CLAIMS

1. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image forming means arranged to form an image on a recording medium; and

an operation unit comprising:

a panel portion arranged to display information; and

a communication portion provided in the operation unit, comprising an antenna capable of transmitting/receiving radio waves to/from a communication device brought close to the operation unit, and capable of executing communication between the communication device and the antenna by a near field communication system, the antenna being provided at a position neighboring the panel portion on a front side of the panel portion in a direction heading from a back surface to a front surface of the image forming apparatus and within an area of the panel portion in a direction orthogonal to the direction heading from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus.

2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the operation unit comprises an input portion arranged to input a signal to the image forming apparatus, the input portion being disposed at a position neighboring the panel portion in the direction orthogonal to the direction from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus.

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

the input portion is a ten key for inputting numerals.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the input portion is a key for starting an image forming operation.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the input portion is a key for stopping the image forming operation.

6. The image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 through 5, wherein the communication portion comprises a communication circuit electrically connected with the antenna, the communication circuit being disposed at a position neighboring the panel portion on the front side of the panel portion in the direction from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus and within an area of the panel portion in the direction orthogonal to the direction from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus.

7. The image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 through 6, wherein the antenna is disposed at an end side of the operation unit in the direction from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus.

8. The image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 through 6, wherein the antenna is disposed at a front end part of the image forming apparatus in the direction from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus.

9. The image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 through 8, wherein the operation unit is movable with respect to the apparatus body.

10. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image forming means arranged to form an image on a recording medium; and

an operation unit comprising:

a panel portion arranged to display information; and

a communication portion provided in the operation unit, comprising an antenna capable of transmitting/receiving radio waves to/from a communication device brought close to the operation unit, and capable of executing communication between the communication device and the antenna by a near field communication system, the antenna being provided at a position under the panel portion in terms of a vertical direction, within an area of the panel portion in terms of a direction orthogonal to the vertical direction, and neighboring the panel portion.

11. The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the operation unit comprises an input portion arranged to input a signal to the image forming apparatus, the input portion being disposed at a position neighboring the panel portion in terms of the direction orthogonal to the vertical direction.

12. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

the input portion is a ten key for inputting numerals.

13. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the input portion is a key for starting an image forming operation.

14. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the input portion is a key for stopping the image forming operation.

15. The image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 10 through 14, wherein the communication portion comprises a communication circuit electrically connected with the antenna, the communication circuit being disposed at a position neighboring the panel portion under the panel portion in terms of the vertical direction and within an area of the panel portion in terms of the direction orthogonal to the direction from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus.

16. The image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 10 through 15, wherein the antenna is disposed on a bottom of a surface of the operation unit in terms of the vertical direction.

17. The image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 10 through 16, wherein the operation unit is movable with respect to the apparatus body.

CLAIMS

1. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image forming unit configured to form an image on a recording medium;

a reading portion disposed over the image forming unit and configured to read an image on an original;

a discharging tray disposed over the image forming unit and below the reading portion, and on which a recording medium, on which the image is formed, is stacked, the discharge portion arranged such that the recording medium stacked on the discharging tray is able to be taken out from the front side of the image forming apparatus; and

an operation unit disposed on a front side of the reading portion in a direction heading from a back surface to a front surface of the image forming apparatus such that the operation unit neighbors the reading portion, and at least a part of the operation unit overlaps with the discharging tray in a direction of the recording medium being discharged to the discharging tray, the operation unit comprising:

a panel portion comprising:

a display panel configured to display an information of the image forming apparatus; and

a touch panel which detects an input operation from a user to change an information displayed on the display panel according to the input operation;

a communication portion comprising an antenna capable of transmitting/receiving radio waves to/from a communication device brought close to the operation unit, and capable of executing communication between the communication device and the antenna by a near field communication system, the antenna being provided at a

position neighboring the panel portion on the front side of the panel portion in the direction heading from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus and within an area of the panel portion in a direction orthogonal to the direction heading from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus.

2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the operation unit comprises an input portion arranged to input a signal to the image forming apparatus, the input portion being disposed at a position neighboring the panel portion in the direction orthogonal to the direction from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus.

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the input portion is a ten key for inputting numerals.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the input portion is a key for starting an image forming operation.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the input portion is a key for stopping the image forming operation.

6. The image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 through 5, where in the communication portion comprises a communication circuit electrically connected with the antenna, the communication circuit being disposed at a position neighboring the panel portion on the front side of the panel portion in the direction from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus and within an

area of the panel portion in the direction orthogonal to the direction from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus.

7. The image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 through 6, wherein the antenna is disposed at an end side of the operation unit in the direction from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus.

8. The image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 through 6, wherein the antenna is disposed at a front end part of the image forming apparatus in the direction from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus.

9. The image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 through 8, wherein the operation unit is movable with respect to the apparatus body.

10. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image forming unit configured to form an image on a recording medium;

an operation unit comprising:

a panel portion comprising:

a display panel configured to display an information of the image forming apparatus; and

a touch panel which detects an input operation from a user to change an information displayed on the display panel according to the input operation;

an arm configured to movably support and link the panel portion with the body of the image forming apparatus in a condition in which the panel portion is located above the body of the image forming apparatus; and

a communication portion provided in the operation unit, comprising an antenna capable of transmitting/receiving radio waves to/from a communication device brought close to the operation unit, and capable of executing communication between the communication device and the antenna by a near field communication system, the antenna being provided at a position under the panel portion in terms of a vertical direction, within an area of the panel portion in terms of a direction orthogonal to the vertical direction, and neighboring the panel portion.

11. The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the operation unit comprises an input portion arranged to input a signal to the image forming apparatus, the input portion being disposed at a position neighboring the panel portion in terms of the direction orthogonal to the vertical direction.

12. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the input portion is a ten key for inputting numerals.

13. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the input portion is a key for starting an image forming operation.

14. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the input portion is a key for stopping the image forming operation.

15. The image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 10 through 14, wherein the communication portion comprises a communication circuit electrically connected with the antenna, the communication circuit being disposed at a

position neighboring the panel portion under the panel portion in terms of the vertical direction and within an area of the panel portion in terms of the direction orthogonal to the direction from the back surface to the front surface of the image forming apparatus.

16. The image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 10 through 15, wherein the antenna is disposed on a bottom of a surface of the operation unit in terms of the vertical direction.

17. The image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 10 through 16, wherein the operation unit is movable with respect to the apparatus body.