CLAIMS

What is Claimed Is:

1. An automated inventory control system comprising:

an object storage device including a plurality of compartments, each compartment including a plurality of storage locations for storing objects;

a sensing system configured to determine presence and absence of objects stored in the plurality of compartments;

a display device configured to display information about the object storage device; and

one or more processors configured to:

monitor objects stored in the plurality of compartments, record issued objects stored in the plurality of compartments and, return of objects stored in the plurality of compartments;

establish a description database of objects configured for storage in the automated inventory control system;

retrieve object keywords corresponding to objects stored in the plurality of storage locations of one of the plurality of compartments;

generate a text block based on the retrieved object keywords;

display, on the display device, a representation of the plurality of compartments of the object storage device with the text block applied to the one of the plurality of compartments;

determine a presence of the objects within the one of the plurality of compartments based on a sensing signal received from the sensing system and identifiers of the objects in the description database; and

identify a most frequently used object of the one or the plurality of compartments based on a result of the determination of the presence of the objects, wherein the text block is generated to include a keyword corresponding to the most frequently used object.

2. The inventory control system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of compartments are a plurality of drawers.

3. The inventory control system of claim 1, wherein the display, on the display device, of the representation of the plurality of compartments of the object storage device reflects relative locations and sizes of the respective compartments.

4. The inventory control system of claim 1, wherein the text block is applied to the one of the plurality of compartments by being overlaid on a display associated with the one of the plurality of compartments.

5. The inventory control system of claim 1, wherein the text block is generated based on user input to an administrative application.

6. The inventory control system of claim 1, wherein the text block is generated automatically based on a number of instances of a keyword in the retrieved object keywords.

7. The inventory control system of claim 1, wherein the display device is further configured to receive input from users to access stored objects.

8. The inventory control system of claim 1, wherein a number of the drawers to be displayed and a text box for entering text to be displayed in the text block overlaid upon corresponding drawer are displayed as a table.

9. A method, comprising:

storing objects in an automated object storage device including a plurality of compartments, each compartment including a plurality of storage locations for storing objects;

determining, with a sensing system of the automated storage device, a presence and an absence of objects stored in the plurality of compartments,

monitoring, with the sensing system, objects stored in the plurality of compartments;

recording issued objects stored in the plurality of compartments;

monitoring, with the sensing system, a return of objects stored in the plurality of compartments;

storing a description database of objects configured for storage in the automated inventory control system;

retrieving object keywords corresponding to objects stored in the plurality of storage locations of one of the plurality of compartments;

generating a text block based on the retrieved object keywords;

receiving user input, at the object storage device, that corresponds to a request for access to an object stored in the one of the plurality of compartments;

displaying, on a display device, a representation of the plurality of compartments of the object storage device with the text block applied to the one of the plurality of compartments;

determining a presence of the objects within the one of the plurality of compartments based on a sensing signal received from the sensing system and identifiers of the objects in the description database; and

identifying a most frequently used object of the one of the plurality of compartments based on a result of the determination of the presence of the objects, wherein the text block is generated to include a keyword corresponding to the most frequently used object.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the plurality of compartments are a plurality of drawers.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the display, on the display device, of the representation of the plurality of compartments of the object storage device reflects relative locations and sizes of the respective compartments.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the text block is applied to the one of the plurality of compartments by being overlaid on a display associated with the one of the plurality of compartments.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the text block is generated based on user input to an administrative application.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein the text block is generated automatically based on a number of instances of a keyword in the retrieved object keywords.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein a number of the drawers to be displayed and a text box for entering text to be displayed in the text block overlaid upon corresponding drawer are displayed as a table.