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(54) **META-WEB**

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(73) Assignee: **GOOGLE INC.**, Mountain View, CA (US)

(21) Appl. No.: **12/969,567**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 15, 2010**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 12/823,017, filed on Jun. 24, 2010, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 10/737,618, filed on Dec. 15, 2003, now Pat. No. 7,765,206, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 10/474,155, filed on Oct. 1, 2003, now Pat. No. 7,502,770.

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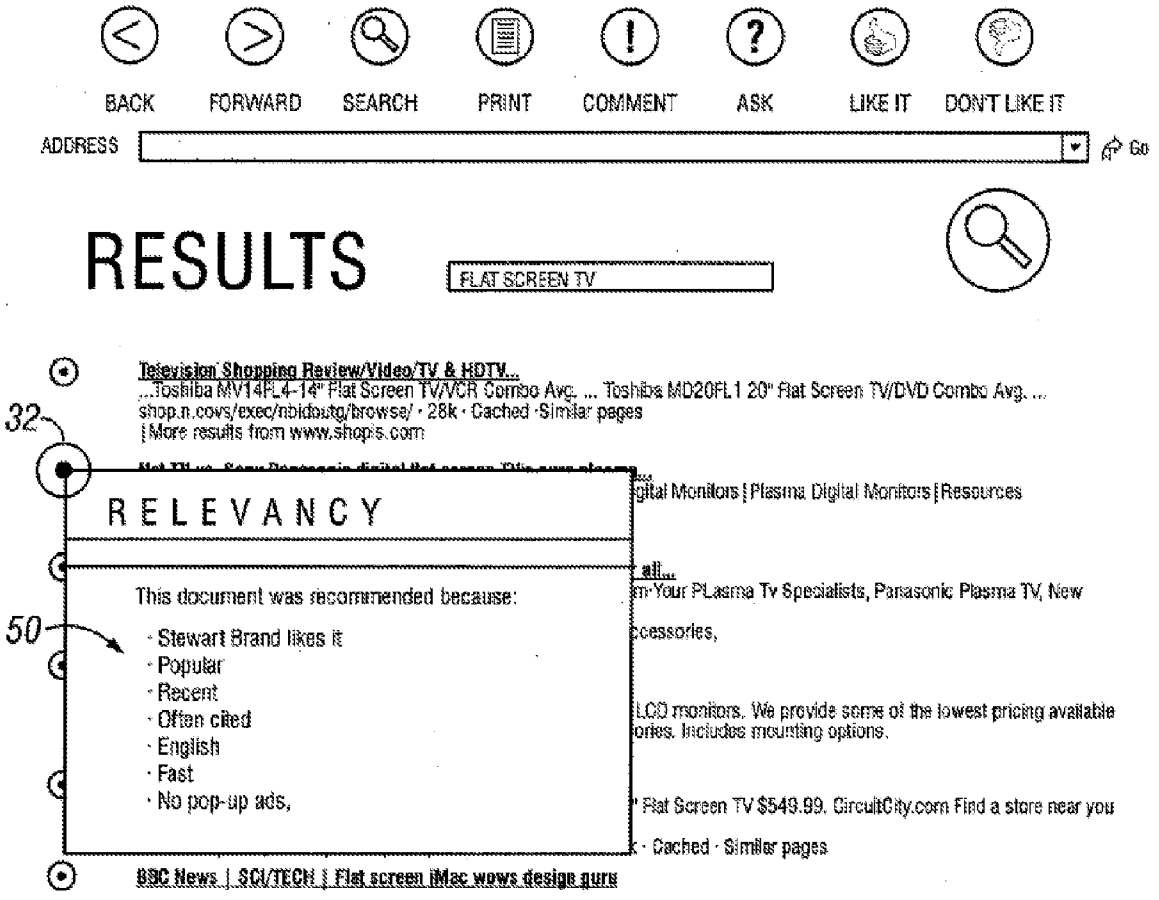
(51) **Int. Cl.**

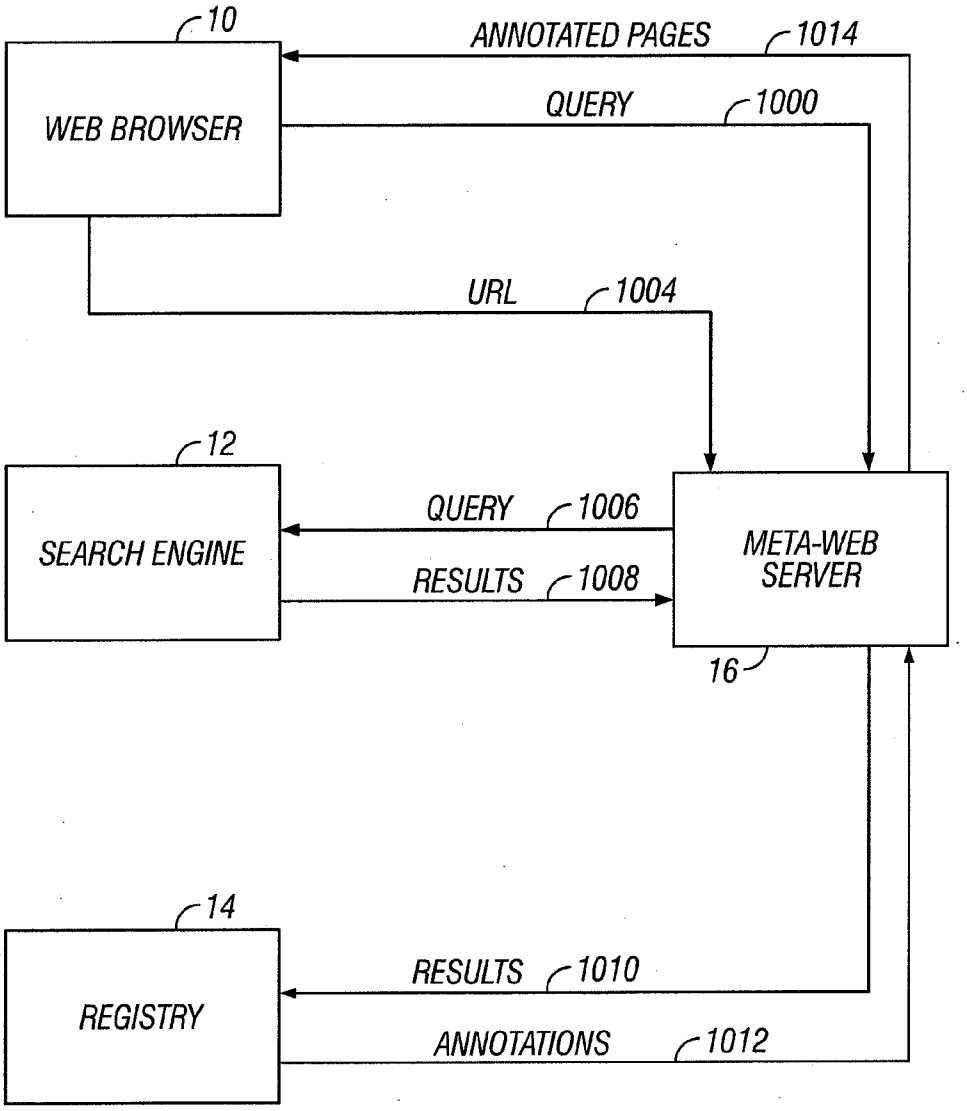
G06F 7/00	(2006.01)
G06F 17/30	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **707/723**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

In one aspect, a system includes an information server, operable to perform operations comprising: receiving a search query from a user device; receiving search results responsive to the search query from a search engine; determining from a registry that user annotations or other metadata are associated with the received search results; ordering the search results according to their relevance, where the relevance is determined based at least in part on the user annotations or other metadata in the registry; generating a search results page including the ordered search results and an annotation tool, wherein the annotation tool provides functions that allow a user of the user device to provide annotations for a particular search result, and wherein the annotation tool receives annotations provided by the user for later use in generating search results pages; and transmitting the search results page to the user device for presentation.




10
WEB BROWSER
ANNOTATED PAGES
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URL
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RESULTS
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META-WEB SERVER
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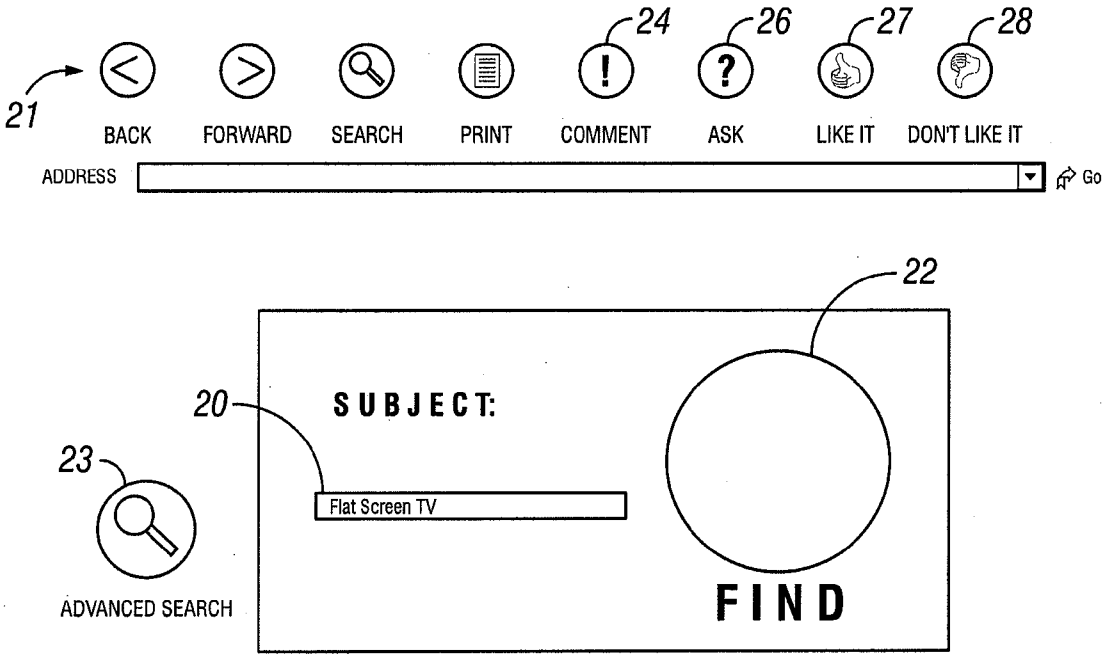
REGISTRY
RESULTS
1010
ANNOTATIONS
1012

FIG. 1


21
BACK
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SEARCH
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24
COMMENT
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ASK
27
LIKE IT
28
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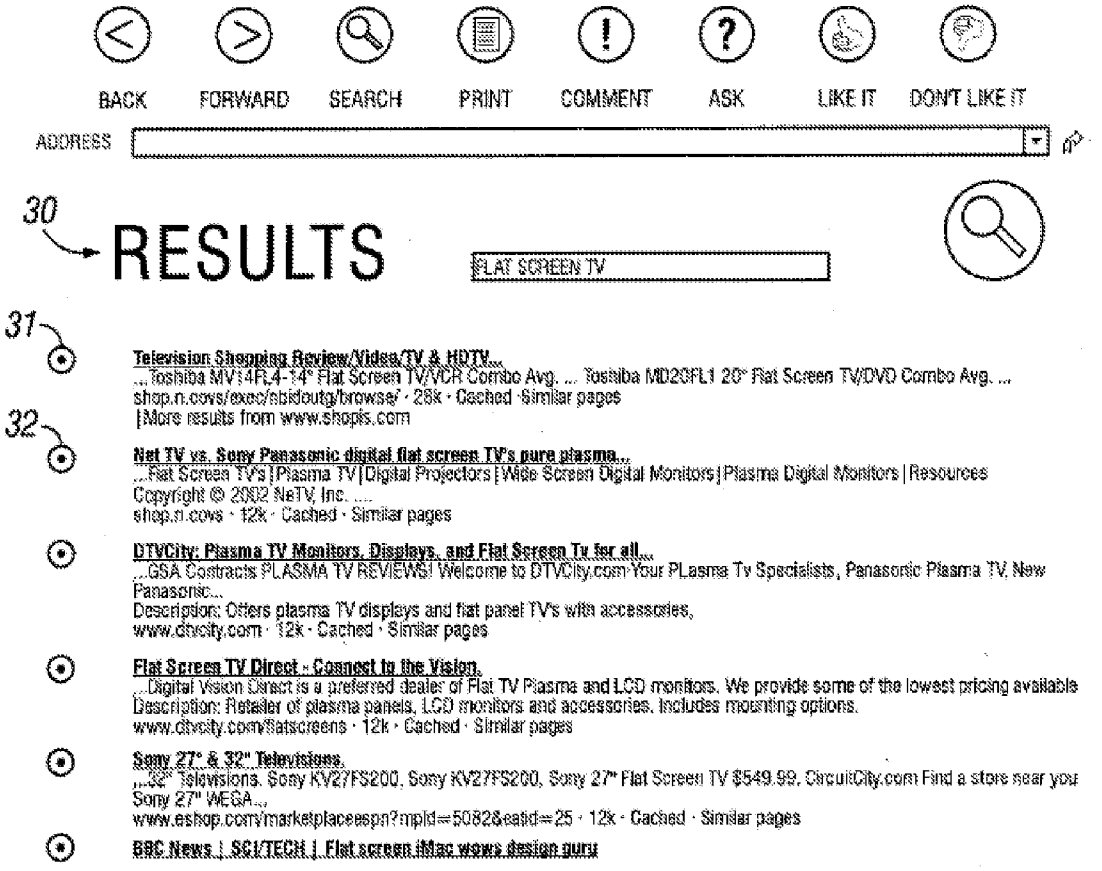
20
SUBJECT:
Flat Screen TV
23
ADVANCED SEARCH
FIND

FIG. 2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FLAT SCREEN TV
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Television Shopping Review/Video/TV & HDTV...
...Toshiba MV14FL4-14" Flat Screen TV/VCR Combo Avg. ... Toshiba MD20FL1 20" Flat Screen TV/DVD Combo Avg. ...
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Description: Offers plasma TV displays and flat panel TV's with accessories.
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Flat Screen TV Direct - Connect to the Vision.
...Digital Vision Direct is a preferred dealer of Flat TV Plasma and LCD monitors. We provide some of the lowest pricing available
Description: Retailer of plasma panels, LCD monitors and accessories. Includes mounting options.
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Sony 27" & 32" Televisions.
...32" Televisions. Sony KV27FS200, Sony KV27FS200, Sony 27" Flat Screen TV $549.99, CircuitCity.com Find a store near you
Sony 27" WEGA...
www.eshop.com/marketplaceespn?mpId=5082&eaId=25 - 12k - Cached - Similar pages
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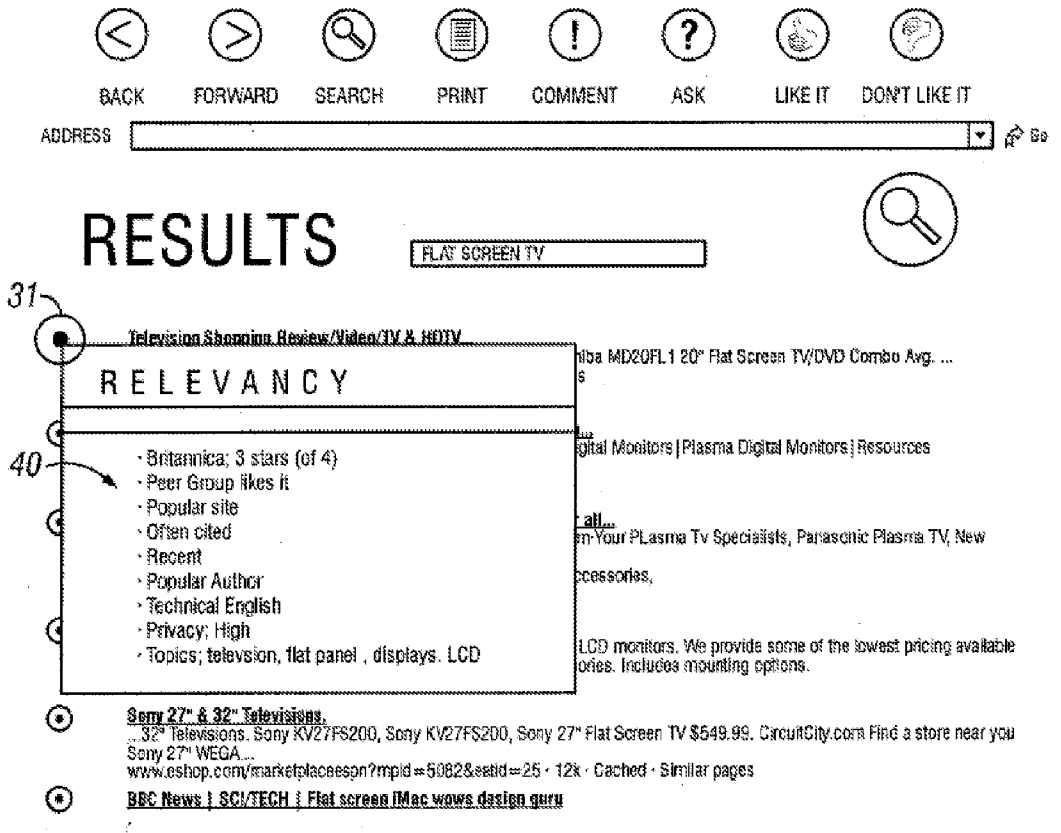
FIG. 3


BACK
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SEARCH
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COMMENT
ASK
LIKE IT
DON'T LIKE IT
ADDRESS
Go
RESULTS
FLAT SCREEN TV
31
Television Shopping Review/Video/TV & HDTV
RELEVANCY
40
· Britannica; 3 stars (of 4)
· Peer Group likes it
· Popular site
· Often cited
· Recent
· Popular Author
· Technical English
· Privacy; High
· Topics; television, flat panel , displays. LCD
Sony 27" & 32" Televisions.
...32" Televisions. Sony KV27FS200, Sony KV27FS200, Sony 27" Flat Screen TV $549.99. CircuitCity.com Find a store near you Sony 27" WEGA...
www.eshop.com/marketplacespn?mpid=5082&astid=25 - 12k - Cached - Similar pages
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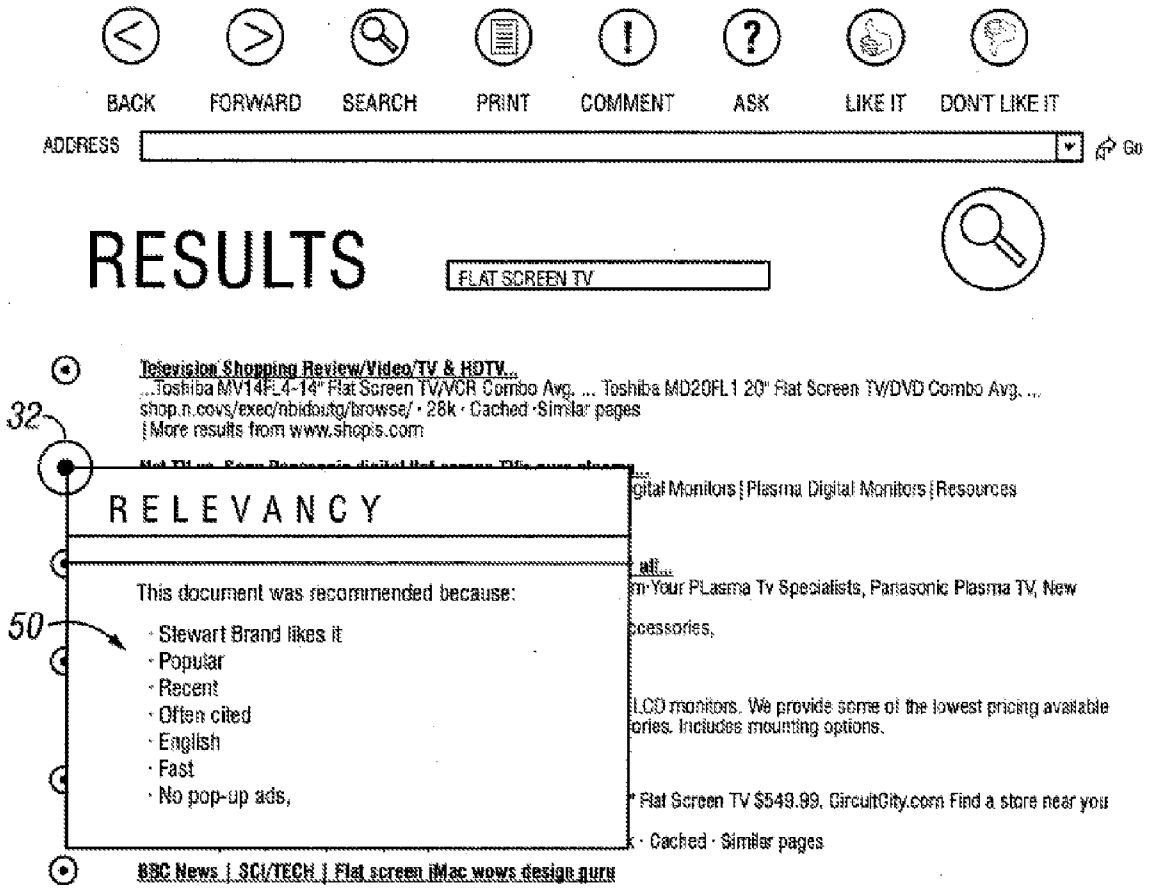
FIG. 4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RESULTS
FLAT SCREEN TV
32
RELEVANCY
This document was recommended because:
50
· Stewart Brand likes it
· Popular
· Recent
· Often cited
· English
· Fast
· No pop-up ads,
Television Shopping Review/Video/TV & HDTV...
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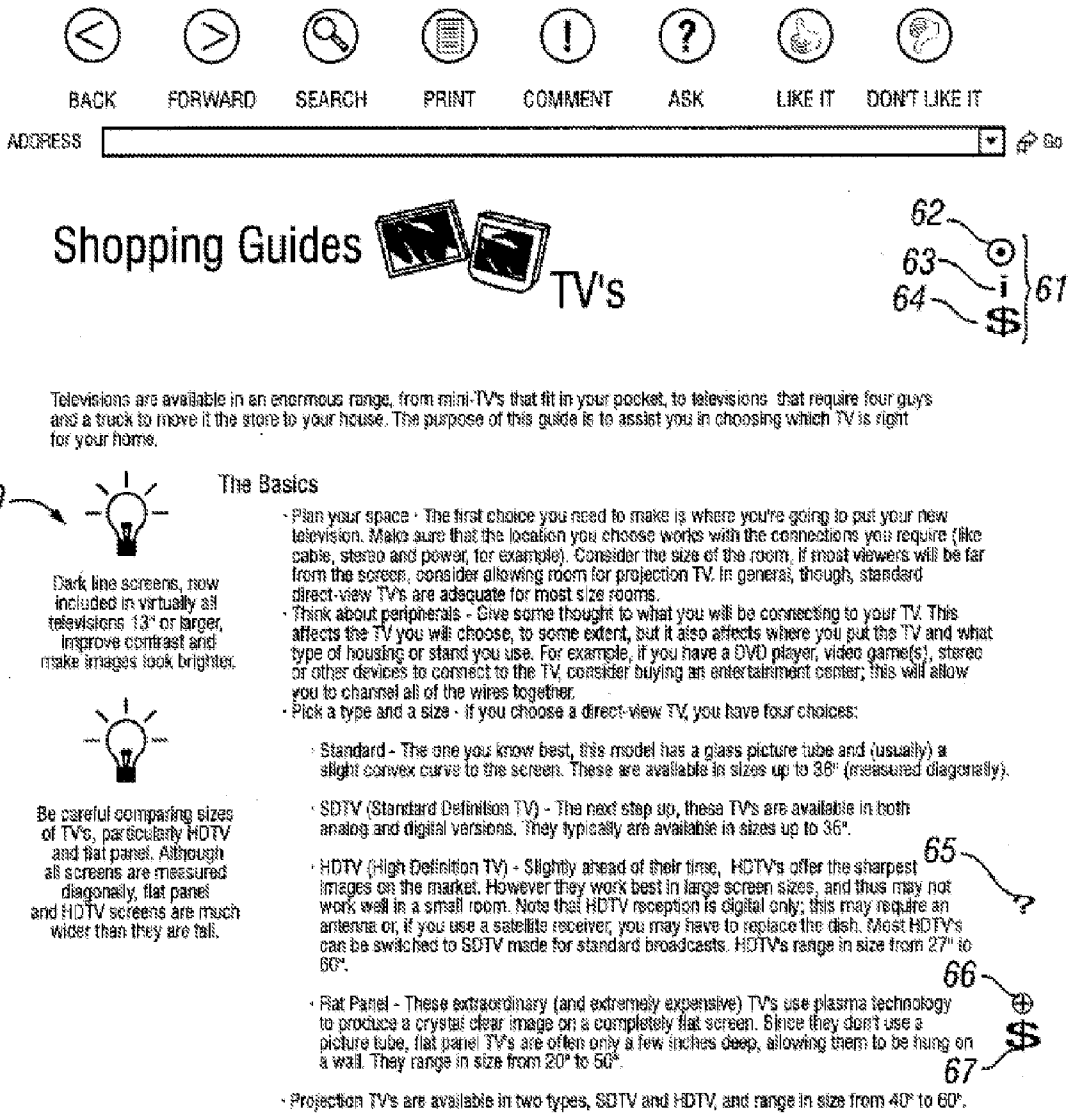
FIG. 5


