 34 and 45).

With respect to claims 22 and 37, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages (Badros, paragraphs 19-21).

With respect to claims 23 and 38, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user is a human (Badros, paragraph 18).

With respect to claims 24 and 39, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user is a computer (Badros, paragraphs 18 and 33).

With respect to claim 25, Badros teaches a computerized method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user (paragraph 18);

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of a plurality of documents from the user (paragraphs 35 and 39);

adding, via a processing device, to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations (paragraphs 37 and 39);

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (paragraphs 33-34 and 44-45);

identifying one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations in the data being considered, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query (paragraph 45);

generating, via the processing device, a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation (paragraphs 29, 50 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17);

providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 35 and 77);

adding, via the processing device, the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

transmitting a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating, via the processing device, search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating, via the processing device, a search report to update the search results of the search report (paragraphs 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search

results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

Further regarding claim 25, Badros in view of Willis and Rubin does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting (paragraph 43).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Weber because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting would

enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

With respect to claim 26, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 27, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes: extracting a search term from the query; and for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 28, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 29, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 28 wherein identifying one or more hits further includes: extracting a search term from the query; and detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in

the user-specific metadata, wherein the associated document one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 30, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 29 further comprising: for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 32, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 further comprising: receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library (Badros, elements 304, 306 and 308 in Figure 3, paragraph 43).

Badros teaches that searching may be performed on only annotations or only bookmarks, i.e., a subset of the bookmark database.

With respect to claim 40, Badros teaches a computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus (paragraph 14);

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33 and 35);

an annotation module, executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including (paragraph 35):

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 35 and 39);

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 36-37); and

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 78, 82 and 44-45); and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including (paragraphs 20-21):

input control logic configured to, using the processing device, receive a query from a querying user (paragraph 18);

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query (paragraphs 20 and 28);

personalization control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user (paragraph 45);

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 30-31, paragraph 74 lines 13-17), the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46);

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to provide a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77) and receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 35 and 77), the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

reporting control logic operative to transmit a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server

configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating a search report to update the search results of the search (paragraphs 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

Further regarding claim 40, Badros in view of Willis and Rubin does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting (paragraph 43).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Weber

because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting would enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

With respect to claim 41, Badros teaches a computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus (paragraph 14);

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33 and 35); and

an annotation module, executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including (paragraph 35):

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 35 and 39);

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 36-37); and

retrieval control logic configured to, using the processing device, locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 78, 82 and 44-45); and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including (paragraphs 20-21):

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user (paragraph 18);

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user (paragraph 45);

reporting control logic configured to, using the processing device, generate a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the listing including only documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user (paragraphs 29, 50 and 74 lines 13-17), the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46);

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, using the processing device, provide a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77) and receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 35 and 77), the

storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

reporting control logic configured to transmit a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating a search report to update the search results of the search report (paragraphs 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

Further regarding claim 41, Badros in view of Willis and Rubin does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting (paragraph 43).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Weber because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting would enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed June 3, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Rubin is asserted for teaching the idea of regenerating a search result. This is partially incorrect. The Examiner asserts that Willis teaches regenerating a search report to update the search results (paragraph 203). The Examiner acknowledges that Willis does not explicitly teach updating the search results to indicate a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit. Thus, Rubin is used

to teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52). Rubin teaches that the collaborative search engine provides the ability for users to match against other user's queries/notebooks to find folders with relevant results and to return links (search results) from the folders (paragraph 51). Rubin further teaches that the notebook system provides mechanisms to alert the user of new or additional information. For example, he teaches that the mechanisms may include a visual cue, image or icon to indicate to the user that a link (search result) has an annotation that is new (paragraph 52). Thus, Rubin clearly teaches updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (i.e. alerting a user to new information by using a visual cue to indicate that a link has a new annotation).

10. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.,* 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

11. Applicant also argues that Weber fails to teach the query specifying which of the metadata fields are to be considered. Examiner disagrees. Applicant picks one approach of selecting fields as the basis for concluding that Weber fails to teach the above limitation. More specifically, Applicant argues that Weber teaches "a user may specify the fields by order of importance," and thus concludes that order of importance requires all fields to be considered that thus is inconsistent with the claimed invention. However, Weber teaches a variety of approaches, or different embodiments, for

selecting query fields. For example, he teaches that metadata fields may be selected based on type of media, in which the fields title and guest performers are used as query fields for the media type of movie (paragraph 44). Weber also teaches an alternative embodiment, in which a user may specify how many fields are to be used for a search (paragraph 45). Thus it is clear that all fields are not used in each embodiment of Weber, and thus Weber teaches specifying which of the metadata fields are to be considered.

12. In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

13. In response to applicant's argument that the examiner has combined an excessive number of references, reliance on a large number of references in a rejection does not, without more, weigh against the obviousness of the claimed invention. See *In re Gorman*, 933 F.2d 982, 18 USPQ2d 1885 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia M. Lewis whose telephone number is 571-272-5599. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9 - 6:30, alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on 571-272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. M. L./
Examiner, Art Unit 2164
August 12, 2009

/Charles Rones/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2164

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008	07/30/2008	02/24/2009	08/12/2009				
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	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	6	✓	✓	-	-	-				
	7	✓	✓	-	-	-				
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	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
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	34	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	35	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	36	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				

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☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008	07/30/2008	02/24/2009	08/12/2009				
	37	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	38	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	39	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	41	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				

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PAGE 1/15 * RCVD AT 10/22/2009 1:35:18 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/40 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2126829222 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-24

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 600189.368

In re Application of	:	Eckart Walther et al.
Serial No.	:	11/081,860
Filed	:	Mar. 15, 2005
For	:	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS
Group Art Unit	:	2164
Examiner	:	Alicia M. Lewis

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR RULE 133 INTERVIEW

Applicants submit the following proposed agenda for an in-person interview regarding the above-noted patent application.

Applicants therefore respectfully request confirmation of the in-person interview scheduled for 10:00AM on Wednesday, October 28, 2009. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-noted attorney at 212-682-9216 to confirm details.

Timothy J. Becher
Reg. No. 48,126
Ostrow Kaufman & Frankl LLP
405 Lexington Ave., 62nd floor
New York, NY 10174

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 600189.368

EXAMINER INTERVIEW AGENDA

Applicants submit the following Interview Agenda for a Rule 133 in-person Interview at the U.S. Patent Office for the above-noted application. The following agenda is being submitted for the sole purpose of advancing in-person discussions and the following agenda does not represent explicitly submitted, on the record, formal arguments. Rather, the material included herewith is informal and does not create prosecution history estoppels, but rather formal matters only related to this rule 133 interview, e.g. Official Examiner Interview Summary and any subsequent Amendment, shall be made formally of record.

STATUS	:	**A new non-final Office Action was issued on August 19, 2009. No response has been filed, that action is still outstanding.**
REJECTIONS	:	Claim objections §112(2), Indefinite §103(a), Badros in view of Willis in view of Rubin in view of Weber

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Review claim objections and Applicants' proposed claim amendments to obviate objection and advance prosecution.

2. Review Applicants' proposal of placement of limitations of claim 30 into Independent claims to obviate 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 rejection.

3. Additional claim language as per the Examiner's request to overcome objections and 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2.

4.. Clarification regarding "wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields to be considered." Applicants submit that Weber does not cure the deficiencies of Badros, Willis and Rubin because Weber does not teach or suggest, *inter alia,* the element "user-specific metadata" and instead focuses on metadata is created by a media service, not the user.

5. If needed, Applicants wish to review the priority document of the Rubin reference, questioning whether Rubin is in-fact valid prior art, such that Applicants may determine if a Rule 131 Declaration is required.

6. Hindsight reconstruction concerns based on the 4 reference 103 rejection.

6. Other topics as the Examiner may request.

7. Additional claim amendments as the Examiner may suggest.

PROPOSED CLAIMS FOR RULE 133 INTERVIEW

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user;

searching, via a processing device, a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user;

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document;

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting;

identifying, via the processing, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations in the fields being considered;

generating a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit; and transmitting the search report to

PAGE 5/15 * RCVD AT 10/22/2009 1:35:18 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/40 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:2126829222 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-24

the user, wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving the new annotation from the user;

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations;

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation.

6. (Cancelled)

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7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

generating a separate listing including only annotated hits.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query; and

incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus includes:

extracting a search term from the user query; and

identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the user-specific metadata includes the search term.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a human.

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24. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a computer.

25. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user;

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of a plurality of documents from the user;

adding, via a processing device, to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus;

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting;

identifying one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations in the fields being considered, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

generating, via the processing device, a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation;

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wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving the new annotation from the user;

adding, via the processing device, the new annotation to the library of annotations;

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating, via the processing device, the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein identifying one or more hits further includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

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detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata, wherein one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata.

~~30.~~ **(PROPOSED CANCELLED)** ~~The method of claim 29 further comprising:~~

~~for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.~~

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library.

33. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

34. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, at least some of the user-specific metadata from the associated annotation.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the documents in the listing are placed in an order determined based at least in part on the ratings of the hits.

36. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and

wherein any document that is one of the group of documents is identified as a hit.

37. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the corpus is the World Wide Web.

38. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a human.

39. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a computer.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields;

an annotation module, executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to, using the processing device, receive a query from a querying user the query specifying which of the fields are to be considered during an ~~the~~ act of detecting for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document;

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query;

personalization control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is

an annotated hit; and reporting control logic configured to transmit the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields;

an annotation module executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

retrieval control logic configured to, using the processing device, locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user the query specifying which of the fields are to be considered during an ~~the~~ act of detecting for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document;

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to, using the processing device, generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, using the processing device[[,]], for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element operable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and reporting control logic configured to transmit the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368	1892

76041 7590 10/30/2009

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EXAMINER	
LEWIS, ALICIA M	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2164	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/30/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/081,860	WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alicia M. Lewis	2164	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) *Alicia M. Lewis*.

(2) *Timothy Bechen*.

(3)*Nikitas Nicolakis*.

(4)*David Ishimaru*.

Date of Interview: *28 October 2009*.

Type: a)☐ Telephonic b)☐ Video Conference
c)☒ Personal [copy given to: 1)☐ applicant 2)☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d)☐ Yes e)☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: *1*.

Identification of prior art discussed: *Willis (US 2004/0003096), Rubin (US 2008/0195495) and Weber (US 2004/0177063)*.

Agreement with respect to the claims f)☐ was reached. g)☒ was not reached. h)☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: *See Continuation Sheet*.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

/A. M. L./ Examiner, Art Unit 2164	

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record
A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews
Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.
All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:
- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
2) an identification of the claims discussed,
3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
   (The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant's representative explained the limitation "the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting," and more specifically how the limitation is directed to the ability to specify exactly which fields are to be considered. The Examiner explained how the limitation is claimed broadly, and suggested amending it to further clarify the limitation. Regarding the Willis reference, Applicant's representatives argued that a preference is not an annotation. The Examiner explained how given its broadest reasonable interpretation, a preference may be considered and annotation. Lastly, Applicant's representative pointed out that the provisional application of the Rubin reference does not appear to provide support for the section used in rejecting claim 1.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Eckart Walther, et al.
Serial No.	:	11/081,860
Examiner	:	Alicia M. Lewis
Filed:	:	March 15, 2005
Group Art Unit	:	2164
Title:		SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 19, 2009, wherein:

Amendments to Claims begin on Page 2 of this paper; and

Remarks begin on Page 15 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user;

electronically searching, via a processing device, a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user;

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

electronically accessing, via the processing device, the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document;

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during ~~the act of detecting~~ an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying;

electronically identifying, via the processing device, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations in the fields being considered;

generating a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit; ~~and~~

transmitting the search report to the user, wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable ~~operable~~ by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit;

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations;

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

generating a separate listing including only annotated hits.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein generating the search

report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query; and

incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus includes:

extracting a search term from the user query; and

identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations

includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the user-specific metadata includes the search term.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata

includes an item of information explicitly input by the user.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a human.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a computer.

25. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user;

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of a plurality of documents from the user;

electronically adding, via a processing device, to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus;

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as ah it in the event that the search term is present in the document, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during ~~the act of detecting~~ an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying;

electronically identifying, via the processing one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations in the fields being considered, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

electronically generating, via the processing device, a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation;

wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable ~~operable~~ by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit;

adding, via the processing device, the new annotation to the library of annotations;

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating, via the processing device, the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein identifying one or more hits further includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata, wherein one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library.

33. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

34. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, at least some of the user-specific metadata from the associated annotation.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the documents in the listing are placed in an order determined based at least in part on the ratings of the hits.

36. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any document that is one of the group of documents is identified as a hit.

37. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the corpus is the World Wide Web.

38. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a human.

39. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a computer.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields;

an annotation module, executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to, using the processing device, receive a query from a querying user the query specifying which of the fields are to be considered during ~~the act of detecting~~ an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying;

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query;

personalization control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element configurable ~~operable~~ by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit, the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that

the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and reporting control logic configured to transmit the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields;

an annotation module executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

retrieval control logic configured to, using the processing device, locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user the query specifying which of the fields are to be considered during ~~the act of detecting~~ an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying;

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to, using the processing device, generate a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, using the processing device, ~~device,~~ for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element configurable ~~operable~~ by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit, the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that

the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and reporting control logic configured to transmit the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 19, 2009. Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance as being patentable over the prior art of record.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants' representatives thank Examiner Lewis for courtesies extended during the October 28, 2009 Rule 133 Interview. While no agreement was reached, the present response and claim amendments are believed to be consistent with that discussion. Accordingly, Applicants are submitting claims amendments as previously discussed with Examiner Lewis, seeking the passage of the pending claims to issuance.

Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 have been amended to recite limitations indicating that the query specifies which fields are to be considered "and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying." Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 are also amended to note that the new annotation is "one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit." Claims 1 and 25 have also been amended to recite the limitations of previously pending claim 30. Claim 30 is cancelled. Claims 1 and 25 have been amended to add additional language, as per the Examiner's suggestion to overcome 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 have also been amended to update language obviating any claim objections, 35 U.S.C. §112,¶2 and typographical errors. Applicants submit these amendments do not add any new matter beyond the specification as originally filed and therefore respectfully request entrance and examination.

Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 stand objected to and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 based on various informalities. As noted above, Applicants submit these informalities are moot and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 9-29 and 32-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Published Application No. 2005/0131866 ("Badros") in view of U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0003096 ("Willis") in view of Published Application No. 2008/0195495 ("Rubin") in view of Published Application No. 2004/0177063 ("Weber").

Consistent with the Rule 133 interview discussion, Applicants note the failure of the prior art to teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. For example, claim 1 recites that the query specifies which of the fields are to be included and excluded during the identifying step. For supporting the present rejection, the Examiner cites to Weber, ¶¶ 37 and 43. Rather, these passages of Weber teach ranking conditions for a media file and the user can place them in a preferential sequence or ranking order. For instance, ¶43 states that "the user may specify the fields used to create a search query by ranking metadata fields by order of importance." Order of importance does not teach or suggest the exclusionary limitations as claimed because exclusionary searching requires different types of computations, including result omissions/culling operations. Rather, Weber is a standard preference filtering, which does not cull results, only reorders them, thus under the Weber system a user is not afforded the possibility to narrow search results by excluding a search field and would thus be presented with additional results because even a lowest priority ranking of Weber does not equate to the claimed exclusion. In other words, exclusion is just that, excluding the results with those elements from the

results, where Weber would include them at a lower position, thus presenting the user with a much larger, and not needed, search results data set.

To further emphasize the patentability of the present invention, Applicants additionally note the claimed "new annotation." For this limitation, the Examiner bears reliance on Willis. Willis is a DB Access patent application which includes in Figs. 18 and 20, DB access search result interactions. But, as readily taught and displayed in Figs 18 and 20, the user interaction is explicitly limited to a like/dislike interface. The noted sliding scale of like/dislike ranges from never show again (letter X) to a top rating (letter V) with various emoticons in between. This limited interface of dislike to like sliding scale does not teach or suggest the claimed "new annotation" where the "new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit." Moreover, the related of discussion of Willis and its DB access does not envision or operate with the utilization of user-entered keywords, but rather focuses exclusively on the like/dislike sliding scale. In other words, Willis is not equipped and hence does not teach or suggest annotations where the annotations are "user-entered keywords."

In addition to the above-noted positions, Applicants also formally object to Examiner's reliance on Rubin for supporting the present rejection. The Examiner's reliance on Rubin is predicated on the Provisional application No. 60/542,751 having a filing date of February 6, 2004. A perusal of this provisional document indicates it as a collection of slides and random notes, lacking any cohesive or substantive discussion that would support a teaching or suggestion requisite for supporting the present rejection. The present application claims priority to March 15, 2004 and Rubin's provisional priority is February 6, 2004. Therefore, in order to maintain Rubin as a proper prior art reference,

should the Examiner maintain the present rejection and continue to assert Rubin, Applicants respectfully require a showing of where the teaching or suggestion of the claimed limitations are indicated in the Rubin provisional patent application and not the April 16, 2008 filed published application cited herein.

For these reasons, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections as they might be applied to the claims as pending following entry of this Amendment and allow the claims. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 19, 2009

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING SYSTEM ON November 19, 2009.

Timothy J. Bechen
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Customer No. 61834

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	6489138
Application Number:	11081860
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	1892
Title of Invention:	Search systems and methods with integration of user annotations
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Customer Number:	76041
Filer:	Seth H. Ostrow/susan formicola
Filer Authorized By:	Seth H. Ostrow
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368
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Time Stamp:	16:25:04
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

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Submitted with Payment	no

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		600189368response.pdf	172022 ed68ffa4bc099038b268af19ccfe089f87da4021	yes	18

	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description		
	Document Description	**Start**	**End**
	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject	1	1
	Claims	2	14
	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment	15	18
Warnings:			
Information:			
	Total Files Size (in bytes):	172022	

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

PTO/SB/06 (07-06)
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PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

Application or Docket Number	Filing Date	☐ To be Mailed
11/081,860	03/15/2005	

APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

FOR	(Column 1) NUMBER FILED	(Column 2) NUMBER EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY ☐ RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ☐ FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)
☒ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	**300**
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X $ =			X $ =	
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).						
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))							
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.			TOTAL			TOTAL	**300**

APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

AMENDMENT		(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
11/19/2009										
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 35	Minus	** 41	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $52=	0
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 4	Minus	***4	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $220=	0
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	**0**

AMENDMENT		(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/TAMMY MCBETH BROWN/

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368	1892

76041 7590 02/26/2010

YAHOO! INC.
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The Chrysler Building
405 Lexington Avenue, 62nd Floor
NEW YORK, NY 10174

EXAMINER	
LEWIS, ALICIA M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2164	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
02/26/2010	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/081,860	WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ALICIA M. LEWIS	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *19 November 2009*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-5,9-29 and 32-41* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-5,9-29 and 32-41* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is responsive to the communication filed November 19, 2009. Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 are currently amended, and claim 30 is additionally canceled. Therefore, claims 1-5, 9-29 and 32-41 remain pending in this application.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 25 is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 7 of the claims, line 11, the term 'device' is missing after the word processing. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5, 9-29 and 32-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) (*current application priority date3/15/2004*) as being unpatentable over Badros et al. (US 2005/0131866 A1, *filing date 12/3/2003*) ('Badros') in view of Willis (US 2004/0003096 A1, *filing date 1/30/2003)*, further in view of Rubin et al. (US 2008/0195495 A1, *priority date 2/6/2004*) ('Rubin'), and further in view of Weber et al. (US 2004/0177063 A1) ('Weber').

With respect to claim 1, Badros teaches a method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user (paragraph 18);

electronically searching, via a processing device, a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query (paragraphs 20 and 28);

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user (paragraphs 35 and 39);

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations (paragraphs 37 and 39);

electronically accessing, via the processing device the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33-34 and 44-45);

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (paragraphs 43-45);

electronically identifying, via the processing device, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations in the data being considered (paragraph 45);

generating a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17);

transmitting the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46), and providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77);

receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit (paragraphs 35, 39 and 77);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

transmitting a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating a search report to update the search results of the search report (paragraph 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search

results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52) (*Refer to pages 6-7, section 1.6 of the provisional application outline of claims*).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

Further regarding claim 1, Badros in view of Willis and Rubin does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying (paragraphs 44-46).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Weber because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying would enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

With respect to claim 2, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17).

With respect to claim 3, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating (Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 49).

With respect to claims 4 and 33, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein generating the search report further includes: for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element configurable by the user

to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 35).

With respect to claims 5 and 34, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein generating the search report further includes: for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 31 lines 22-27, paragraphs 73 and 82).

With respect to claim 9, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes: generating a separate listing including only annotated hits (Badros, paragraphs 29, 50 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17).

With respect to claim 10, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating (Badros, paragraphs 46, 50 and 74).

With respect to claims 11 and 35, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation

includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits (Badros, paragraphs 31, 46 and 51).

With respect to claim 12, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 11 wherein generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating (Badros, paragraph 73).

With respect to claim 13, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 further comprising: searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query (Badros, paragraphs 45, 74 and 82); and incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page (Badros, paragraphs 46 and 74).

With respect to claim 14, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus includes: extracting a search term from the user query; and identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 15, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the user-specific metadata includes the search term (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claims 16 and 36, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 17, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user (Badros, paragraphs 33 and 39).

With respect to claim 18, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40).

With respect to claim 19, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing the associated document one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraphs 39 and 48).

With respect to claim 20, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary (Badros, paragraphs 40 and 57).

With respect to claim 21, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraphs 34 and 45).

With respect to claims 22 and 37, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages (Badros, paragraphs 19-21).

With respect to claims 23 and 38, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user is a human (Badros, paragraph 18).

With respect to claims 24 and 39, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user is a computer (Badros, paragraphs 18 and 33).

With respect to claim 25, Badros teaches a computerized method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user (paragraph 18);

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of a plurality of documents from the user (paragraphs 35 and 39);

electronically adding, via a processing device, to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations (paragraphs 37 and 39);

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (paragraphs 33-34 and 44-45);

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (paragraphs 43-45);

electronically identifying, via the processing one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations in the data being considered, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query (paragraph 45);

electronically generating, via the processing device, a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the listing including only documents for which

the library has an associated annotation (paragraphs 29, 50 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17);

providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77);

receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit (paragraphs 35, 39 and 77);

adding, via the processing device, the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

transmitting a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating, via the processing device, search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating, via the processing device, a search report to update the search results of the search report (paragraphs 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52) (*Refer to pages 6-7, section 1.6, of the provisional application outline of claims*).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

Further regarding claim 25, Badros in view of Willis and Rubin does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying (paragraphs 44-46).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Weber because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query

specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying would enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

With respect to claim 26, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 27, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes: extracting a search term from the query; and for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 28, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 29, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 28 wherein identifying one or more hits further includes: extracting a search term from the

query; and detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata, wherein the associated document one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 32, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 further comprising: receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library (Badros, elements 304, 306 and 308 in Figure 3, paragraph 43).

Badros teaches that searching may be performed on only annotations or only bookmarks, i.e., a subset of the bookmark database.

With respect to claim 40, Badros teaches a computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus (paragraph 14);

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33 and 35);

an annotation module, executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including (paragraph 35):

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 35 and 39);

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 36-37); and

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 78, 82 and 44-45); and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including (paragraphs 20-21):

input control logic configured to, using the processing device, receive a query from a querying user (paragraph 18);

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query (paragraphs 20 and 28);

personalization control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user (paragraph 45);

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the search report further indicating, for

each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 30-31, paragraph 74 lines 13-17), the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46);

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to provide a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77) and receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit (paragraphs 35 and 77), the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35, 39 and 77); and

reporting control logic operative to transmit a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating a search report to update the search results of the search (paragraphs 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52) (*Refer to pages 6-7, section 1.6, of the provisional application outline of claims*).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

Further regarding claim 40, Badros in view of Willis and Rubin does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying (paragraphs 44-46).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Weber because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which

of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying would enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

With respect to claim 41, Badros teaches a computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus (paragraph 14);

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33 and 35); and

an annotation module, executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including (paragraph 35):

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 35 and 39);

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 36-37); and

retrieval control logic configured to, using the processing device, locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the

user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 78, 82 and 44-45); and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including (paragraphs 20-21):

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user (paragraph 18);

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user (paragraph 45);

reporting control logic configured to, using the processing device, generate a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the listing including only documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user (paragraphs 29, 50 and 74 lines 13-17), the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46);

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, using the processing device, provide a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77) and receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit (paragraphs 35 and 77), the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35, 39 and 77); and

reporting control logic configured to transmit a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating a search report to update the search results of the search report (paragraphs 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52) (*Refer to pages 6-7, section 1.6, of the provisional application outline of claims*).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

Further regarding claim 41, Badros in view of Willis and Rubin does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying (paragraphs 44-46).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Weber because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying would enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed November 19, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Weber fails to teach the query specifying which of the metadata fields are to be considered and which are to be excluded. Examiner disagrees. As previously argued, Applicant picks one approach of selecting

fields as the basis for concluding that Weber fails to teach the above limitation. More specifically, Applicant argues that Weber teaches "a user may specify the fields by order of importance," and thus concludes that order of importance requires all fields to be considered that thus is inconsistent with the claimed invention. However, Weber teaches a variety of approaches, or different embodiments, for including/excluding query fields. For example, he teaches that metadata fields may be selected based on type of media, in which the fields title and guest performers are used as query fields for the media type of movie (paragraph 44); it is inherent that whichever fields are not selected are the fields to be excluded, i.e. in this example the artist, song list, date of performance, media service type and genre of music fields are excluded.

5. Weber also teaches an alternative embodiment, in which a user may specify how many fields are to be used for a search (paragraph 45). For example, he teaches that the top 3 metadata fields may be used as criteria for a search query. Again, it is inherent that if the top 3 out of 7 fields are used for a query, the remaining 4 fields are not used and are thus excluded. Thus it is clear that all fields are not used in each embodiment of Weber, and thus Weber teaches specifying which of the metadata fields are to be considered and which are to be excluded.

6. Applicant also argues that Willis fails to teach a new annotation that is one or more user-entered keywords describing a hit. However, this limitation is taught by Badros. Badros teaches receiving a new annotation, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit (paragraphs 35, 39 and 77). Badros explicitly teaches that annotations may be a remark (i.e. text string) that a user provides

about a URL (paragraph 39). Badros further teaches a control element for adding/receiving a new annotation (paragraphs 35 and 77).

7. The Examiner admits that Badros fails to teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report; Willis is used to teach these limitations. The Examiner mentions that Willis teaches receiving an annotation only to help show how Willis automatically regenerates the search report in response to the new annotation, and not because Badros fails to teach the limitation. Because Badros clearly teaches new annotations that are user-entered keywords describing hits, Willis does not have to explicitly teach annotations that are user-entered keywords.

