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produced the text data in said number of transactions is assigned.

13. A data controller as in claim 2, wherein said tuner comprises an EPG memory for storing EPG data representing the video programs available for display on said television display over a predetermined interval of time.

14. A data controller as in claim 13, wherein said tuner further comprises a template memory for storing a video display template into which said EPG data is inserted for display on said television display, said video display template representing a time grid for each authorized video programming channel in said EPG data which may be tuned by said tuner.

15. A data controller as in claim 14, wherein said tuner selectively accesses said EPG data in said EPG memory so as to allow a viewer to scan through said EPG data.

16. A data controller as in claim 1, wherein said tuner comprises a text memory for storing at least a page of text data for presentation to said television display.

17. A data controller as in claim 1, wherein said tuner comprises a bit map for correlating a designated channel on the television display to a frequency which must be tuned to get the text data for the designated channel from a vertical blanking interval of the video program channel containing the text data for the designated channel.

18. A method of controlling presentation of text data to a television display, comprising the steps of:  
authorizing one of a plurality of sources of text data to access a source database for storage of text data from said one source;

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transmitting said text data from said one source to said source database for storage;

assigning said text data from said one source to a unique video program channel;

reading said text data from said one source from said source database and formatting display commands and said text data stored in said source database into transactions having a predetermined number of bytes;

inserting each transaction into a predetermined interval of the unique video program channel to which the text data in that transaction is assigned;

at a viewer's television tuner, extracting said transactions from their unique video program channel;

processing said transactions at said viewer's television tuner to extract said text data and said display commands; and

presenting said text data in said transactions to said television display in accordance with a display command in said transactions for display to said viewer.

19. A method as in claim 18, wherein said one source of text data authorized in said authorizing step for access to said source database provides electronic program guide (EPG) data representing the video programs available for display on said television display.

20. A method as in claim 18, wherein said transmitting step includes the step of transmitting said text data to said source database via a communications link comprising at least one of a satellite link and a modem link to said source database.

21. A method as in claim 20, wherein said transmitting step includes the steps of receiving said text data at an interface device of said source database which comprises common input ports for each of said sources of text

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data and routing the received text data to said source database.

22. A method as in claim 21, wherein said transmitting step includes the further step of sending a command response message to said one source upon receipt of a command from said one source including said text data.

23. A method as in claim 18, comprising the further step of compressing said text data prior to storage in said source database.

24. A method as in claim 19, comprising the further steps of sorting received EPG data by video program channel and time of day.

25. A method as in claim 18, wherein said assigning step includes the steps of assigning said source database to said one source of text data, routing text data from said one source to said source database, and updating access authorization to said source database for said one source of text data.

26. A method as in claim 18, wherein said reading and formatting step comprises the steps of forming said transactions as display commands for a predetermined number of characters of said text data and of instructing said viewer's television tuner regarding where and how to display said text data in said transactions on said television display.

27. A method as in claim 26, wherein said predetermined interval is a vertical blanking interval of the unique video program channel to which that text data is assigned and said inserting step includes the step of inserting said transactions into said vertical blanking interval of said unique video program channel.

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28. A method as in claim 27, wherein said inserting step includes the further step of storing a number of transactions for creating a screen of text data on said television display and inserting said transactions into said vertical blanking interval of said unique video program channel to which the source which produced the text data in said number of transactions is assigned.

29. A method as in claim 19, comprising the further step of storing EPG data in said viewer's television tuner representing the video programs available for display on said television display over a predetermined interval of time.

30. A method as in claim 29, comprising the further step of storing a video display template in said viewer's television tuner for insertion of said EPG data for display, said template representing a time grid for each authorized video programming channel in said EPG data which may be tuned by said viewer's television tuner.

31. A method as in claim 30, comprising the further step of scrolling through said EPG data stored in said EPG memory of said viewer's television tuner.

32. A method as in claim 18, comprising the further step of storing at least a page of text data in a text memory of said viewer's television tuner for presentation to said television display.

33. A method as in claim 18, wherein said presenting step includes the steps of tuning said viewer's television tuner to a frequency of a video program channel containing in its vertical blanking interval the text data for a text channel designated by the viewer and presenting said text data to said television display when said viewer selects said designated text channel.

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34. A method as in claim 18, comprising the further step of delaying a predetermined amount of time after a page of text data has been presented to said television display before presenting a next page of text data to said television display.

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