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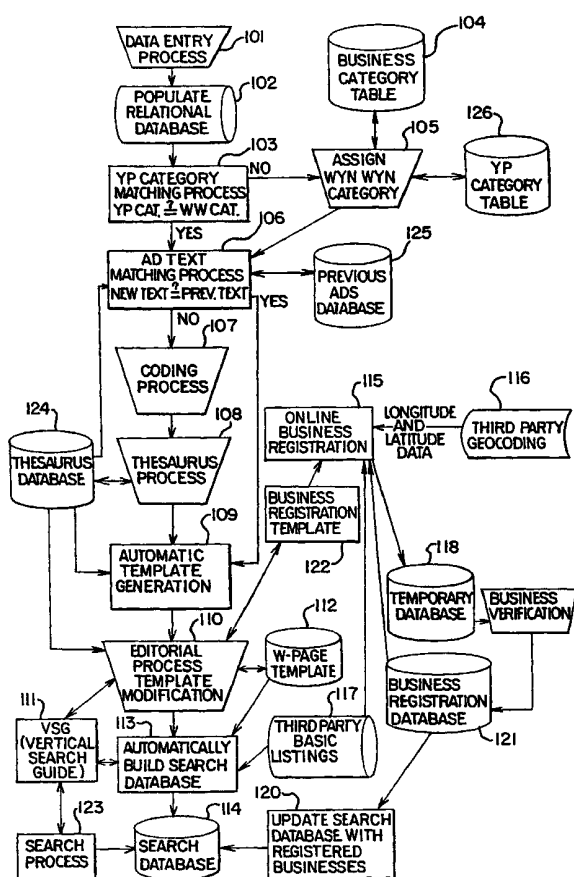
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(54) Title: ONLINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY WITH THESAURUS AND SEARCH TEMPLATE



(57) Abstract: A method that enables the generation of enhanced electronic business listing databases and associated category search template and thesaurus for improved electronic yellow pages search systems is presented. According to one embodiment of the present invention entry and populate relational processes (101, 102) data is captured from printed Yellow Pages ads. In the category matching processes (103) the data captured from each ad is assigned a Yellow Pages category (105). One or more Yellow Pages categories are aggregated into a common business category. The result of this aggregation process is recorded in the business category table (104). The method can be used to generate an electronic database with enhanced information regarding businesses and the products and/or services they provide. The method generates category-specific templates that facilitate searching a business, registering a business, and providing detailed information about a business. The electronic search database and the associated templates are created based on category-specific thesaurus terms.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/04321

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :G06F 17/60

US CL :705/26

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)

U.S. : 705/7-11,26-29

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 practicable, search terms used)

DIALOG, WEST:

search terms: business, listing, inventory, category, template, codify

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,463,555 A (WARD ET AL) 31 OCTOBER 1995, see abstract.	1-25
A	US 5,926,798 A (CARTER) 20 JULY 1999.	1-25
A	US 6,055,513 A (KATZ ET AL) 25 APRIL 2000.	1-25

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* 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
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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