8. Lastly, Applicant argues that the provisional application of Rubin fails to provide support for the present rejection. Examiner disagrees. Rubin is used to teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52). The provisional application from which the Rubin Patent Application Publication refers provides support for this limitation. The provision application teaches mechanisms for alerting a user that new or additional information is available (pages 6-7, section 1.6, of the Provisional Patent-Outline of Claims). More specifically, the application teaches that a visual cue may be used to alert a user that a note or annotation has been added or modified (page 7, bullet 1). The application further teaches alerting a user when additional information is available about the web page he/she is currently visiting; this

may also be done by a visual indication (page 7, section 1.6.2). Thus the Rubin provisional application provides ample support for the limitation updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALICIA M. LEWIS whose telephone number is (571)272-5599. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9 - 6:30, alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on 571-272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. M. L./
Examiner, Art Unit 2164
February 25, 2010

/Charles Rones/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2164

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008	07/30/2008	02/24/2009	08/12/2009	02/25/2010			
	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	6	✓	✓	-	-	-	-			
	7	✓	✓	-	-	-	-			
	8	✓	✓	-	-	-	-			
	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
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	32	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	33	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	34	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	35	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	36	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

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=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008	07/30/2008	02/24/2009	08/12/2009	02/25/2010			
	37	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	38	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	39	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	41	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

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	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

SEARCHED			
Class	**Subclass**	**Date**	**Examiner**

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	**Date**	**Examiner**
Help from TA, Srirama Channavajjala	06/12/2007	TMW
East search of 707/3 wit text, history attached	06/13/2007	TMW
Help from Trainer, Nabil El-Hady on Double Patenting	06/13/2007	TMW
Help from TA, Srirama Channavajjala	06/20/2007	TMW
Help from Trainer, Nabil El-Hady	06/21/2007	TMW
EAST- USPAT, USPGPUB (see search history)	2/5/08	AML
EAST(updated) - USPAT, USPGPUB - See Search History	7/30/2008	AML
EAST (updated) - USPAT, USPGPUB - See Search History	2/23/2009	AML
EAST (updated) - USPAT, USPGPUB - See Search History	2/24/2010	AML

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	**Subclass**	**Date**	**Examiner**

EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S95	11	field with includ$3 with exclud$3 with query$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2010/02/24 19:06
S96	11	field with includ$3 with exclud$3 with quer$4	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2010/02/24 19:06
S97	15	field near3 exclud$3 with quer$4	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2010/02/24 19:10
S98	19	field near3 exclud$3 with quer$4	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2010/02/24 19:15
S99	15	field with includ$3 with exclud$3 with quer$4	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2010/02/24 19:15
S100	60	(deselect$3 exclud$3) near3 (field column attribute) with quer$4	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2010/02/24 19:17
S101	41	S100 not S98	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2010/02/24 19:17
S102	2535	user with (identif$4 specif$4 select$3 choos $3) near2 (cell field column) with (search$3 quer$4)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2010/02/24 21:45
S103	1157	user with (identif$4 specif$4 select$3 choos $3) near2 (cell field column) with (quer$4)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2010/02/24 21:46
S104	190	user with (identif$4 specif$4 select$3 choos $3) near2 (cell field column) with (quer$4) with (includ$2 exclud $2)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2010/02/24 21:47
S105	155	user with (identif$4 specif$4 select$3 choos $3) near2 (cell field column) with (quer$4) with (includ$2 exclud $2) and "707".clas.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2010/02/24 21:47

S106	66	user with (identif$4 specif$4 select$3 choos $3) near2 (cell field column) with (quer$4) with (includ$2 exclud $2) and 707/3.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2010/02/24 21:47
S107	50	exclud$3 with search near field	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2010/02/24 22:10
S108	1	"20040073443"	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2010/02/24 22:15
S109	1184	(checkbox check$3) with field with search $3	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2010/02/24 22:35
S110	258	(checkbox check$3) with field near2 search $3	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2010/02/24 22:40
S111	49	(checkbox check$3) with field near2 search $3 and 707/3.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2010/02/24 22:40

EAST Search History (Interference)

< This search history is empty>

2/ 25/ 2010 4:08:37 AM
C:\ Documents and Settings\ alewis5\ My Documents\ EAST\ Workspaces\ 11081860.wsp

Doc code: RCEX
Doc description: Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

PTO/SB/30EFS (06-09)
Approved for use through 06/30/2009. OMB 0651-0031
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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION(RCE)TRANSMITTAL
(Submitted Only via EFS-Web)

Application Number	11081860	Filing Date	2005-03-15	Docket Number (if applicable)	600189-368	Art Unit	2164
First Named Inventor	Walther			Examiner Name	Lewis		

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. The Instruction Sheet for this form is located at WWW.USPTO.GOV

SUBMISSION REQUIRED UNDER 37 CFR 1.114

Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

- ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Enclosed

- ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)
- ☒ Other two-month extension of time

MISCELLANEOUS

☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of months _____ (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

☐ Other _____

FEES

☒ **The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.**
The Director is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No 505051

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

☒ Patent Practitioner Signature

☐ Applicant Signature

PTO/SB/30EFS (06-09)
Approved for use through 06/30/2009. OMB 0651-0031
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Signature of Registered U.S. Patent Practitioner			
Signature	/Seth H. Ostrow/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2010-07-26
Name	Seth H. Ostrow	Registration Number	37410

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these record s.

2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.

3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.

4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).

5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).

7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.

8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.

9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

PATENT
Atty. Docket No. 600189.368

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Eckart Walther, et al.
Application No.	:	11/081,860
Filed	:	March 15, 2005
Title	:	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS
Examiner	:	Alicia M. Lewis
Art Unit	:	2164

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In response to the Final Office Action dated February 26, 2010, please reconsider the above identified application in light of the following Preliminary Amendment with a Request for Continued Examination, wherein:

Amendments to the Claims are noted in the marked-up version of the claims beginning on page 2 of this paper; and

Remarks begin on page 15 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user;

electronically searching, via a processing device, a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user;

generating one or more annotation abstracts for the one or more hits based on the one or more annotations;

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

electronically accessing, via the processing device, the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document;

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the

fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying;

electronically identifying, via the processing device, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations in the fields being considered;

generating a search report including a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotation abstracts, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit;

transmitting the search report to the user, wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit;

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations;

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating and wherein the visual highlight element

applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

generating a separate listing including only annotated hits.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein generating the search report includes

determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query; and

incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus includes:

extracting a search term from the user query; and

identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations

includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the user-specific metadata includes the search term.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in

the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a human.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a computer.

25. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user;

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of a plurality of documents from the user;

electronically adding, via a processing device, to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

generating one or more annotation abstracts for the one or more of the plurality of documents based on the one or more annotations;

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus;

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as ~~ah it~~ a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying;

electronically identifying, via the processing device one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations in the fields being considered, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

electronically generating, via the processing device, a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation along with the one or more annotation abstracts;

wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit;

adding, via the processing device, the new annotation to the library of annotations;

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating, via the processing device, the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein identifying

one or more hits further includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata, wherein one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library.

33. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

34. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, at least some of the user-specific metadata from the associated annotation.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the documents in the listing are placed in an order determined based at least in part on the ratings of the hits.

36. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the library of annotations

further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any document that is one of the group of documents is identified as a hit.

37. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the corpus is the World Wide Web.

38. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a human.

39. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a computer.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields;

an annotation module, executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

<u>abstract control logic configured to generate one or more annotation abstracts for the one of the plurality of documents based on the received metadata;</u>

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to, using the processing device, receive a query from a querying user the query specifying which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying;

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query;

personalization control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotation abstracts, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit, the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and reporting control logic configured to transmit the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields;

an annotation module executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

abstract control logic configured to generate one or more annotation abstracts for the one of the plurality of documents based on the received metadata;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

retrieval control logic configured to, using the processing device, locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user the query specifying which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying;

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user; and

reporting control logic configured to, using the processing device, generate a search report including a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotation abstracts, the listing including only documents for which the library of

annotations includes an annotation by the querying user, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, using the processing device, for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit, the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit; and reporting control logic configured to transmit the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment with a Request for Continued Examination is in response to the Final Office Action mailed February 26, 2010. This is a sixth action on the merits and the third final Office Action in the current prosecution history. In response to the prior Amendment, the Examiner maintains the previous grounds of rejection. Applicants submit the pending claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons mentioned below.

The independent claims are hereby further amended to emphasize "generating one or more annotation abstracts for the one or more hits based on the one or more annotations" (see, *e.g.*, specification page 28, ¶114) and "generating a search report including a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotation abstracts" (see, *e.g.*, specification page 33, ¶134). These amendments do not add any new matter and are supported by the specification as originally filed. Accordingly, Applicants request entrance and examination regarding the same.

Claim 25 was objected to because the term 'device' was missing, which is hereby corrected by the present amendments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal and reconsideration of this objection.

Claims 1-5, 9-29 and 32-41 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0131866 to Badros, et al. ("Badros") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0003096 to Willis ("Willis"), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2008/0195495 to Rubin, et al. ("Rubin") and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0177063 to Weber, et al. ("Weber"). Applicants respectfully

traverse and submit that the prior art upon which the Examiner is relying fails to teach or suggest all of the claimed elements.

Independent claim 1, as amended, is directed towards a computerized method for responding to a user query. The method of independent claim 1 comprises receiving a query submitted by a user and electronically searching, via a processing device, a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query. One or more annotations related to the one or more hits are received from the user and one or more annotation abstracts are generated for the one or more hits based on the one or more annotations. The one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user are added to a data store in order to create a library of annotations that may be electronically accessed via the processing device, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document. For each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, it is detected whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying. Each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations in the fields being considered is electronically identified via the processing device as an annotated hit.

The method of independent claim 1 continues by generating a search report that includes a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotation abstracts, the search

report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit. The search report is transmitted to the user, wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, a control element configurable by the user is provided to create a new annotation associated with the hit. The new annotation is received from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit, which is added to the library of annotations. In response to the addition of the new annotation, the search report is automatically regenerated to update the search results of the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit. The method further comprises transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user. Independent claims 25, 40 and 41 are substantially similar to independent claim 1, but claims 40 and 41 are cast as system claims.

The Examiner asserts that Badros teaches "for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document." Badros, as understood, discusses 1) searching global indices, 2) searching the URLs stored as bookmarks and 3) searching annotations as three sub-processes running in parallel. (Badros, ¶43, lines 7-12) "Searching annotations comprises searching the user-entered annotations using the search query." (Badros, ¶45, lines 1-3) Badros discusses searching annotations for search terms and does not discuss searching for search terms in documents that are associated with the annotations. The presently claimed element, however, detects whether a search term is present in a document associated with an annotation, as opposed to Badros which appears to concern determining the presence of a search term in the annotation.

In addition to these shortcomings, Applicants respectfully submit that Badros, either alone or in combination with other art of record, fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, "generating one or more annotation abstracts for the one or more hits based on the one or more annotations." Badros and the prior art of record do not generate annotation abstracts for each of hit that are based on user annotations. Further, the combination of Badros with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest "generating a search report including a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotation abstracts, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit." Badros does not discuss listings having annotation abstracts, nor does Badros teach or suggest that the search report further indicate hits with annotation abstracts are annotated hits.

The Examiner acknowledges that Badros fails to teach "for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit…," and asserts the Willis reference as teaching this element. (Office Action, 02/26/2010, page 28) Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that Willis in combination with Badros and the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest "transmitting the search report to the user, wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit."

Willis does not provide a control element "for each hit that is not an annotated hit," as claimed. Instead, Willis allows a user to indicate preferences for discussion objects, indicating that pop-up windows appear for each discussion object. (Willis, ¶202, lines 1-7) Discussion objects are conceptual or tangible objects that are mentioned as part of an article (Willis, ¶92, lines 1-3), with each discussion object allowing the user to

input preferences and does not provide a control element for hits that are not annotated. (Willis, ¶141). Willis is silent, however, as to providing control elements for hits in a result set that are not annotated hits, as recited by independent claim 1.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 25, 40 and 41, and allowance of the same. The dependent claims of the present application contain additional features that further substantially distinguish the invention of the present application over Badros and the prior art of record. Given the Applicants' position on the patentability of the independent claims, however, it is not deemed necessary at this point to delineate such distinctions.

For at least all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections, and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully solicited. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 26, 2010



THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING SYSTEM ON July 26, 2010.

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PTO/SB/22 (07-09)
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PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) **FY 2009** ***(Fees pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. 4818).)***	Docket Number (Optional) 600189-368
Application Number 11/081,860	Filed 3/15/2005
For Search systems and methods with integration of user annotations	
Art Unit 2164	Examiner Lewis

This is a request under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above identified application.

The requested extension and fee are as follows (check time period desired and enter the appropriate fee below):

	Fee	Small Entity Fee	
☐ One month (37 CFR 1.17(a)(1))	$130	$65	$
☑ Two months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(2))	$490	$245	$ 490.00
☐ Three months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(3))	$1110	$555	$
☐ Four months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(4))	$1730	$865	$
☐ Five months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(5))	$2350	$1175	$

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☐ The Director has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account.

☑ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 505051.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed (Form PTO/SB/96).