BACK
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SEARCH
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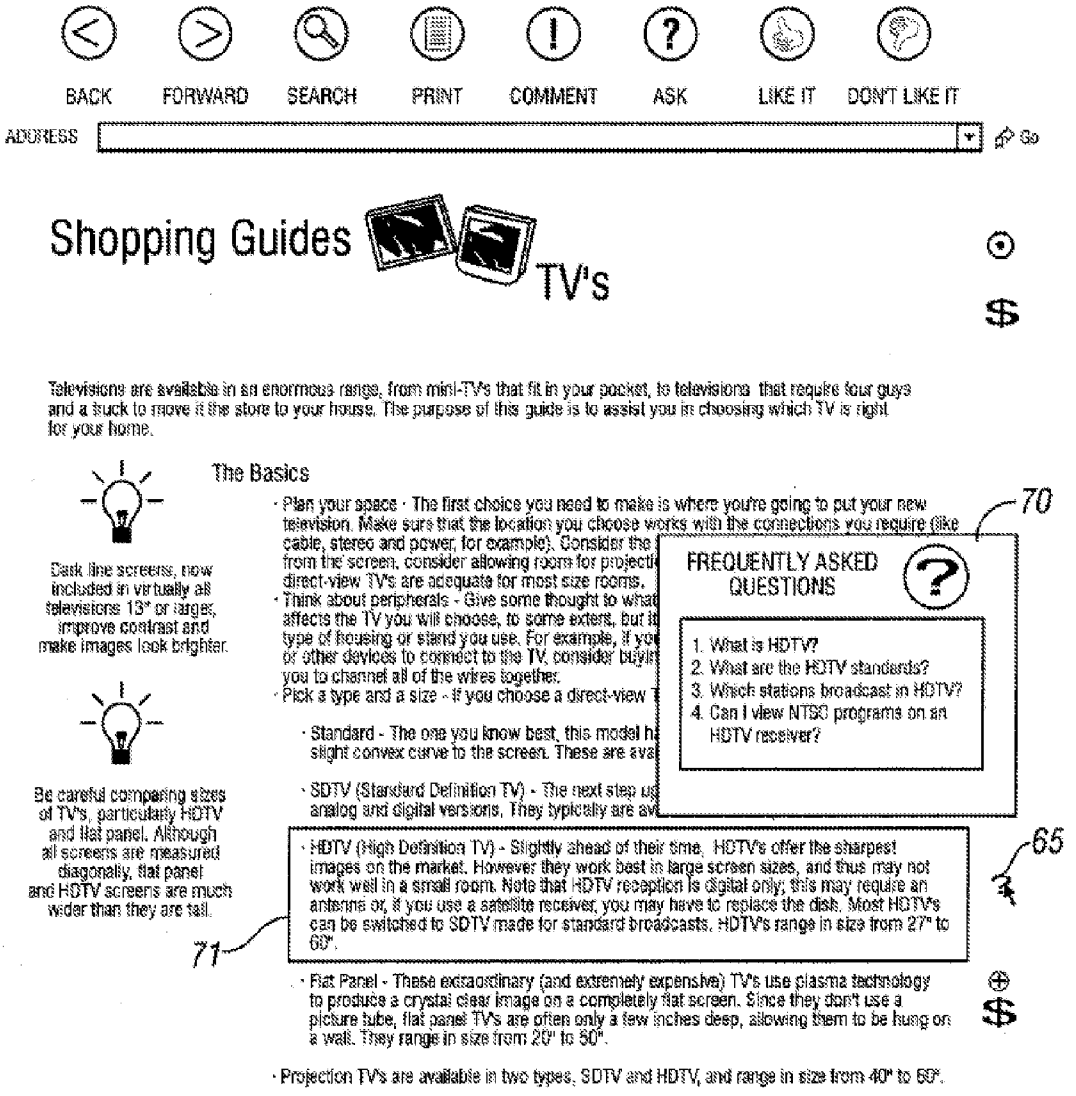
COMMENT
ASK
LIKE IT
DON'T LIKE IT
ADDRESS
Go
Shopping Guides
TV's
62
63
64
61
Televisions are available in an enormous range, from mini-TV's that fit in your pocket, to televisions that require four guys and a truck to move it the store to your house. The purpose of this guide is to assist you in choosing which TV is right for your home.
60
The Basics
Dark line screens, now included in virtually all televisions 13" or larger, improve contrast and make images look brighter.
Be careful comparing sizes of TV's, particularly HDTV and flat panel. Although all screens are measured diagonally, flat panel and HDTV screens are much wider than they are tall.
· Plan your space - The first choice you need to make is where you're going to put your new television. Make sure that the location you choose works with the connections you require (like cable, stereo and power, for example). Consider the size of the room. If most viewers will be far from the screen, consider allowing room for projection TV. In general, though, standard direct-view TV's are adequate for most size rooms.
· Think about peripherals - Give some thought to what you will be connecting to your TV. This affects the TV you will choose, to some extent, but it also affects where you put the TV and what type of housing or stand you use. For example, if you have a DVD player, video game(s), stereo or other devices to connect to the TV, consider buying an entertainment center; this will allow you to channel all of the wires together.
· Pick a type and a size - If you choose a direct-view TV, you have four choices:
· Standard - The one you know best, this model has a glass picture tube and (usually) a slight convex curve to the screen. These are available in sizes up to 36" (measured diagonally).
· SDTV (Standard Definition TV) - The next step up, these TV's are available in both analog and digital versions. They typically are available in sizes up to 36".
· HDTV (High Definition TV) - Slightly ahead of their time, HDTV's offer the sharpest images on the market. However they work best in large screen sizes, and thus may not work well in a small room. Note that HDTV reception is digital only; this may require an antenna or, if you use a satellite receiver, you may have to replace the dish. Most HDTV's can be switched to SDTV mode for standard broadcasts. HDTV's range in size from 27" to 60".
65
· Flat Panel - These extraordinary (and extremely expensive) TV's use plasma technology to produce a crystal clear image on a completely flat screen. Since they don't use a picture tube, flat panel TV's are often only a few inches deep, allowing them to be hung on a wall. They range in size from 20" to 50".
66
67
· Projection TV's are available in two types, SDTV and HDTV, and range in size from 40" to 60".

FIG. 6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Shopping Guides
TV's
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analog and digital versions. They typically are av
70
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
1. What is HDTV?
2. What are the HDTV standards?
3. Which stations broadcast in HDTV?
4. Can I view NTSC programs on an HDTV receiver?
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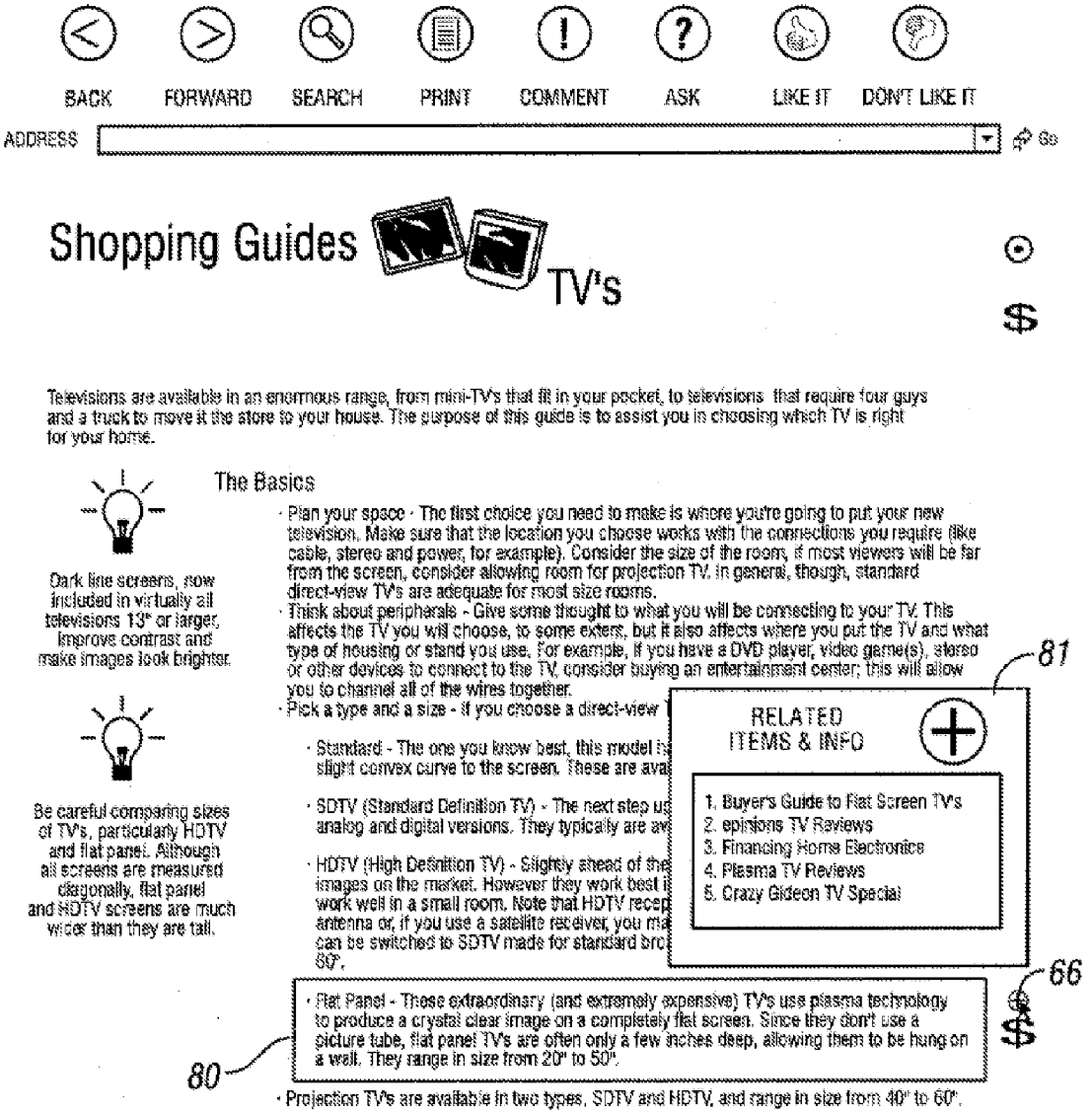
FIG. 7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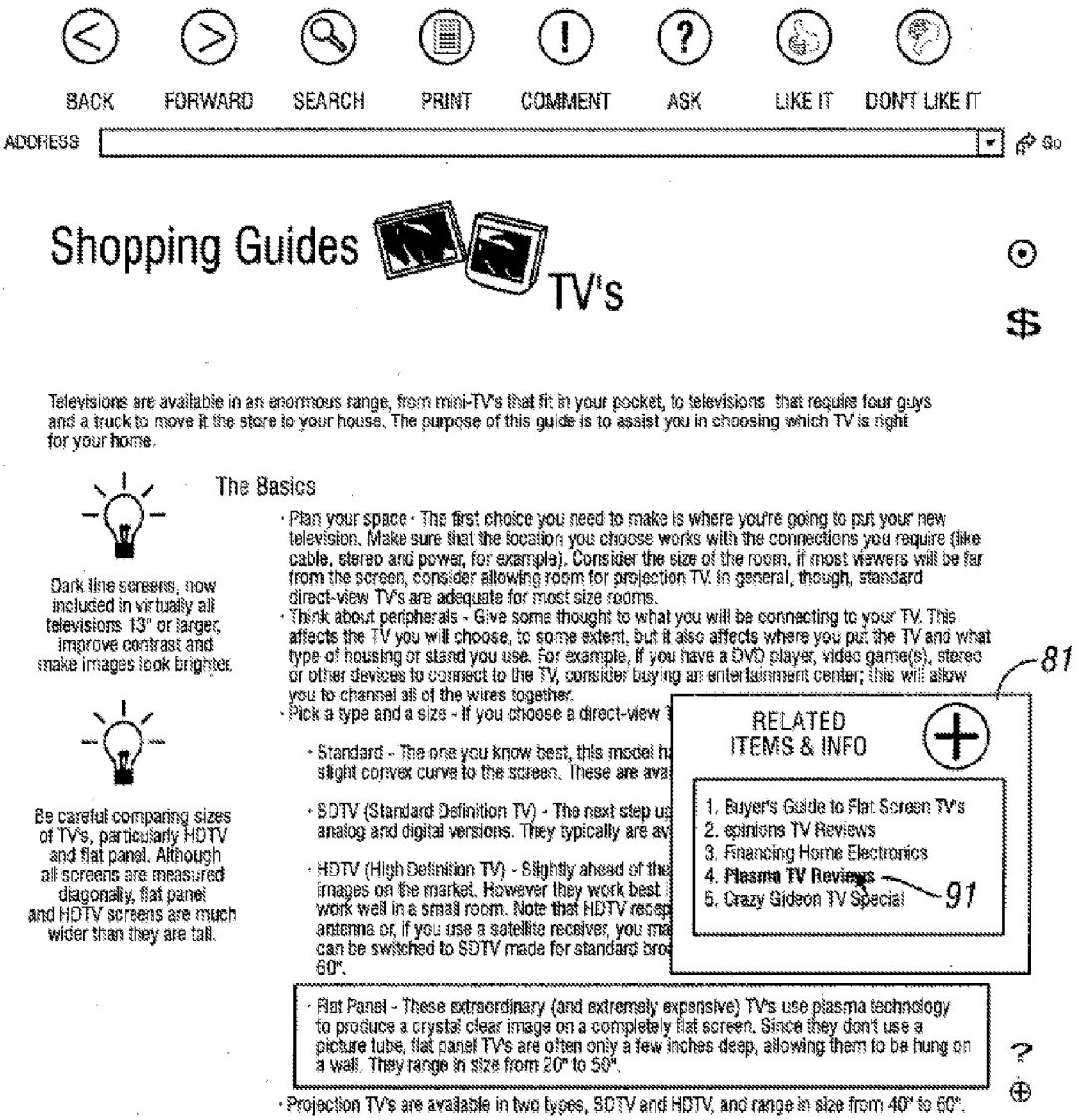
2. epinions TV Reviews
3. Financing Home Electronics
4. Plasma TV Reviews
5. Crazy Gideon TV Special
81
66
80

FIG. 8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5. Crazy Gideon TV Special
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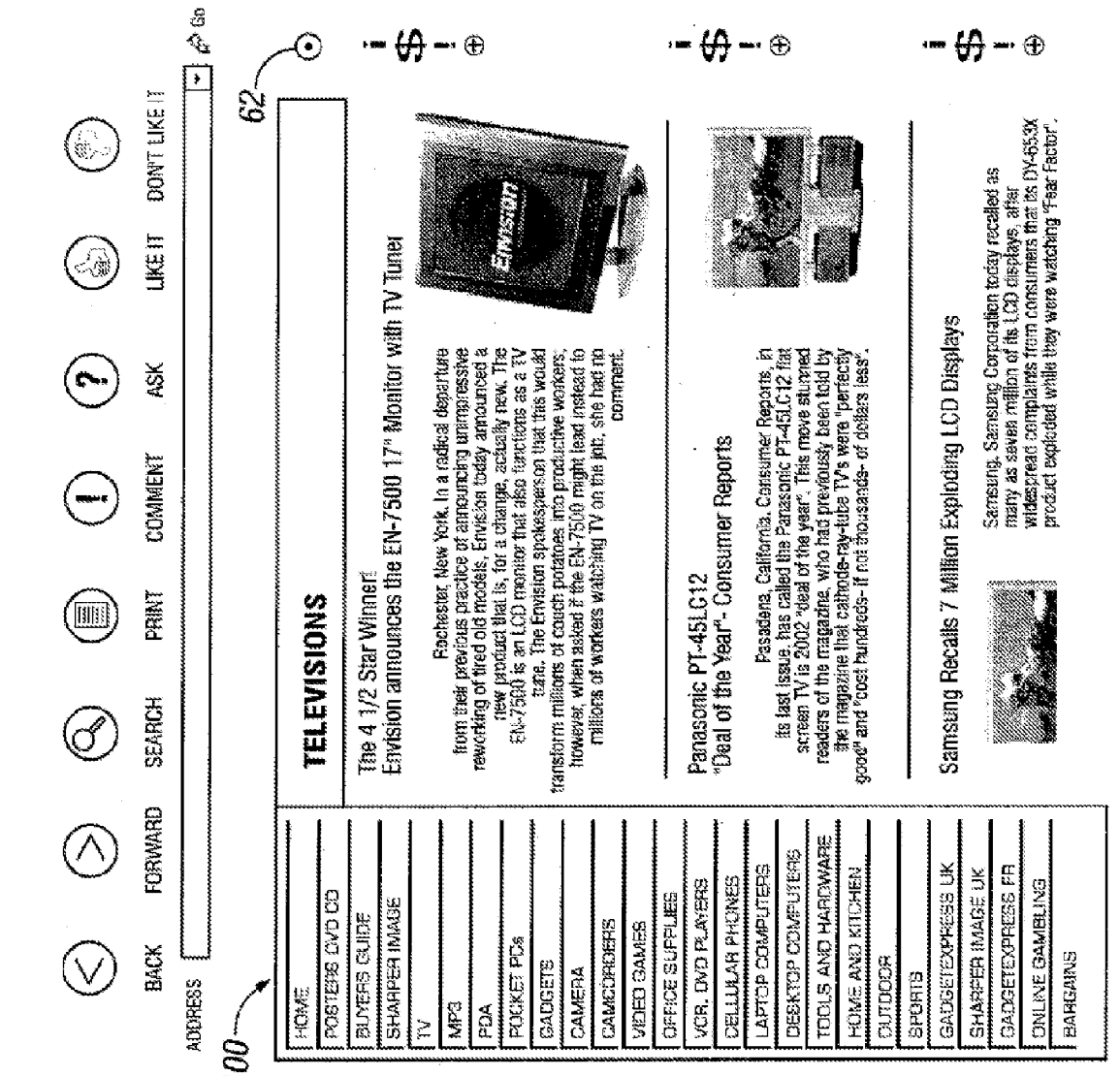
FIG. 9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HOME
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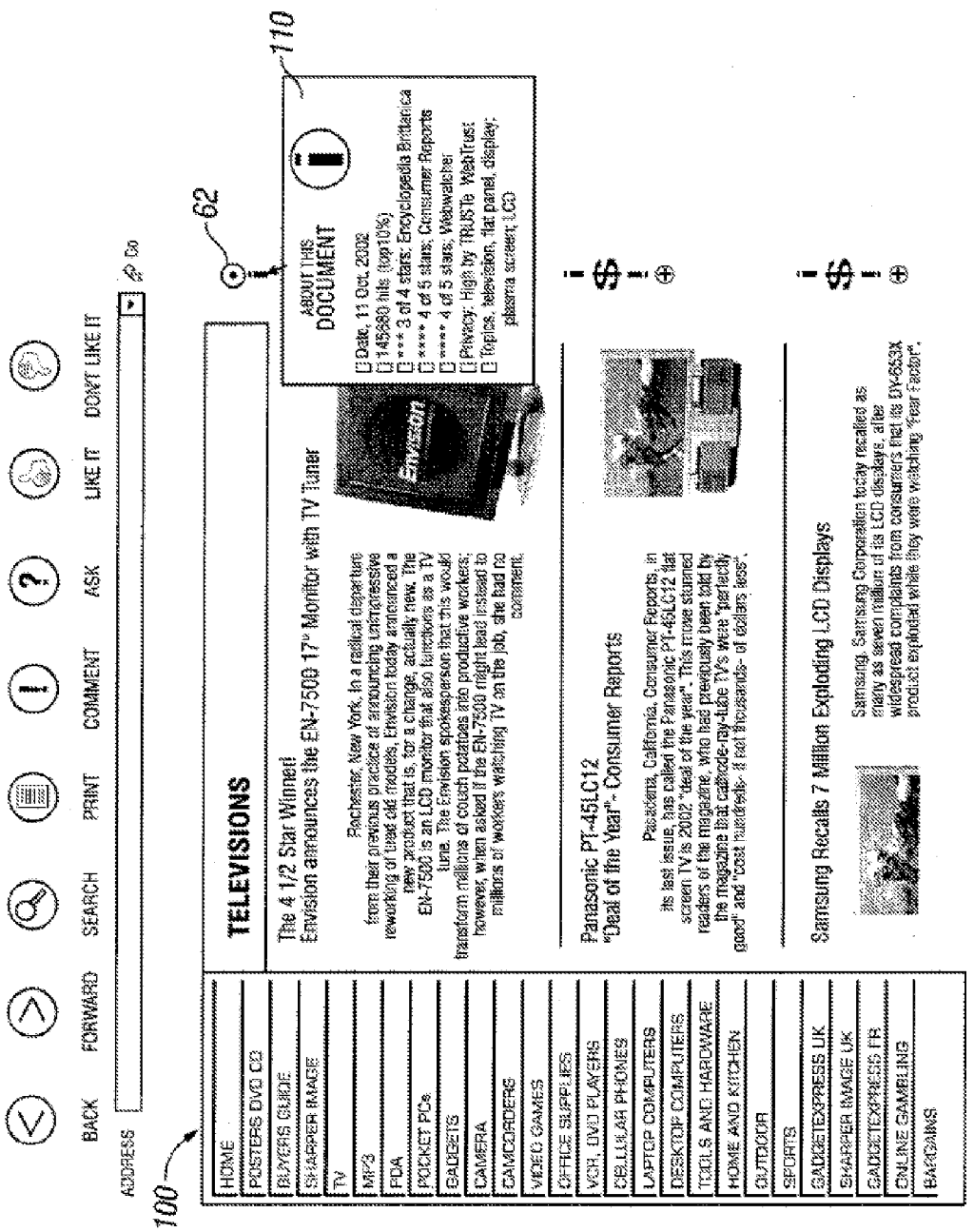
BUYERS GUIDE
SHARPER IMAGE
TV
MP3
PDA
POCKET PCs
GADGETS
CAMERA
CAMCORDERS
VIDEO GAMES
OFFICE SUPPLIES
VCR, DVD PLAYERS
CELLULAR PHONES
LAPTOP COMPUTERS
DESKTOP COMPUTERS
TOOLS AND HARDWARE
HOME AND KITCHEN
OUTDOOR
SPORTS
GADGETEXPRESS UK
SHARPER IMAGE UK
GADGETEXPRESS FR
ONLINE GAMBLING
BARGAINS
TELEVISIONS
The 4 1/2 Star Winner!
Envision announces the EN-7500 17" Monitor with TV Tuner
Rochester, New York. In a radical departure from their previous practice of announcing unimpressive reworking of tired old models, Envision today announced a new product that is, for a change, actually new. The EN-7500 is an LCD monitor that also functions as a TV tuner. The Envision spokesperson that this would transform millions of couch potatoes into productive workers; however, when asked if the EN-7500 might lead instead to millions of workers watching TV on the job, she had no comment.
Envision
Panasonic PT-45LC12
"Deal of the Year"- Consumer Reports
Pasadena, California. Consumer Reports, in its last issue, has called the Panasonic PT-45LC12 flat screen TV is 2002 "deal of the year". This move stunned readers of the magazine, who had previously been told by the magazine that cathode-ray-tube TV's were "perfectly good" and "cost hundreds- if not thousands- of dollars less".
Samsung Recalls 7 Million Exploding LCD Displays
Samsung, Samsung Corporation today recalled as many as seven million of its LCD displays, after widespread complaints from consumers that its DY-653X product exploded while they were watching "Fear Factor".

