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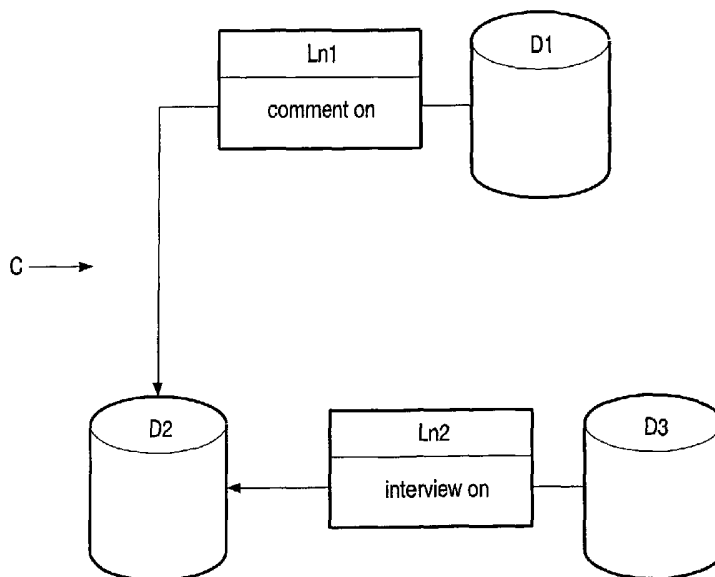
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS



(57) Abstract: A system and a method for processing electronic documents are described in which an input document D1 and reference data D2 are examined whether there is a content-based relation between the input document D1 and the reference data D2. For the case of a content-based relation, a type of linkage is selected from a number of predefined types of linkages in accordance with the type of content-based relation and a respective linkage between the documents is established. The invention makes it possible for the type of relation between two documents to be recognized automatically. For example, a document flow can be segmented in suitable manner and classified and also stored in an appropriately interlinked manner.



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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
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**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

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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.
Y	GB 2 329 988 A (IBM) 7 April 1999 (1999-04-07) page 6, paragraph 2 page 6, last paragraph - page 7, paragraph 2; figure 2 page 8, paragraph 3 - paragraph 4; figure 3	1-12
Y	WO 01/97070 A (ARTESIA TECHNOLOGIES INC) 20 December 2001 (2001-12-20) page 4, line 3 - line 8; figures 2,4 page 4, line 17 - line 27; figure 3 page 5, line 35 - page 6, line 3  ----- -/--	1-12

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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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 5 794 257 A (LIU PEIYA ET AL) 11 August 1998 (1998-08-11) column 3, line 26 - line 47; figure 3 column 4, line 31 - column 5, line 22 column 6, line 22 - line 23 column 6, line 52 - column 7, line 15; figures 4,5 -----	1,11,12
A	US 6 184 885 B1 (DESTEFANO GEORGE FRANCIS) 6 February 2001 (2001-02-06) column 7, line 21 - line 32; figure 3 column 8, line 4 - line 51 column 11, line 22 - line 43; table I -----	1,11,12

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WO 0197070	A	20-12-2001	AU WO	6831401 A 0197070 A1	24-12-2001 20-12-2001
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US 6184885	B1	06-02-2001	NONE		