CORRECTED VERSION*

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : G06F 7/00 — A3

(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/12881

(43) International Publication Date: 26 March 1998 (26.03.98)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/17132

(22) International Filing Date: 22 September 1997 (22.09.97)

(30) Priority Data:
60/025,304 20 September 1996 (20.09.96) US

(71) Applicant: NETBOT, INC. [US/US]; 4530 Union Bay, N.E., Seattle, WA 98105 (US).

(72) Inventors: CHRISTIANSON, David; 5035 15th Avenue N.E. #102, Seattle, WA 98105 (US). DOORENBOS, Robert, B.; 1154 N.W. 59th Street #A32, Seattle, WA 98107 (US). ETZIONI, Oren; 5820 57th Avenue N.E., Seattle, WA 98105 (US). KWOK, Chung; 4801 24th Avenue N.E. #535, Seattle, WA 98105 (US). LAUCKHART, Gregory; 619 N.E. 75th Street, Seattle, WA 98105 (US). SELBERG, Erik; 3516 N.E. 75th Street #10, Seattle, WA 98115 (US). WELD, Daniel, S.; 4315 N.E. 43rd Street, Seattle, WA 98105 (US).

(74) Agents: MORRIS, Francis, E. et al.; Pennie & Edmonds LLP, 1155 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036 (US).

(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CN, CU, CZ, EE, GE, GH, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LT, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UZ, VN, YU, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

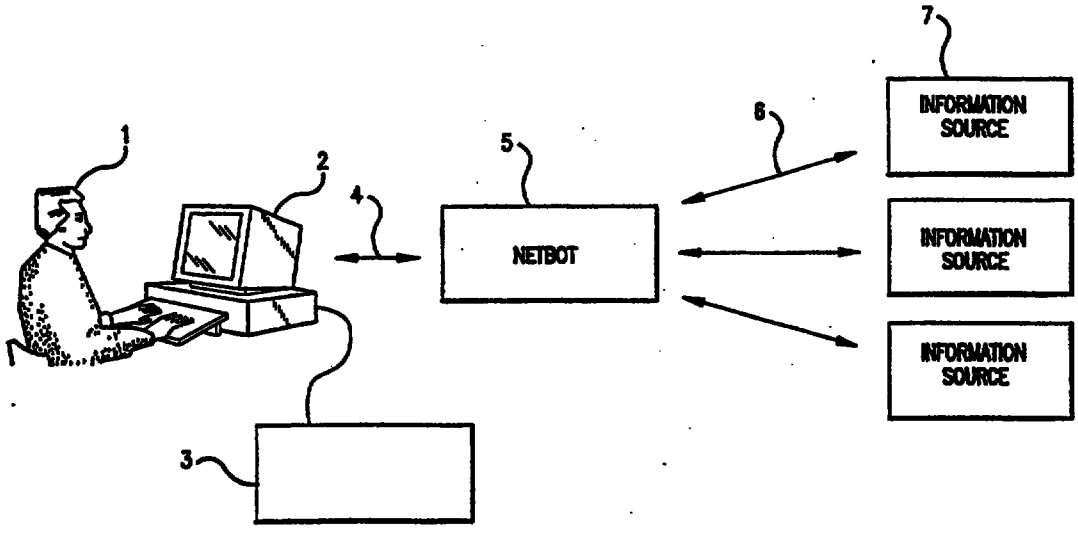
Published

With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
30 April 1998 (30.04.98)

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR NETWORK INFORMATION ACCESS



(57) Abstract

This invention provides assistance to a user (1) in accessing network attached information sources (7). In one aspect, the invention is a method for intelligently routing a user query to information sources (7) relevant to that query, extracting relevant data fields from received responses, and intelligently presenting the extracted data in order of estimated relevance. The system of this invention implements one or more steps of the method in a centralized or distributed manner on one or more network attached computers (59, 60, 61). Further, this invention provides a novel language and implementation that facilitates easily written and maintained descriptions of information source query and response formats.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Paso	GR	Greece			TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	ML	Mali	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MN	Mongolia	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MR	Mauritania	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MW	Malawi	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	MX	Mexico	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NE	Niger	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NL	Netherlands	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NO	Norway	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	NZ	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon			PL	Poland		
CN	China	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	KZ	Kazakstan	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		