FIG. 10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Panasonic PT-45LC12
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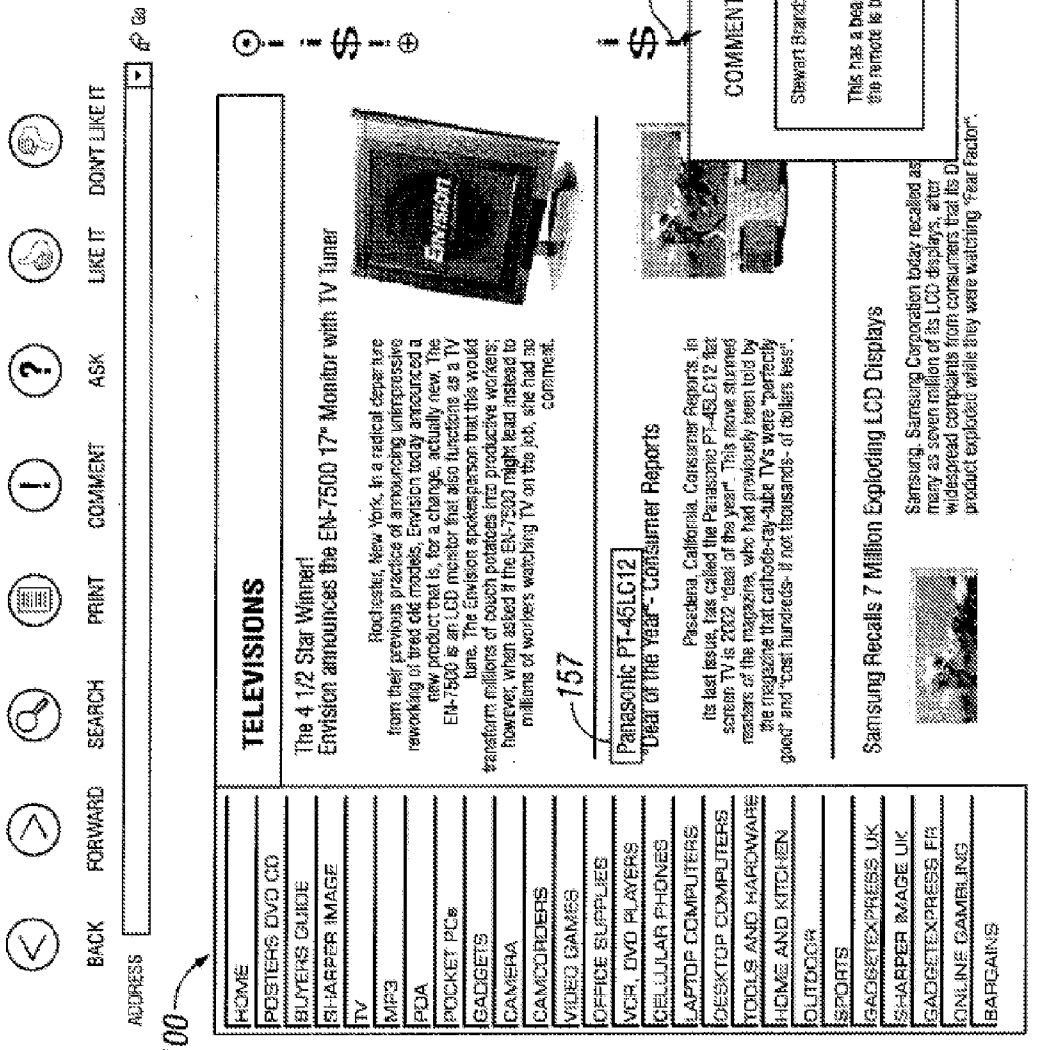
FIG. 11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TV
MP3
PDA
POCKET PCs
GADGETS
CAMERA
CAMCORDERS
VIDEO GAMES
OFFICE SUPPLIES
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157
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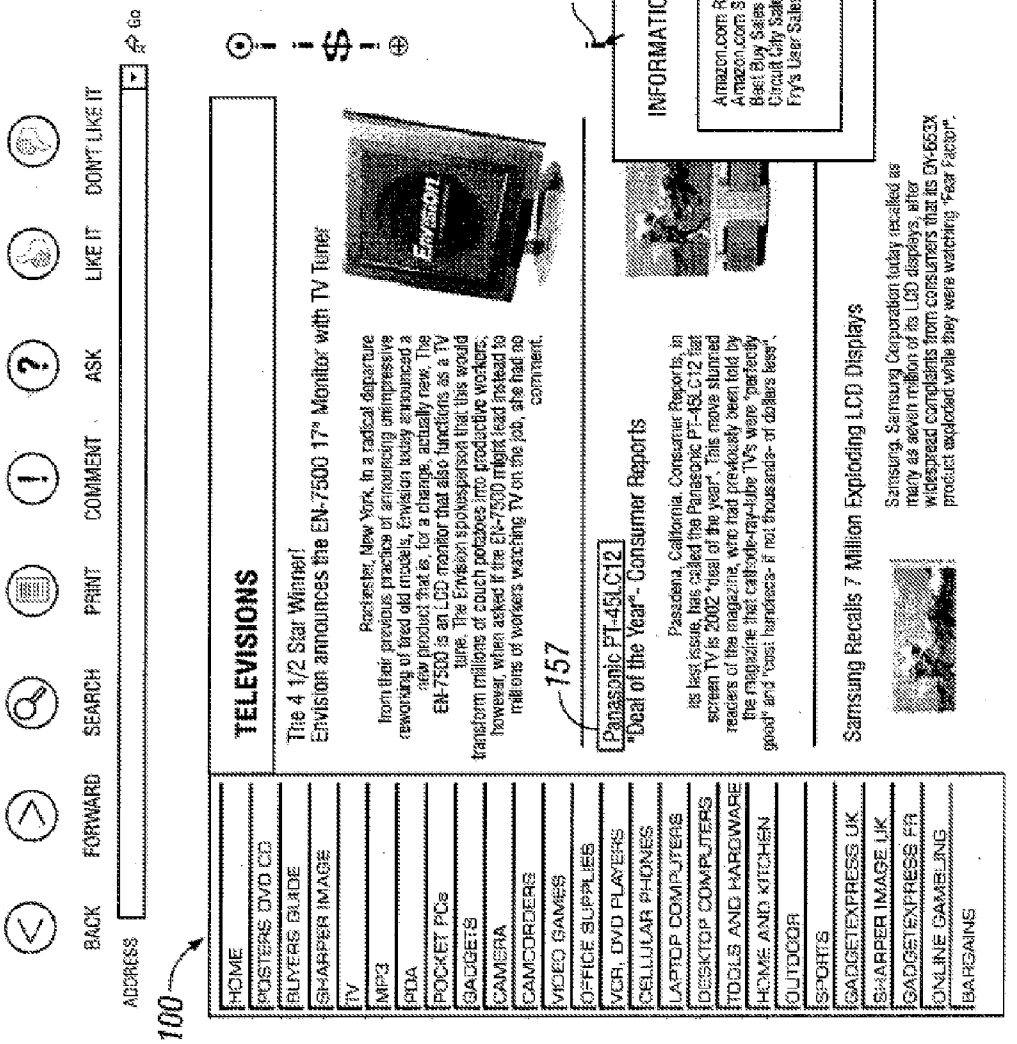
120
121
COMMENT
Stewart Brand:
This has a beautiful picture, but the remote is badly designed.
Samsung Recalls 7 Million Exploding LCD Displays
Samsung, Samsung Corporation today recalled as many as seven million of its LCD displays, after widespread complaints from consumers that its D product exploded while they were watching "Fear Factor".

FIG. 12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CAMCORDERS
VIDEO GAMES
OFFICE SUPPLIES
VCR, DVD PLAYERS
CELLULAR PHONES
LAPTOP COMPUTERS
DESKTOP COMPUTERS
TOOLS AND HARDWARE
HOME AND KITCHEN
OUTDOOR
SPORTS
GADGETEXPRESS UK
SHARPER IMAGE UK
GADGETEXPRESS FR
ONLINE GAMBLING
BARGAINS
TELEVISIONS
The 4 1/2 Star Winner!
Envision announces the EN-7500 17" Monitor with TV Tuner
Rochester, New York, in a radical departure from their previous practice of announcing unimpressive reworking of tired old models, Envision today announced a new product that is, for a change, actually new. The EN-7500 is an LCD monitor that also functions as a TV tuner. The Envision sponsored report that this would transform millions of couch potatoes into productive workers; however, when asked if the EN-7500 might lead instead to millions of workers watching TV on the job, she had no comment.
157
130
Panasonic PT-45LC12
"Deal of the Year" - Consumer Reports
Pasadena, California. Consumer Reports, in its last issue, has called the Panasonic PT-45LC12 flat screen TV is 2002 "deal of the year". This move stunned readers of the magazine, who had previously been told by the magazine that cathode-ray-tube TVs were "perfectly good" and "cost hundreds- if not thousands- of dollars less".
131
INFORMATION
Amazon.com Rating: 4.5/5 stars
Amazon.com Sales Rank 58,789
Best Buy Sales Rank 1,267
Circuit City Sales Rank 4,462
Fry's User Sales Rating 3/5 stars
Samsung Recalls 7 Million Exploding LCD Displays
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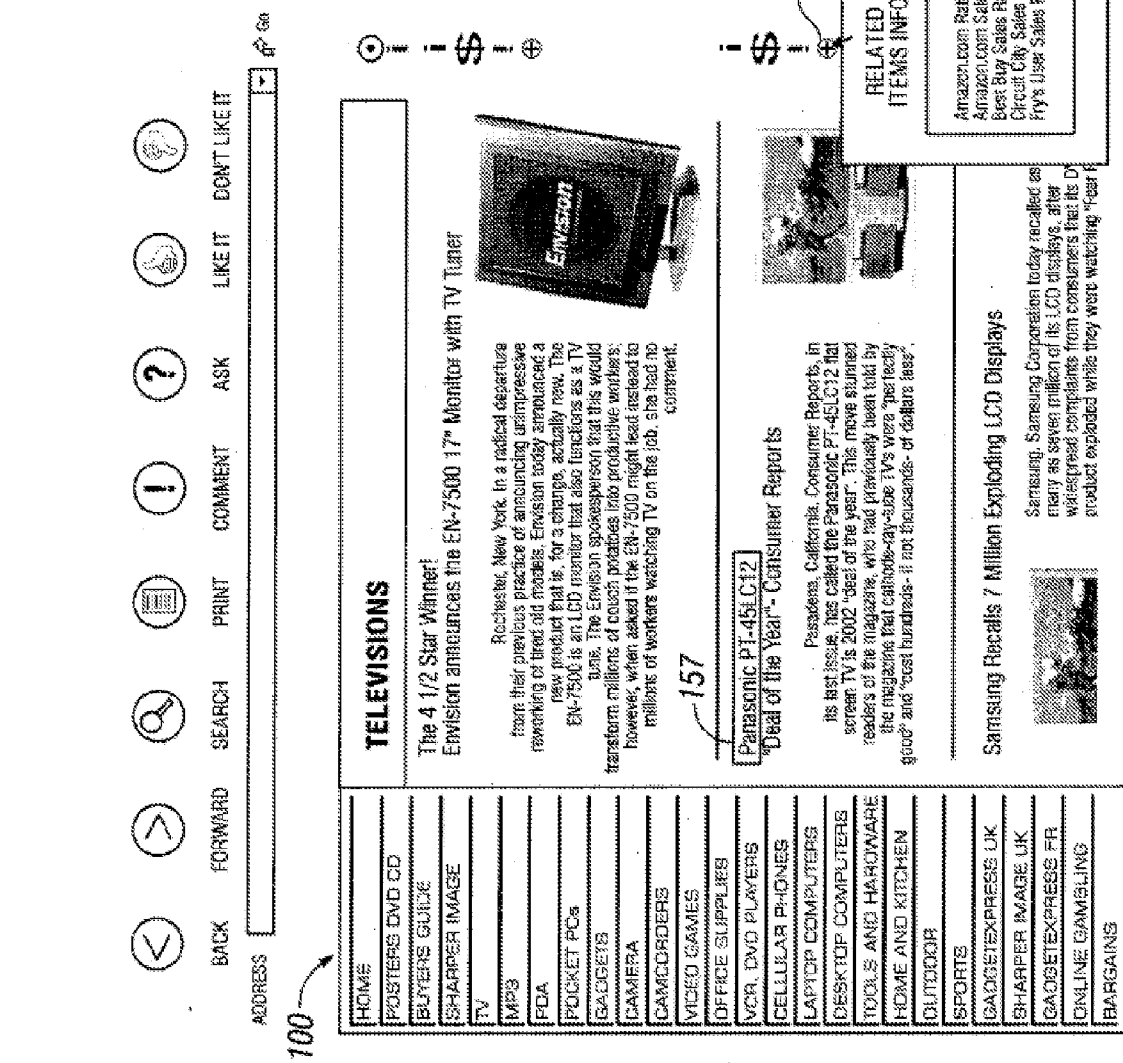
FIG. 13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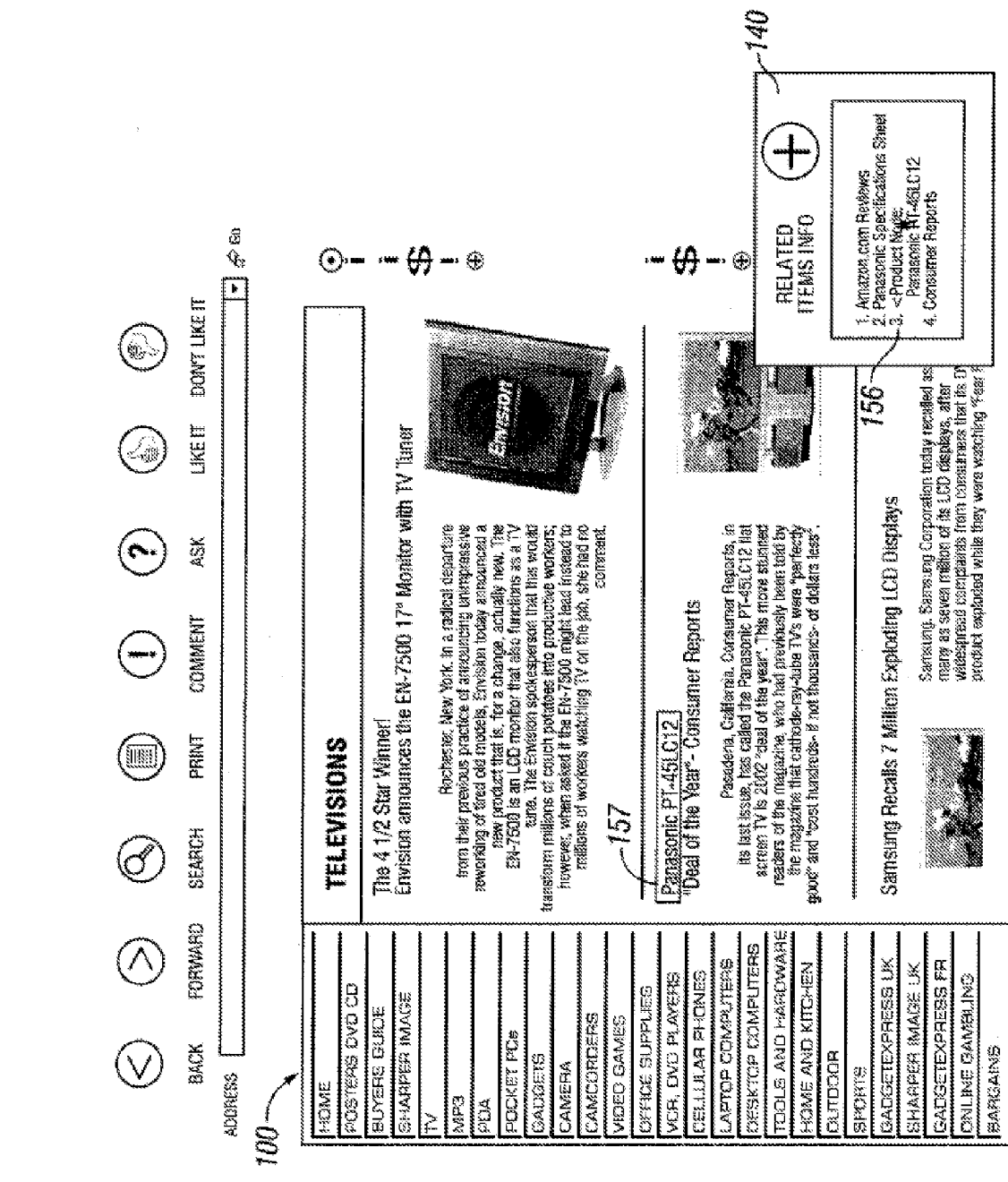
RELATED ITEMS INFO
Amazon.com Rating: 4.5/5 stars
Amazon.com Sales Rank 55,789
Best Buy Sales Rank 1,267
Circuit City Sales Rank 4,452
Fry's User Sales Rating 3/5 stars

FIG. 14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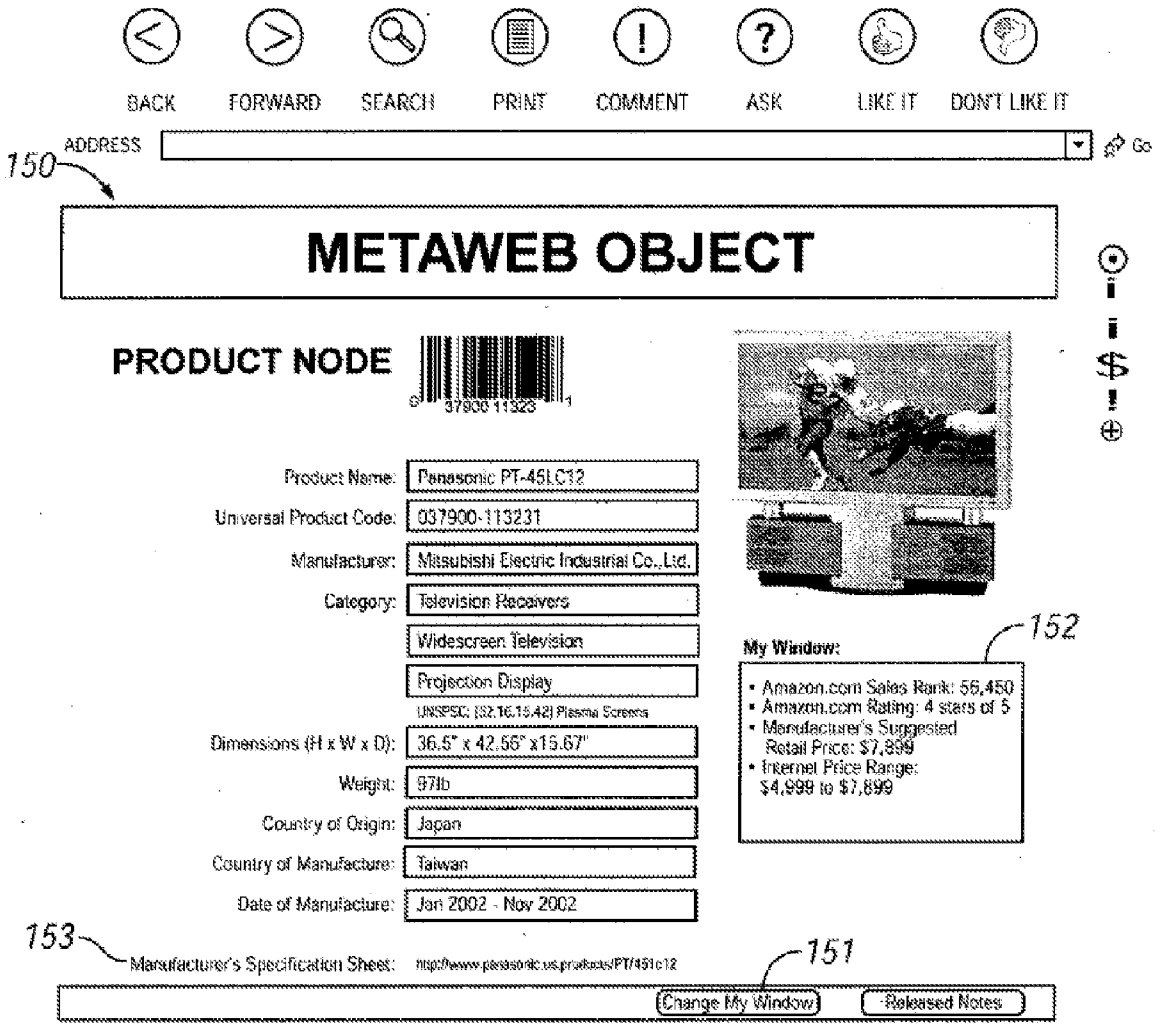
Samsung Recalls 7 Million Exploding LCD Displays
156
Samsung, Samsung Corporation today recalled as many as seven million of its LCD displays, after widespread complaints from consumers that its D product exploded while they were watching "Year
RELATED ITEMS INFO
140
1. Amazon.com Reviews
2. Panasonic Specifications Sheet
3. <Product Name>
Panasonic PT-45LC12
4. Consumer Reports

FIG. 15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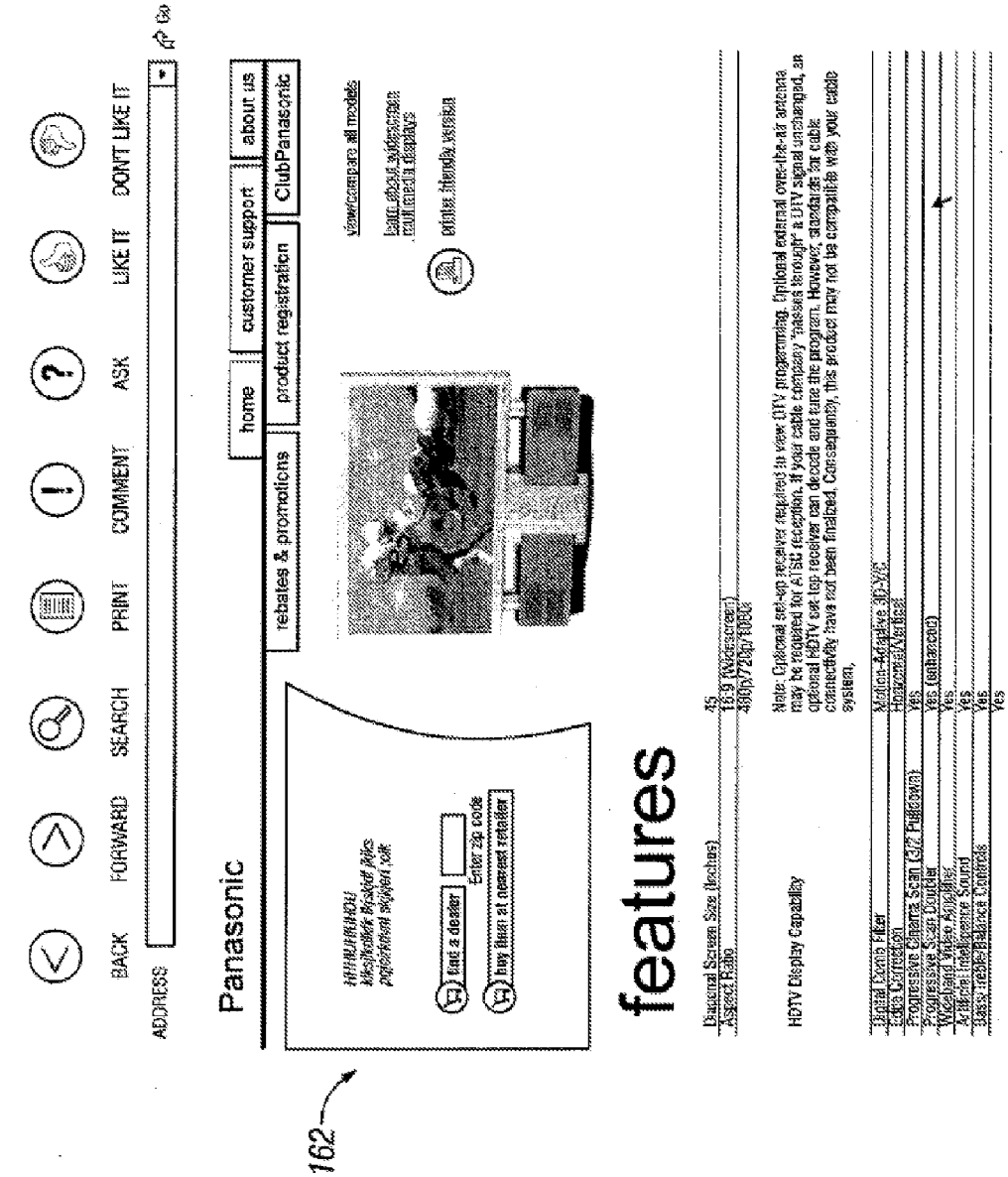
METAWEB OBJECT
PRODUCT NODE
037900 11323
Product Name: Panasonic PT-45LC12
Universal Product Code: 037900-113231
Manufacturer: Mitsubishi Electric Industrial Co.,Ltd.
Category: Television Receivers
Widescreen Television
Projection Display
UNSPSC: (52.16.15.42) Plasma Screens
Dimensions (H x W x D): 36.5" x 42.56" x15.67"
Weight: 97lb
Country of Origin: Japan
Country of Manufacture: Taiwan
Date of Manufacture: Jan 2002 - Nov 2002
152
My Window:
• Amazon.com Sales Rank: 56,450
• Amazon.com Rating: 4 stars of 5
• Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price: $7,899
• Internet Price Range: $4,999 to $7,899
153
Manufacturer's Specification Sheet:
151
Change My Window
Released Notes