☑ attorney or agent of record. Registration Number 37410

☐ attorney or agent under 37 CFR 1.34.
Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____

/Seth H. Ostrow/ — Signature

7/26/2010 — Date

Seth H. Ostrow — Typed or printed name

212-682-9200 — Telephone Number

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☑ Total of 1 forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.136(a). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 6 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11081860
Filing Date:	15-Mar-2005
Title of Invention:	Search systems and methods with integration of user annotations
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Filer:	Seth H. Ostrow/susan formicola
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 2 months with $0 paid	1252	1	490	490

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Miscellaneous:				
Request for continued examination	1801	1	810	810
		Total in USD ($)		**1300**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	8092877
Application Number:	11081860
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	1892
Title of Invention:	Search systems and methods with integration of user annotations
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Customer Number:	76041
Filer:	Seth H. Ostrow/susan formicola
Filer Authorized By:	Seth H. Ostrow
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368
Receipt Date:	26-JUL-2010
Filing Date:	15-MAR-2005
Time Stamp:	19:46:20
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$1300
RAM confirmation Number	6807
Deposit Account	505051
Authorized User	FORMICOLA,SUSAN
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows: Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	600189368rce272610.pdf	38348 262e4ba30f7e2155eb3a681d538f0937dabecc29	no	3
Warnings:					
This is not a USPTO supplied RCE SB30 form.					
Information:					
2		368amd7-26-10.pdf	173724 bbb19fd7b4631ca470a7b59e371ee50de1f1daac	yes	19
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		**Start**	**End**	
	Preliminary Amendment		1	1	
	Claims		2	14	
	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment		15	19	
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Extension of Time	extension7-26-10.pdf	313229 3a8bacbc08251b3410373d8975f5f50dcbed0e63	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	31663 3d3faf723757f537d1937387be113c8817380884	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	556964		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368	1892

76041 7590 10/06/2010

YAHOO! INC.
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EXAMINER	
LEWIS, ALICIA M	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2164	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/06/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

sformicola@okfllp.com
dwalcott@okfllp.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/081,860	WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ALICIA M. LEWIS	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 July 2010*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-5,9-29 and 32-41* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-5,9-29 and 32-41* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed July 26, 2010. Claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 are currently amended. Therefore, claims 1-5, 9-29 and 32-41 remain pending in this application.

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1 and 25 are objected to because of the following informalities: There is insufficient antecedent basis for the term "the search term" in line17 of claim 1 and line 16 of claim 25. For the purposes of examination, the limitation will be interpreted as any search term. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5, 9-29 and 32-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) (*current application priority date3/15/2004*) as being unpatentable over Badros et al. (US 2005/0131866 A1, *filing date 12/3/2003*) ('Badros') in view of Willis (US 2004/0003096 A1, *filing date 1/30/2003)*, further in view of Rubin et al. (US 2008/0195495 A1, *priority date 2/6/2004*) ('Rubin'), further in view of Weber et al. (US 2004/0177063 A1) ('Weber'), and further in view of Stolze (US 2004/0138946 A1).

With respect to claim 1, Badros teaches a method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user (paragraph 18);

electronically searching, via a processing device, a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query (paragraphs 20 and 28);

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user (paragraphs 35 and 39);

generating one or more annotations for the one or more hits (paragraph 39);

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations (paragraphs 37 and 39);

electronically accessing, via the processing device the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33-34 and 44-45);

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (paragraphs 43-45);

electronically identifying, via the processing device, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations in the data being considered (paragraph 45);

generating a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46) along with the one or more annotations (paragraph 31), the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17);

transmitting the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46), and providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77);

receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit (paragraphs 35, 39 and 77);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

transmitting a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or in response to the addition of the new annotation,

automatically regenerating search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating a search report to update the search results of the search report (paragraph 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52) (*Refer to pages 6-7, section 1.6 of the provisional application outline of claims*).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

Further regarding claim 1, Badros in view of Willis and Rubin does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be

considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying (paragraphs 44-46).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Weber because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying would enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

Further regarding claim 1, although Badros in view of Willis, Rubin and Weber teaches generating one or more annotations for the one or more hits (Badros, paragraph 39) and generating a search report including a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotations (Badros, paragraph 31), Badros in view of Willis, Rubin and Weber fails to explicitly teach generating one or more annotation abstracts based on the one or more annotations; or presenting annotation abstracts.

Stolze teaches web page annotation systems (see abstract), in which he teaches generating one or more annotation abstracts based on the one or more annotations (paragraphs 23 and 54); and presenting annotation abstracts (paragraphs 62 and 64).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching Stolze to enable web pages to be presented with abstracts of annotations instead of entire

annotations, thereby providing users a quick synopsis about a web page and eliminating the need for storing annotations (Stolze, abstract, paragraph 23).

With respect to claim 2, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17).

With respect to claim 3, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating (Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 49).

With respect to claims 4 and 33, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein generating the search report further includes: for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element configurable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 35).

With respect to claims 5 and 34, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein generating the search report further includes: for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific

metadata from the matching annotation (Badros, paragraph 31 lines 22-27, paragraphs 73 and 82).

With respect to claim 9, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes: generating a separate listing including only annotated hits (Badros, paragraphs 29, 50 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17).

With respect to claim 10, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating (Badros, paragraphs 46, 50 and 74).

With respect to claims 11 and 35, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40) and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits (Badros, paragraphs 31, 46 and 51).

With respect to claim 12, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 11 wherein generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating (Badros, paragraph 73).

With respect to claim 13, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 further comprising: searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query (Badros, paragraphs 45, 74 and 82); and incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page (Badros, paragraphs 46 and 74).

With respect to claim 14, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus includes: extracting a search term from the user query; and identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 15, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the user-specific metadata includes the search term (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claims 16 and 36, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 17, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user (Badros, paragraphs 33 and 39).

With respect to claim 18, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraph 40).

With respect to claim 19, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing the associated document one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraphs 39 and 48).

With respect to claim 20, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary (Badros, paragraphs 40 and 57).

With respect to claim 21, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (Badros, paragraphs 34 and 45).

With respect to claims 22 and 37, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages (Badros, paragraphs 19-21).

With respect to claims 23 and 38, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user is a human (Badros, paragraph 18).

With respect to claims 24 and 39, Badros as modified teaches the method of claims 1 and 25 wherein the user is a computer (Badros, paragraphs 18 and 33).

With respect to claim 25, Badros teaches a computerized method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user (paragraph 18);

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of a plurality of documents from the user (paragraphs 35 and 39);

generating one or more annotations for the one or more of the plurality of documents (Badros, paragraph 39);

electronically adding, via a processing device, to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations (paragraphs 37 and 39);

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus (paragraphs 33-34 and 44-45);

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (paragraphs 43-45);

electronically identifying, via the processing device one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations in the data being considered, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query (paragraph 45);

electronically generating, via the processing device, a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46), the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation (paragraphs 29, 50 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) along with the one or more annotations (paragraph 31);

providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77);

receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit (paragraphs 35, 39 and 77);

adding, via the processing device, the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35 and 77); and

transmitting a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating, via the processing device, search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating, via the processing device, a search report to update the search results of the search report (paragraphs 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52) (*Refer to pages 6-7, section 1.6, of the provisional application outline of claims*).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

Further regarding claim 25, Badros in view of Willis and Rubin does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying (paragraphs 44-46).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Weber because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying would enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

Further regarding claim 25, although Badros in view of Willis, Rubin and Weber teaches generating one or more annotations for the one or more plurality of documents (Badros, paragraph 39) and generating a search report including a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotations (Badros, paragraph 31), Badros in view of Willis,

Rubin and Weber fails to explicitly teach generating one or more annotation abstracts based on the one or more annotations; or presenting annotation abstracts.

Stolze teaches web page annotation systems (see abstract), in which he teaches generating one or more annotation abstracts based on the one or more annotations (paragraphs 23 and 54); and presenting annotation abstracts (paragraphs 62 and 64).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching Stolze to enable web pages to be presented with abstracts of annotations instead of entire annotations, thereby providing users a quick synopsis about a web page and eliminating the need for storing annotations (Stolze, abstract, paragraph 23).

With respect to claim 26, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 27, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes: extracting a search term from the query; and for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 28, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations (Badros, paragraph 45).

With respect to claim 29, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 28 wherein identifying one or more hits further includes: extracting a search term from the query; and detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata, wherein the associated document one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata (Badros, paragraphs 43-45).

With respect to claim 32, Badros as modified teaches the method of claim 25 further comprising: receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library (Badros, elements 304, 306 and 308 in Figure 3, paragraph 43).

Badros teaches that searching may be performed on only annotations or only bookmarks, i.e., a subset of the bookmark database.

With respect to claim 40, Badros teaches a computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus (paragraph 14);

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33 and 35);

an annotation module, executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including (paragraph 35):

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 35 and 39);

control logic configured to generating one or more annotations for the one or more plurality of documents (paragraph 39);

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 36-37); and

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 78, 82 and 44-45); and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including (paragraphs 20-21):

input control logic configured to, using the processing device, receive a query from a querying user (paragraph 18);

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query (paragraphs 20 and 28);

personalization control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user (paragraph 45);

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46) along with the one or more annotations (paragraph 31), the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit (paragraphs 30-31, paragraph 74 lines 13-17), the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46);

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to provide a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77) and receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit (paragraphs 35 and 77), the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35, 39 and 77); and

reporting control logic operative to transmit a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating a search report to update the search results of the search (paragraphs 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52) (*Refer to pages 6-7, section 1.6, of the provisional application outline of claims*).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

Further regarding claim 40, Badros in view of Willis and Rubin does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during the act of detecting.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying (paragraphs 44-46).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Weber because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying would enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

Further regarding claim 40, although Badros in view of Willis, Rubin and Weber teaches generating one or more annotations for the one or more plurality of documents (Badros, paragraph 39) and generating a search report including a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotations (Badros, paragraph 31), Badros in view of Willis, Rubin and Weber fails to explicitly teach generating one or more annotation abstracts based on the one or more annotations; or presenting annotation abstracts.

Stolze teaches web page annotation systems (see abstract), in which he teaches generating one or more annotation abstracts based on the one or more annotations (paragraphs 23 and 54); and presenting annotation abstracts (paragraphs 62 and 64).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching Stolze to enable web pages to be presented with abstracts of annotations instead of entire annotations, thereby providing users a quick synopsis about a web page and eliminating the need for storing annotations (Stolze, abstract, paragraph 23).

With respect to claim 41, Badros teaches a computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus (paragraph 14);

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document (paragraphs 33 and 35); and

an annotation module, executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including (paragraph 35):

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 35 and 39);

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 36-37); and

retrieval control logic configured to, using the processing device, locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus (paragraphs 78, 82 and 44-45); and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including (paragraphs 20-21):

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user (paragraph 18);

control logic configured to generating one or more annotations for the one or more plurality of documents (paragraph 39);

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user (paragraph 45);

reporting control logic configured to, using the processing device, generate a search report including a listing of the hits (paragraphs 28 and 46) along with the one or more annotations (paragraph 31), the listing including only

documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user (paragraphs 29, 50 and 74 lines 13-17), the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user (paragraphs 28 and 46);

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, using the processing device, provide a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with a url or page (paragraphs 47 and 77) and receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit (paragraphs 35 and 77), the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 35, 39 and 77); and

reporting control logic configured to transmit a search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraph 25).

Although Badros teaches providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation and results from the three sub-processes being merged into one result listing, he does not explicitly teach for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, or the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search results of the search report.

Willis teaches an interface for collecting user preferences (see abstract), in which he teaches:

for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit (element 1814 in Figure 18, element 2002 in Figure 20, paragraphs 201-202 and 210);

receiving the new annotation from the user (paragraphs 202 and 210);

adding the new annotation to the library of annotations (paragraphs 22 and 190);

in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerating a search report to update the search results of the search report (paragraphs 203); and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user in response to the query submitted by the user (paragraphs 203).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Badros by the teaching of Willis because providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit, and regenerating search report would enable a user to indicate his/her preference quickly, easily, and efficiently, and thus improve the use of search engines by providing better, more useful results (Willis, abstract).

Although Badros in view of Willis teaches indicating that a hit is an annotated hit (Badros, paragraphs 30-31 and paragraph 74 lines 13-17) and updating the search results of the search report (Willis, paragraph 203), the combination does not explicitly teach updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit.

Rubin teaches a notebook system (see abstract), in which he teaches collecting and annotating links (page 4, claim 1), and further updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit (paragraph 52) (*Refer to pages 6-7, section 1.6, of the provisional application outline of claims*).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Rubin because updating to indicate that a newly annotated hit is an annotated hit would enable a mechanism to alert a user of new/additional data to further assist the user in finding useful information (Rubin, paragraph 52).

Further regarding claim 41, Badros in view of Willis and Rubin does not teach wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying.

Weber teaches simplified searching for media services using a control device (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields (paragraph 37) and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying (paragraphs 44-46).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching of Weber because wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query

specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying would enable Badros' searching system to be used to search for media content, and would also enable more diverse searching using a control device (Weber, abstract, paragraph 5).

Further regarding claim 41, although Badros in view of Willis, Rubin and Weber teaches generating one or more annotations for the one or more plurality of documents (Badros, paragraph 39) and generating a search report including a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotations (Badros, paragraph 31), Badros in view of Willis, Rubin and Weber fails to explicitly teach generating one or more annotation abstracts based on the one or more annotations; or presenting annotation abstracts.

Stolze teaches web page annotation systems (see abstract), in which he teaches generating one or more annotation abstracts based on the one or more annotations (paragraphs 23 and 54); and presenting annotation abstracts (paragraphs 62 and 64).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Badros by the teaching Stolze to enable web pages to be presented with abstracts of annotations instead of entire annotations, thereby providing users a quick synopsis about a web page and eliminating the need for storing annotations (Stolze, abstract, paragraph 23).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

5. Applicant argues that Badros does not teach detecting whether the search term is present in a document associated with an annotation. The Examiner disagrees. Badros teaches searching global indexes, bookmarks and annotations. Bookmarked URLs are web pages that a user has marked or annotated to be of importance to the user. Therefore, bookmarked pages may be considered annotated documents. Badros teaches using a search query for searching global indices, URLs stored as bookmarks and annotations. Further, bookmarked pages may be associated with ratings and annotations. Therefore, Badros clearly teaches detecting whether the search term is present in a document associated with an annotation.

