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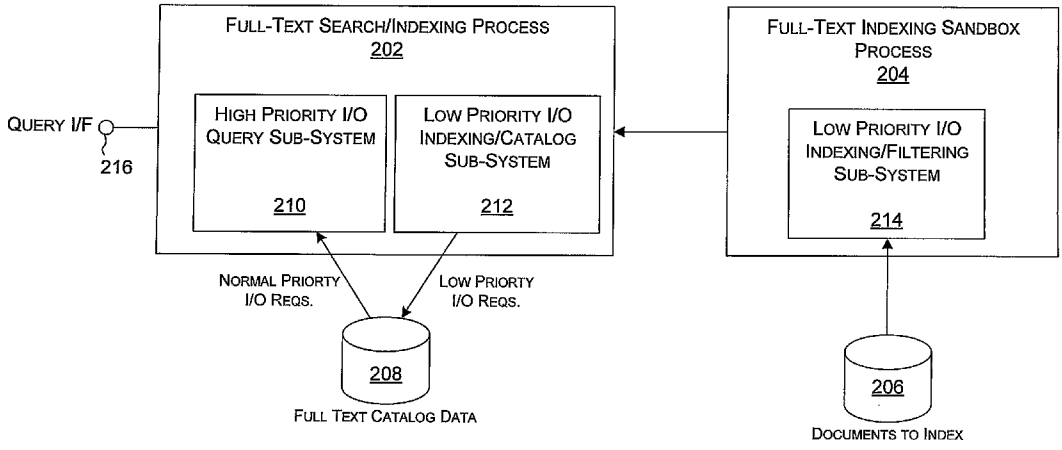
— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations*

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(54) Title: BACK-OFF MECHANISM FOR SEARCH



(57) Abstract: Indexing documents is performed using low priority I/O requests. This aspect can be implemented in systems having an operating system that supports at least two priority levels for I/O requests to its filing system. Low priority I/O requests can be used for accessing documents to be indexed. Low priority I/O requests can also be used for writing information into the index. Higher priority requests can be used for I/O requests to access the index in response queries from a user. I/O request priority can be set on a per-thread basis as opposed to being set on a per-process basis (which may generate two or more threads for which it may be desirable to assign different priorities).

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