ARCHIVING AND RETRIEVAL METHOD AND APPARATUS

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a method and an arrangement for maintaining an organized and automated archiving and retrieval system including a personal biography of original documents (E) or other original real objects as well as an electronic archive containing copies of such original real objects with guaranteed access. This is done by establishing a machine and/or human readable "unique identifier" (UID) distributed with each original real object, a personal archive allowing a person to maintain a personal biography, a managed storage containing electronic copies of the distributed original real objects, and means for controlled, but guaranteed access to the stored electronic copies. The unique identifier (UID) is established and controlled by a service provider (5), and attached to each original (document) (E) when it is distributed, usually by the publisher (P), so it can be read by the user(U), preferably with a simple reader for entering it electronically into his personal archive.

Figure 1.