6. Applicant also argues that Willis fails to provide a control element for each hit that is not an annotated hit. The Examiner disagrees. Willis teaches that pop-up windows 1814 and 2002, which may be considered control elements, provide a way to annotate non-annotated hits in a result set (paragraphs 201-202 and 210).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALICIA M. LEWIS whose telephone number is (571)272-5599. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9 - 6:30, alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on 571-272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alicia M Lewis/
Examiner, Art Unit 2164
September 30, 2010

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 11/081,860	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner ALICIA M. LEWIS	Art Unit 2164	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-2004/0138946	07-2004	Stolze, Markus	705/014
	B	US-			
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
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	35	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	36	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☐ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008	07/30/2008	02/24/2009	08/12/2009	02/25/2010	10/01/2010		
	37	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	38	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	39	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	41	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
Help from TA, Srirama Channavajjala	06/12/2007	TMW
East search of 707/3 wit text, history attached	06/13/2007	TMW
Help from Trainer, Nabil El-Hady on Double Patenting	06/13/2007	TMW
Help from TA, Srirama Channavajjala	06/20/2007	TMW
Help from Trainer, Nabil El-Hady	06/21/2007	TMW
EAST- USPAT, USPGPUB (see search history)	2/5/08	AML
EAST(updated) - USPAT, USPGPUB - See Search History	7/30/2008	AML
EAST (updated) - USPAT, USPGPUB - See Search History	2/23/2009	AML
EAST (updated) - USPAT, USPGPUB - See Search History	2/24/2010	AML
EAST (updated) - See Search History	9/30/2010	AML

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S112	1	"20050234891"	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2010/09/30 20:11
S113	2	"20050131866"	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2010/09/30 20:31
S114	35	annotation near abstract	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2010/09/30 20:45
S115	220	annotation with abstract	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2010/09/30 20:51
S116	67	annotation with abstract and "707". clas.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2010/09/30 20:51
S117	54	S116 not S114	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2010/09/30 20:51
S118	331	annotation near (excerpt snippet portion)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2010/09/30 20:54
S119	27	annotation near (excerpt snippet portion) with (hit result)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2010/09/30 20:54
S120	21	annotation near (excerpt snippet)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2010/09/30 20:56
S121	18	annotation with abstract with (result hit url)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2010/09/30 20:58
S122	1	"20040177063"	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2010/09/30 21:10

EAST Search History (Interference)

<This search history is empty>

10/ 1/ 2010 12:05:33 AM

C:\ Documents and Settings\ alewis5\ My Documents\ EAST\ Workspaces\ 11081860.wsp

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Eckart Walther, et al.
Application No.	:	11/081,860
Filed	:	March 15, 2005
Title	:	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS
Examiner	:	Alicia M. Lewis
Art Unit	:	2164

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action dated October 6, 2010, please reconsider the above identified application in light of the following:

Amendments to the Claims are noted in the marked-up version of the claims beginning on page 2 of this paper; and

Remarks begin on page 15 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user;

electronically searching, via a processing device, a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

generating a search report including a listing of the one or more hits;

transmitting the search report to the user, wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element selectable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user, wherein the one or more annotations include one or more user-entered keywords describing the one or more hits;

generating one or more annotation abstracts for the one or more hits based on the one or more annotations;

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

electronically accessing, via the processing device, the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with at least one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document;

classifying the one or more hits according to the one or more annotations;

identifying one or more interests of the user based on the classification of the hits related to the one or more annotations;

determining an intended scope of the query submitted by the user based on the one or more interests;

~~for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations,~~ detecting whether ~~the~~ a search term associated with the query is present ~~in the document~~ for each document in the corpus associated with the one or more annotations, wherein ~~the~~

a given document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document and the document is associated with the intended scope of the query, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying;

electronically identifying, via the processing device, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations in the fields being considered and associated with the intended scope of the query;

determining an inferred rating for each hit that is not an annotated hit on the basis of the one or more annotations associated with the hits;

~~generating a search report including a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotation abstracts, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit;~~

~~transmitting the search report to the user, wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;~~

~~receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit;~~

~~adding the new annotation to the library of annotations;~~

in response to the addition of the ~~new annotation~~ one or more annotations, automatically regenerating the search report to update ~~the search results of~~ the search report ~~to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit~~ including the listing of the hits ranked accordingly to the inferred rating along with the one or more annotation abstracts, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user ~~in response to the query submitted by the user~~.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the search report includes a visual highlight element applied to each hit that is an annotated hit.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the user-specific metadata included in the annotations includes a rating and wherein the visual highlight element applied to each annotated hit depends on the rating included in the matching annotation.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, providing in the search report a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

for each annotated hit, incorporating into the listing of the hits at least some of the user-specific metadata from the matching annotation.

6. – 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the search report further includes:

generating a separate listing including only annotated hits.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the separate listing includes only annotated hits for which the matching annotation includes a favorable rating.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein generating the search report includes determining an order for the listing of the hits based at least in part on the ratings of the annotated hits.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein generating the search report further includes eliminating an annotated hit from the listing of the hits in the event that the rating is an unfavorable rating.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

searching the library of annotations to identify one or more additional annotated hits, wherein each additional annotated hit corresponds to a document from the corpus for which the associated annotation includes user-specific metadata that is determined to be relevant to the query; and

incorporating the additional annotated hits into the listing of the hits in the search results page.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein searching the corpus includes:

extracting a search term from the user query; and

identifying as a hit each document in the corpus that contains the search term.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein searching the store of annotations

includes identifying as an additional annotated hit each document in the corpus for which the user-specific metadata includes the search term.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any hit that is one of the group of documents is identified as an annotated hit.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-specific metadata includes an item of information explicitly input by the user.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a keyword describing one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a label selected from a predefined vocabulary.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the item of information is a free-text description of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the corpus includes a plurality of World Wide Web pages.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a human.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is a computer.

25. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user;

generating a search report including a listing of a plurality of documents that are determined to be relevant to the query;

wherein for each document that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element selectable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of ~~a~~ the plurality of documents from the user, wherein the one or more annotations include one or more user-entered keywords describing the documents;

electronically adding, via a processing device, to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

generating one or more annotation abstracts for the one or more of the plurality of documents based on the one or more annotations;

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with at least one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus;

classifying the documents according to the one or more annotations;

identifying one or more interests of the user based on the classification of the documents related to the one or more annotations;

determining an intended scope of the query submitted by the user based on the one or more interests;

~~for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations,~~ detecting whether ~~the~~ a search term associated with the query is present ~~in the document~~ for each document belonging to the corpus associated with the one or more annotations, wherein ~~the~~ a given document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document and the document is associated with the intended scope of the query, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying;

electronically identifying, via the processing device one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations in the fields being considered, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query and associated with the intended scope of the query;

determining an inferred rating for each document that is not an annotated hit on the basis of the one or more annotations associated with the documents;

~~electronically generating, via the processing device, a search report including a listing of the hits, the listing including only documents for which the library has an associated annotation along with the one or more annotation abstracts;~~

~~wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element configurable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;~~

~~receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation is one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit;~~

~~adding, via the processing device, the new annotation to the library of annotations;~~

in response to the addition of the ~~new annotation~~ one or more annotations, automatically regenerating, via the processing device, the search report to update ~~the search results of~~ the search report ~~to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit~~ including the listing of the hits ranked accordingly to the inferred rating along with the one or more annotation abstracts, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user ~~in response to the query submitted by the user~~.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the act of comparing includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

for each document associated with one of the plurality of annotations, detecting whether the search term is present in the document, wherein the document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to the user-specific metadata of the annotations.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein identifying one or more hits further includes:

extracting a search term from the query; and

detecting, for each of the annotations, whether the search term is present in the user-specific metadata, wherein one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the user-specific metadata.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

receiving from the user a selection of a subset of the library of annotations to be searched, wherein the act of identifying one or more hits is performed only for annotations in the selected subset of the library.

33. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, a control element operable by the user to request a display of the user-specific metadata of the matching annotation.

34. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the search report further includes, for each hit, at least some of the user-specific metadata from the associated annotation.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the user-specific metadata included in each annotation includes a rating of one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus and wherein the documents in the listing are placed in an order determined based at least in part on the ratings of the hits.

36. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the library of annotations further includes at least one annotation that is associated with a group of documents in the corpus and wherein any document that is one of the group of documents is identified

as a hit.

37. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the corpus is the World Wide Web.

38. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a human.

39. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the user is a computer.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with at least one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields;

an annotation module, executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

abstract control logic configured to generate one or more annotation abstracts for the one of the plurality of documents based on the received metadata;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to, using the processing device, receive a query from a querying user the query specifying which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying;

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query and associated with an intended scope of the query;

personalization control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations created by the querying user and associated with the intended scope of the query; and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotation abstracts, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element ~~configurable~~ selectable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation ~~is~~ includes one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit, the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the personalization control logic configured to classify the one or more hits according to the one or more annotations, identify one or more interests of the user based on the classification of the hits related to the one or more annotations, determine the intended scope of the query submitted by the user based on the one or more interests, and determine an inferred rating for each hit that is not an annotated hit on the basis of the one or more annotations associated with the hits;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update ~~the search results of~~ the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit including the listing of the hits ranked accordingly to the inferred rating; and

reporting control logic configured to transmit the regenerated search report to the user ~~in response to the query submitted by the user~~.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with at least one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields;

an annotation module executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

abstract control logic configured to generate one or more annotation abstracts for the one of the plurality of documents based on the received metadata;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

retrieval control logic configured to, using the processing device, locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user the query specifying which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying;

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user and associated with an intended scope of the query; and

reporting control logic configured to, using the processing device, generate a search report including a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotation abstracts, the listing including only documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, using the processing device, for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element ~~configurable~~ selectable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation ~~is~~ includes one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit, the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the personalization control logic configured to classify the one or more hits according to the one or more annotations, identify one or more interests of the user based on the classification of the hits related to the one or more annotations, determine the intended scope of the query submitted by the user based on the one or more interests, and determine an inferred rating for each hit that is not an annotated hit on the basis of the one or more annotations associated with the hits;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to the addition of the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update ~~the search results of~~ the search report ~~to further indicate that the newly annotated hit is an annotated hit~~ including the listing of the hits ranked accordingly to the inferred rating; and

reporting control logic configured to transmit the regenerated search report to the user ~~in response to the query submitted by the user~~.

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1-5, 9-29 and 32-41 were pending. With this amendment, Applicants amended claims 1, 25, 40 and 41. These amendments do not add any new matter and are supported by the specification as originally filed. Accordingly, entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections

A. Claim Objections

Applicants have herewith amended claims 1 and 25 such that the Examiner's concerns regarding these claims are no longer an issue. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

B. 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-5, 9-29 and 32-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0131866 to Badros, et al. ("Badros") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0003096 to Willis ("Willis"), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2008/0195495 to Rubin, et al. ("Rubin"), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0177063 to Weber, et al. ("Weber") and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0138946 to Stolze ("Stolze").

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claims 1, 10 and 18, as amended, and the claims dependent thereon. Specifically, the references do not disclose:

"classifying the one or more hits according to the one or more annotations,"

"identifying one or more interests of the user based on the classification of the hits related to the one or more annotations,"

"determining an intended scope of the query submitted by the user based on the one or more interests,"

"detecting whether a search term associated with the query is present for each document in the corpus associated with the one or more annotations, wherein a given document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document and the document is associated with the intended scope of the query, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying,"

"electronically identifying, via the processing device, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations in the fields being considered and associated with the intended scope of the query,"

"determining an inferred rating for each hit that is not an annotated hit on the basis of the one or more annotations associated with the hits" and

"in response to the addition of the one or more annotations, automatically regenerating the search report to update the search report including the listing of the hits ranked accordingly to the inferred rating along with the one or more annotation abstracts, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit."

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The dependent claims of the present application contain additional features that further substantially distinguish the invention of the present application over the prior art of record. Given the Applicants' position on the patentability of the independent claims, however, it is not deemed necessary at this point to delineate such distinctions.

III. Conclusion

For at least all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections, and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully solicited. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

/ Antonio Papageorgiou/

Dated: January 6, 2011

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING SYSTEM ON January 6, 2011

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Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	9180166
Application Number:	11081860
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	1892
Title of Invention:	Search systems and methods with integration of user annotations
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Customer Number:	76041
Filer:	Seth H. Ostrow/susan formicola
Filer Authorized By:	Seth H. Ostrow
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368
Receipt Date:	06-JAN-2011
Filing Date:	15-MAR-2005
Time Stamp:	16:01:54
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		600189_368_response_1-6-11.pdf	138937 177fd91d5de6a890f31ee49ec88eff49d99d425e	yes	17

	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description		
	Document Description	**Start**	**End**
	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject	1	1
	Claims	2	14
	Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment	15	17
Warnings:			
Information:			
	Total Files Size (in bytes):	138937	

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

PTO/SB/06 (07-06)
Approved for use through 1/31/2007. OMB 0651-0032
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Substitute for Form PTO-875

Application or Docket Number	Filing Date	☐ To be Mailed
11/081,860	03/15/2005	

APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I

FOR	(Column 1) NUMBER FILED	(Column 2) NUMBER EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY ☐ RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ☐ FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY FEE ($)
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	minus 20 =	*	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	minus 3 =	*	X $ =			X $ =	
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is $250 ($125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).						
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))							
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.			TOTAL			TOTAL	

APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II

AMENDMENT	01/06/2011	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY RATE ($)	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	* 36	Minus	** 41	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $52=	0
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 4	Minus	***4	= 0	X $ =		OR	X $220=	0
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0

AMENDMENT		(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)	OR	RATE ($)	ADDITIONAL FEE ($)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X $ =		OR	X $ =	
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))							OR		
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.

** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.

Legal Instrument Examiner:
/Trina Steptoe/

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

76041 7590 03/08/2011

YAHOO! INC.
C/O Ostrow Kaufman LLP
555 Fifth Avenue
19th Floor
NEW YORK, NY 10017

EXAMINER
LEWIS, ALICIA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2164	

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2011

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368	1892

TITLE OF INVENTION: SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	$1510	$300	$0	$1810	06/08/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

76041 7590 03/08/2011

YAHOO! INC.
C/O Ostrow Kaufman LLP
555 Fifth Avenue
19th Floor
NEW YORK, NY 10017

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368	1892

TITLE OF INVENTION: SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	$1510	$300	$0	$1810	06/08/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
LEWIS, ALICIA M	2164	707-003000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

❑ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

❑ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ❑ Individual ❑ Corporation or other private group entity ❑ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

❑ Issue Fee

❑ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)

❑ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): **(Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)**

❑ A check is enclosed.

❑ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

❑ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

❑ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

❑ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368	1892

76041 7590 03/08/2011

YAHOO! INC.
C/O Ostrow Kaufman LLP
555 Fifth Avenue
19th Floor
NEW YORK, NY 10017

EXAMINER	
LEWIS, ALICIA M	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2164	

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2011

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 291 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 291 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/081,860	WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ALICIA M. LEWIS	2164	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) *ALICIA M. LEWIS*. (3)_____.

(2) *Antonio Papageorgiou (Reg. No.53,431)*. (4)_____.

Date of Interview: *01 February 2011*.

Type: a)☒ Telephonic b)☐ Video Conference
c)☐ Personal [copy given to: 1)☐ applicant 2)☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d)☐ Yes e)☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: *1,25,26,40 and 41*.

Identification of prior art discussed: *N/A*.

Agreement with respect to the claims f)☒ was reached. g)☐ was not reached. h)☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: *Applicant's representative agreed to an Examiner's Amendment to amend limitations in claims 1, 25, 40 and 41, and to add the limitations of claim 26 to claims 25 and 41 to distinguish claims 25 and 41 from claims 1 and 40 in order to place the claims in condition for allowance* .

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

/Alicia M Lewis/ Examiner, Art Unit 2164	

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record
A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews
Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.
All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:
- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
2) an identification of the claims discussed,
3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
   (The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/081,860	WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ALICIA M. LEWIS	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *Interview on 2/1/2011* .

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-5, 9-25, 27-29 and 32-41, renumbered 1-35*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *2/1/2011* .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Antonio Papageorgiou on February 1, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

SPECIFICATION

The specification should be amended as follows: Paragraph [0002] of the original specification should be deleted and replaced with the following paragraph:

[0002] The following regular U.S. patent applications are being filed concurrently, and the entire disclosures are incorporated by reference into this application for all purposes:

- US Application Serial No. 11/082,212, which is also US Patent Application Publication 2005/0256867, entitled "Search Systems and Methods with Integration of Aggregate User Annotations"; and
- US Application Serial No. 11/081,871, which is now US Patent 7,599,950, entitled "Systems and Methods for Collecting User Annotations."

CLAIMS

Claims 1-5, 9-25, 27-29 and 32-41 have been renumbered 1-35, respectively.

Claim 1: Claim should be replaced with the following claim language:

1. A computerized method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query submitted by a user;

electronically searching, via a processing device, a corpus comprising a plurality of documents to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query;

generating a search report including a listing of the one or more hits;

transmitting the search report to the user, wherein for each hit that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element selectable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving one or more annotations related to the one or more hits from the user, wherein the one or more annotations include one or more user-entered keywords describing the one or more hits;

generating one or more annotation abstracts for the one or more hits based on the one or more annotations, the one or more annotation abstracts comprising one or more portions of a document associated with the one or more hits, the portions of the document relevant to the one or more user-generated keywords describing the one or more hits;

adding to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more hits provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

electronically accessing, via the processing device, the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with at least one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document;

classifying the one or more hits according to the one or more annotations;

identifying one or more interests of the user based on the classification of the hits related to the one or more annotations;

determining an intended scope of the query submitted by the user based on the one or more interests, the intended scope comprising a classification of hits from a plurality of disparate classifications of hits;

detecting whether a search term associated with the query is present for each document in the corpus associated with the one or more annotations, wherein a given document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document and the document is associated with the intended scope of the query, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying documents and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying documents;

electronically identifying, via the processing device, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the annotations in the fields being considered and associated with the intended scope of the query;

determining an inferred rating for each hit that is not an annotated hit on the basis of similarity of a hit that is not an annotated hit with one or more annotated hits and a rating of the one or more annotated hits;

in response to receiving the one or more annotations, automatically regenerating the search report to update the search report, the search report comprising: the listing of the hits ranked accordingly to the inferred rating of the hits that are not annotated hits and the rating of the annotated hits, and the one or more annotation abstracts, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user.

Claim 25: Claim 25 should be replaced with the following claim language:

25. A computerized method for responding to a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user;

generating a search report including a listing of a plurality of documents that are determined to be relevant to the query;

wherein for each document that is not an annotated hit, providing a control element selectable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit;

receiving one or more annotations related to one or more of the plurality of documents from the user, wherein the one or more annotations include one or more user-entered keywords describing the documents;

electronically adding, via a processing device, to a data store the one or more annotations relating to the one or more of the plurality of documents provided by the user in order to create a library of annotations;

generating one or more annotation abstracts for the one or more of the plurality of documents based on the one or more annotations, the one or more annotation abstracts comprising one or more portions of a document associated with the one or more hits, the portions of the document relevant to the one or more user-generated keywords describing the one or more hits;

accessing the library of annotations created by the user, each annotation being associated with at least one of a plurality of documents belonging to a corpus, each annotation further including user-specific metadata related to one of the plurality of documents belonging to the corpus;

classifying the documents according to the one or more annotations;

identifying one or more interests of the user based on the classification of the documents related to the one or more annotations;

determining an intended scope of the query submitted by the user based on the one or more interests, the intended scope comprising a classification of hits from a plurality of disparate classifications of hits;

detecting whether a search term associated with the query is present for each document belonging to the corpus associated with the one or more annotations, wherein a given document is identified as a hit in the event that the search term is present in the document and the document is associated with the intended scope of the

query, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields and the query specifies which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying documents and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying documents;

electronically identifying, via the processing device one or more hits among the documents associated with the annotations in the fields being considered, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the query and associated with the intended scope of the query, wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations;

determining an inferred rating for each document that is not an annotated hit on the basis of similarity of a hit that is not an annotated hit with one or more annotated hits and a rating of the one or more annotated hits;

in response to receiving the one or more annotations, automatically regenerating, via the processing device, the search report to update the search report, the search report comprising: the listing of the hits with un-annotated hits ranked accordingly to the inferred rating of the hits that are not annotated hits and the rating of the annotated hits, and the one or more annotation abstracts, the listing including only hits to documents for which the library has an associated annotation and hits to documents with inferred ratings; and

transmitting the regenerated search report to the user.

Claim 26

Claim 26 is cancelled.

Claim 27

Claim 27 should be amended to depend on original claim 25 (which has been renumbered claim 22).

Claim 40 should be replaced with the following claim language:

40. A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

a processor;

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with at least one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields;

an annotation module, executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

abstract control logic configured to generate one or more annotation abstracts for the one of the plurality of documents based on the received metadata, the one or more annotation abstracts comprising one or more portions of a document

associated with the one or more hits, the portions of the document relevant to the one or more user-generated keywords describing the one or more hits;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

retrieval control logic configured to locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to, using the processing device, receive a query from a querying user the query specifying which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying documents and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying documents;

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, search the index data store to identify one or more hits, wherein each hit is a document from the corpus that is determined to be relevant to the received query and associated with an intended scope of the query, the intended scope comprising a classification of hits from a plurality of disparate classifications of hits;

personalization control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as an annotated hit, each of the hits that is associated with a matching one of the

annotations created by the querying user and associated with the intended scope of the query; and

reporting control logic configured to generate a search report including a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotation abstracts, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element selectable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation includes one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit, the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the personalization control logic configured to classify the one or more hits according to the one or more annotations, identify one or more interests of the user based on the classification of the hits related to the one or more annotations, determine the intended scope of the query submitted by the user based on the one or more interests, and determine an inferred rating for each hit that is not an annotated hit on the basis of the similarity of a hit that is not an annotated hit with one or more annotated hits and a rating of the one or more annotated hits;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to receiving the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search report to further indicate that the newly annotated hit

is an annotated hit, the search report comprising: the listing of the hits ranked accordingly to the inferred rating of the hits that are not annotated hits and the rating of the annotated hits; and

reporting control logic configured to transmit the regenerated search report to the user.

Claim 41 should be replaced with the following claim language:

41. A computer system for responding to user queries, the system comprising:

a processor;

an index data store configured to store a searchable representation of a plurality of documents from a corpus;

a personalization data store configured to store a library of annotations created by users, each annotation being associated with at least one of the documents in the corpus and including user-specific metadata related to that document, wherein the user-specific metadata includes a plurality of fields;

an annotation module executed by a processing device, communicably coupled to the personalization data store, the annotation module including:

input control logic configured to receive metadata from the user and to associate the received metadata with one of the plurality of documents from the corpus;

abstract control logic configured to generate one or more annotation abstracts for the one of the plurality of documents based on the received metadata, the one or more annotation abstracts comprising one or more portions of a document

associated with the one or more hits, the portions of the document relevant to the one or more user-generated keywords describing the one or more hits;

storage control logic configured to store the received metadata in the personalization store as an annotation associated with an identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

retrieval control logic configured to, using the processing device, locate an annotation in the personalization data store by reference to the identifier of the user and one of the plurality of documents from the corpus; and

a search server communicably coupled to the index data store and the personalization data store, the search server including:

input control logic configured to receive a query from a querying user the query specifying which of the fields are to be considered during an act of identifying documents and which of the fields are to be excluded during the act of identifying documents;

search control logic configured to, using the processing device, identify, as a hit, one or more of the documents associated with annotations created by the querying user and associated with an intended scope of the query, the intended scope comprising a classification of hits from a plurality of disparate classifications of hits, wherein identifying one or more hits includes comparing the query to contents of each document associated with one of the annotations; and

reporting control logic configured to, using the processing device, generate a search report including a listing of the hits along with the one or more annotation

abstracts, the reporting control logic being further configured to transmit the search report to the user;

the annotation module further including input control logic configured to, using the processing device, for each hit that is not an annotated hit, provide a control element selectable by the user to create a new annotation associated with the hit and receiving the new annotation from the user, wherein the new annotation includes one or more user-entered keywords describing the hit, the storage control logic configured to add the new annotation to the library of annotations;

the personalization control logic configured to classify the one or more hits according to the one or more annotations, identify one or more interests of the user based on the classification of the hits related to the one or more annotations, determine the intended scope of the query submitted by the user based on the one or more interests, and determine an inferred rating for each hit that is not an annotated hit on the basis of similarity of a hit that is not an annotated hit with one or more annotated hits and a rating of the one or more annotated hits;

the search control logic and reporting control logic of the search server configured to, in response to receiving the new annotation, automatically regenerate the search report to update the search report, the search report comprising: the listing of the hits ranked accordingly to the inferred rating of the hits that are not annotated hits and the rating of the annotated hits, the listing including only hits to documents for which the library of annotations includes an annotation by the querying user and hits to documents with inferred ratings; and

reporting control logic configured to transmit the regenerated search report to the user.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

3. The prior art fails to teach the combination of all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 25, 40 and 41. Independent claims 1, 25, 40 and 41 as amended now include the following elements that are not expressly taught in the prior art, along with the other claimed elements:

4. "determining an inferred rating for each hit that is not an annotated hit on the basis of similarity of a hit that is not an annotated hit with one or more annotated hits and a rating of the one or more annotated hits; and in response to receiving the one or more annotations, automatically regenerating the search report to update the search report, the search report comprising: the listing of the hits ranked accordingly to the inferred rating of the hits that are not annotated hits and the rating of the annotated hits, and the one or more annotation abstracts, the search report further indicating, for each hit, whether the hit is an annotated hit".

5. The closest prior art found Slackman (US 2010/0153357) and Glance (US 2002/0147895), do not specifically teach alone or render obvious in combination the above limitations as it is recited among the claimed elements found in independent claims 1, 25, 40 and 41.

6. At best, Slackman teaches estimating a rating for a search result for search result without a search result rating, wherein the estimated rating is based on a rank of the search result in a list of search results and the ranks and ratings of other rated search results (see paragraphs 8 and 23), and further teaches sorting based on relevance values (Fig. 2, step 104). Glance teaches predicting a value of a URL based on user recommendations and ordering based on predicted values (see abstract, paragraph 31). However, neither of the prior art references teach determining an inferred rating and regenerating a search report in the manner as recited in the noted limitation above, and further neither reference teaches the combination of the other claimed elements.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent 7,133,870 filed by Tripp et al. - Tripp teaches generating a category indication for a result of a search based on the catalog of ratings (see claim 8).

US Patent 7,158,986 filed by Oliver et al. - Oliver teaches determining interests of the user based on the theme or concept of a previously categorized document (see abstract).

US Patent Application 2010/0153357 filed by Slackman - Slackman teaches estimating a rating for a search result for search result without a search result rating, wherein the estimated rating is based on a rank of the search result in a list of search results and the ranks and ratings of other rated search results (see paragraphs 8 and 23) and sorting based on relevance values (Fig. 2, step 104).

