

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer ~~implemented method~~ system configured to visually search and explore a set of objects, the computer ~~implemented method~~ system comprising:

~~receiving, by a server, a query;~~

~~determining, by the server, whether to include a visual search link in a~~

~~result set corresponding to the query;~~

~~generating a result set that includes a list of uniform resource locators and~~

~~the visual search link when the user query is general or specific; and~~

~~transmitting the results and the visual search link to the user.~~

a server computer to receive a visual search request from a user and to

process a visual search request;

a database storing objects that include a plurality of attributes, wherein each

object has a corresponding image;

the server computer communicatively connected to the database to retrieve

a set of images and attributes in response to the visual search

request, wherein the server computer determines whether to include

a visual search link in search results having the set of images and

attributes, wherein the set of images is rendered in a three-

dimensional interface or a two-dimensional interface based on a

number of images that are within the set of images when the user

accesses the visual search link the two-dimensional interface is

provided if the number of images is below a threshold and the three-

dimensional interface is provided if the number of images is above

the threshold; and

the server computer generates a graphical user interface to organize the images and attributes and dynamically transitions between the three-dimensional interface of the set of images to a two-dimensional interface of the set of images based on the size of the set, wherein the three-dimensional interface or the two-dimensional interface dynamically changing image sizes in the set of images based on the number of images that are within the set of images, dynamically changing metadata displayed in the three-dimensional interface or the two-dimensional interface based on the number of images that are within the set of images, and dynamically changing the sorting, filtering, and classification controls included in the three-dimensional interface or the two-dimensional interface based on attributes of images within the set of images.

2. The computer-~~implemented method~~ system of claim 1, wherein ~~the visual search link is configured to link to a three-dimensional interface or a two-dimensional interface having a collection of images corresponding to the set of objects that match the query.~~each image is associated with a command that initiates a subsequent action corresponding to the object.

3. The computer-~~implemented method~~ system of claim 12, wherein the ~~three-dimensional interface and the two-dimensional interface dynamically vary image sizes in the collection of images.~~command is a query that causes a search engine to return a result set that includes at least one of web pages, images, videos, or documents related to the object.

4. The computer-implemented method system of claim 13, wherein ~~the three-dimensional interface and the two-dimensional interface dynamically vary metadata displayed in the three-dimensional interface and the two-dimensional interface.~~a prominence of the visual search link dynamically change based on number of search results.

5. ~~The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein the three-dimensional interface and the two-dimensional interface dynamically vary controls included in the three-dimensional interface and the two-dimensional interface based on attributes of objects within the set of objects.~~

6. ~~The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein the controls refine, filter, categorize, or sort the set of objects.~~

7. ~~The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein each image is associated with a subsequent query comprising metadata associated with the object corresponding to the image and a results page having uniform resource locators (URLS) associated with web pages or documents that contain the terms of the subsequent query is generated.~~

8. ~~The computer-implemented method of claim 7, wherein the subsequent query includes context information corresponding to the user and is executed in response to a click on the image and the metadata is displayed on the three-dimensional interface or the two-dimensional interface when the image is subject to a hover action.~~

59. A computer-implemented method ~~graphical user interface configured~~ to visually search and explore a set of objects, the computer-implemented method ~~graphical user interface~~, comprising:

~~a sorting control configured to reorganize the set of objects based on attributes shared by all of the objects within the set of objects;~~
~~a filtering control configured to reduce the number of objects in the set of objects based on the attributes of each object in the set of objects;~~
~~a classification control configured to reduce the number of objects in the set based on categories represented within the set of objects; and~~
~~the graphical user interface is configured to display images of objects that match a user query and to transition between a three-dimensional view and a two-dimensional view based on the number of objects that are within the set of objects.~~

receiving, by a server computer, a visual search request from a user;

processing, by the server computer, the visual search request;

retrieving a set of images and attributes in response to the visual search request from a database storing objects that include a plurality of attributes, wherein each object has a corresponding image and the server computer is communicatively connected to the database;

