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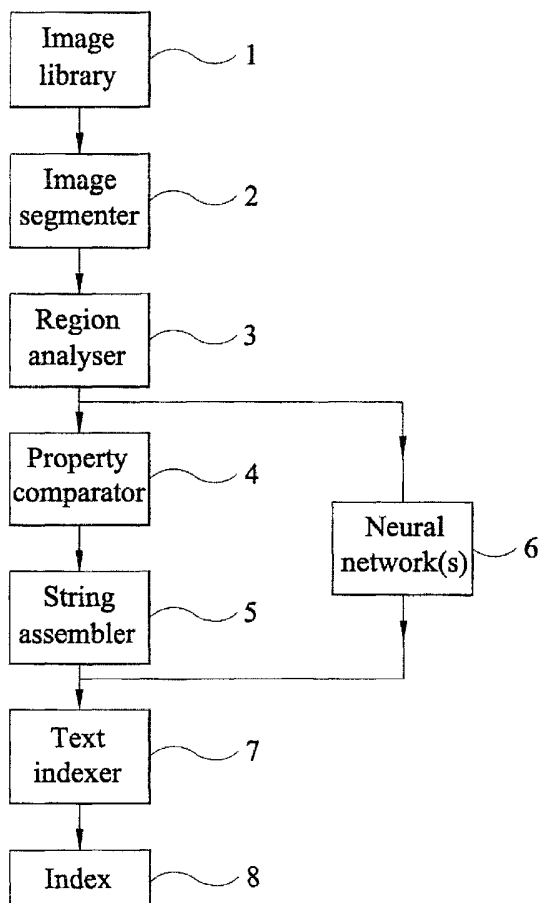
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR CLASSIFYING AN IMAGE



(57) Abstract: A technique is provided for classifying images in a library (1) for subsequent selective retrieval. Each library image is segmented (2) into a plurality of coherent regions. Each of the regions is analysed in respect of a plurality of visual properties, each of which is ascribed a number according to the value of the visual property. The property numbers are then compared (4) with bands of the available property range and a computer-readable character, such as a letter of the alphabet, is ascribed to each of the property values. The characters are then arranged (5) in a predetermined order to form a region character string. The strings for each region are then indexed (7) to form an index (8) of the images by region character string. For image retrieval, a target image (10) is analysed in the same way to form region character strings which are then supplied to a text retrieval system (12) for detecting matches with entries in the index (8). Library images having matching regions are retrieved from the library (1).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB 00/04319

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F17/30

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)

IPC 7 G06F G06K

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, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	GONG Y ET AL: "AN IMAGE DATABASE SYSTEM WITH CONTENT CAPTURING AND FAST IMAGE INDEXING ABILITIES" PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MULTIMEDIA COMPUTING AND SYSTEMS, LOS ALAMITOS, CA, US, 1994, pages 121-130, XP000501388 page 122-126	1-31
A	CARSON C ET AL: "Region-based image querying" CONTENT-BASED ACCESS OF IMAGE AND VIDEO LIBRARIES, 1997. PROCEEDINGS IEEE WORKSHOP ON SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 20 JUNE 1997, LOS ALAMITOS, CA, USA, IEEE COMPUT. SOC, US, 1997, pages 42-49, XP010252102 ISBN: 0-8186-7981-6 the whole document	1-31
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 September 2003

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 913 205 A (JAIN RAMESH ET AL) 15 June 1999 (1999-06-15) column 4 column 12 column 15 ---	1-31
A	US 5 751 286 A (BARBER RONALD JASON ET AL) 12 May 1998 (1998-05-12) column 5, line 52-62 column 6, line 61 -column 7, line 55 ---	1-31
P,X	WO 99 67696 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV ;PHILIPS SVENSKA AB (SE)) 29 December 1999 (1999-12-29) page 4, line 21 -page 6, line 24 -----	1-11,15, 17-31

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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