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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DATABASE RETRIEVAL, INDEXING AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a system and method with the capacity to compare and analyze keywords of a specific area of study. By the use of the methods of the present invention, some sets of keywords will be seen as 'warming up' due to their upward trends, whereas other keywords might be seen as 'cooling down' due to their downward trends. Given the accepted fact that growing areas of research are the ones that are more likely to produce scientific breakthroughs, the system identifies these emerging ('hot') areas of research would accelerate the scientific advances of their users. Similarly, users will be able to view and shift from non-productive ('cool') areas of research to productive 'hot' areas. The invention involves the utilization of a commercially available database program and provides specific keywords associated with the investigated topic. The present invention also provides a method for indexing the keywords using a keyword tree structure database so the data is in the correct format for analysis. This invention also provides a method for analyzing the number of occurrences of keywords along with the analysis of an impact factor associated with the keywords. The formatted data then allows the construction of several charts so a user can easily assess the state and forefront of a specified topic.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/12412

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: G06F 17/30

USPC: 707/6

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. : 707/6

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,732,360 A (NOMIYAMA) 24 March 1998 (24.03.1998), figure 2 and column 3, lines 32-38.	1-17, 19-23, 26-36
Y	US 5,321,833 A (CHANG et al) 14 June 1994 (14.06.1994), column 2, lines 46-63.	1-17, 19-23, 26-36
Y	US5,321,833 A (CHANG et al) 14 June 1994 (14.06.1994), column 2, lines 46-63.	1-17, 19-23, 26-36

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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