

ABSTRACT

Provided is an apparatus which displays a retrieval result in a manner which enables a user to easily recognize the position in an information space of an object found through the retrieval.

A database 10 holds information on coordinates of respective objects in the information space. A viewport generator 22 has at least a portion of the information space as a display area, and generates a viewport image displaying icons of the objects in the display area. In response to retrieval query input made by the user, a retrieval unit 16 performs a retrieving operation through the database 10 to find an object or objects satisfying the retrieval query. A controller 10 provides a display processor 20 with a list of objects found as a result of the retrieving operation. The viewport generator 22 of the display processor 20 displays the entire information space by expanding or reducing it in accordance with the size of the viewport, and displays icons representing the objects of the retrieval result found through the retrieving operation, in a display form different from a display form of icons which are not the retrieval result.

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