US Patent Application Publication 2002/0147895 filed by Glance - Glance teaches predicting a value of a URL based on user recommendations and ordering based on predicted values (see abstract, paragraph 31).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALICIA M. LEWIS whose telephone number is (571)272-5599. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9 - 6:30, alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on 571-272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alicia M Lewis/
Examiner, Art Unit 2164
February 4, 2011

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 11/081,860	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner ALICIA M. LEWIS	Art Unit 2164	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A	US-7,133,870	11-2006	Tripp et al.	707/723
*	B	US-7,158,986	01-2007	Oliver et al.	1/1
*	C	US-2010/0153357	06-2010	Slackman, Richard O.	707/707
*	D	US-2002/0147895	10-2002	Glance et al.	711/158
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	ALICIA M LEWIS	2164

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☒ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008	07/30/2008	02/24/2009	08/12/2009	02/25/2010	10/01/2010	02/04/2011	
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3	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	
4	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	
5	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	
	6	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	7	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	8	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	
6	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	
7	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	
8	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	
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27	33	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	
28	34	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	
29	35	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	
30	36	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	ALICIA M LEWIS	2164

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☒ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008	07/30/2008	02/24/2009	08/12/2009	02/25/2010	10/01/2010	02/04/2011	
31	37	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	
32	38	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	
33	39	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	
34	40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	
35	41	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	

Issue Classification	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	ALICIA M LEWIS	2164

ORIGINAL		INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION															
CLASS	SUBCLASS	CLAIMED										NON-CLAIMED					
707	758	G	0	6	F	17 / 30 (2006.0)											
CROSS REFERENCE(S)		G	0	6	F	7 / 00 (2006.0)											
CLASS	SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)																

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☒ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original
1	1	14	17	27	33										
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3	3	16	19	29	35										
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9	12	24	28												
10	13	25	29												
11	14		30												
12	15		31												
13	16	26	32												

(Assistant Examiner)	(Date)	Total Claims Allowed: 35	
/ALICIA M LEWIS/ Examiner Art Unit 2164	2/7/2011	O.G. Print Claim(s)	O.G. Print Figure
(Primary Examiner)	(Date)	1	8

Search Notes	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Lewis, Alicia M	2164

SEARCHED

Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
707	3 (along with keywords)	7/28/08	AML
707	3 (along with keywords)	2/23/09	AML
707	3 (along with keywords)	2/24/10	AML
707	999.003, 706, 723, 758 (along with keywords)	2/4/2011	AML
707	entire class (along with keywords)	2/4/2011	AML

SEARCH NOTES

Search Notes	Date	Examiner
Help from TA, Srirama Channavajjala	06/12/2007	TMW
East search of 707/3 wit text, history attached	06/13/2007	TMW
Help from Trainer, Nabil El-Hady on Double Patenting	06/13/2007	TMW
Help from TA, Srirama Channavajjala	06/20/2007	TMW
Help from Trainer, Nabil El-Hady	06/21/2007	TMW
EAST- USPAT, USPGPUB (see search history)	2/5/08	AML
EAST(updated) - USPAT, USPGPUB - See Search History	7/30/2008	AML
EAST (updated) - USPAT, USPGPUB - See Search History	2/23/2009	AML
EAST (updated) - USPAT, USPGPUB - See Search History	2/24/2010	AML
EAST (updated) - See Search History	9/30/2010	AML
EAST (updated) - USPAT, USPGPUB, EPO, JPO, IBM_TDM - See Search History	2/4/2011	AML
Inventor Search	2/4/2011	AML
NPL - Google Search	2/4/2011	AML

INTERFERENCE SEARCH

Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
707	706, 723, 758, 999.003	2/4/2011	AML

/Alicia M Lewis/ Examiner, Art Unit 2164	

EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L1	257	(classif$8 categor$8) with (hit url document page file (search near result)) with (keyword review comment remark rating annotation opinion) with user and user near3 interest with (classif$8 categor$8)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2011/02/04 16:47
L2	77	(classif$8 categor$8) with (hit url document page file (search near result)) with (keyword review comment remark rating annotation opinion) with user and user near3 interest with (classif$8 categor$8) and "707".clas. and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2011/02/04 16:48
L3	19	(classif$8 categor$8) near2 (hit url document page file (search near result)) with (keyword review comment remark rating annotation opinion) with user and user near3 interest with (classif$8 categor$8) and "707".clas. and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2011/02/04 16:50
L4	4	(classif$8 categor$8) with (hit url document page file (search near result)) with (annotation opinion) with user and user near3 interest with (classif$8 categor$8) and "707".clas. and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2011/02/04 16:55
L5	0	(determin$3 detect$3 infer$4 guess$3 predict$4 identif$4) near2 user near2 interest with (classif$8 categor$8) with (hit document file (search result) url page webpage website) same (annotation opinion) and "707".clas. and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2011/02/04 17:00

L6	10	(determin$3 detect$3 infer$4 guess$3 predict$4 identif$4) near2 user near2 interest with (classif$8 categor$8) with (hit document file (search result) url page webpage website) and "707".clas. and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2011/02/04 17:00
L7	637	(classif$8 categor$8) near2 (hit url document page file (search near result)) with (keyword review comment remark rating annotation opinion) and "707".clas. and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2011/02/04 17:09
L8	268	(classif$8 categor$8) near2 (hit url document page file (search near result)) with (review comment remark rating annotation opinion) and "707".clas. and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2011/02/04 17:09
L9	4	(classif$8 categor$8) near2 (hit url document page file (search near result)) with bas $2 near2 (review comment remark rating annotation opinion) and "707".clas. and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2011/02/04 17:09
L10	21	user near interest with (categor$8 classifi$8) near2 (hit url webpage website document (search near result)) and "707".clas. and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2011/02/04 17:14
L11	5	(determin$3 judg$3 detect$3 identif$6 predict$4 guess$4 infer$4) near2 user near interest same (categor$8 classifi$8 taxonomy folksonomy) near2 (hit url webpage website document (search near result)) and "707".clas. and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2011/02/04 17:19

L12	9	(determin$3 judg$3 detect$3 identif$6 predict$4 guess$4 infer$4) near2 user near interest same (categor$8 classifi$8 taxonomy folksonomy) near2 (hit url webpage website document (search near result)) and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; IBM_TDB	OR	ON	2011/02/04 17:20
L20	1	"20050234891"	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/02/04 17:43
S123	1	"20050234891"	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2011/01/24 20:04
S124	19	(classif$7 categoriz$6) with (hit (search near result) document) with (annotation comment rating review remark opinion) same interest near2 user	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/01/24 21:04
S125	326	(classif$7 categoriz$6) near3 (hit (search near result) document) with (annotation comment rating review remark opinion)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/01/24 21:05
S126	268	(classif$7 categoriz$6) near2 (hit (search near result) document) with (annotation comment rating review remark opinion)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/01/24 21:06
S127	168	(classif$7 categoriz$6) near2 (hit (search near result) document) with (annotation comment rating review remark opinion) and ("707".clas. "709".clas.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/01/24 21:06
S128	8	(classif$7 categoriz$6) near2 (hit (search near result) document) with (annotation comment rating review remark opinion) and ("707".clas. "709".clas.) and user near2 interest same (annotation comment rating review remark opinion)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/01/24 21:07
S129	10	(predict$3 infer$4 guess$3) with (rating score interest) with (hit document (search near result)) with (annotation comment review remark)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/01/24 21:10

S130	12	(predict$3 infer$4 guess$3) with (rating score interest) with (hit document (search near result)) with (annotation comment review remark opinion)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/01/24 21:10
S131	7	(predict$4 infer$5 guess$3 suggest$4 recommend$5) near2 (rating score value weight rank$3) with (hit document (search near result)) same (score rating value rank$3 weight annotation comment review remark opinion) with (other similar related) near2 (hit document (search near result))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/01/24 21:14
S132	755	(predict$4 infer$5 guess$3 suggest$4 recommend$5) near2 (rating score value weight rank$3) with (hit document (search near result))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/01/24 21:15
S133	203	(predict$4 infer$5 guess$3 suggest$4 recommend$5) near2 (rating score value weight rank$3) near2 (hit document (search near result))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/01/24 21:15
S134	102	(predict$4 infer$5 guess$3 suggest$4 recommend$5) near2 (rating score value weight rank$3) near2 (hit document (search near result)) and ("707".clas. "709". clas.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/01/24 21:17
S135	179	(predict$4 infer$5 guess$3) near (relevance rating score value weight rank$3) with (hit document (search near result)) and ("707".clas. "709". clas.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/01/24 21:28
S136	25	(predict$4 infer$5 guess$3) near (relevance rating score value weight rank$3) with (hit document (search near result)) same user near3 (rating score annotat$4 remark comment opinion review description) and ("707". clas. "709".clas.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/01/24 21:30
S137	1	"20050234891"	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	ON	2011/02/03 19:40

S138	301	(infer$5 guess$3 predict$4 estimat$3 hypothes$4) near2 (rating score value relevan$3) same similar$4 with (hit document article file (search near result) url page)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/02/03 20:04
S139	121	(infer$5 guess$3 predict$4 estimat$3 hypothes$4) near2 (rating score value relevan$3) same similar$4 with (hit document article file (search near result) url page) and "707".clas.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/02/03 20:04
S140	106	(infer$5 guess$3 predict$4 estimat$3 hypothes$4) near2 (rating score value number weight$4) same similar$4 with (hit document article file (search near result) url page) and "707".clas.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/02/03 20:04
S141	62	(infer$5 guess$3 predict$4 estimat$3 hypothes$4) near2 (rating score value number weight$4) same similar$4 with (hit document article file (search near result) url page) and "707".clas. and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/02/03 20:06
S142	4	(infer$5 guess$3 predict$4 estimat$3 hypothes$4) near2 (rating score value) same similar$4 with (hit document article file (search near result) url page) same rank$3 and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/02/03 20:14
S143	77	(infer$5 guess$3 predict$4 estimat$3 hypothes$4) near2 (rating score value) same rank $3 with (hit document article file (search near result) url page) and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/02/03 20:17
S144	52	(infer$5 guess$3 predict$4 estimat$3 hypothes$4) near2 (rating score value) with rank $3 with (hit document article file (search near result) url page) and (@ad<"20040315" or @rlad<"20040315")	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO	OR	ON	2011/02/03 20:17

EAST Search History (Interference)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L13	0	707/758,706,723,999.003.ccls. and (search report annotation keyword user abstract library interest query corpus classif$8 rating).clm.	USPAT; UPAD	AND	ON	2011/02/04 17:41
L14	0	707/758,706,723,999.003.ccls. and (search report annotation keyword user abstract library interest query corpus classif$8 rating)	USPAT; UPAD	SAME	ON	2011/02/04 17:42
L16	0	707/758,706,723,999.003.ccls. and (search report annotation keyword user library query corpus)	USPAT; UPAD	SAME	ON	2011/02/04 17:42
L19	0	707/758,706,723,999.003.ccls. and (search report annotation keyword user library query corpus).clm.	USPAT; UPAD	AND	ON	2011/02/04 17:43
L22	0	707/758,706,723,999.003.ccls. and (search and report and annotation and keyword and user and abstract and library and interest and query and corpus and classif$8 and rating).clm.	USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/02/04 17:46
L23	0	707/758,706,723,999.003.ccls. and (search and report and annotation and keyword and user and library and query and corpus).clm.	USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/02/04 17:47
L24	0	707/758,706,723,999.003.ccls. and (search same report same annotation same keyword same user same library same query same corpus)	USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/02/04 17:48
L25	0	707/758,706,723,999.003.ccls. and (search same report same annotation same keyword same user same library same query same corpus)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/02/04 17:48
L26	1	707/758,706,723,999.003.ccls. and (search and report and annotation and keyword and user and library and query and corpus).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/02/04 17:48

2/4/2011 5:50:02 PM
C:\Documents and Settings\alewis5\My Documents\EAST\Workspaces\11081860.wsp

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YAHOO! INC.
C/O Ostrow Kaufman LLP
555 Fifth Avenue
19th Floor
NEW YORK, NY 10017

Courtesy Reminder for
Application Serial No: 11/081,860

Attorney Docket No: 600189-368
Customer Number: 76041
Date of Electronic Notification: 03/08/2011

This is a courtesy reminder that new correspondence is available for this application. The official date of notification of the outgoing correspondence will be indicated on the form PTOL-90 accompanying the correspondence.

An email notification regarding the correspondence was sent to the following email address(es) associated with your customer number:

sformicola@okfllp.com
dwalcott@okfllp.com

Please verify that these email addresses are correct.

To view your correspondence online or update your email addresses, please visit us anytime at **https://sportal.uspto.gov/secure/myportal/privatepair.** If you have any questions, please email the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at EBC@uspto.gov or call 1-866-217-9197.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368	1892

76041 7590 04/18/2011

YAHOO! INC.
C/O Ostrow Kaufman LLP
555 Fifth Avenue
19th Floor
NEW YORK, NY 10017

EXAMINER	
LEWIS, ALICIA M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2164	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
04/18/2011	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

sformicola@okfllp.com
dwalcott@okfllp.com

Supplemental Notice of Allowability	Application No. 11/081,860	Applicant(s) WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner ALICIA M. LEWIS	Art Unit 2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *Interview on 4/12/11*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-5,9-23,25,27-29,32-38,40 and 41*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *4/12/11* .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Alicia M Lewis/
Examiner, Art Unit 2164

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/081,860	WALTHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ALICIA M. LEWIS	2164	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) *ALICIA M. LEWIS*. (3)_____.

(2) *Antonio Papageorgiou*. (4)_____.

Date of Interview: *12 April 2011*.

Type: a)☒ Telephonic b)☐ Video Conference
c)☐ Personal [copy given to: 1)☐ applicant 2)☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d)☐ Yes e)☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: *24 and 39*.

Identification of prior art discussed: _____.

Agreement with respect to the claims f)☒ was reached. g)☐ was not reached. h)☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: *Applicant's representative agreed to an examiner's amendment to cancel claims 24 and 39.* .

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

/Alicia M Lewis/ Examiner, Art Unit 2164	

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record
A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews
Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.
All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:
- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
2) an identification of the claims discussed,
3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
   (The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Antonio Papageorgiou on April 12, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 24 is cancelled.

