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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CREATING UNIVERSAL LOCATION REFERENCING OBJECTS

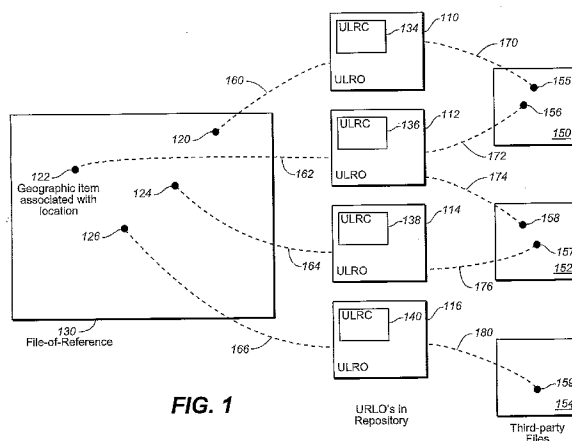


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A method and system for creating and/or using a universal location referencing object (ULRO) with electronic files including electronic maps. ULROs establish traversable links between a file-of-reference and third-party-files. In accordance with an embodiment, the ULRO comprises a universal location referencing code uniquely corresponding to the location, together with several optional components, including: a set of name information; a super-set of coordinates; a file-of-reference pointer field comprising a file-of-reference pointer; a third-party-file pointer field comprising one or more third-party-file pointers; a file-of-reference back-pointer field comprising a file-of-reference back-pointer; a third-party-file back-pointer field comprising one or more third-party-file back-pointers; and a metadata field. ULROs allow recognition of equivalence of features in different maps, and facilitate dynamic combination or linking of multiple maps into one virtual map, with traversable connectivity for a wide variety of map formats.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: **G01C 21/30(2006.01),21/32(2006.01);G06F 3/48**

USPC: 701/200,209;315/32,46,76;707/10,23;709/201,217;715/853,854,855,234

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

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

MS COMPUTER DICTIONARY, 3RD EDITION

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 7,069,518 A (CARD et al) 27 June 2006, see the whole reference.	1-34
Y	US 6,674,445 A (CHITHAMBARAM et al) 06 January 2004 (06.01.2004), column 8 lines 1-10, figure 1.	6,12,28,34
Y	US 6,418,441 A (CALL) 09 July 2002 (09.07.2002), column 1 line 65 to column 2 line 8, figures 1-2, and 7-8.	1-34
Y	US PUBLICATION 2005/0210412 A1 (MATTHEWS et al) 22 September 2005 (22.09.2005), see paragraph [0063], figures 3-5, paragraph [0005] through paragraph [0014].	1-34

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
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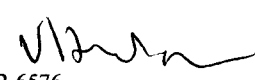
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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

WEST/DERWENT, IEEE XPLORE

search terms: universal location reference code/object, interface, location, index, map, link, geographic location, retrieve, hierarchical relation, file, pointer, structure, third-party file, file-of-reference, unique location, reference, database