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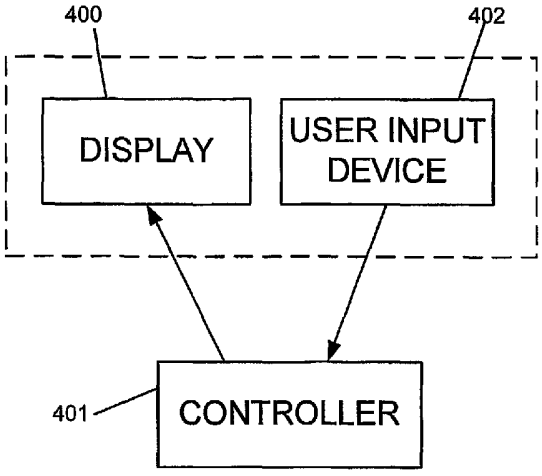
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(54) **Title:** INFORMATION RETRIEVAL APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) **Abstract:** Apparatus for retrieving information from a hierarchically arranged information source, the apparatus comprising: a display for displaying information and user selectable menu items corresponding to information available from said information source; a user input device for receiving user selections of displayed menu items; retrieving means for retrieving independently displayable information from said hierarchically arranged information source for each of a plurality of hierarchical levels, at least one said level lying at a sublevel of another said level; the information source having displayable information generic to at least one level; and a display controller adapted to control said display in dependence upon received user selections to display said menu items as history menu items indicating previously received user selections corresponding to navigation down levels of the hierarchy of said information source and new menu items corresponding to information available at a next level of the hierarchy of said information source, and to display said retrieved information corresponding to a most recently selected menu item in a display region separate to said history menu items.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F3/033

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 154 750 A (ROBERGE JAMES ET AL) 28 November 2000 (2000-11-28) column 6, line 7 - column 8, line 67 figures 1-4,9-17C	1,2, 5-15, 18-26
Y		3,4,16, 17

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Information on patent family members

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