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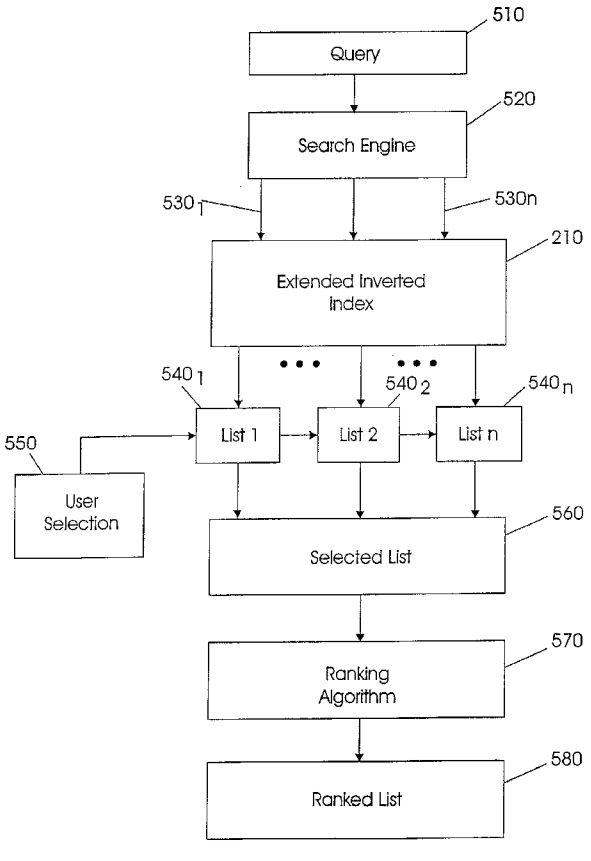
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(57) Abstract: Search time is reduced with a search engine that includes a bi-directional inverted index facility which can be accessed with a keyword search in one of a number of languages and provide a listing of documents contained in all of those languages. The keywords in all supported languages are preferably stored in an inverted index lookup table cross referenced to documents in those language containing the keywords. Keywords with the same meaning in different languages are accessible together when that keyword in one of the languages is queried. The search engine containing the table can identify pertinent documents either in a selected language, a second language or in all supported languages, as determined by the user. Information about each document can include also information used in ranking the documents such keyword frequency and proximity of keywords.

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