FIG. 16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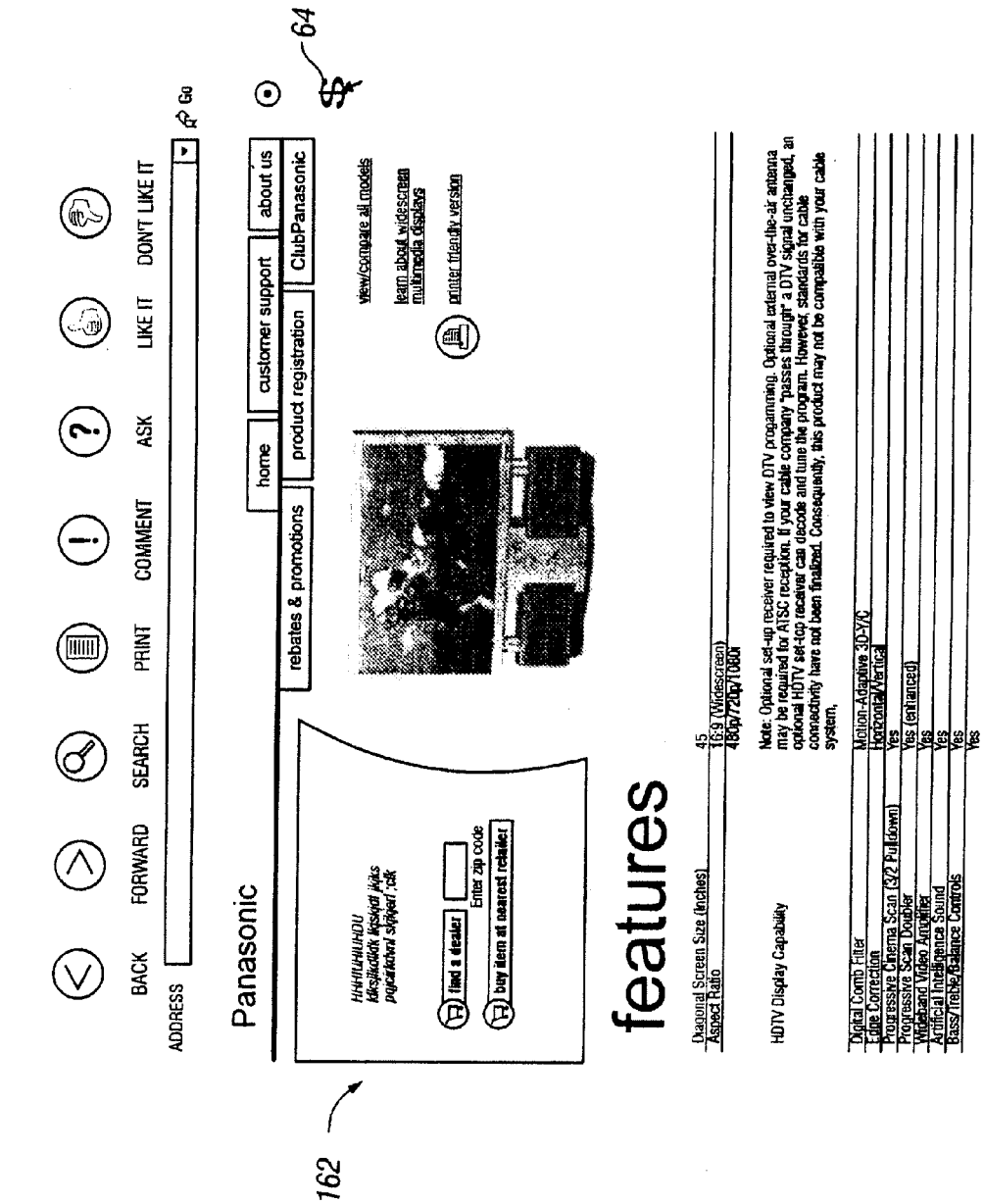
Panasonic
home
customer support
about us
rebates & promotions
product registration
ClubPanasonic
find a dealer
Enter zip code
buy them at nearest retailer
view/compare all models
learn about widescreen multimedia displays
printer friendly version
162
features
Diagonal Screen Size (inches)
45
Aspect Ratio
16:9 (Widescreen)
480p/720p/1080i
HDTV Display Capability
Note: Optional set-up receiver required to view DTV programming. Optional external over-the-air antenna may be required for ATSC reception. If your cable company "passes through" a DTV signal unchanged, an optional HDTV set-top receiver can decode and tune the program. However, standards for cable connectivity have not been finalized. Consequently, this product may not be compatible with your cable system.
Digital Comb Filter
Motion-Adaptive 3D-Y/C
Edge Correction
Horizontal/Vertical
Progressive Cinema Scan (3/2 Pulldown)
Yes
Progressive Scan Doubler
Yes (enhanced)
Wideband Video Amplifier
Yes
Artificial Intelligence Sound
Yes
Bass Treble Balance Controls
Yes
Yes

FIG. 17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home
customer support
about us
rebates & promotions
product registration
ClubPanasonic
64
find a dealer
Enter zip code
buy item at nearest retailer
view/compare all models
learn about widescreen multimedia displays
printer friendly version
features
Diagonal Screen Size (inches) 45
Aspect Ratio 16:9 (Widescreen)
480p/720p/1080i
HDTV Display Capability
Note: Optional set-up receiver required to view DTV progamming. Optional external over-the-air antenna may be required for ATSC reception. If your cable company "passes through" a DTV signal unchanged, an optional HDTV set-top receiver can decode and tune the program. However, standards for cable connectivity have not been finalized. Consequently, this product may not be compatible with your cable system.
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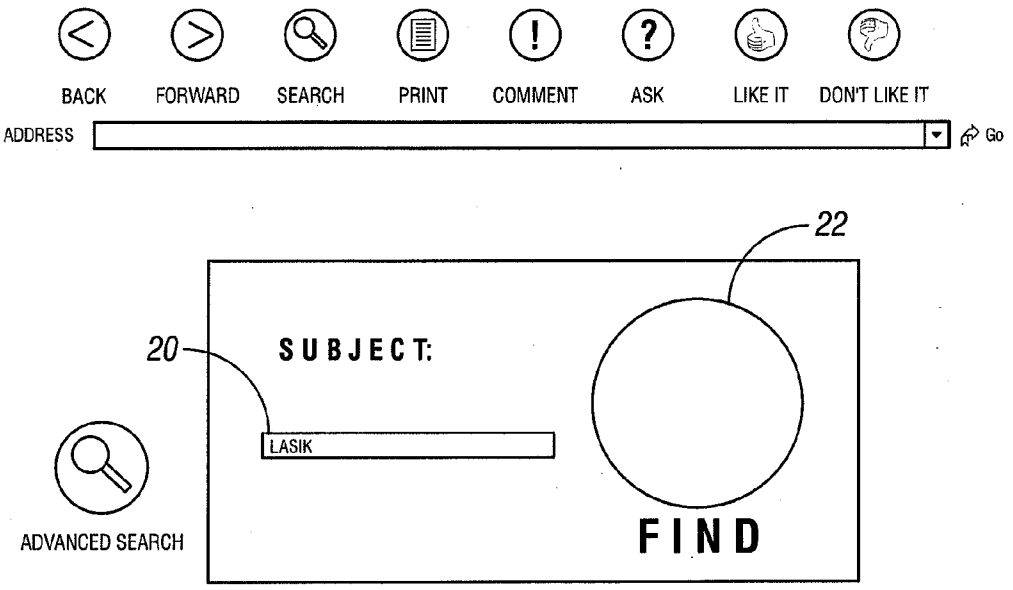
Line Correction Horizontal/Vertical
Progressive Cinema Scan (3/2 Pull-down) Yes
Progressive Scan Doubler Yes (enhanced)
Wideband Video Amplifier Yes
Artificial Intelligence Sound Yes
Bass/Treble/Balance Controls Yes
162

FIG. 18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SUBJECT:
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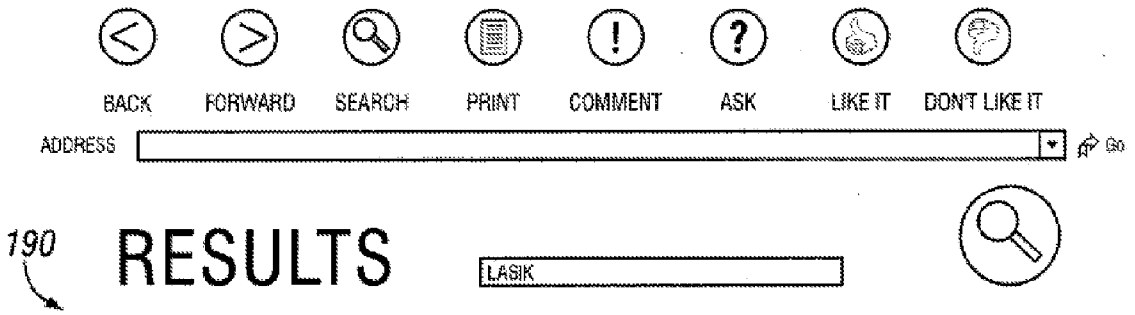
FIG. 19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190
RESULTS
LASIK
...Lasik Eye Surgery - American Journal of Opthamology
...The American Journal of Opthamology is widely recognized as one of the leading ...
www.amerjournalopthamology.com/doctor.lasik.html - 14k - Cached - Similar pages
...Lasik Eye Surgery: Learning About LASIK
...to follow, and questions to ask your doctor before undergoing LASIK surgery... of the cornea, the clear covering of the front the eye, using an eximer laser...
www.ida.gov/fniac/features/cdhr/lasik - 12k - Sept., 2002 - Cached - Similar pages
...Lasik Eye Surgery: Is it Worth Looking Into?
...Laser Eye Surgery: Is it Worth Looking Into? by Carol Lewis for Jan Goldstein
everything was a blur... Are You a Candidate for Laser Eye Surgery?...
www.lasikinformer.com/questions - 45k - 13 August 2002 - Cached - Similar pages
American Academy of Opthamology, LASIK Eye Surgery
...In addition to serving as an Academy guideline for LASIK procedures...
206.1434.20/asp/newsroom/spokesperson/rmaloney.cfm - 28k - Cached - Similar pages
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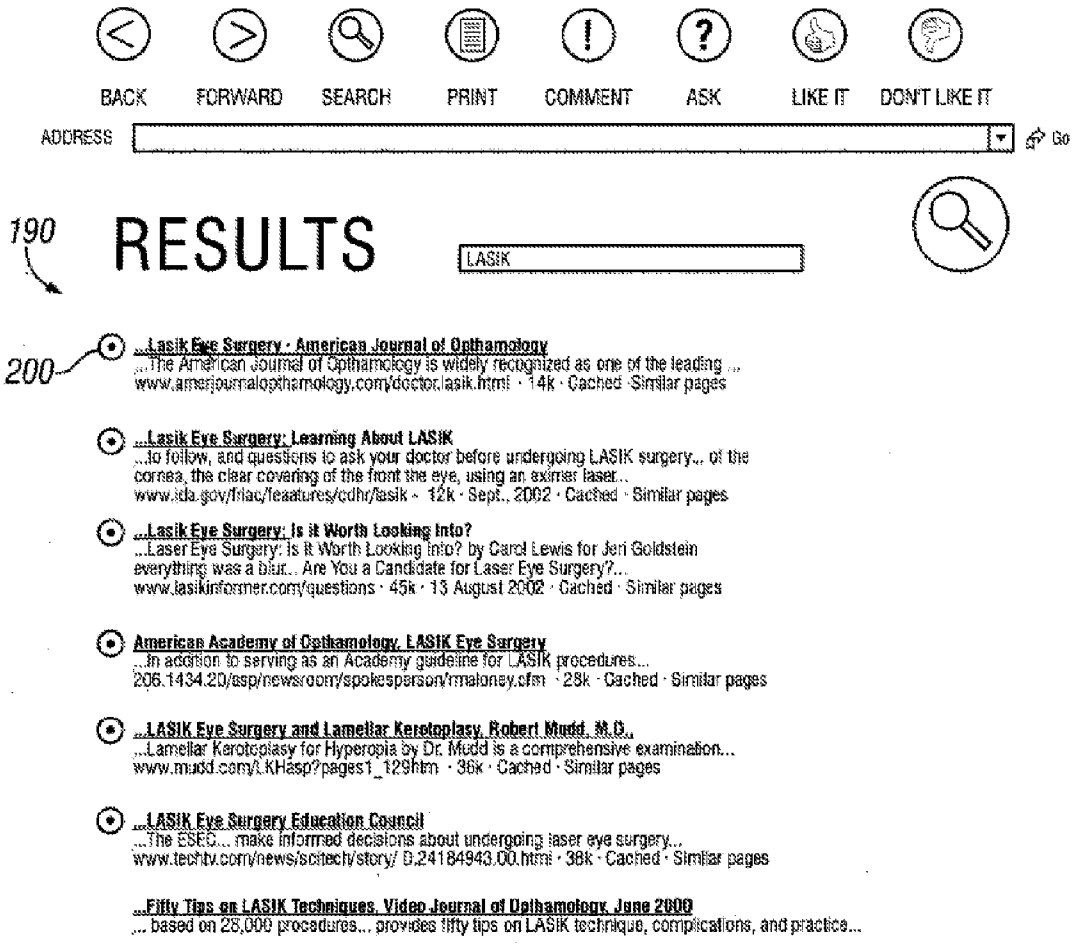
...Lamellar Keratoplasty for Hyperopia by Dr. Mudd is a comprehensive examination...
www.mudd.com/LKHasp?pages1_129htm - 36k - Cached - Similar pages
...LASIK Eye Surgery Education Council
...The ESEC... make informed decisions about undergoing laser eye surgery...
www.techtv.com/news/scitech/story/ 0,24184943,00.html - 38k - Cached - Similar pages
...Fifty Tips on LASIK Techniques, Video Journal of Opthamology, June 2000
... based on 28,000 procedures... provides fifty tips on LASIK technique, complications, and practice...

FIG. 20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...Lasik Eye Surgery - American Journal of Opthamology
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...to follow, and questions to ask your doctor before undergoing LASIK surgery... of the cornea, the clear covering of the front the eye, using an eximer laser...
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...Laser Eye Surgery: Is it Worth Looking Into? by Carol Lewis for Jeri Goldstein everything was a blur... Are You a Candidate for Laser Eye Surgery?...
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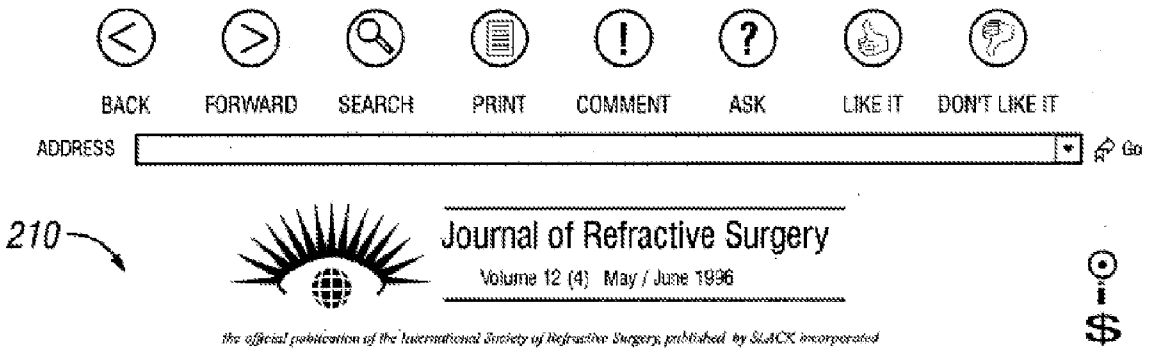
FIG. 21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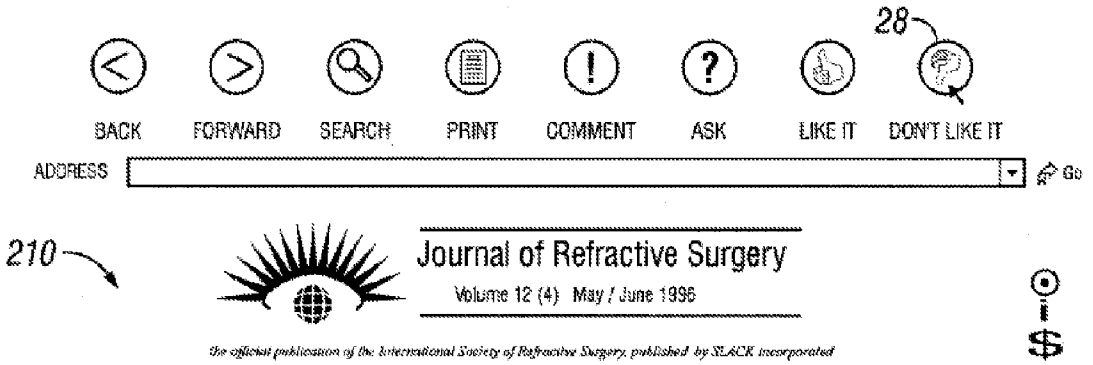
210
Journal of Refractive Surgery
Volume 12 (4) May / June 1996
the official publication of the International Society of Refractive Surgery, published by SLACK incorporated
ABSTRACT
CASE REPORTS
DISCUSSION
REFERENCES
Brief Report
Autologous Kerotophakia for the Correction of Consecutive Hyperopia After Automated Lamellar Keratoplasty for Myopia
William Strong, MD FRCOphth;
Robert K. Maloney, MD, MA (Oxon)
ABSTRACT
PURPOSE
Consecutive hyperopia occurs if too much corneal tissue is resected during automated lamellar keratoplasty for myopia. We report what are, to our knowledge, the first two cases of consecutive hyperopia after automated lamellar keratoplasty that were treated by keratophakia with autologous cortical tissue.
METHOD
The patient in case 1 had a spherical equivalent refraction of +3.38 diopers (D) and the patient in case 2 a refraction of +2.62 D in each eye after automated lamellar keratoplasty for myopia. Corneal tissue from the contralateral eye of each patient was obtained with an automated microkeratome and

