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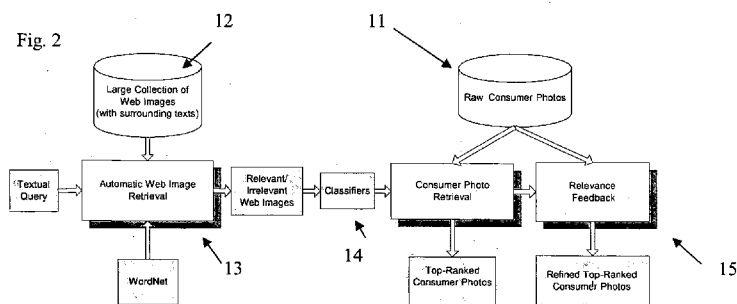
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(54) Title: TEXTUAL QUERY BASED MULTIMEDIA RETRIEVAL SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A system and method are proposed for identifying multimedia files in a first database which are related to a textual term specified by a user. The textual term is used to search a second database of multimedia files, each of which is associated with a portion of text. The "second database" is usually composed of files from the databases of a very large number of servers connected via the internet. The multimedia files identified in the search are ones for which the corresponding associated text is relevant to the textual term. The identified multimedia files are used to generate a classifier engine. The classifier engine is then applied to the first database of multimedia files, thereby retrieving multimedia files in the first database which are relevant to the textual term. The user can optionally specify whether the retrieved multimedia files are relevant or not, and this permits a feedback process to improve the classifier engine.