Claim 39 is cancelled.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALICIA M. LEWIS whose telephone number is (571)272-5599. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9 - 6:30, alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on 571-272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alicia M Lewis/
Examiner, Art Unit 2164
April 12, 2011

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	ALICIA M LEWIS	2164

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☒ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008	07/30/2008	02/24/2009	08/12/2009	02/25/2010	10/01/2010	02/04/2011	04/12/2011
1	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
2	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
3	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
4	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
5	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
	6	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	8	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
7	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
8	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
9	12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
10	13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
11	14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
12	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
13	16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
14	17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
15	18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
16	19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
17	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
18	21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
19	22	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
20	23	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
	24	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	-
21	25	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
	26	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
22	27	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
23	28	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
24	29	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
	30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-
	31	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-
25	32	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
26	33	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
27	34	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
28	35	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
29	36	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=

Index of Claims	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	ALICIA M LEWIS	2164

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☒ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	06/22/2007	02/05/2008	07/30/2008	02/24/2009	08/12/2009	02/25/2010	10/01/2010	02/04/2011	04/12/2011
30	37	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
31	38	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
	39	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	-
32	40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=
33	41	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	=	=

Issue Classification	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination
	11081860	WALTHER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	ALICIA M LEWIS	2164

ORIGINAL		INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION															
CLASS	SUBCLASS	CLAIMED										NON-CLAIMED					
707	758	G	0	6	F	17 / 30 (2006.01.01)											
CROSS REFERENCE(S)		G	0	6	F	7 / 00 (2006.01.01)											
CLASS	SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)																

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant ☐ CPA ☒ T.D. ☐ R.1.47

Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original
1	1	14	17	26	33										
2	2	15	18	27	34										
3	3	16	19	28	35										
4	4	17	20	29	36										
5	5	18	21	30	37										
	6	19	22	31	38										
	7	20	23		39										
	8		24	32	40										
6	9	21	25	33	41										
7	10		26												
8	11	22	27												
9	12	23	28												
10	13	24	29												
11	14		30												
12	15		31												
13	16	25	32												

(Assistant Examiner)	(Date)	Total Claims Allowed: 33	
/ALICIA M LEWIS/ Examiner Art Unit 2164	4/12/11	O.G. Print Claim(s)	O.G. Print Figure
(Primary Examiner)	(Date)	1	8

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

76041 7590 03/08/2011

YAHOO! INC.
C/O Ostrow Kaufman LLP
555 Fifth Avenue
19th Floor
NEW YORK, NY 10017

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368	1892

TITLE OF INVENTION: SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	$1510	$300	$0	$1810	06/08/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
LEWIS, ALICIA M	2164	707-003000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 Seth H. Ostrow
2 Ostrow Kaufman LLP
3

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE: Yahoo! Inc.

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY): Sunnyvale, CA

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☒ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

☒ Issue Fee

☒ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)

☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): **(Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)**

☐ A check is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature /Antonio Papageorgiou/ Date 5/10/2011

Typed or printed name Antonio Papageorgiou Registration No. 53,431

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11081860
Filing Date:	15-Mar-2005
Title of Invention:	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Filer:	Seth H. Ostrow/susan formicola
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Utility Appl issue fee	1501	1	1510	1510
Publ. Fee- early, voluntary, or normal	1504	1	300	300

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD($)
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
			Total in USD ($)	**1810**

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	10060308
Application Number:	11081860
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	1892
Title of Invention:	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Customer Number:	76041
Filer:	Seth H. Ostrow/susan formicola
Filer Authorized By:	Seth H. Ostrow
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368
Receipt Date:	10-MAY-2011
Filing Date:	15-MAR-2005
Time Stamp:	16:25:38
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Electronic Funds Transfer
Payment was successfully received in RAM	$1810
RAM confirmation Number	2967
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)

1	Issue Fee Payment (PTO-85B)	00002614.PDF	107387 426134f0b9cf426abf6e5716a9f31519b699433d	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	32227 e60fbacbb1a6ad50863b0390a8a4381bbf78e442	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes):	139614		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	ISSUE DATE	PATENT NO.	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/081,860	08/23/2011	8005850	600189-368	1892

76041 7590 08/03/2011

YAHOO! INC.
C/O Ostrow Kaufman LLP
555 Fifth Avenue
19th Floor
NEW YORK, NY 10017

ISSUE NOTIFICATION

The projected patent number and issue date are specified above.

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment is 356 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the adjustment on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Application Assistance Unit (AAU) of the Office of Data Management (ODM) at (571)-272-4200.

APPLICANT(s) (Please see PAIR WEB site http://pair.uspto.gov for additional applicants):

Eckart Walther, Palo Alto, CA;
Qi Lu, Saratoga, CA;
David Ku, Palo Alto, CA;
Kevin Lee, East Palo Alto, CA;
Chung-Man Tam, San Francisco, CA;
Ali Diab, Menlo Park, CA;

PTO/SB/80 (11-08)
Approved for use through 11/30/2011. OMB 0651-0035
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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POWER OF ATTORNEY TO PROSECUTE APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE USPTO

I hereby revoke all previous powers of attorney given in the application identified in the attached statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b).

I hereby appoint:

☑ Practitioners associated with the Customer Number: 118844

OR

☐ Practitioner(s) named below (if more than ten patent practitioners are to be named, then a customer number must be used):

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number

as attorney(s) or agent(s) to represent the undersigned before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in connection with any and all patent applications assigned only to the undersigned according to the USPTO assignment records or assignment documents attached to this form in accordance with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Please change the correspondence address for the application identified in the attached statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) to:

☑ The address associated with Customer Number: 118844

OR

☐ Firm or Individual Name			
Address			
City		State	Zip
Country			
Telephone		Email	

Assignee Name and Address:

Yahoo! Inc.
701 First Avenue
Sunnyvale, California 94089

A copy of this form, together with a statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) (Form PTO/SB/96 or equivalent) is required to be filed in each application in which this form is used. The statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) may be completed by one of the practitioners appointed in this form if the appointed practitioner is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee, and must identify the application in which this Power of Attorney is to be filed.

SIGNATURE of Assignee of Record

The individual whose signature and title is supplied below is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee

Signature	Ramaa Srinivasan	Date	October 22, 2013
Name	Ramaa Srinivasan	Telephone	
Title	VP, Associate General Counsel		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.31, 1.32 and 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

PTO/SB/96 (07-09)
Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)

Applicant/Patent Owner: Eckart Walther, Qi Lu, David Ku, Kevin Lee, Chung-Man Tam, Ali Diab/Yahoo! Inc.

Application No./Patent No.: 11/081860/8005850 Filed/Issue Date: 2005-03-15/2011-08-23

Titled: SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS

Yahoo! Inc. , a Corporation

(Name of Assignee) (Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.

states that it is:

1. ☒ the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest in;

2. ☐ an assignee of less than the entire right, title, and interest in (The extent (by percentage) of its ownership interest is _____ %); or

3. ☐ the assignee of an undivided interest in the entirety of (a complete assignment from one of the joint inventors was made)

the patent application/patent identified above, by virtue of either:

A. ☐ An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application/patent identified above. The assignment was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy therefore is attached.

OR

B. ☒ A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application/patent identified above, to the current assignee as follows:

1. From: Eckart Walther, Qi Lu, David Ku, Kevin Lee, Cl To: Yahoo! Inc.

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel 016422 , Frame 0005 , or for which a copy thereof is attached.

2. From: Eckart Walther, Qi Lu, David Ku, Kevin Lee, Cl To: Yahoo! Inc.

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel 016422 , Frame 0058 , or for which a copy thereof is attached.

3. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel _____ , Frame _____ , or for which a copy thereof is attached.

☐ Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet(s).

☒ As required by 37 CFR 3.73(b)(1)(i), the documentary evidence of the chain of title from the original owner to the assignee was, or concurrently is being, submitted for recordation pursuant to 37 CFR 3.11.

[NOTE: A separate copy (*i.e.*, a true copy of the original assignment document(s)) must be submitted to Assignment Division in accordance with 37 CFR Part 3, to record the assignment in the records of the USPTO. See MPEP 302.08]

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

/Zhiwei Zou/ 2014-08-26

Signature Date

Zhiwei Zou, Reg. No. 66041 Associate

Printed or Typed Name Title

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 3.73(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

The **Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579)** requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	19971106
Application Number:	11081860
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	1892
Title of Invention:	SEARCH SYSTEMS AND METHODS WITH INTEGRATION OF USER ANNOTATIONS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Eckart Walther
Customer Number:	76041
Filer:	Zhiwei Zou/allie bernardo
Filer Authorized By:	Zhiwei Zou
Attorney Docket Number:	600189-368
Receipt Date:	26-AUG-2014
Filing Date:	15-MAR-2005
Time Stamp:	16:47:09
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Power of Attorney	Yahoo-B.PDF	96531 10159327330aed292cf55cbd7efc1119c6e71625	no	1

Warnings:	
Information:	

2	Assignee showing of ownership per 37 CFR 3.73.	0426871.pdf	429096 aae250cd43f5fd38a5bdaa8e5501b6eb79831316	no	2

Warnings:	
Information:	
Total Files Size (in bytes):	525627

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111
If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371
If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office
If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(C) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368

CONFIRMATION NO. 1892

118844
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP - Yahoo!
(Yahoo Inc.)
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102

POA ACCEPTANCE LETTER

OC000000070625499

Date Mailed: 09/10/2014

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

This is in response to the Power of Attorney filed 08/26/2014.

The Power of Attorney in this application is accepted. Correspondence in this application will be mailed to the above address as provided by 37 CFR 1.33.

/sleutchit/

Office of Data Management, Application Assistance Unit (571) 272-4000, or (571) 272-4200, or 1-888-786-0101

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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(C) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
11/081,860	03/15/2005	Eckart Walther	600189-368

CONFIRMATION NO. 1892

76041
YAHOO! INC.
C/O Ostrow Kaufman LLP
555 Fifth Avenue
19th Floor
NEW YORK, NY 10017

POWER OF ATTORNEY NOTICE

OC000000070625485

Date Mailed: 09/10/2014

NOTICE REGARDING CHANGE OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

This is in response to the Power of Attorney filed 08/26/2014.

- The Power of Attorney to you in this application has been revoked by the assignee who has intervened as provided by 37 CFR 3.71. Future correspondence will be mailed to the new address of record(37 CFR 1.33).

/sleutchit/

Office of Data Management, Application Assistance Unit (571) 272-4000, or (571) 272-4200, or 1-888-786-0101

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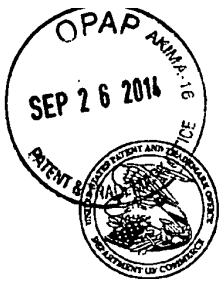
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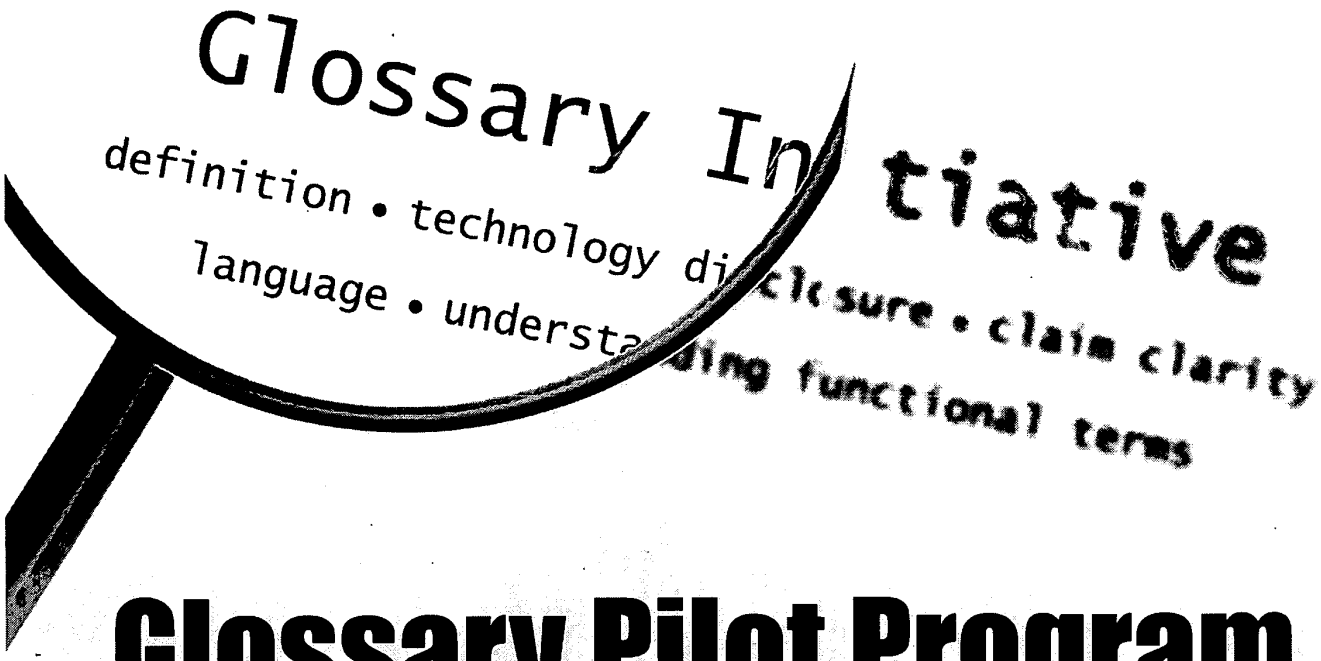
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Glossary Pilot Program

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Acceptance into the pilot program requires that the application be classified in software-related technological fields that fall under the examination jurisdiction of USPTO Technology Centers 2100, 2400, and 2600 or the Business Methods area of Technology Center 3600.

Applications must include a glossary section in the specification defining terms that will assist in clarifying the claimed invention, for example claim limitations that include functional language.

Applications must be filed electronically using EFS-Web system and include a petition to make special using Form PTO/SB/436 (no petition fee is required).

For complete information, please visit:
www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/glossary_initiative.jsp

For questions and additional information, please contact:

Seema Rao • Director, Technology Center 2100
571-272-0800 • E-mail: Glossary@uspto.gov