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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

**Published:**

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

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(54) Title: SOCIAL SEARCH ENGINE

(57) Abstract: Methods, systems, and apparatus, including computer programs encoded on a computer storage medium, for a social search engine. In one aspect, a method includes receiving a question from an asker in which the question is associated with one or more topics; selecting candidate answerers based at least partly on each answerer's respective relationship to the asker; sending the question successively to groups of one or more candidate answerers according to the ranking until an answer is received from a particular one of the candidate answerers; and sending to the asker the received answer and information that identifies the particular answerer.



<b>INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT</b>		International application No. PCT/US10/54808
<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC: <b>G06F 15/16( 2006.01);G06N 5/02( 2006.01)</b>  USPC:       709/206,204;706/50 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 709/206, 204, 203, 223, 224; 706/50, 12, 45, 62		
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) Please See Continuation Sheet		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, E	US 8,135,609 B2 (BRITT, JR. et al.) 13 March 2012 (13.03.2012), entire document.	1-25
X, P --- Y, P	US 2010/0125605 A1 (NAIR et al.) 20 May 2010 (20.05.2010), entire document.	26, 28-34, 36-38, 40-46, and 48-50 ----- 27, 35, 39, and 47
Y	US 2009/0265317 A1 (BUEHRER et al.) 22 October 2009 (22.10.2009), entire document.	27 and 39
Y	TRICE et al., Consensus Knowledge Acquisition, 1989, MIT, pp: 1-25.	35 and 47
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents:		
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"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
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
Date of the actual completion of the international search 11 August 2016 (11.08.2016)		Date of mailing of the international search report <b>18 AUG 2016</b>
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201		Authorized officer Tom Barrett Telephone No. (571) 272-4300

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**International application No.  
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## Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST: US-PGPIR; USPAT

Search Terms: select\$5, choos\$5, pick\$4, candidate, answerer, user, subscriber, person, individual, responder, customer, answer\$4, respond\$4, reply\$4, question\$4, inquir\$4, quer\$4, issue, problem, challenge, riddle, particular, specific, certain, specialized, special, group\$4, collection, set, classsif\$9, sort\$5, arrang\$7, class, categor\$8, target\$5, survey\$5, participant, advice, opinion, relation\$5, friend, coworker, co-worker, colleague, family, experts, "level of expertise", expertise, training, trained, classifier\$1, social, connection\$1, network\$1, graph\$1, query, gueries, question\$1, permission, expert\$1, "interactive link", website\$1, hyperlink\$1, product\$1, company, companies, merchant\$1, buying, selling, service, "google adwords", "search engine", duster\$3, classify\$3, classifies, dustering, duster, dusters, topic\$1, recommendation, recommendation\$1, recommend\$1, pay, click

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US10/54808

**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

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 6.4(a).

**Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)**

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

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 additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
  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.:
- Remark on Protest**
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
  - The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
  - No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.