FIG. 22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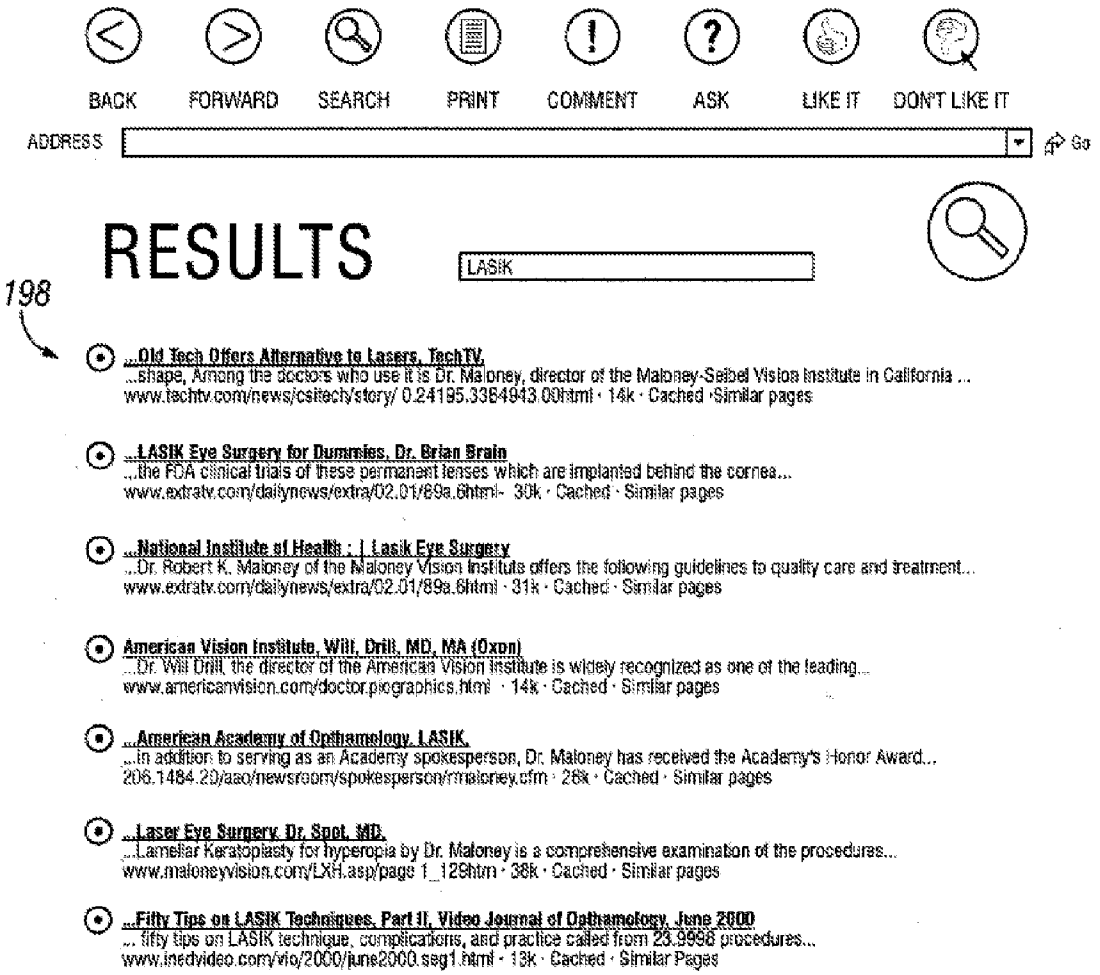
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RESULTS
LASIK
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...Old Tech Offers Alternative to Lasers, TechTV.
...shape, Among the doctors who use it is Dr. Maloney, director of the Maloney-Seibel Vision Institute in California ...
www.techtv.com/news/csitech/story/ 0,24195,3364943,00.html - 14k - Cached - Similar pages
...LASIK Eye Surgery for Dummies, Dr. Brian Brain
...the FDA clinical trials of these permanent lenses which are implanted behind the cornea...
www.extratv.com/dailynews/extra/02.01/69a.6html - 30k - Cached - Similar pages
...National Institute of Health : | Lasik Eye Surgery
...Dr. Robert K. Maloney of the Maloney Vision Institute offers the following guidelines to quality care and treatment...
www.extratv.com/dailynews/extra/02.01/69a.6html - 31k - Cached - Similar pages
American Vision Institute, Will, Drill, MD, MA (Oxon)
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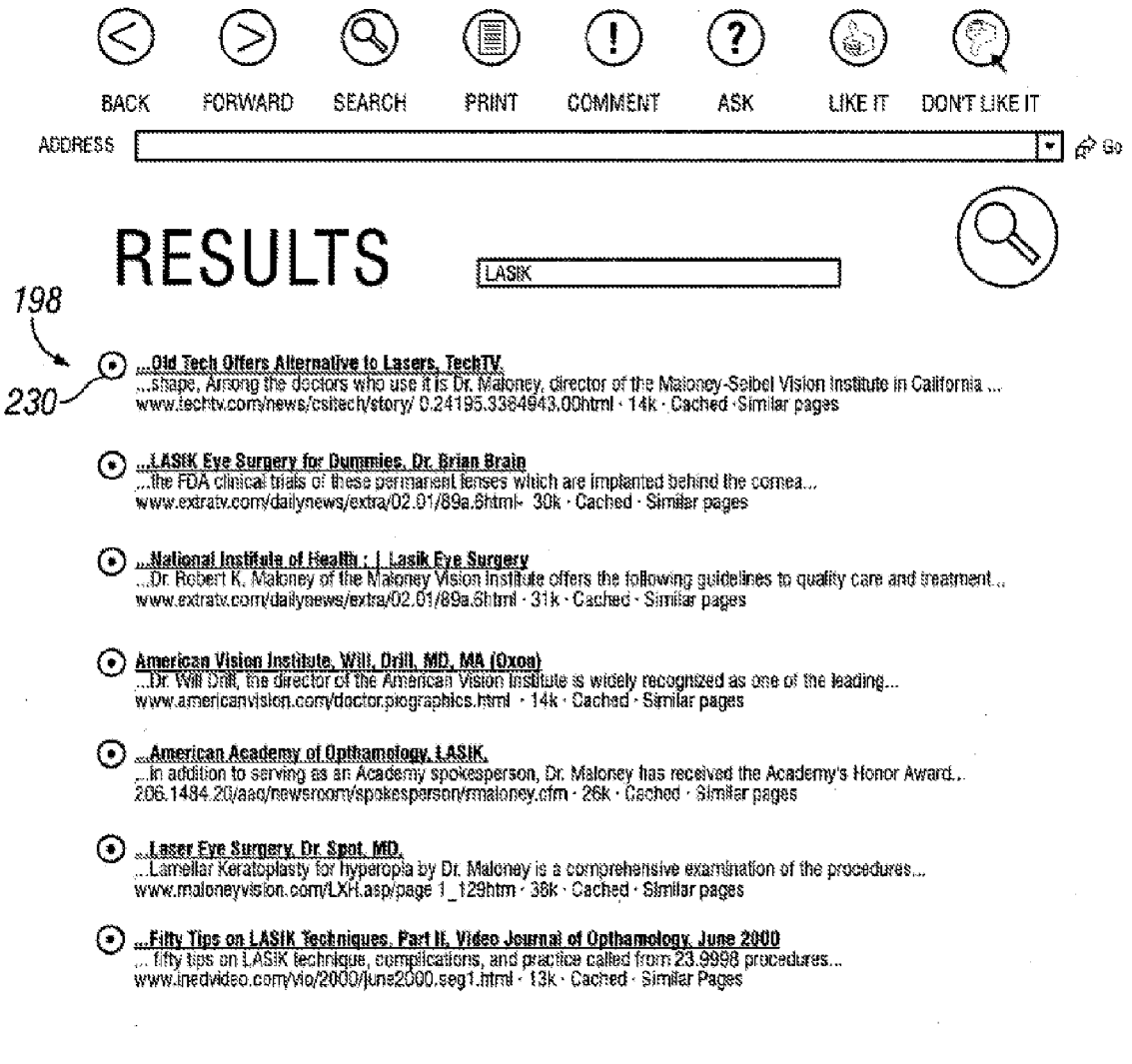
...American Academy of Opthamology, LASIK,
...In addition to serving as an Academy spokesperson, Dr. Maloney has received the Academy's Honor Award...
206.1484.20/aao/newsroom/spokesperson/rrmaloney.cfm - 26k - Cached - Similar pages
...Laser Eye Surgery, Dr. Spot, MD,
...Lamellar Keratoplasty for hyperopia by Dr. Maloney is a comprehensive examination of the procedures...
www.maloneyvision.com/LXH.asp/page 1_129htm - 36k - Cached - Similar pages
...Fifty Tips on LASIK Techniques, Part II, Video Journal of Opthamology, June 2000
... fifty tips on LASIK technique, complications, and practice called from 23.9998 procedures...
www.inedvideo.com/vio/2000/june2000.seg1.html - 13k - Cached - Similar Pages

FIG. 24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...Old Tech Offers Alternative to Lasers, TechTV
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...LASIK Eye Surgery for Dummies, Dr. Brian Brain
...the FDA clinical trials of these permanent lenses which are implanted behind the cornea...
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...National Institute of Health ; | Lasik Eye Surgery
...Dr. Robert K. Maloney of the Maloney Vision Institute offers the following guidelines to quality care and treatment...
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American Vision Institute, Will, Drill, MD, MA (Oxon)
...Dr. Will Drill, the director of the American Vision Institute is widely recognized as one of the leading...
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...In addition to serving as an Academy spokesperson, Dr. Maloney has received the Academy's Honor Award...
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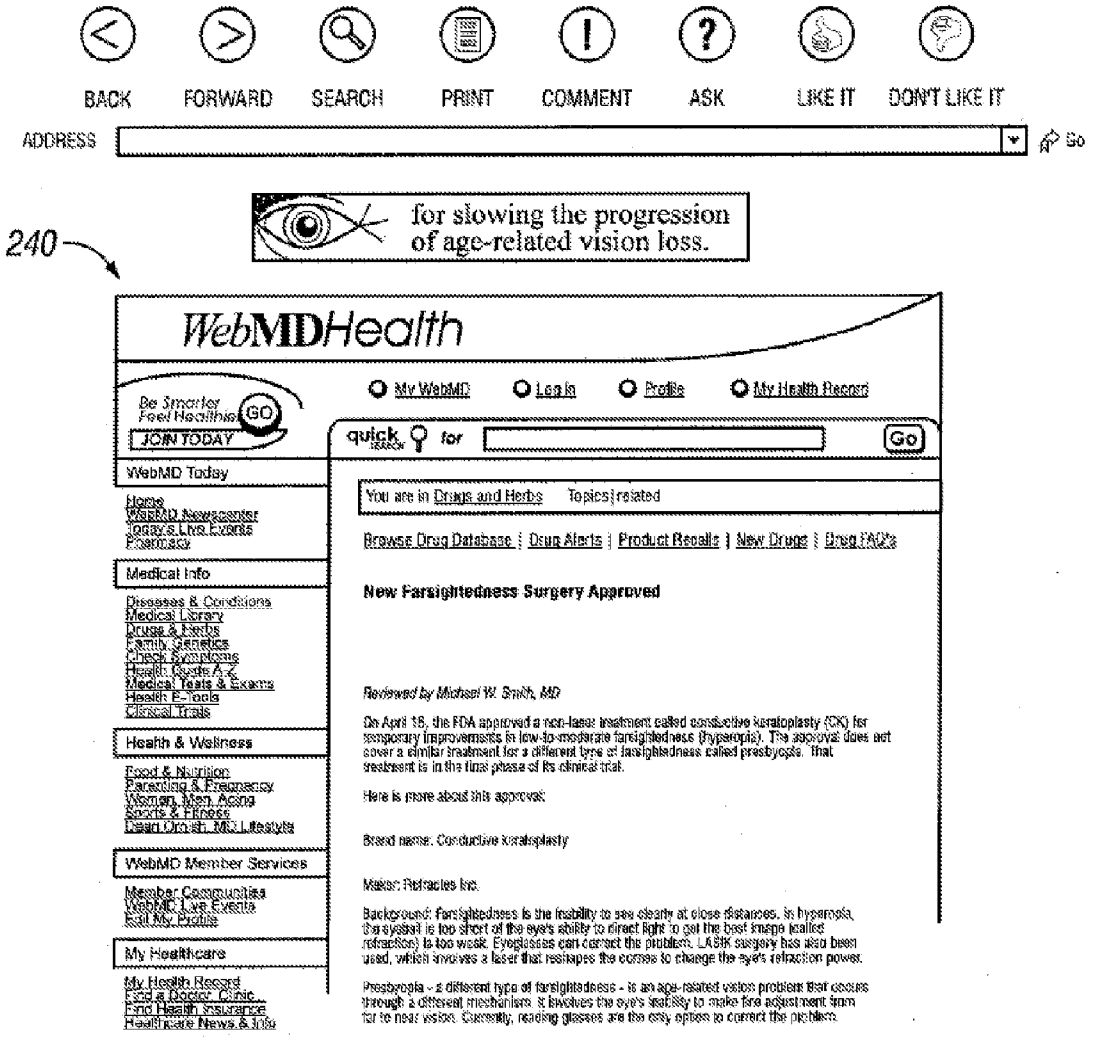
www.inedvideo.com/Vio/2000/june2000.seg1.html - 13k - Cached - Similar Pages

FIG. 25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for slowing the progression of age-related vision loss.
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WebMDHealth
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My Health Record
Be Smarter Feel Healthier GO
JOIN TODAY
quick search for
Go
WebMD Today
Home
WebMD Newscenter
Today's Live Events
Pharmacy
Medical Info
Diseases & Conditions
Medical Library
Drugs & Herbs
Family Genetics
Check Symptoms
Health Guide A-Z
Medical Tests & Exams
Health E-Tools
Clinical Trials
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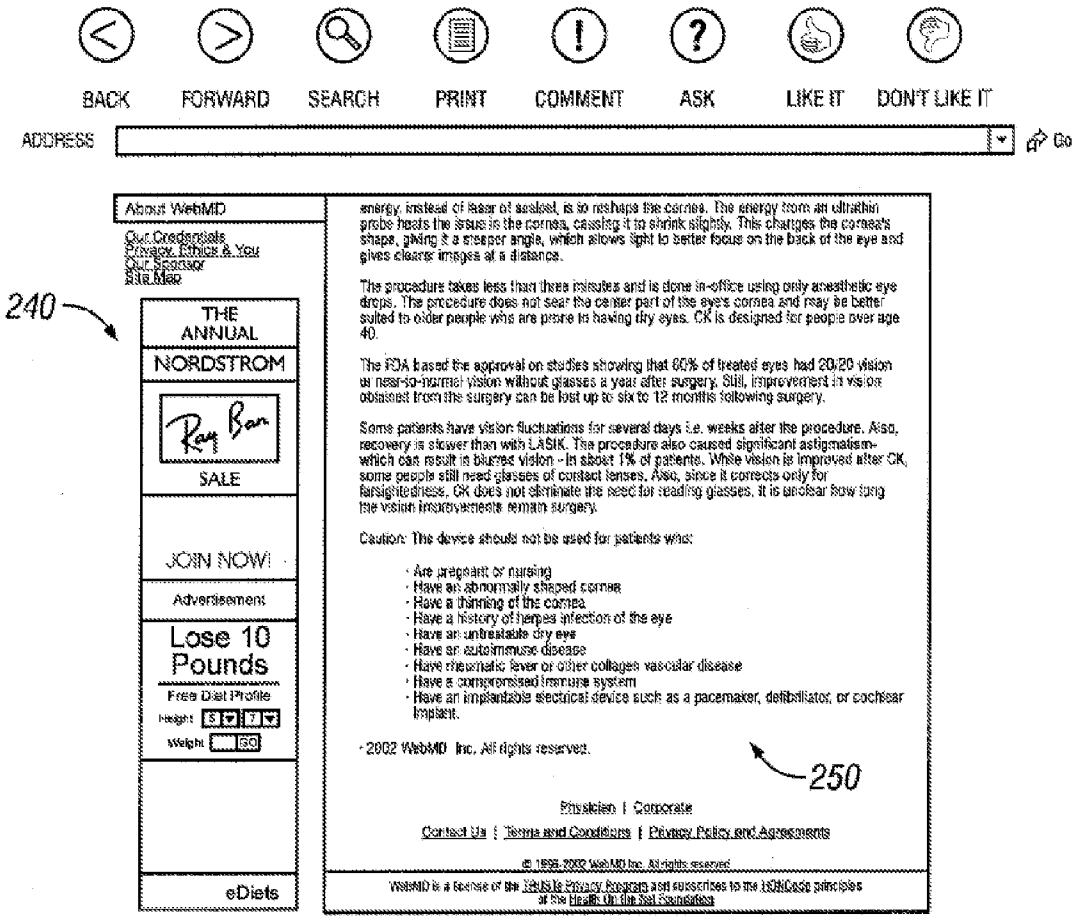
Food & Nutrition
Parenting & Pregnancy
Women, Men, Aging
Sports & Fitness
Dean Ornish, MD Lifestyle
WebMD Member Services
Member Communities
WebMD Live Events
Edit My Profile
My Healthcare
My Health Record
Find a Doctor, Clinic...
Find Health Insurance
Healthcare News & Info
You are in Drugs and Herbs Topics | related
Browse Drug Database | Drug Alerts | Product Recalls | New Drugs | Drug FAQs
New Farsightedness Surgery Approved
Reviewed by Michael W. Smith, MD
On April 15, the FDA approved a non-laser treatment called conductive keratoplasty (CK) for temporary improvements in low-to-moderate farsightedness (hyperopia). The approval does not cover a similar treatment for a different type of farsightedness called presbyopia. That treatment is in the final phase of its clinical trial.
Here is more about this approval:
Brand name: Conductive keratoplasty
Maker: Refractec Inc.
Background: Farsightedness is the inability to see clearly at close distances. In hyperopia, the eyeball is too short or the eye's ability to direct light to get the best image (called refraction) is too weak. Eyeglasses can correct the problem. LASIK surgery has also been used, which involves a laser that reshapes the cornea to change the eye's refraction power.
Presbyopia - a different type of farsightedness - is an age-related vision problem that occurs through a different mechanism. It involves the eye's inability to make fine adjustment from far to near vision. Currently, reading glasses are the only option to correct the problem.

FIG. 26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· Have an autoimmune disease
· Have rheumatic fever or other collagen vascular disease
· Have a compromised immune system
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FIG. 27

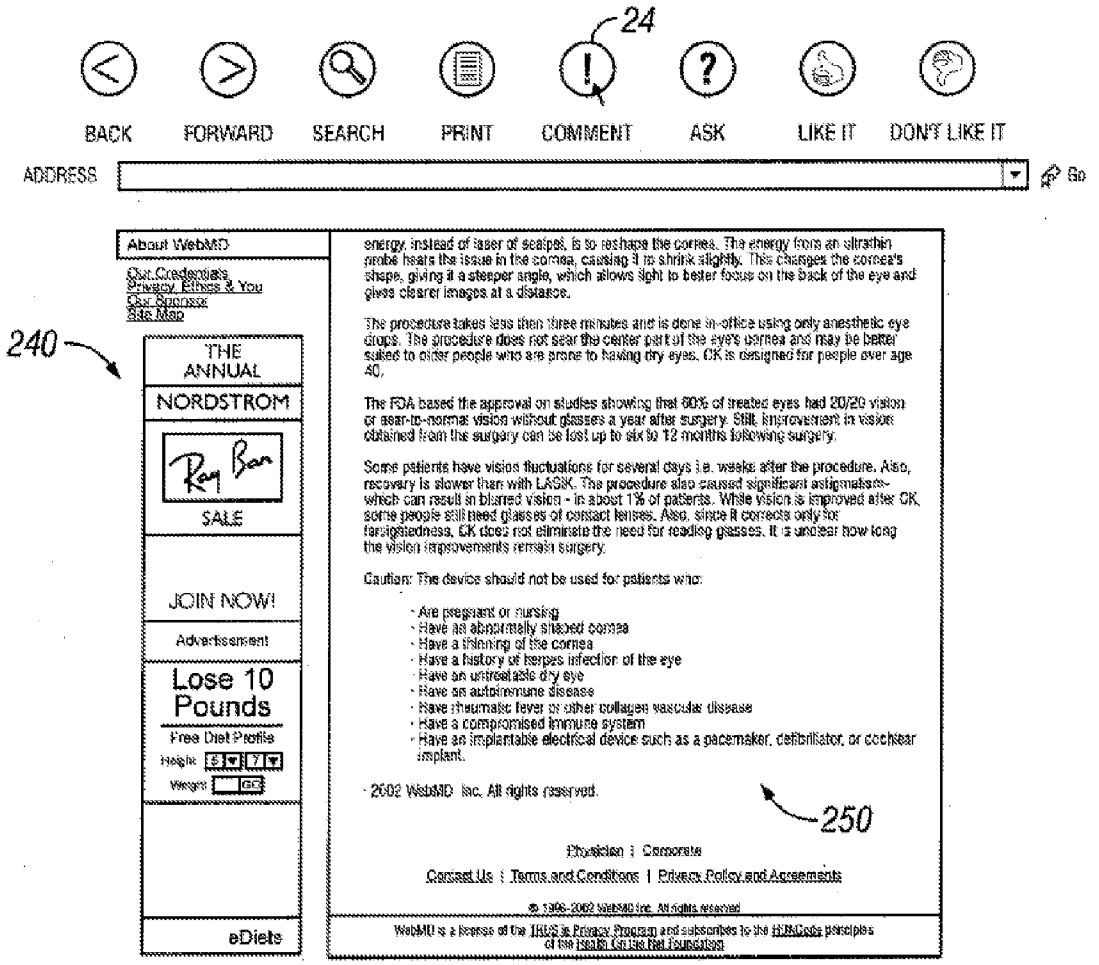
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FIG. 28

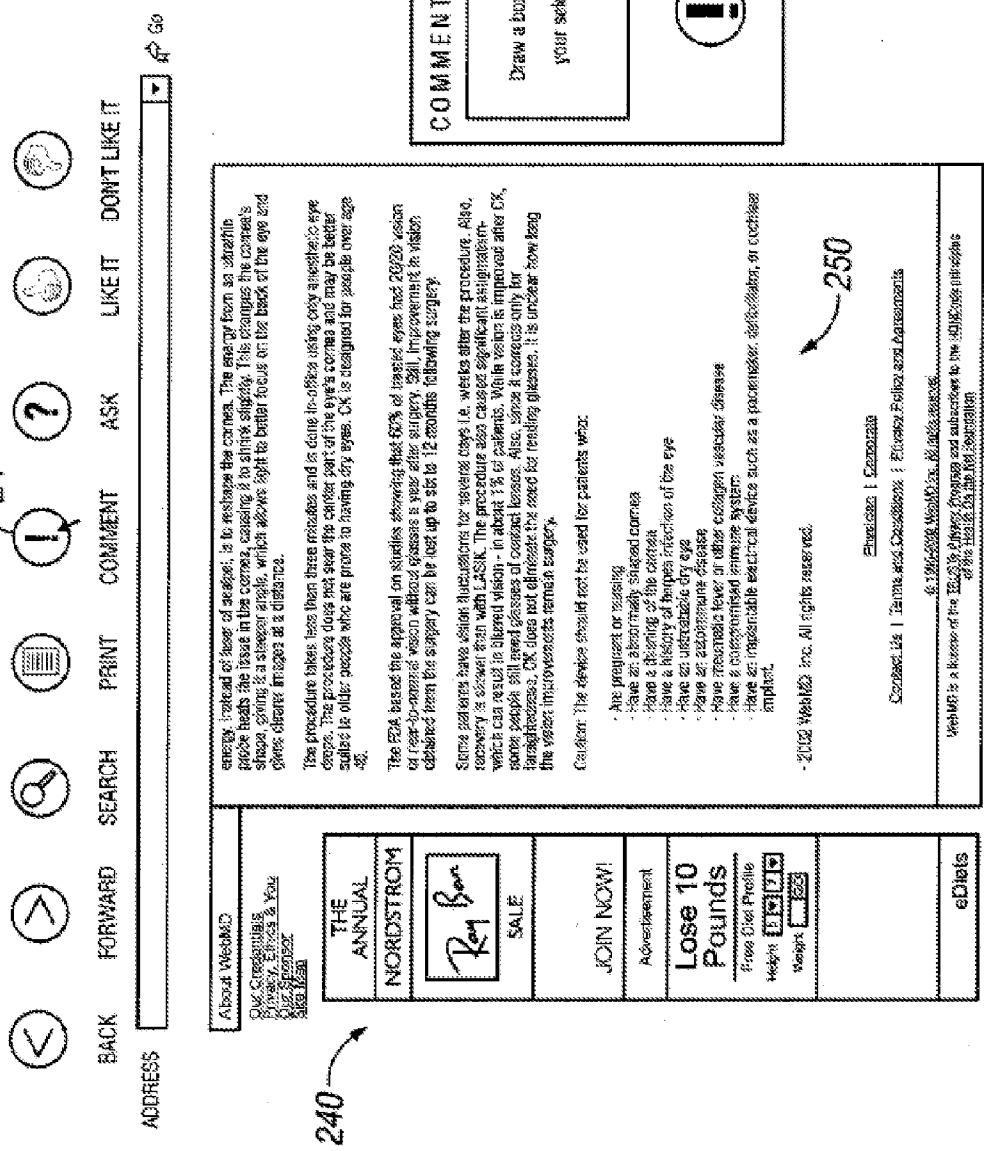
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FIG. 29

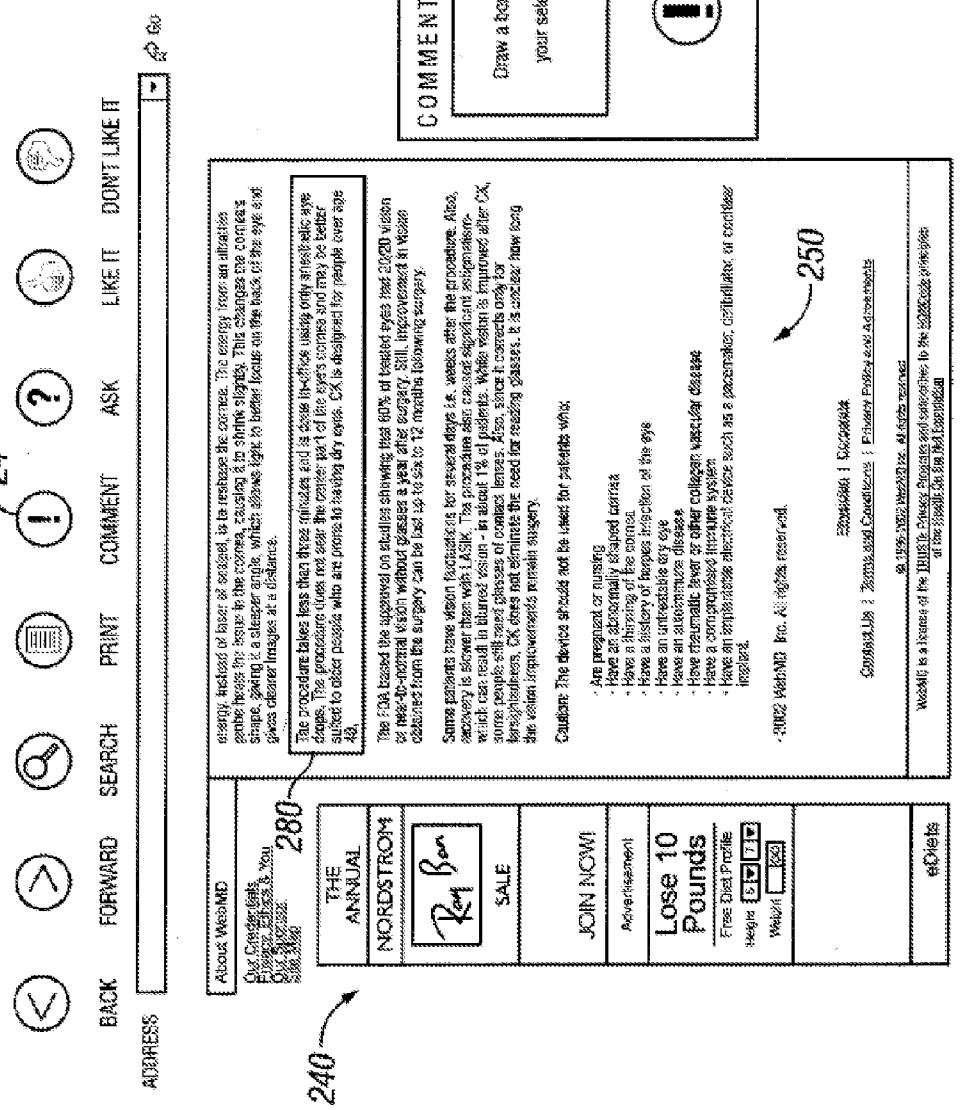
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FIG. 30