determining, by the server computer, whether to include a visual search link in search results having the set of images and attributes, wherein the set of images is prepared for rendering in a three-dimensional interface or a two-dimensional interface based on a number of images that are within the set of images when the user accesses the visual search link the two-dimensional interface is provided if the number of images is below a threshold and the three-dimensional interface is provided if the number of images is above the threshold;
and

generating, by the server computer, a graphical user interface to organize the images and attributes and to dynamically transition between the three-dimensional interface of the set of images to a two-dimensional interface of the set of images based on the size of the set, wherein the three-dimensional interface or the two-dimensional interface dynamically changing image sizes in the set of images based on the number of images that are within the set of images, dynamically changing metadata displayed in the three-dimensional interface or the two-dimensional interface based on the number of images that are within the set of images, and dynamically changing the sorting, filtering, and classification controls included in the three-dimensional interface or the two-dimensional interface based on attributes of images within the set of images.

~~10. — The graphical user interface of claim 9, wherein the attributes include items that are frequently requested by a number of users.~~

~~11. — The computer-readable media of claim 9, wherein the attributes include items that are tangentially or serendipitously related to the query.~~

~~12. — The computer-readable media of claim 9, further comprising: a search box control that is automatically populated with a subsequent query corresponding to an object that is a subject of a hover action, wherein the subsequent query is executed when the object is a subject of a click action.~~

6. The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein each image is associated with a command that initiates a subsequent action corresponding to the object.

7. The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein the command is a query that cause a search engine to return a result set that includes at least one of web pages, images, videos, or documents related to the object.

8. The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein a prominence of the visual search link dynamically change based on number of search results.

913. A computer~~-system-configured~~ storage media, executing computer-usable instructions for performing a method to visually search and explore a set of objects, the computer~~-system~~-implemented method comprising:

~~a database storing objects that include a plurality of attributes, wherein each object has a corresponding image;~~

~~a server communicatively connected to the database to retrieve a set of~~

~~images and attributes in response to a visual browsing request; and~~

~~the server generates a graphical user interface to organize the images and~~

~~attributes and dynamically transitions between a three dimensional~~

~~representation of the set of images to a two dimensional~~

~~representation of the set of images.~~

receiving, by a server computer, a visual search request from a user;

processing, by the server computer, the visual search request;

retrieving, by the server computer, a set of images and attributes in

response to the visual search request from a database storing objects

that include a plurality of attributes, wherein each object has a

corresponding image and the server computer is communicatively

connected to the database;

determining, by the server computer, whether to include a visual search link in search results having the set of images and attributes, wherein the set of images is prepared for rendering in a three-dimensional interface or a two-dimensional interface based on a number of images that are within the set of images when the user accesses the visual search link the two-dimensional interface is provided if the number of images is below a threshold and the three-dimensional interface is provided if the number of images is above the threshold; and

generating, by the server computer, a graphical user interface to organize the images and attributes and to dynamically transition between the three-dimensional interface of the set of images to a two-dimensional interface of the set of images based on the size of the set, wherein the three-dimensional interface or the two-dimensional interface dynamically changing image sizes in the set of images based on the number of images that are within the set of images, dynamically changing metadata displayed in the three-dimensional interface or the two-dimensional interface based on the number of images that are within the set of images, and dynamically changing the sorting, filtering, and classification controls included in the three-dimensional interface or the two-dimensional interface based on attributes of images within the set of images.

10. The computer-storage media of claim 5, wherein each image is associated with a command that initiates a subsequent action corresponding to the object.

11. The computer-storage media of claim 5, wherein the command is a query that causes a search engine to return a result set that includes at least one of web pages, images, videos, or documents related to the object.

12. The computer-storage media of claim 5, wherein a prominence of the visual search link dynamically changing based on number of search results.

~~14. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the two-dimensional representation is provided when the number of images is below a threshold and the three-dimensional representation is used when the number of images is above the threshold.~~

~~15. The computer system of claim 16, wherein each image is associated with a command that initiates a subsequent action corresponding to the object and the command is query that cause a search engine to return a results set that includes web pages, images, videos, or documents related to the object.~~