

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A computer-implemented method of displaying data on a screen including:
sorting electronic documents in a data set into a set of categories;
5 assigning an indicia to each category in the set of categories, wherein an identical indicia is assigned to each electronic document sorted into a respective category;
displaying each electronic document as one or more respective cell comprising a respective indicia;
10 grouping the cells comprising an identical indicia; and
displaying each group of the grouped cells as a component of a complex object to thereby display the data on the screen;
wherein the complex object comprises an ecologically valid visual display that is familiar to a user and the complex object being a biomimetic visual metaphor,
15 the complex object growing, shrinking and/or otherwise changing or developing; and
wherein the screen display is a real-time display which changes with respect to a change in the data set.
2. The method of claim 1 further including the step of receiving the data set.
3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2 further including the step of outputting the
20 display.
4. A data display displayed on a screen as a screen display, the data display comprising:
a complex object comprising one or more group comprising grouped cells, each group representing a category in a set of categories and comprising a plurality of
25 cells comprising an identical indicia, each cell representing a respective document comprised in a data set wherein each document has been sorted into the set of categories;
wherein the complex object comprises an ecologically valid visual display that is familiar to a user and the complex object being a biomimetic visual metaphor,
30 the complex object growing, shrinking and/or otherwise changing or developing; and
wherein the screen display is a real-time display which changes with respect

to a change in the data set.

5. A computer-implemented system for displaying data on a screen comprising:
 - a processor for sorting documents in a data set into a set of categories, assigning one or more indicia to each document, wherein an identical indicia is assigned to each document sorted into a respective category, each respective indicia allocated a group corresponding to a respective category in the set of categories, and grouping the identical indicia;
 - a screen display for displaying each indicia so that grouped indicia form a group and the one or more group forms a complex object, the complex object comprising an ecologically valid visual display that is familiar to a user and the complex object being a biomimetic visual metaphor, the complex object growing, shrinking and/or otherwise changing or developing; and
 - wherein the screen display is a real-time display which changes with respect to a change in the data set.
6. The system of claim 5 further comprising an input for receiving the data set.
7. The system of claim 5 or claim 6 further comprising an output for outputting the display or data comprising the display.
8. A screen display displaying data according to the method of any one of claims 1 to 3.
9. A system for displaying data according to the method of any one of claims 1 to 3.
10. A computer program product comprising:
 - a computer usable medium and computer readable program code embodied on said computer usable medium for displaying data on a screen, the computer readable code comprising:
 - computer readable program code devices (i) configured to cause the computer to sort documents in a data set into a set of categories;
 - computer readable program code devices (ii) configured to cause the computer to assign one or more indicia to each category in the set of categories, wherein an identical indicia is assigned to each document sorted into a respective category; and

computer readable program code devices (iii) configured to cause the computer to display each indicia, group the cells having an identical indicia into one or more group and display the one or more group to form a complex object to thereby display the data;

5 wherein the complex object comprises an ecologically valid visual display that is familiar to a user and the complex object being a biomimetic visual metaphor, the complex object growing, shrinking and/or otherwise changing or developing; and
 wherein the screen display is a real-time display which changes with respect to a change in the data set.

10 11. The method, display, system or product of any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein the growth may be in one, two or three dimensions.

12. The method, display, system or product of any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein the complex object may be a tree.

15 13. The method, display, system or product of any one of claims 1 to 12 wherein the complex object may comprise one or more feature.

14. The method, display, system or product of any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein the one or more feature may comprise one group.

15. The method, display, system or product of any one of claims 1 to 14 wherein the one or more feature may be associated with the complex object.

20 16. The method, display, system or product of any one of claims 1 to 15 wherein when the complex object is a tree, the feature may be a branch, a leaf, a flower, a fruit, a bird or a bee.

25 17. The method, display, system or product of any one of claims 1 to 16 wherein the complex object is a tree, the growth, shrink and/or other change or development may comprise growth of branches and leaves and well as dying off of branches and leaves.

18. The method, display, system or product of any one of claims 1 to 17 wherein a cell representing a document comprising one or more search term may be highlighted.

30 19. The method, display, system or product of any one of claims 1 to 18 wherein a document comprised in the data set may be opened by clicking on the respective

cell or displayed title.

20. The method, display, system or product of any one of claims 1 to 19 wherein the components of the complex object may be produced automatically as a result of bottom-up self organisation.