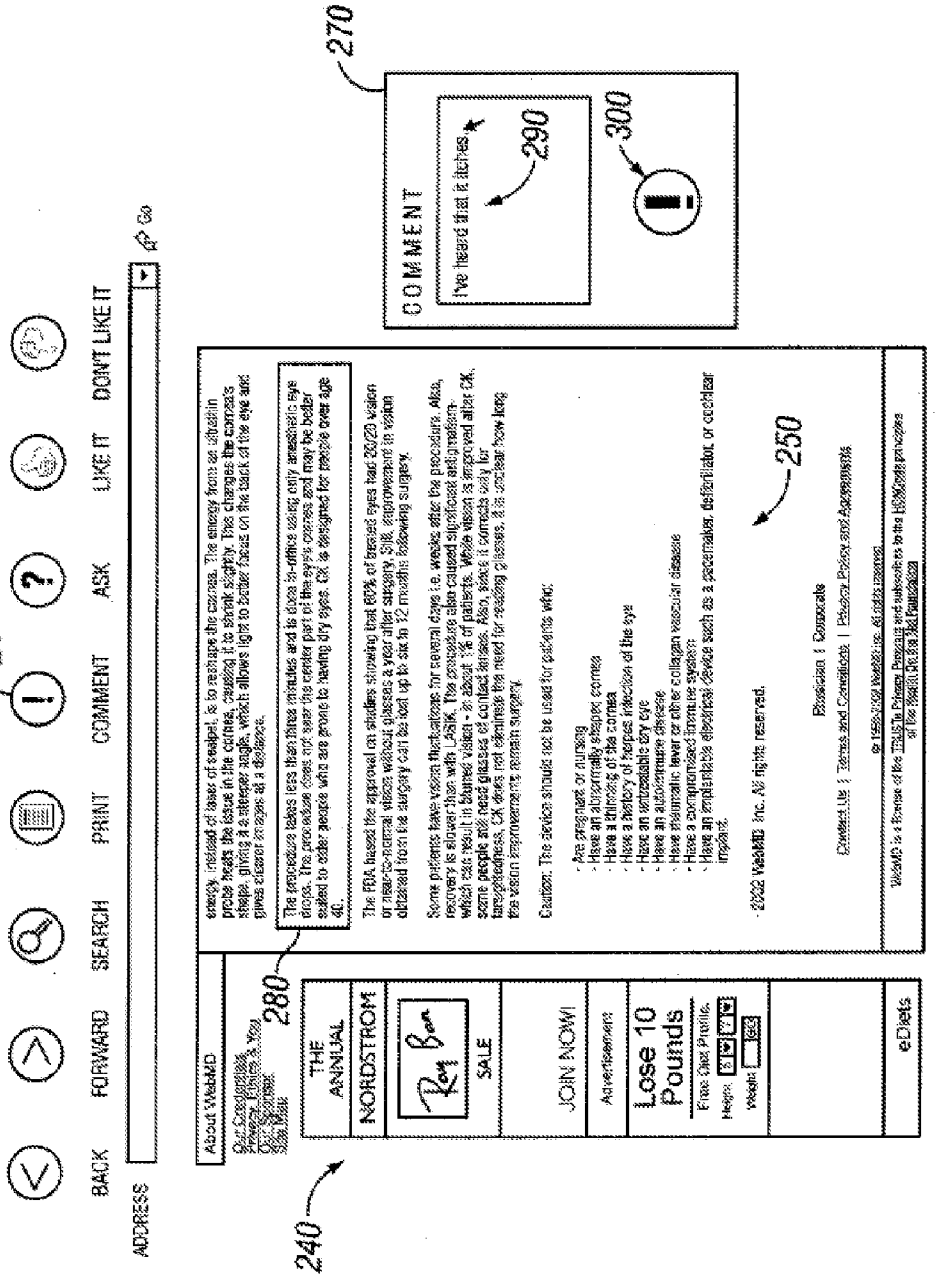
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FIG. 31

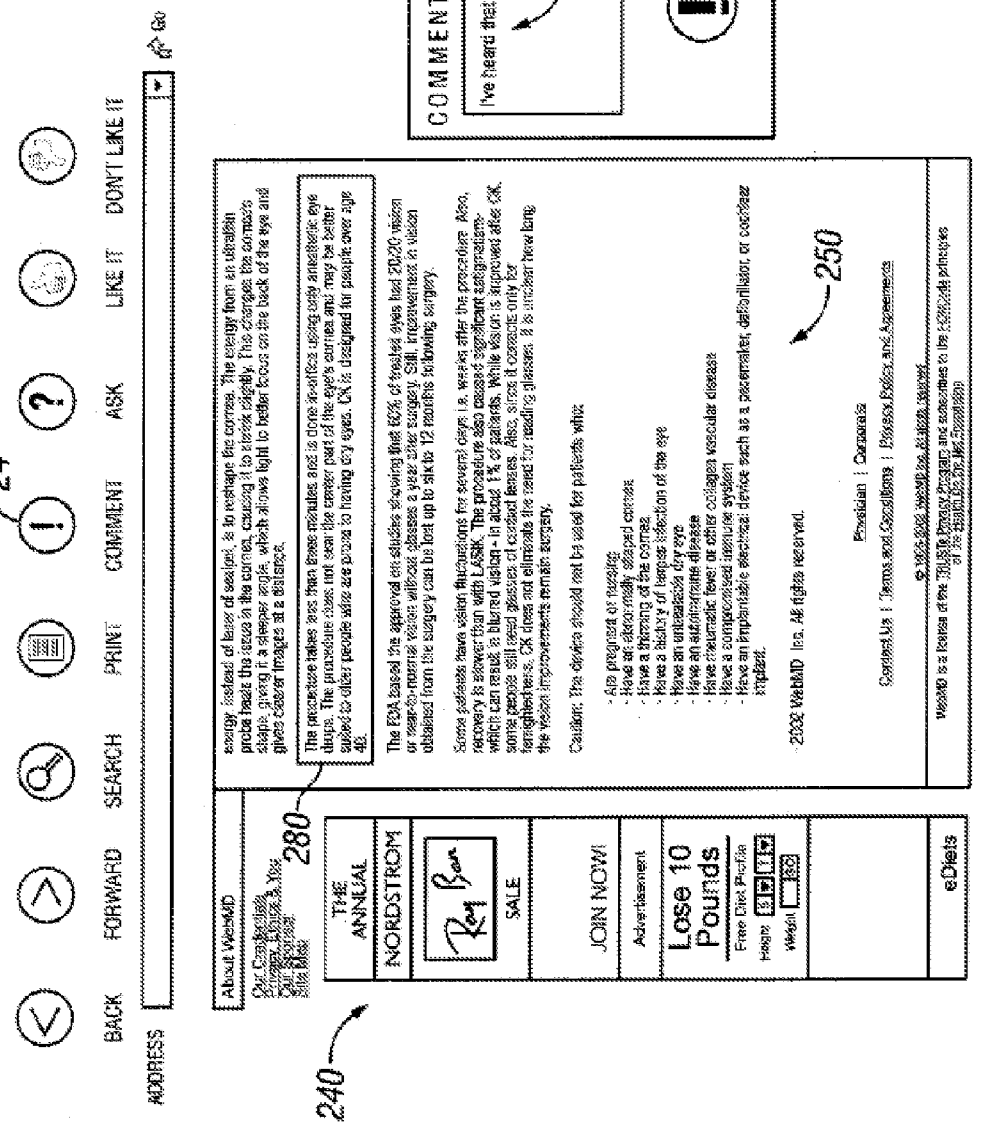
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FIG. 32

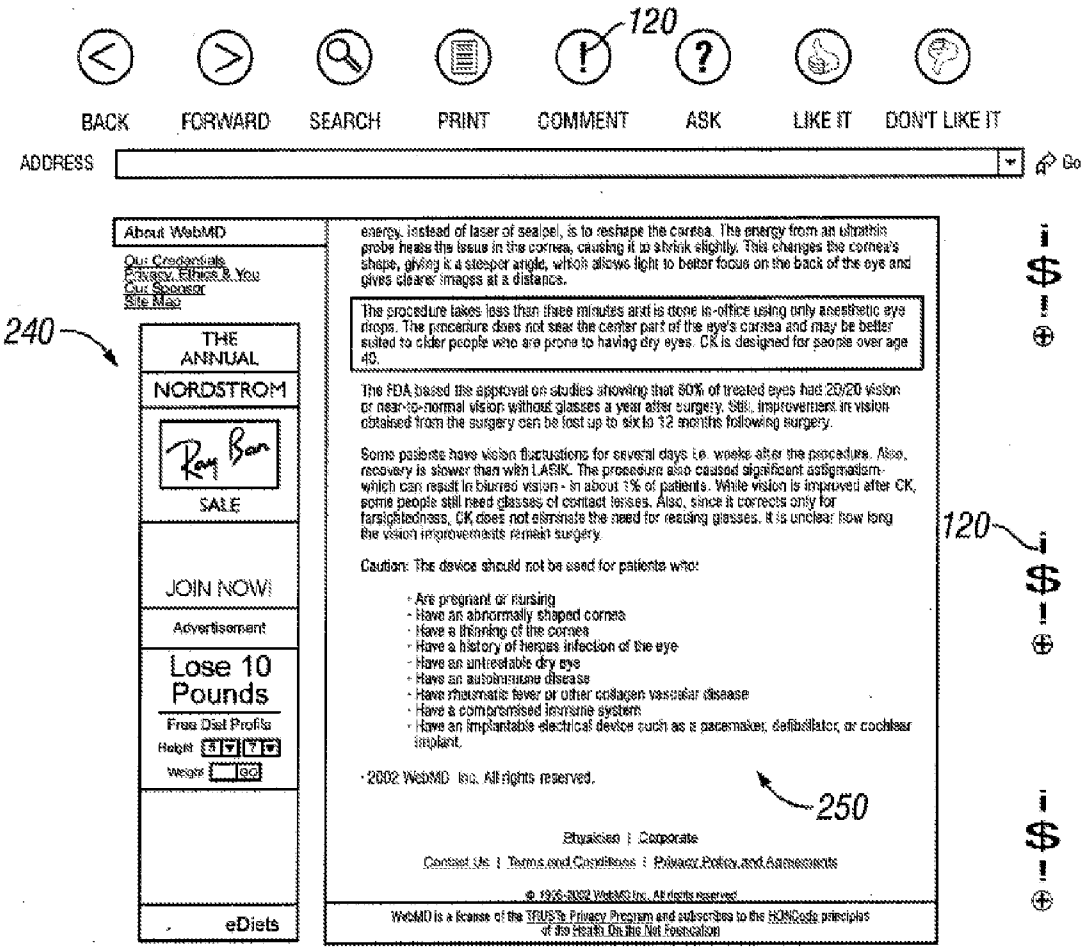
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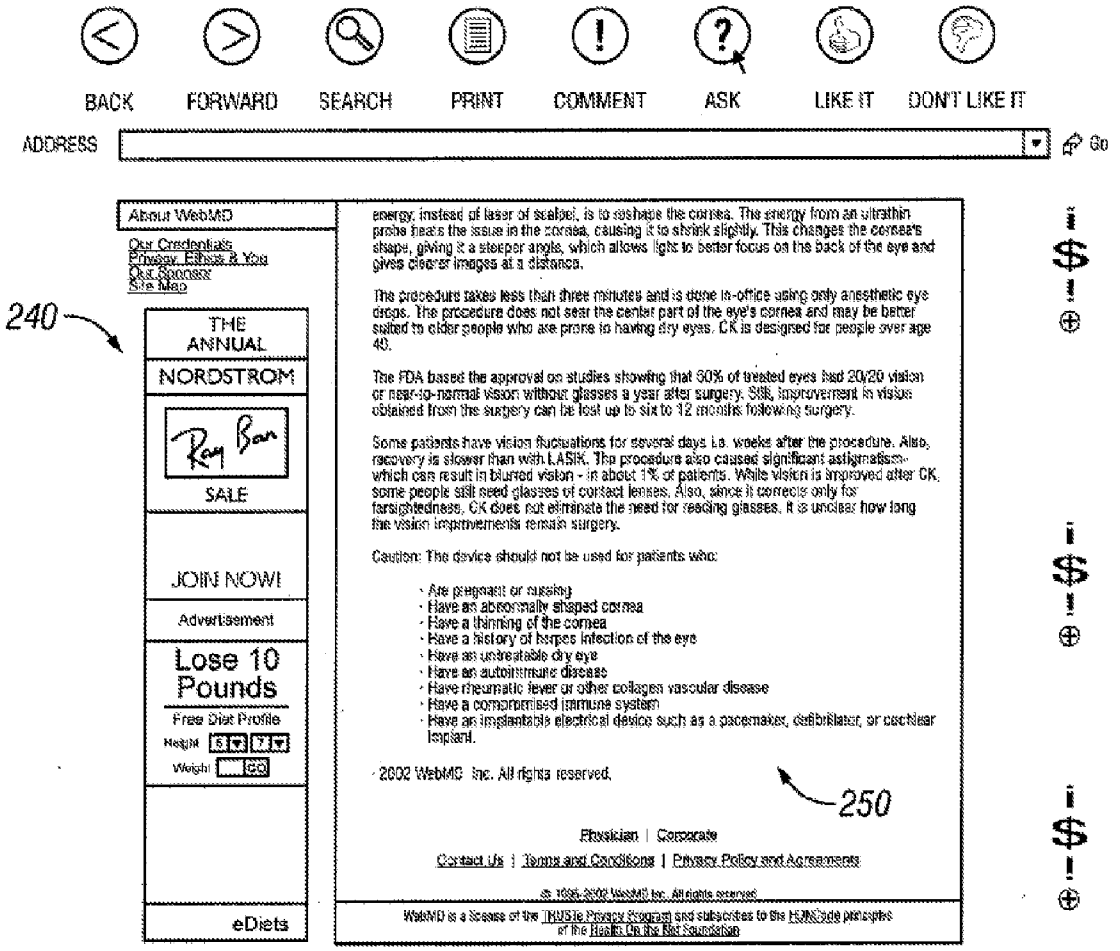
FIG. 33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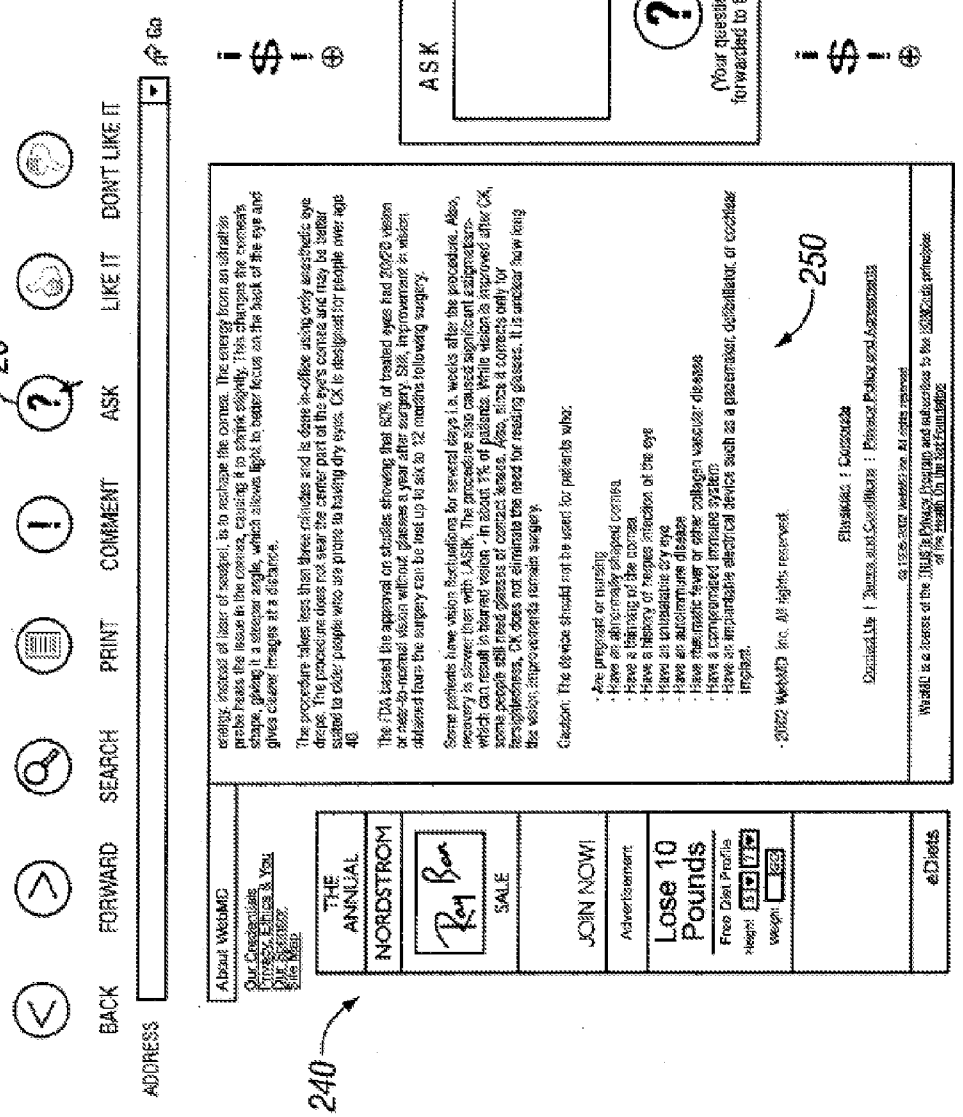
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FIG. 35

