Abstract: Systems and methods for preparing electronic searches are disclosed. In situations involving large number of items for many models of products, searches can be burdensome to the database. Moreover, variations in user skills can make many search requests inefficient and even meaningless. In one embodiment, search requests (378) from users are prepared at a web server (370) so as to form a more focused and meaningful search query (380) for the database. Because such computing resource investments can be made at one or more servers, burden of heavy search loads can be distributed to the servers from the database. Various techniques for forming search queries can include translating (160) abbreviations, nomenclatures, and misspellings. Moreover, use of standardized words (162) allows for more efficient searches. In one embodiment, large number of automobile parts can be searched efficiently by prioritized matching of vehicle model information and part information from a search request in forming the search query.
before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the “Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations” appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
26 July 2007
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. G06F17/30

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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
G06F

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
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<th>Category*</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No</th>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>EP 0 522 591 A2 (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP [OP] MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP [DE]) 13 January 1993 (1993-01-13) abstract column 5, lines 3-41 column 7, lines 17-34 column 8, line 45 - column 9, line 50 column 11, lines 29-43 column 12, lines 11-14 column 13, lines 23-35</td>
<td>1-25</td>
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</table>

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

X* document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y* document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
26 January 2007

Date of mailing of the international search report
13/06/2007

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
European Patent Office, P B 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV RUISWijk
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Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Denoual, Matthieu
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<td>column 6, lines 20-57</td>
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This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos. because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely

2. Claims Nos. because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos. because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 64(a)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

- see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims, it is covered by claims Nos.

1-25

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant’s protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees
This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-25
   Method of interpreting a query

2. claims: 26-27
   Method of suggesting further query selection criteria

3. claims: 28-30
   Method of indexing data
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