

METHOD AND APPARATUS OF DISSEMINATING BROADCAST
INFORMATION TO A HANDHELD DEVICE

ABSTRACT

Broadcast information is classified in categories to facilitate user selection and filtration of the broadcast information. Broadcast information is transmitted in the form of a meta frame and one or more category frames which are repeated in a continuous cycle. Meta frames and category frames are identified (steps 304, 306) by major and minor codes following a frame starting delimiter. The meta frame contains a description of the available categories, together with an identification of respective category major and minor codes, the frequency on which the respective category frame is transmitted if multiple frequencies are employed, and the relative position of the respective category frame within the transmission cycle. Upon user selection of a category (step 310), the category information within the meta frame is employed to construct or key a filter for the broadcast information. The selected category frame data is received, added to a database, formatted, and presented to the user (step 312).

FIG 3