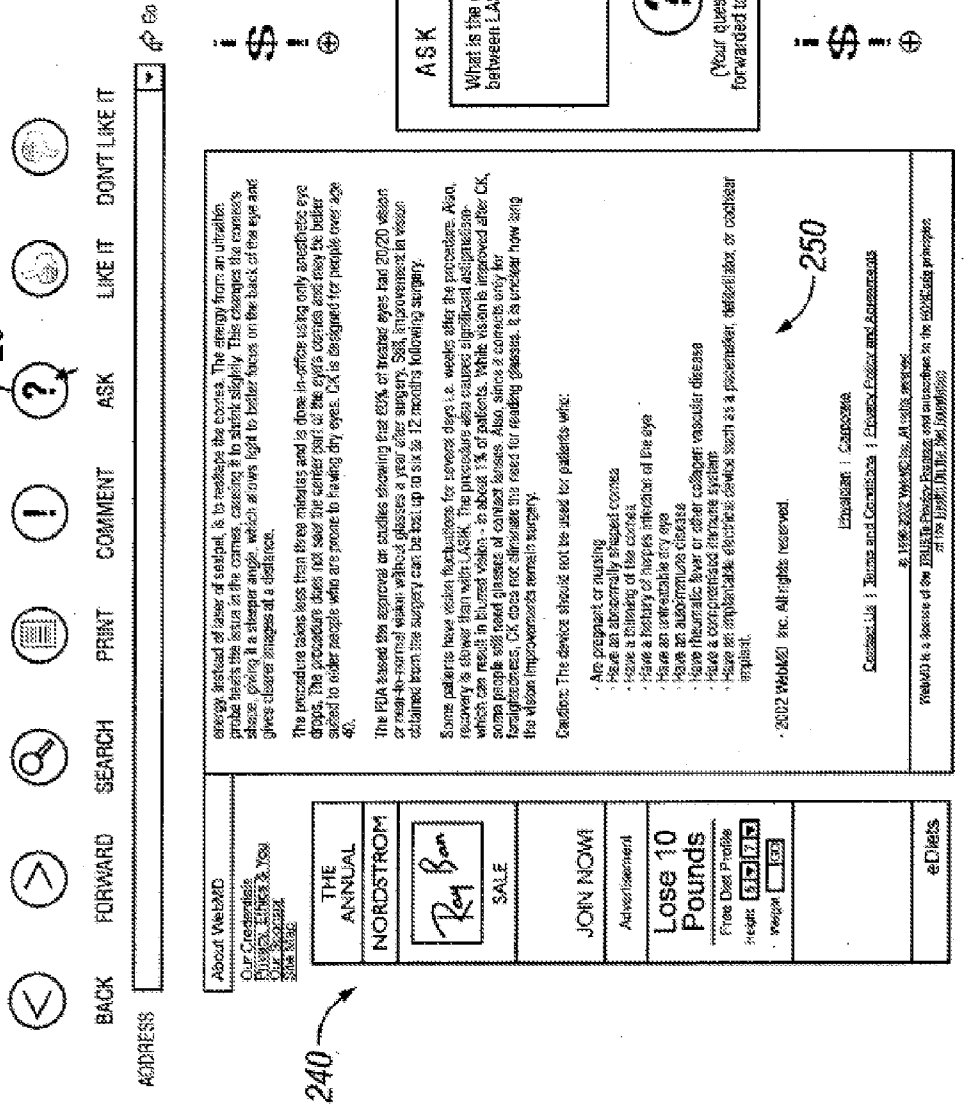
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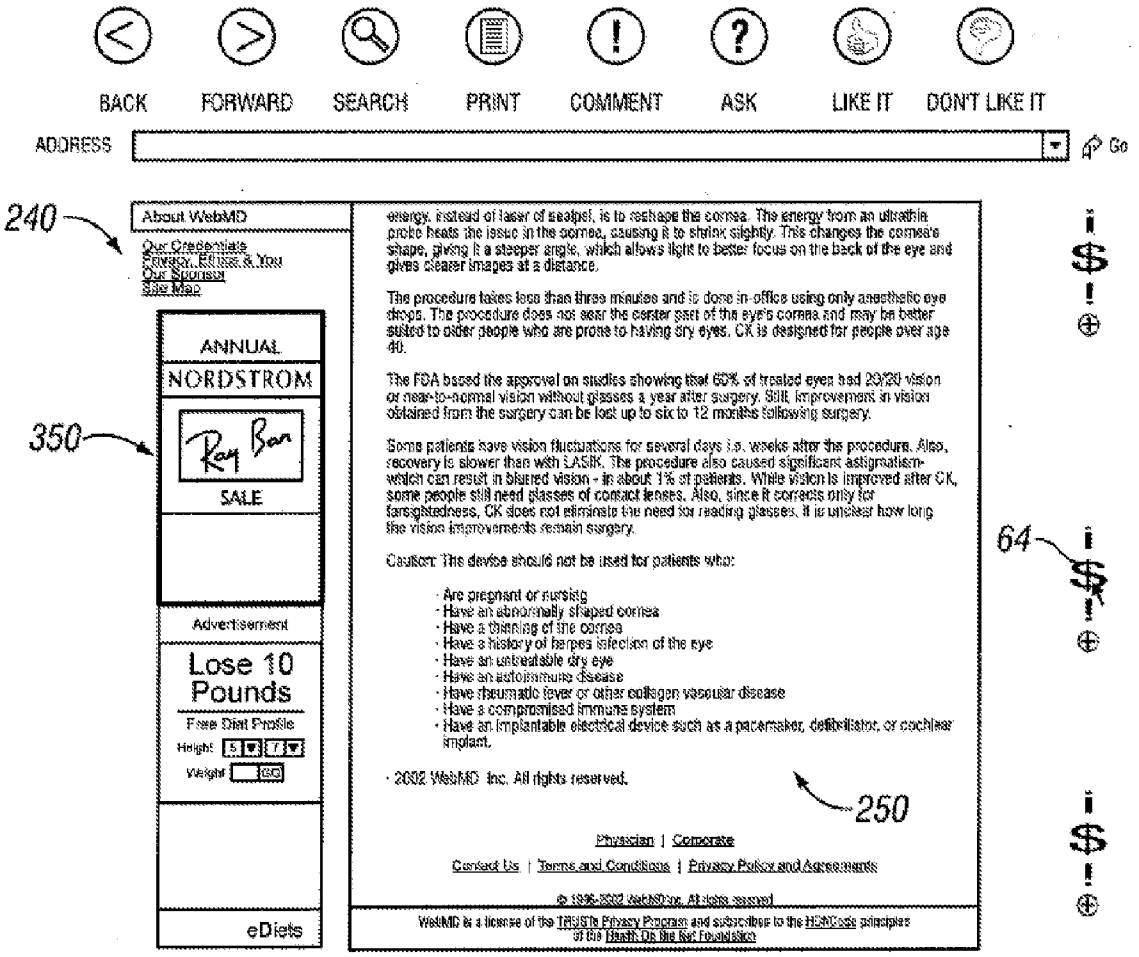
FIG. 36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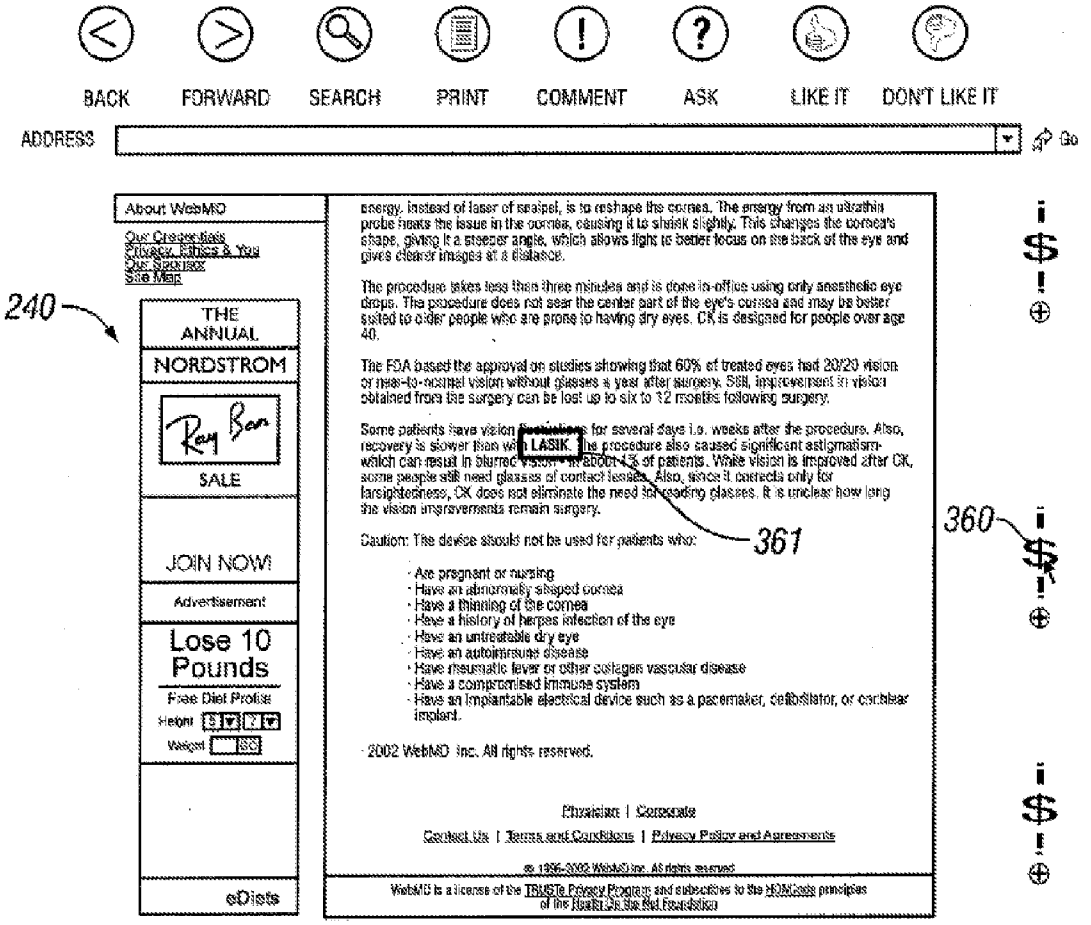
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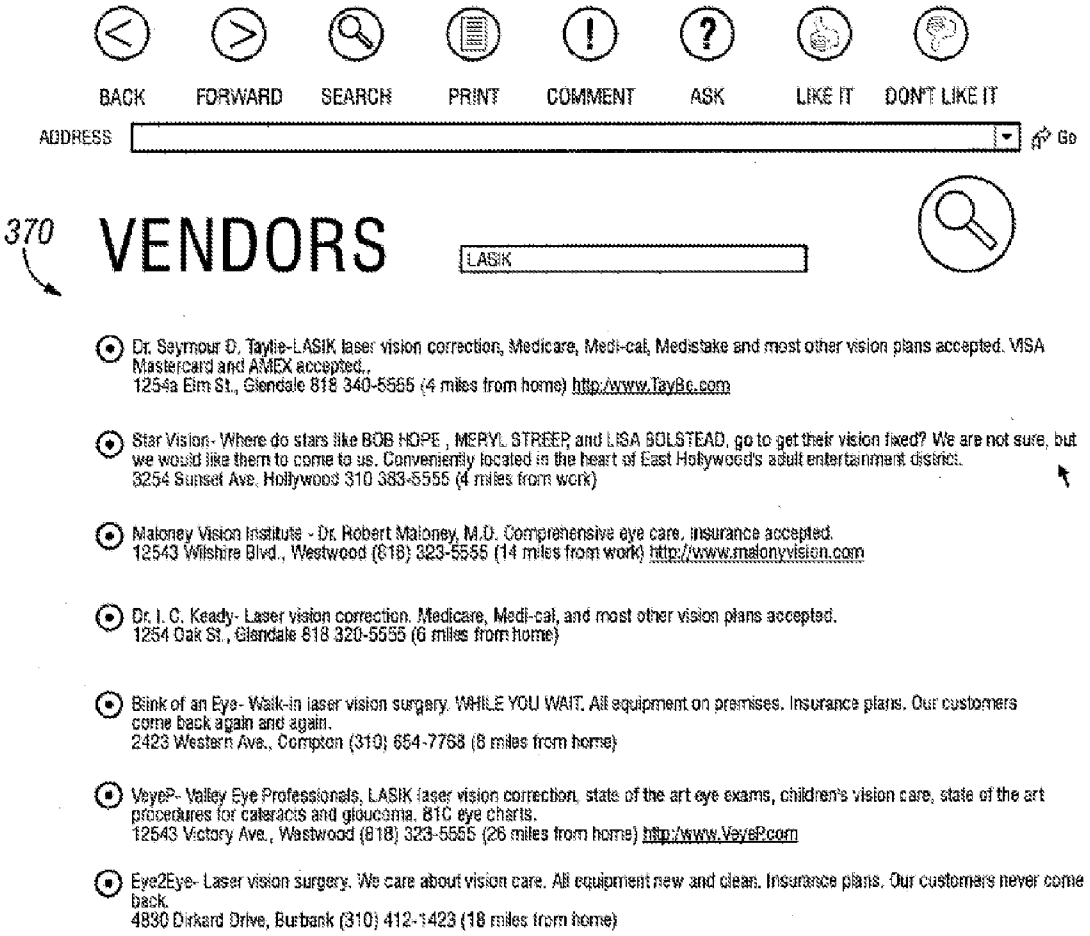
FIG. 38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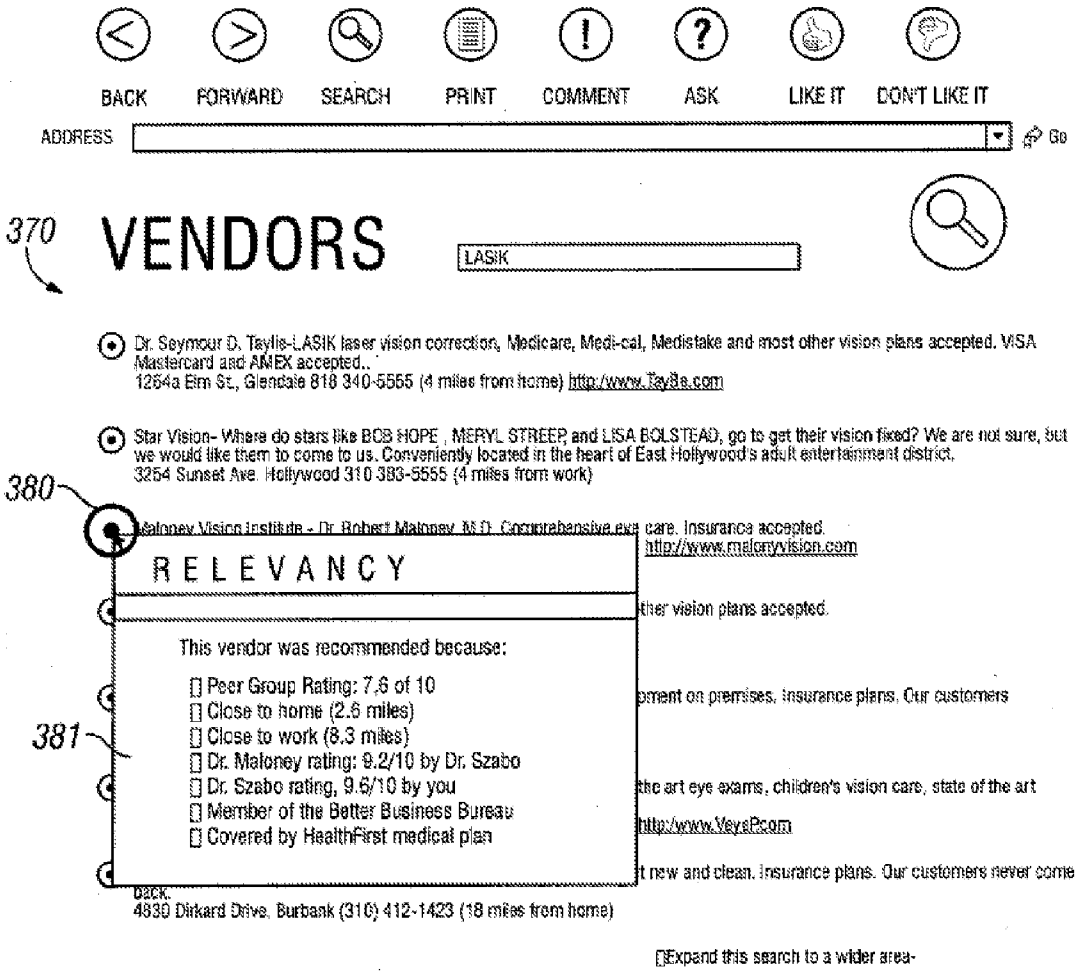
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FIG. 40

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FIG. 41

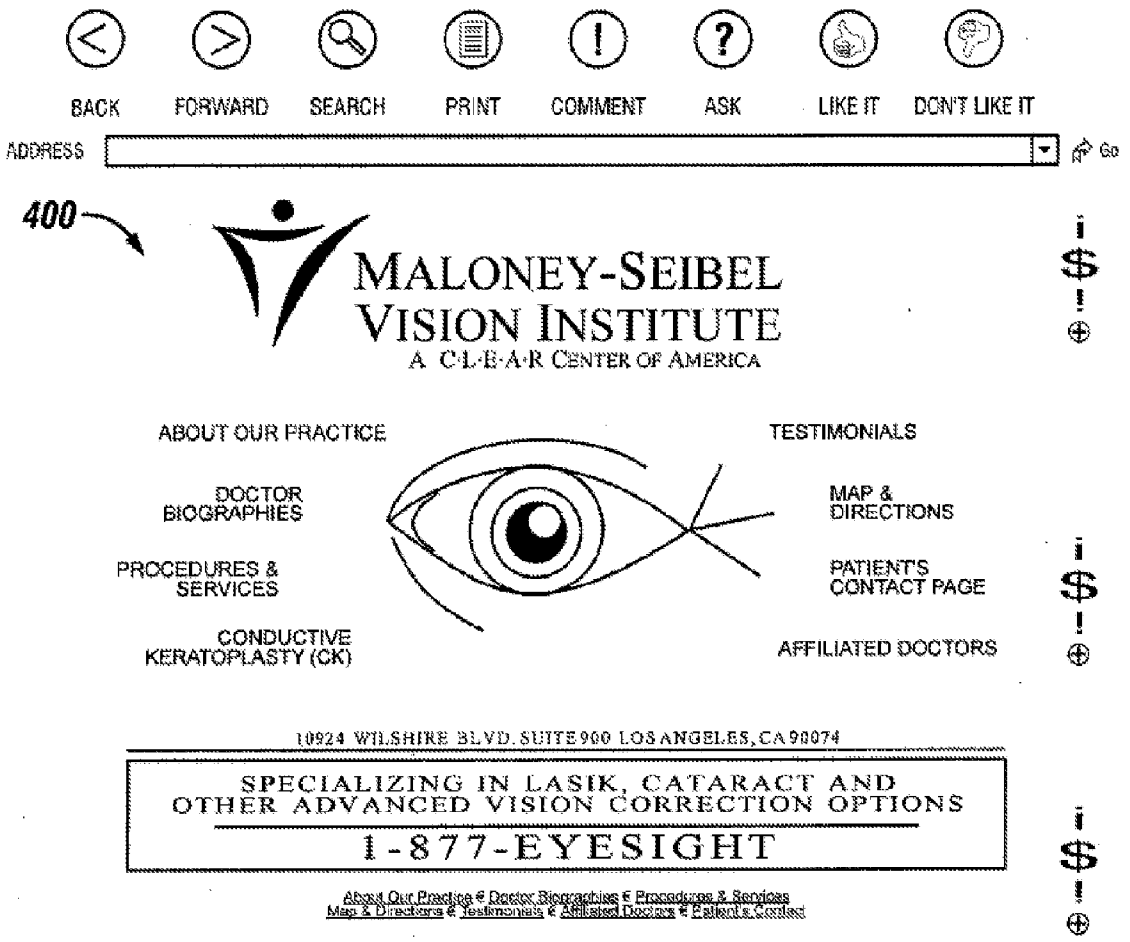
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FIG. 42

META-WEB

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation application of pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/823,017, filed on Jun. 24, 2010, entitled "Meta-Web", which is a continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/737,618, filed on Dec. 15, 2003, entitled "Meta-Web", and issued as U.S. Pat. No. 7,765,206, issued on Jul. 27, 2010, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/474,155, filed Apr. 10, 2002, entitled "Knowledge Web", and issued as U.S. Pat. No. 7,502,770, issued on Mar. 10, 2009 and claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/529,245, filed Dec. 12, 2003, entitled "Reputation System", and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/433,050, filed Dec. 13, 2002, entitled "Automated Purchasing System/Multi-player Game Hub with Voting Scheme". The disclosures of the foregoing applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Technical Field

[0003] The invention relates to knowledge. More particularly, the invention relates to a system for organizing knowledge in such a way that users can find it, learn from it, and add to it as needed.

[0004] 2. Description of the Prior Art

[0005] There is widespread agreement that the amount of knowledge in the world is growing so fast that even experts have trouble keeping up. Today not even the most highly trained professionals—in areas as diverse as science, medicine, law, and engineering—can hope to have more than a general overview of what is known. They spend a large percentage of their time keeping up on the latest information, and often specialize in highly narrow sub-fields because they find it impossible to keep track of broader developments.

[0006] Education traditionally meant the acquisition of the knowledge people needed for their working lives. Today, however, a college education can only provide an overview of knowledge in a specialized area, and a set of skills for learning new things as the need arises. Professionals need new tools that allow them to access new knowledge as they need it.

The World Wide Web

[0007] In spite of this explosion of knowledge, mechanisms for distributing it have remained pretty much the same for centuries: personal communication, schools, journals, and books. The World Wide Web is the one major new element in the landscape. It has fundamentally changed how knowledge is shared, and has given us a hint of what is possible. Its most important attribute is that it is accessible—it has made it possible for people to not only learn from materials that have now been made available to them, but also to easily contribute to the knowledge of the world in their turn. As a result, the Web's chief feature now is people exuberantly sharing their knowledge.

[0008] The Web also affords a new form of communication. Those who grew up with hypertext, or have otherwise become accustomed to it, find the linear arrangement of textbooks and articles confining and inconvenient. In this respect, the Web is clearly better than conventional text.

[0009] The Web, however, is lacking in many respects.

[0010] It has no mechanism for the vetting of knowledge. There is a lot of information on the Web, but very little guidance as to what is useful or even correct.

[0011] There are no good mechanisms for organizing the knowledge in a manner that helps users find the right information for them at any time. Access to the (often inconsistent or incorrect) knowledge on the Web thus is often through search engines, which are all fundamentally based on key word or vocabulary techniques. The documents found by a search engine are likely to be irrelevant, redundant, and often just plain wrong.

[0012] The Web knows very little about the user (except maybe a credit card number). It has no model of how the user learns, or what he does and does not know—or, for that matter, what it does and does not know.

A Comparison of Knowledge Sources

[0013] There are several aspects to how learners obtain knowledge—they might look at how authoritative the source is, for example, or how recent the information is, or they might want the ability to ask the author a question or to post a comment. Those with knowledge to share might prefer a simple way to publish that knowledge, or they might seek out a well-known publisher to maintain their authority.

[0014] While books and journals offer the authority that comes with editors and reviewers, as well as the permanence of a durable product, the Web and newsgroups provide immediacy and currency, as well as the ability to publish without the bother of an editorial process. Table "A" is a summary of the affordances of various forms of publishing.

TABLE A

Affordances of Various Forms of Publishing

	The Web	News Groups	Text Books	Journals
Peer-to-Peer publishing	Yes	Yes	No	Limited
Supports linking	Yes	Limited	No	Limited
Ability to add annotations	No	Yes	No	No
Vetting and certification	No	Limited	Yes	Yes
Supports payment model	Limited	No	Yes	Yes
Supports guided learning	Limited	No	Yes	No

Corporate and Government Needs

[0015] For institutions, corporations, and governments, failure to keep track of knowledge has consequences that are quite different from those for an individual. Often, institutions make a bad decision due to lack of knowledge on the part of those at the right place and at the right time, even though someone else within the institution may actually hold the relevant knowledge.

[0016] Similarly, within a corporation, the process of filtering and abstracting knowledge as it moves through the hierarchy often leaves the decision-maker (whether the CEO, the design engineer, or the corporate lawyer) in a position of deciding without the benefit of the best information. The institutional problem is made worse by the problem of higher employee turnover in the more fluid job market, so that the

traditional depository of knowledge—long-standing employees—is beginning to evaporate, just as the amount of knowledge that needs to be kept track of is exploding.

[0017] The consequences of not having the right knowledge at the right place and time can be very severe: doctors prescribing treatments that are sub-optimal, engineers designing products without the benefit of the latest technical ideas, business executives making incorrect strategic decisions, lawyers making decisions without knowledge of relevant precedents or laws, and scientists working diligently to rediscover things that are already known—all these carry tremendous costs to society.

[0018] The invention addresses the problem of providing a system that has a very large, e.g. multi-petabyte, database of knowledge to a very large number of diverse users, which include both human beings and automated processes. There are many aspects of this problem that are significant challenges. Managing a very large database is one of them. Connecting related data objects is another. Providing a mechanism for creating and retrieving metadata about a data object is a third.

[0019] In the past, various approaches have been used to solve different parts of this problem. The World Wide Web, for example, is an attempt to provide a very large database to a very large number of users. However, it fails to provide reliability or data security, and provides only a limited amount of metadata, and only in some cases. Large relational database systems tackle the problem of reliability and security very well, but are lacking in the ability to support diverse data and diverse users, as well as in metadata support.

[0020] The ideal system should permit the diverse databases that exist today to continue to function, while supporting the development of new data. It should permit a large, diverse set of users to access this data, and to annotate it and otherwise add to it through various types of metadata. Users should be able to obtain a view of the data that is complete, comprehensive, valid, and enhanced based on the metadata.

[0021] The system should support data integrity, redundancy, availability, scalability, ease of use, personalization, feedback, controlled access, and multiple data formats. The system must accommodate diverse data and diverse metadata, in addition to diverse user types. The access control system must be sufficiently flexible to give different users access to different portions of the database, with distributed management of the access control. Flexible administration must allow portions of the database to be maintained independently, and must allow for new features to be added to the system as it grows.

[0022] It would be advantageous to provide a system to organize knowledge in such a way that users can find it, learn from it, and add to it as needed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0023] In a preferred embodiment, the invention dynamically generates content and presentations for a user by modifying conventional content, e.g. rendering, restructuring, filtering, or supplementing such content, based on information, e.g. annotations, stored in a database. The invention, referred to as the Meta-Web, allows a user at a Web browser, which may be any standard Web browser supported by a standard computing platform, posits a query that is routed to a Meta-Web server. The Meta-Web server routes the query to a search engine that returns search results to the Meta-Web server. The Meta-Web server then routes the results to a Meta-Web registry that, based on the search results and the content of the registry returns annotations and other meta-data to the Meta-Web server. The Meta-Web server uses the annotations and/or other meta-data to generate and route annotated pages to the browser and the user may then explore the results within the annotated pages, for example by clicking on a URL within the annotated pages.

[0024] Unique to the invention is the provision of the registry that receives the search results and provides annotations and/or other information to the Meta-Web server. The registry may also accumulate knowledge, meta-knowledge that was created at a time of entry of such knowledge, and meta-knowledge in the form of one or more annotations that accumulate over time, where the annotations include any of, but are not limited to, usefulness of said knowledge, additional user opinions, certifications of veracity of said knowledge, reputation (which may be based on a formal reputation system), commentary by users, and connections between the knowledge and other units of knowledge.

