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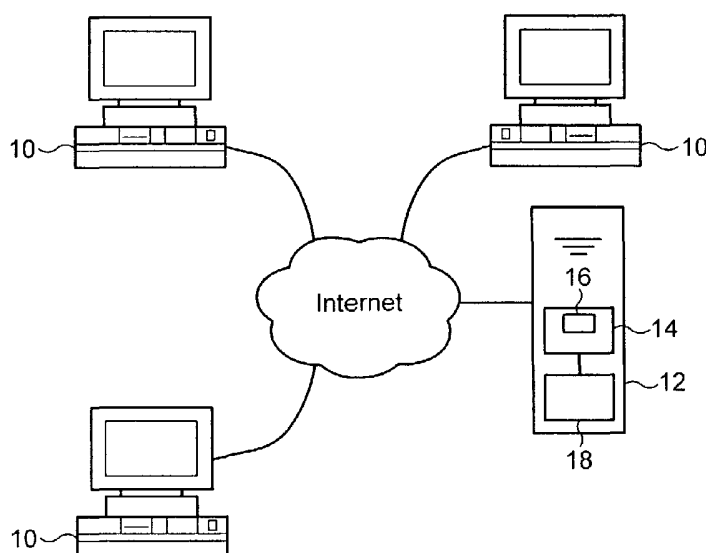
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING PATHOLOGICAL TEST RESULTS



(57) Abstract: An interactive computer based system for providing pathology results to a registered user, preferably, a clinician, the system comprising: a) means for storing a plurality of pathology test results, preferably from a plurality of different pathology labs, each pathology result being associated with a registered user; b) means for allowing remote access to the test results for the registered user; c) search means for searching for specific test results based on the registered user who is accessing the system, and d) means for transmitting or downloading the pathology test results associated with the registered user to that user.



— *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.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 Internat^l application No
 PCT/GB 02/00835

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G06F19/00

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

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, BIOSIS, COMPENDEX, INSPEC, IBM-TDB, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 018 713 A (COLI ROBERT D ET AL) 25 January 2000 (2000-01-25)	1-3, 10-16, 18-21, 30-33
Y	abstract column 2, line 65 -column 3, line 20 column 3, line 43 -column 4, line 24 column 15, line 66 -column 16, line 8; figure 13 claims 1,5 --- -/--	4-9, 22-29

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

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)

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

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.

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

6 June 2003

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18/06/2003

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat^l Application No
PCT/GB 02/00835

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6 139 494 A (CAIRNES WALTER J) 31 October 2000 (2000-10-31) abstract figures 1,7 claims 1,4,20 column 5, line 51 -column 6, line 36 column 9, line 21 - line 52 -----	4-9, 22-29
X	TADDEI A ET AL: "Medical record system for cardiology and cardiac surgery" COMPUTERS IN CARDIOLOGY, 1999 HANNOVER, GERMANY 26-29 SEPT. 1999, PISCATAWAY, NJ, USA, IEEE, US, 26 September 1999 (1999-09-26), pages 85-88, XP010366972 ISBN: 0-7803-5614-4 the whole document -----	1,3,19, 35

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB 02/00835

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 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.: 17, 34, 37-43
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:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

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 II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 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 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.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/GB 02 /00835

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 17, 34, 37-43

Claims 17, 34 and claims 37-43 are unclear in such an extent, that a meaningful search is not possible, for the following reasons:

- with regard to claim 17: the wording of claim 17, vaguely related to a web site, when considered as a whole is vague and indefinite.

- with regard to claim 34: the wording is unclear, because the meaning of the claim cannot be assessed; despite of the fact that the claim refers to a method it includes the feature of an "updating program". Therefore, it is not specified whether this claim refers to a method or to a computer program and consequently, the category of the claim can not be determined.

- with regard to claim 37, it vaguely refers to a user terminal; however this entity is not specified in the wording of the claim by concrete technical features; this fact leaves the reader in a state of uncertainty with regard to the subject-matter claimed.

- with regard to claim 38, the wording is unclear, because the meaning of the claim cannot be assessed; the claim refers to an "electronical signal", therefore it is not specified whether this claim refers to a method, a system or to a computer program and consequently, the category of the claim can not be determined.

- with regard to claim 39: claim 39 is too broad and vague and it does not have a specific technical meaning, because it refers to a method of providing pathology results comprising transmitting a message, without clearly specifying the type of message, the content of such message, and the modalities according to which such message should be sent.

- with regard to claims 40-43: These claims only contain references to the drawings. According to Rule 6.2(a) PCT, claims should not contain such references except where absolutely necessary, which is not the case here. The subject-matter to be claimed is not clear.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/JP 02/00835

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6018713	A	25-01-2000	NONE	
US 6139494	A	31-10-2000	NONE	