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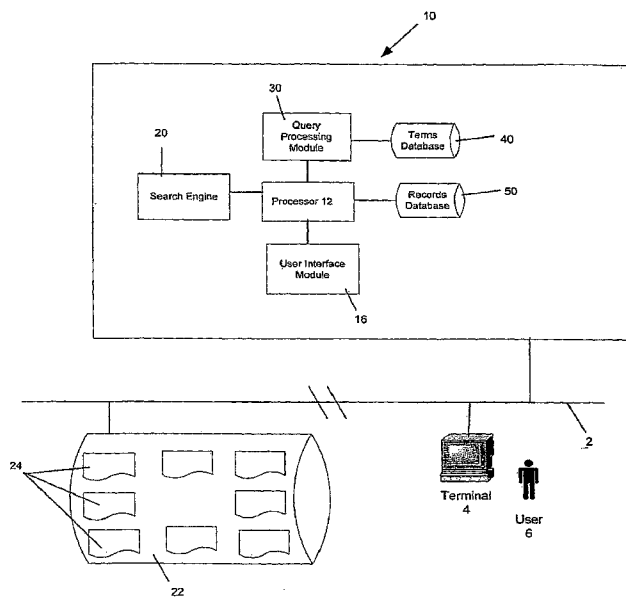
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(54) Title: SEARCH SYSTEM WITH QUERY REFINEMENT AND SEARCH METHOD



(57) Abstract: A search system and method for searching for electronic documents, and providing a search result in response to a search query. In one embodiment, the search system includes a processor, a user interface module adapted to receive a search query from a user that includes a search query term, a search engine that electronically searches for electronic documents that satisfy the search query term, and a query processing module that identifies at least one alternative term for the search query term, and provides the alternative term to the user interface module for display to the user, and also provides the alternative term to the search engine to search for electronic documents that satisfy the alternative term.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC(8) - G06F 7/00 (2007.01)
 USPC - 707/3
 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)
 USPC:707/3

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
 USPC: 707/1, 4, 5, 104.1 (text search - see terms below)

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 PubWEST(USPT,PGPB,EPAB,JPAB); DialogPRO(Engineering); Google Scholar
 Search Terms Used: search/query refinement/reformulation, alternative search term, canonical sense, domain category, part-of-speech, user interface/search/query processing module

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ----- Y	US 6,169,986 B1 (BOWMAN et al.) 02 January 2001 (02.01.2001), Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Fig. 9, abstract, col.2, ln 48-64, col.5, ln 62-66, col.6, ln 4-21, col.14 and ln 10-57.	1-3, 5-7, 15-16, 18-20, 28-29 and 31-33 ----- 4, 8-14, 17, 21-27, 30 and 34-40
Y	US 6,523,028 B1 (DIDOMIZIO et al.) 18 February 2003 (18.02.2003), Fig. 5 and col.8, ln 26-63.	4, 8-10, 17, 21-23, 30 and 34-36
Y	US 6,269,368 B1 (DIAMOND) 31 July 2001 (31.07.2001), col.2, ln 45-67 and col.8, ln 40-57.	11-14, 24-27 and 37-40

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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