[0025] To create the annotated pages, the Meta-Web server either combines both the search results and information from the registry, or operates upon the search results in accordance with information contained in the registry. The search results are thus augmented or modified by the registry information under control of the Meta-Web server, which then builds the annotated pages. The annotated pages are then forwarded to the user's Web browser.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0026] FIG. **1** is a block schematic diagram showing the architecture of the Meta-Web facility according to the invention;

[0027] FIG. **2** is a display showing a subject field which includes a portion into which the user may enter a search query according to the invention;

[0028] FIG. **3** is a display showing the results provided to the user in response to the query of FIG. **2** according to the invention;

[0029] FIG. **4** is a display showing a pop-up window which provides information regarding the relevancy to the user of the search results of FIG. **3** according to the invention;

[0030] FIG. **5** is a display showing a pop-up window which shows relevancy of the search results by indicating that the search results include something of personal interest to the user according to the invention;

[0031] FIG. **6** is a display in which the user has selected one of the search results from the list of results of FIG. **3** according to the invention;

[0032] FIG. **7** is a display showing a pop-up window that provides answers to Frequently Asked Questions according to the invention;

[0033] FIG. **8** is a display showing the user has selected the related items button for the portion of text that is highlighted by the user according to the invention;

[0034] FIG. **9** is a display showing the user selecting only the documents in the related items and info window according to the invention;

[0035] FIG. **10** is a display showing the selected document displayed with its own annotations according to the invention;

[0036] FIG. **11** is a display showing a pop-up window that provides information of interest to the user according to the invention;

[0037] FIG. **12** is a display showing a comment window according to the invention;

[0038] FIG. **13** is a display showing a pop-up window that allows the user to look at information that has been obtained from diverse sources about a product according to the invention;

[0039] FIG. **14** is a display that shows that the user has selected a related items icon according to the invention;

[0040] FIG. **15** is a display that shows a Meta-Web object according to the invention;

[0041] FIG. **16** is a display that shows a "change my window" button that allows the user to change the appearance of the information according to the invention;

[0042] FIG. **17** is a display that shows a manufacturer's specification sheet which is displayed when the user selects a manufacturer specifications sheet button according to the invention;

[0043] FIG. **18** is a display which shows that the user has selected the buy button and can enter a personalized purchase transaction to bring the user to a preferred vendor according to the invention;

[0044] FIG. **19** is a display which shows an information-seeking problem where the user is looking to find information about a more complex product or service according to the invention;

[0045] FIG. **20** is a display which is similar to that shown in FIG. **3**, except that in this case the results relate to the user's query with regard to relevance to the user according to the invention;

[0046] FIG. **21** is a display which shows the user choosing the first document in the results set according to the invention;

[0047] FIG. **22** is a display which shows an article selected by the user from a list of results according to the invention;

[0048] FIG. **23** is a display which shows the selected document, where the user is not interested in the result according to the invention;

[0049] FIG. **24** is a display which shows the user selects a first document according to the invention;

[0050] FIG. **25** is a display which shows the selected document displayed according to the invention;

[0051] FIG. **26** is a display which shows the user has scrolled to the end of the selected document according to the invention;

[0052] FIG. **27** is a display which shows the user selecting the comment button according to the invention;

[0053] FIG. **28** is a display which shows a pop-up window that is spawned to ask the user to select the text that would be associated with a comment according to the invention;

[0054] FIG. **29** is a display which shows the user selecting text according to the invention;

[0055] FIG. **30** is a display which shows the user entering a comment according to the invention;

[0056] FIG. **31** is a display which shows the user submitting a comment to the Meta-Web server by selecting a submit button according to the invention;

[0057] FIG. **32** is a display which shows the comment icon highlighted to show that there is a comment of personal interest to the user according to the invention;

[0058] FIG. **33** is a display which shows the user is about ask to a question related to the document according to the invention;

[0059] FIG. **34** is a display which shows the user is informed that the question with be forwarded to the author according to the invention;

[0060] FIG. **35** is a display which shows a user selecting the ask button, where the Meta-Web server spawns an ask window into which the user may enter a question according to the invention;

[0061] FIG. **36** is a display which shows the user selecting the buy button according to the invention;

[0062] FIG. **37** is a display which shows the user selecting another buy button according to the invention;

[0063] FIG. **38** is a display which shows a list of vendors according to the invention;

[0064] FIG. **39** is a display which shows that some icons appear darker while others appear lighter according to the invention;

[0065] FIG. **40** is a display which shows the user selecting the personal interest icon according to the invention;

[0066] FIG. **41** is a display which shows a list of vendors, with indication that several of the vendors have associated web sites according to the invention; and

[0067] FIG. **42** is a display which shows the vendor's Web site according to the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0068] FIG. **1** is a block schematic diagram showing the architecture of the Meta-Web facility disclosed herein. In operation, a user at a Web browser **10**, which may be any standard Web browser supported by a standard computing platform, posits a query (**1000**) that is routed to a Meta-Web server **16**. The Meta-Web server routes the query (**1006**) to a search engine that returns search results (**1008**) to the Meta-Web server. The Meta-Web server then routes the results (**1010**) to a Meta-Web registry (**14**) that, based on the search results and the content of the registry returns annotations and/or other meta-data (**1012**) to the Meta-Web server. The Meta-Web uses the annotations and/or other meta-data to generate and route annotated pages (**1014**) to the browser, and the user may then explore the results within the annotated pages, for example by clicking on a URL within the annotated pages (**1004**).

[0069] Unique to the invention is the provision of the registry **14** that receives the search results (**1010**) and provides annotations (**1012**) and/or other information to the Meta-Web server. The registry may also accumulate knowledge, meta-knowledge that was created at a time of entry of such knowledge, and meta-knowledge in the form of one or more annotations that accumulate over time, where the annotations include any of, but are not limited to, usefulness of said knowledge, additional user opinions, certifications of veracity of said knowledge, reputation (which may be based on a formal reputation system), commentary by users, and connections between the knowledge and other units of knowledge. Such connections comprise typed links between registry objects, where such links may comprise, for example, relationships, such as a person's role in an organization or a place where a person lives, and such objects may comprise, for example, representations of products, people, places, categories, events, organizations, roles, documents, portions of documents, certifications, ratings, dates, and times.

[0070] To create the annotated pages, the Meta-Web server either combines both the search results and information from the registry, or operates upon the search results in accordance with information contained in the registry. The search results are thus augmented or modified by the registry information

under control of the Meta-Web server, which then builds the annotated pages. The annotated pages are then forwarded to the user's Web browser.

[0071] Accordingly, the presently preferred embodiment of the invention comprises four elements, i.e. a standard Web browser and a standard search engine, which are well known to those skilled in the art, and the registry and Meta-Web server. The registry associates metadata with objects, while the Meta-Web server creates Web pages dynamically, which are then sent to the user's Web browser for viewing by the user. While a Web browser is described herein in connection with the presently preferred embodiment, those skilled in the art will appreciate that other access facilities may be used to practice the invention. As well, the search engine may comprise any type of data access facility. Key to the invention is the provision of the Meta-Web server and registry. Further, while the Meta-Web server and registry are discussed herein as separate elements, their functionality may be combined into a single element. Likewise, their functionality may be dispersed broadly across several elements. For example, a knowledge base comprising knowledge, meta-knowledge that was created at a time of entry of said knowledge, and meta-knowledge in the form of one or more annotations that accumulate over time, the annotations including any of, but not limited to, usefulness of said knowledge, additional user opinions, certifications of veracity of said knowledge, commentary by users, and connections between said knowledge and other units of knowledge may comprise an element of the invention, see U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/474,155, filed 10 Apr. 2002.

[0072] The Meta-Web server as presently embodied creates two types of Web pages, both of which are described in the discussion below and in the Figures accompanying that discussion. One of the Web pages is a Web page that consists of search results with annotations. The other type of Web page is a Web page that consists of a content page with an annotation tool, such as an annotation bar at the side of the results page. In the preferred embodiment, the annotation bar is incorporated into a standard Web browser, but in other embodiments it may be part of a separate Meta-Web application which runs on the user's computer, or it may be an element that is spawned by operation of the user's Web browser, such as a Java applet or JavaScript.

[0073] Content displayed to the user is dynamically extracted from the registry by the Meta-Web server. Known techniques for displaying this information include framing, HTML, cascading style sheets, and the like. As discussed in detail below, the architecture herein disclosed provides annotations, search results, and other information in a standard Web browser, as well as a suite of tools for interacting therewith.

[0074] The Meta-Web server constructs a search query page which includes a field into which a user can enter one or more search terms. Standard searching techniques, such as Boolean operations, are supported. The query page is delivered to the user's Web browser as a search form. The search form may resemble well known search forms, such as those provided by Google® or it may be presented in any other appropriate format.

[0075] When the user enters a query into the search form, the query is forwarded to the search engine by the Meta-Web server. In the preferred embodiment, a user query is processed by the Meta-Web server. Thus, a Web page is constructed by the Meta-Web Server in response to the query when a query is directed to the Meta-Web server from the user via the user's Web browser. Rather than providing results from the search engine directly to the user, the Meta-Web server examines the search results and then performs a look-up in the registry to determine if there are annotations or other information associated with the search results that might be used, for example, to order the results in terms of relevance or other orderings. Likewise, the Meta-Web server may consult the registry prior to positing the query to the search engine. The Meta-Web server may then modify the query or search space and, thereafter, submit the query to the search engine.

[0076] Any annotations or other metadata found in the registry may be added to the search results. The Meta-Web server then dynamically constructs a presentation for the user which is returned to the user. The form of the presentation may be controlled by a preference set by the user in the user's Web browser, based upon a user profile stored in the registry, or any combination thereof.

[0077] Metadata may be used by the Meta-Web server to check a query term in the registry and determine if there is a prepared way of presenting the data in connection with the term. For example, if there is a common term, it may be determined that the registry has a standard presentation or query results for that term, and that that presentation is preferred over other presentations. Thus, as an alternative to dynamic assembly of the Web page, the registry may provide the Meta-Web server with a preformed response for the query.

[0078] One embodiment of the invention provides a relevance button that may be displayed to the user to create a display item which explains the relevance of a term.

[0079] In another embodiment, the user may select an item and instead of returning the Web page to the user, that aspect of the search would be framed in the Web page with an annotation bar as discussed above. Thus, the Meta-Web server adds the annotation bar to the Web page to provide the user with the ability not only to comment on relevance or usability of the search result, but to add annotations as desired. Such annotations are then stored in the registry for further use. The annotations are thereafter linked to that user's search space so that further queries by the user bring up the annotations. Further, the annotations may be linked for all uses of that term so that queries by other individuals also produce the annotations entered by the user through the annotation bar. In this way, a community of annotations is assembled which is associated with a particular query term or search result. These aspects of the invention are discussed in greater detail below.

[0080] Thus, the presently preferred embodiment of the invention provides selected content within a frame and provides additional frames for annotations, as well as a tool bar for entering and editing annotations. The Meta-Web server dynamically creates the frame for this page and collects the content and annotations to create the complete page. In another embodiment, HTML or XML may be used to accomplish a similar purpose. Additionally, the Meta-Web server may incorporate active components, such as JavaScript or Java applets to provide additional functionality to the user during the annotation process, and may also employ cascading style sheets.

[0081] If the content selected by a user relates to a product, i.e. the URL selected by the user leads to a product node, then the Meta-Web server can perform an independent search to collect data with regard to that particular product and dynamically create a Web page for the user that includes information

collected in real time. Alternatively, the additional information may be associated with the product in the registry and the Meta-Web server associates the registry information with the product.

[0082] Various schemes are envisioned by which the registry, under direction of the Meta-Web server, may be independently updated to refresh or enhance this information. For example, a particular product may be the subject of additional independent searching under control of the Meta-Web server when a certain number of requests are made for a particular product, or when a particular interval has elapsed since the last query concerning the product. Further, independent events, such as discontinuation of a product, may trigger Meta-Web server activities.

[0083] The Meta-Web server may identify products within a Web page provided to a user as a result of a user's request for content. Thus, the Meta-Web server identifies product terms or other terms in a page of content, for example by highlighting or underlining, indicating that additional information is available to the user for those products or terms. For example, the user may be performing a search for a particular class of products and within the content a particular product is mentioned. If that product is highlighted, then the user is made aware that the Meta-Web server has identified related information in the registry. The user may then select that highlighted term and the information in the registry is then provided to the user.

[0084] For example, if the name of a product is identified, a product node may be selected and annotations associated with it may be provided to the user. Further, the Meta-Web server may provide a filter for those annotations to determine which annotations are of interest to the user, depending on the user profile or user preferences. These annotations can include offers by various merchants to sell the product and other information that may be of interest in connection with the product.

[0085] In the event of a filter being applied, the filter may be based on a user profile that may be stored in one of several places. For example, a Web site visited by the user could store a cookie related to the user. In this case, the user could automatically be logged in to the Meta-Web server or at a site being visited, all as a result of a cookie. The Meta-Web server could also keep a profile of the user in a separate database or it could use the registry database. The profile itself may comprise, for example, trusted reputation systems (see, for example, U.S. Provisional Patent Application entitled "Reputation System," Attorney Docket No. APPL007CI2PR, filed Dec. 12, 2003, U.S. Serial No. not yet assigned), preferred vendors and areas of specific user competence, interest, or understanding.

[0086] In FIG. **2**, a subject field **20** is provided which includes a portion into which the user may enter a search query. When the user has finished composing the query, the user may select the find button **22**, and the query is then passed to the Meta-Web server where it is executed.

[0087] The invention, also includes an annotation bar **21**, as discussed above, which is dynamically added to any content, such as search results, that is served to the user by the Meta-Web server. The annotation bar may include user-actuated buttons which provide such functions as allowing the user to comment **24**, ask questions **26**, indicate that the information is relevant **27**, or indicate that the information is not relevant **28**. Such buttons may be, for example, special local tools embedded in a browser or part of a separate local tool application, or, they may be incorporated into a modified results page.

[0088] The invention is envisioned as having many applications. One application of the invention concerns a product purchase, where the user is looking to buy a product on-line after getting information about it. In this example, the user types in a search expression in the subject field **20**. In the example of FIG. **2**, the user is looking for information on a flat screen TV.

[0089] FIG. **3** is a screen shot showing the results provided to the user in response to the query for a flat screen TV. The results are sorted in a way that is personalized for the user. Thus, various icons may be provided near the results. As shown in FIG. **3**, the entry "Television Shopping Review/Video/TV & HDTV" is accompanied by an icon **31** that appears in FIG. **3** to be darker, while the entry "Net-TV vs. Sony Panasonic digital flat screen TV's pure plasma" is accompanied by an icon **32** that appears to be lighter. The significance of the various icons is discussed below. If the user selects the darker icon **31**, then a pop-up window **40** provides information regarding the relevancy to the user of the search result, as shown in FIG. **4**.

[0090] As shown in FIG. **5**, if the lighter icon is selected, then a pop-up window **50** also shows relevancy of the search result, but the lighter color indicates that the search results include something of personal interest to the user, such as an endorsement by a personal friend. This can be seen in the pop-up window **50** where it is indicated that the document was recommended because "Stewart Brand likes it." In this example, Stewart Brand is a friend of the user. The assembly of the information into this format is performed by the Meta-Web server based upon the combining of information contained in the registry and the search results, as described above.

[0091] While the examples herein show icons which indicate relevancy by having lighter or darker intensity, the context of indication provided by the icons and the constituency of the icons is a matter of choice for those skilled in the art. Thus, the icons may flash, may be of different colors, may of different shapes, and the like. Further, a user may be alerted by device other than icons, such as audible beeps, and the like.

[0092] FIG. **6** is a screen shot in which the user has selected one of the search results **60** from the list of results **30**, see FIG. **3**. Various gray icons **61** are shown at the right hand side of the display. The upper icons refer to the entire document and include relevancy **62**, information **63**, and buy **64**. The bottom icons relate to a portion of the document, for example a user highlighted portion of the document, and include the availability of FAQs **65**, additional information **66**, and an option to buy **67** the product.

[0093] In FIG. **7**, the user has selected the FAQs button **65** and a pop-up window **70** provides answers to Frequently Asked Questions. The FAQs associated with the document concern that part of the document which is highlighted by the user **71**. Thus, the invention contemplates that the user can select portions of documents, which are then used by the Meta-Web server to identify annotations in the registry and dynamically generate FAQs relating thereto. Highlighting may also be accomplished automatically by the Meta-Web server, for example, in response to a user query, where the query terms are used to highlight relevant portion of a document.

[0094] In FIG. **8**, the user has selected the related items button **66** for the portion of text **80** that is highlighted by the user. As a result, a pop-up window **81** provides related items and information for the highlighted text. As above, this information is assembled dynamically by the Meta-Web server in connection with the registry.

[0095] In FIG. **9**, the user selects only the documents **91** in the related items and info window **81**.

[0096] In FIG. **10**, selected document **100** is displayed with its own annotations. Each document has a unique set of annotations. In the example of FIG. **10**, the relevancy icon **62** is illuminated to indicate that there is a comment of personal value or interest to the user.

[0097] In FIG. **11**, the user has selected the relevancy icon **62** and a pop-up window **110** provides the information of interest to the user. In this case, a window "about this document" is spawned that provides various data gathered from diverse sources that are relevant to the user.

[0098] In FIG. **12**, the user has highlighted the product "Panasonic PT-45LC12," as shown by the box **157** which surrounds the product name. The user has also selected a comment icon **120** which spawns a comment window **121** for the selected product. In this case, a message from a personal friend is displayed. The comment is associated with a product name. Note that the friend in this case has annotated the product but not the particular document that the user is currently viewing. Here, the Meta-Web server has linked Stewart Brand's comment about the product to the product itself, and it has linked the product to the document, as well as to Stewart Brand and to the current user, to display the annotation shown. Thus, various connections have been formed by the Meta-Web server based on the personal information of the user and other information, all of which reside in the registry or within the realm of resources available to the Meta-Web server.

[0099] In FIG. **13**, the user has selected an information icon **130** which spawns a pop-up window **131** that allows the user to look at information about the product that has been obtained from diverse sources.

[0100] In FIG. **14**, the user has selected a related items icon **66**. The Meta-Web server then spawns a related items window **140** in which the user finds a product node for the user highlighted product, as discussed above. The product node is an abstract Meta-Web object that is constructed by the Meta-Web out of all the information relating to the product. In this case, the node is a ranked list of information.

[0101] As shown in FIG. **15**, the user selects the item <Product Node: Panasonic PT-45LC12> 156 from the related items window.

[0102] FIG. **16** is a display that shows a Meta-Web object **150** which is a representation of a product node that is dynamically created by the Meta-Web to group together all the information relating to a product. In the example of FIG. **15**, the user interface had been tailored for a particular user through user profile and preference information. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that any of standard and personal formats may be provided for the display. In the example of FIG. **16**, a "change my window" button **151** is provided to allow the user to change the appearance of the information. By selecting the "change my window" button the user's "my window" presentation **152** may be changed.

[0103] If the user selects the manufacturer specifications sheet button **153**, the manufacturer's specification sheet **162** is displayed (see FIG. **17**). The annotations discussed above are associated with the manufacturers specifications sheet as well.

[0104] In FIG. **18**, the user has selected the buy button **64** and can enter into a personalized purchase transaction to bring the user to a preferred vendor or list of vendors. In various embodiments in the invention, the user's wallet or other personal information may be linked to the Meta-Web server such that the user's purchase transaction may proceed in an automated fashion.

[0105] A further example of the invention is concerned with an information-seeking problem where the user is looking to find information about a more complex product or service. In this example (see FIG. **19**) the user is interested in LASIK eye surgery and enters that term into the search field **20**.

[0106] As shown in FIG. **20**, a screen similar to that shown in FIG. **3**, described above, is assembled by the Meta-Web server and returned to the user, except in this case the results **190** relate to the user's query with regard to LASIK and the results have been ordered with regard to relevance to the user.

[0107] As shown in FIG. **21**, the user chooses the first document **200** in the results set. The selected document **210**, see FIG. **22**, turns out to be a technical paper on eye surgery, but the user is not interested in this result. Rather than go back to the results screen, the user selects the "Don't like it" button **28**, see FIG. **23**. This action updates the user's profile via the Meta-Web server and takes the user back to the results screen, see FIG. **24**. The Meta-Web server has used the updated user profile in this case to re-write the result list **198**. Accordingly, the user now sees a different results screen with documents that are more likely to be useful. The user selects the first document **230** (FIG. **25**). The selected document **240** (see FIG. **26**) is displayed. Note that there are annotations available for the document as indicated by the icons at the right side of the document.

[0108] As shown on FIG. **27**, the user has scrolled to the end **250** of the selected document **240**. The user selects the comment button **24** (FIG. **28**). This allows the user to add a comment to the document. A pop-up window (FIG. **29**) is spawned to ask the user to select the text which comprises an excerpt of the document that is to be associated with his comment. As shown in FIG. **30**, the user selects the text document indicated by drawing a box **280** around the text. The user then enters his comment **290** (FIG. **31**). Next, the user submits his comment to the Meta-Web server by selecting a submit button **300** (FIG. **32**) and the registry is updated to include the user comments. The comment icon **120** is now highlighted to show that a comment of personal interest has been entered by the user (FIG. **33**).

[0109] In FIG. **34**, the user is about to ask a question related to the document. In this case, the user selects the ask button **26**. The user is informed that the question with be forwarded to the author **331** (FIG. **35**). Other documents may have different mechanisms for dealing with questions, in addition to forwarding the question to the author.

[0110] By selecting the ask button **26**, the Meta-Web server spawns an ask window **330** into which the user may enter his question (FIG. **36**). The user asks his question **340** and submits it to the Meta-Web server by selecting the ask button **341**.

[0111] As shown in FIG. **37**, the user selects the buy button **64** and the Ray-Ban Ad **350** on the left side of the display is highlighted. The user is not interested in sun glasses, so he makes another choice.

[0112] As shown in FIG. **38**, the user selects another buy button **360** and the word LASIK **361** in the text is highlighted. Because the user is interested in LASIK, rather than Ray-Ban, the user selects the buy button associated with LASIK. Thus, multiple instances of buy buttons and other buttons may be presented to the user on the right hand side to help the user judge the relevancy of the particular portion of the document. The user's choice in selecting LASIK is recorded in the registry by the Meta-Web server and this information may be used in the future to provide more relevant information to the user and/or to groups of users.

[0113] As a result of selecting the buy button **360**, the user is presented with a list of vendors **370** (FIG. **39**). The list of the vendors is a results screen that is sorted in a personalized way.

As with other result screens, the relevancy of the results are displayed by various types of icons. In FIG. **39**, some icons appear darker while others appear lighter.

[0114] As shown in FIG. **40**, the user selects the personal interest icon **380**. In this example the Meta-Web server has brought together a number of pieces of information to make its recommendation. As shown in the relevancy window **381**, the vendor is "Maloney Vision Institute," Dr. Maloney is associated with the vendor, Dr. Maloney is rated highly by Dr. Szabo, and Dr. Szabo is rated highly by the user and his personal physician. Also indicated is that the vendor is covered under the user's medical insurance provider.

[0115] As shown in FIG. **41**, the vendor has an associated Web site **390** and the user selects the Web site. As a result, the vendor's Web site **400** is displayed to the user, see FIG. **42**.

[0116] Although the invention is described herein with reference to the preferred embodiment, one skilled in the art will readily appreciate that other applications may be substituted for those set forth herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the invention should only be limited by the Claims included below.

1. A system, comprising:

an information server, operable to perform operations comprising:

receiving a search query from a user device;

receiving search results responsive to the search query from a search engine;

determining from a registry that user annotations or other metadata are associated with the received search results;

ordering the search results according to their relevance, where the relevance is determined based at least in part on the user annotations or other metadata in the registry;

generating a search results page including the ordered search results and an annotation tool, wherein the annotation tool provides functions that allow a user of the user device to provide annotations for a particular search result, and wherein the annotation tool receives annotations provided by the user for later use in generating search results pages; and

transmitting the search results page to the user device for presentation.

2. The system of claim **1**, wherein the annotations provided by the user for the particular search result include at least one of comments on the particular search result, questions related to the particular search result, indications that the particular search result is relevant, and indications that the search result is not relevant.

3. The system of claim **1**, wherein the search results page includes content dynamically extracted from the registry.

4. The system of claim **1**, the operations further comprising:

generating a search query page which includes a field into which a user can enter one or more search terms.

5. The system of claim **1**, wherein the search results page further includes a relevance button; and

the operations further comprising generating a display item which explains the relevance of a term in response to a user selection of the relevance button.

6. The system of claim **1**, wherein the search results page further includes means for the user to select an item and for framing the item in a page for purposes of user annotation.

7. The system of claim **1**, wherein the annotations provided by the user are linked to a search space of the user so that further queries by said user return said annotations.

8. The system of claim **1**, wherein the search results page further includes one or more items that, when selected by the user, lead to a product node for a particular product; and

the operations further comprising performing an independent search to collect data with regard to the particular product, and generating a web page that comprises information collected in real-time.

9. The system of claim **8**, wherein the information collected in real-time includes annotations comprising offers by one or more merchants to sell the particular product and, optionally, other information of interest in connection with the particular product.

10. The system of claim **1**, the operations further comprising:

filtering the search results based on a user profile, where said user profile comprises at least one of user performances and user information, wherein said user information comprises at least one of trusted reputation systems, preferred vendors, and areas of user understanding, interest, or user competency.

11. The system of claim **1**, wherein the search results are sorted in a way that is personalized for the user.

12. The system of claim **11**, wherein the personalization is based on an endorsement by a personal friend.

13. The system of claim **1**, the operations further comprising:

forming one or more connections based on personal information of the user and other information, all of which reside in the registry or within a realm of resources available to the information server.

14. The system of claim **1**, the operations further comprising:

generating a product node that groups together all information relating to a product.

15. The system of claim **1**, the operations further comprising:

generating a buy button with which the user can enter into a personalized purchase transaction to bring the user to a preferred vendor or list of vendors.

16. The system of claim **1**, further comprising:

updating a profile of the user; and

generating an updated search results page based on the updated user profile.

17. The system of claim **1**, the operations further comprising:

generating a comment button for allowing said user to add a comment to a document or portion of a document; and

the operations further comprising adding the user comment to the registry.

18. The system of claim **1**, the operations further comprising:

generating a means for asking a question related to a document.

19. The system of claim **18**, the operations further comprising:

generating multiple instances of action buttons that are presented to the user to help the user judge the relevancy of a particular portion of the document.

20. The system of claim **1**, wherein the registry establishes connections between objects stored in the registry, the connections comprising typed lines between the registry objects, the connections optionally comprising relationships between the objects, the objects optionally comprising a representation of at least one of products, people, places, categories, groups, organizations, roles, documents, portions of documents, certifications, ratings, dates, and times.

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