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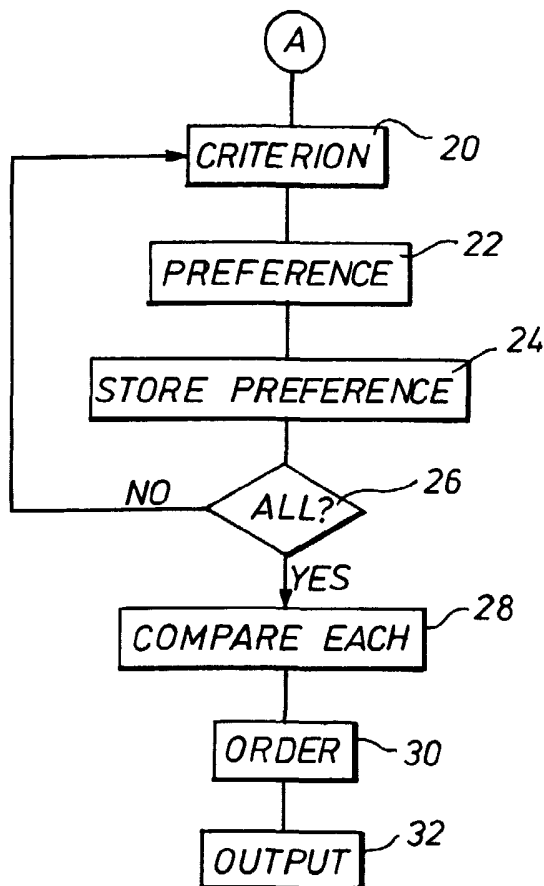
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DATABASE INTERROGATION



(57) Abstract: Database interrogation means for selecting a database entry for which data is stored within the database in a plurality of fields, comprising input means operable to receive data indicating the preference of a user in relation to at least some of the fields, processing means operable to compare user preferences with the corresponding fields for database entries, the processing means being further operable to provide an order for database entries, at least in part in accordance with the number of fields for which database entries match the user preferences, and output means operable to identify the database entries to the user in accordance with the order provided by the processing means.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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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, 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 6 073 130 A (KRISHNAMURTHY BALACHANDER ET AL) 6 June 2000 (2000-06-06) column 3, line 46 -column 4, line 1; figure 3 column 4, line 20 - line 24	1-21
X	EP 0 810 535 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 3 December 1997 (1997-12-03) column 18, line 17 -column 19, line 20; figures 5,6	1,2,6, 8-12,16, 18-21
X	US 5 544 049 A (HENDERSON RICHARD D ET AL) 6 August 1996 (1996-08-06) column 3, line 25 - line 34 column 4, line 19 - line 44; figure 2 -/--	1,2,6, 8-12,16, 18-21

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 012 053 A (SCHIEGG MICHAEL J ET AL) 4 January 2000 (2000-01-04) column 7, line 6 - line 13 column 10, line 38 - line 47 column 11, line 21 - line 32; figure 4 column 12, line 64 -column 13, line 8	1,8-11, 18-21
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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