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Ortega et al.

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(54) **SEARCH QUERY AUTOCOMPLETION**

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(58) Field of Search 707/1–10, 100, 707/102, 104

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system for facilitating online searches suggests query autocompletion strings (terms and/or phrases) to users during the query entry process, wherein the suggested strings are based on specific attributes of the particular database access system being searched. A string extraction component associated with a database access system, such as a web site of an online merchant, periodically generates a dataset that contains the autocompletion strings for the system. The datasets are preferably biased to favor the database items that are currently the most popular (e.g., best selling or most frequently viewed), and may be customized to particular users or user groups. The datasets are transmitted to users' computing devices, which may include handheld and other wireless devices that lack a full keyboard. An autocompletion client which runs on the computing devices in association with a browser uses the datasets to suggest the autocompletion strings as users enter queries that are directed to the database access system.

56 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets
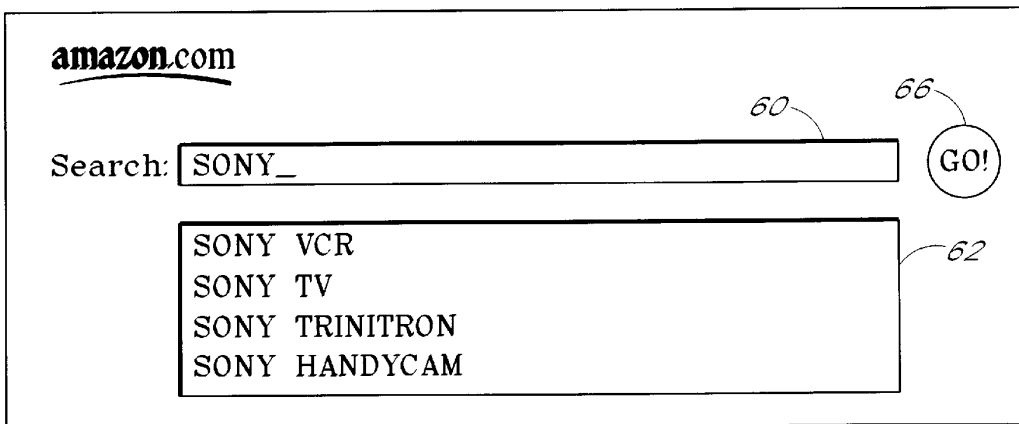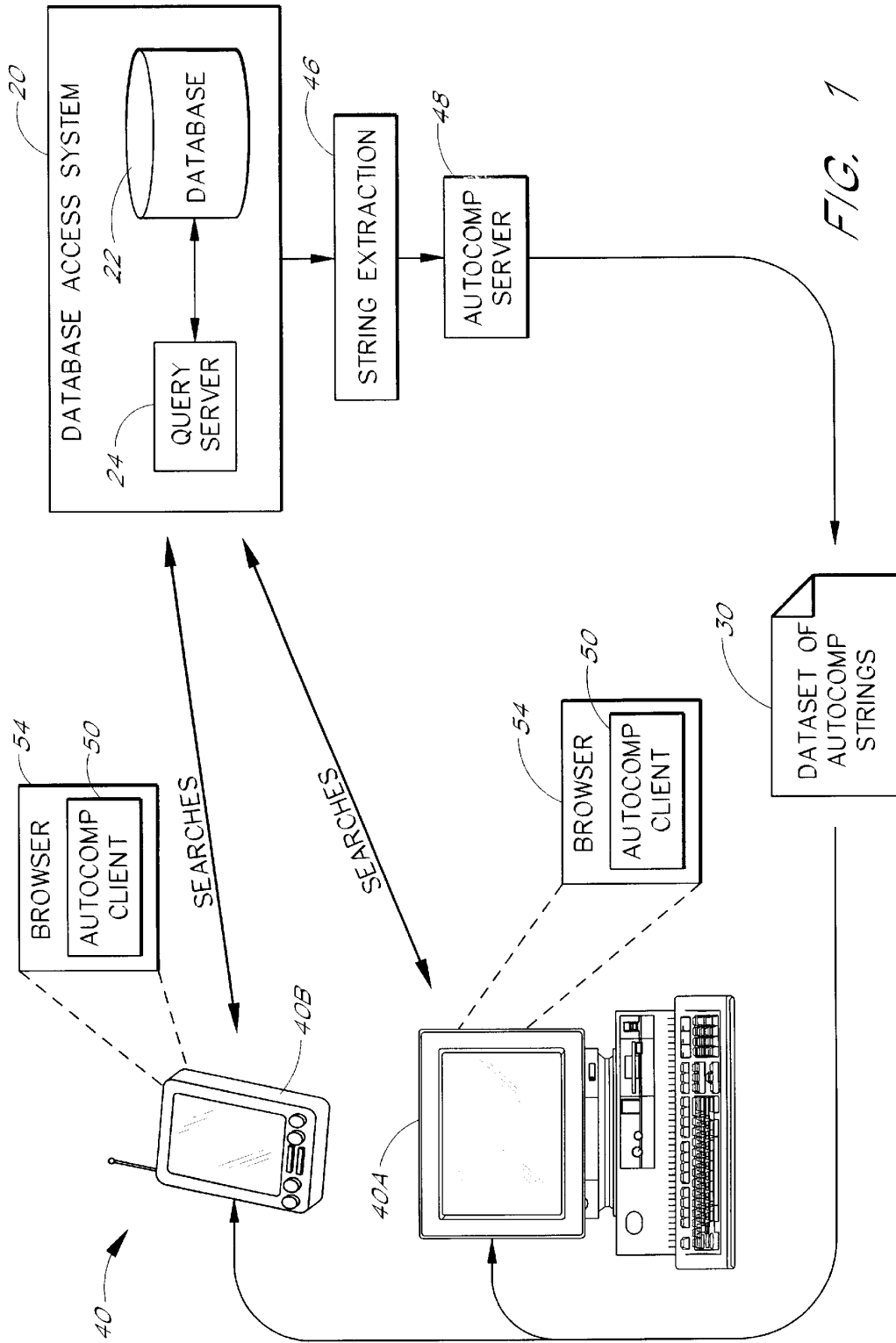
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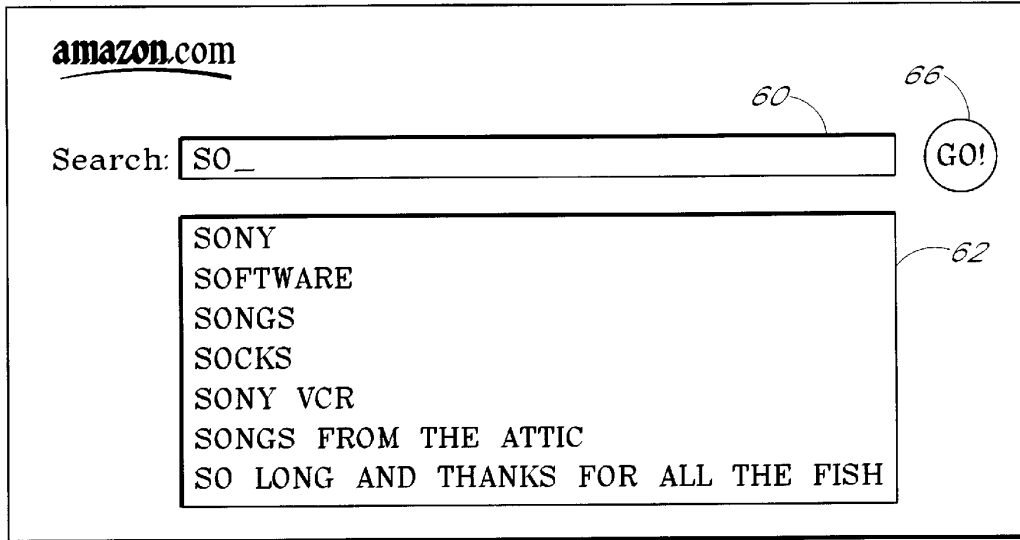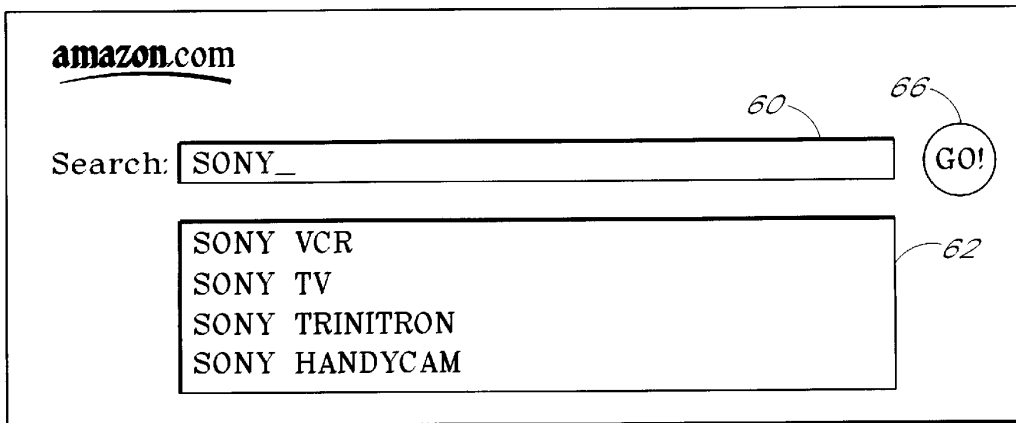
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FIG. 1

amazon.com

Search: | SO_ |

60 *66*

(GO!)

SONY
SOFTWARE
SONGS
SOCKS
SONY VCR
SONGS FROM THE ATTIC
SO LONG AND THANKS FOR ALL THE FISH

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FIG. 2A

amazon.com

Search: | SONY_ |

60 *66*

(GO!)

SONY VCR
SONY TV
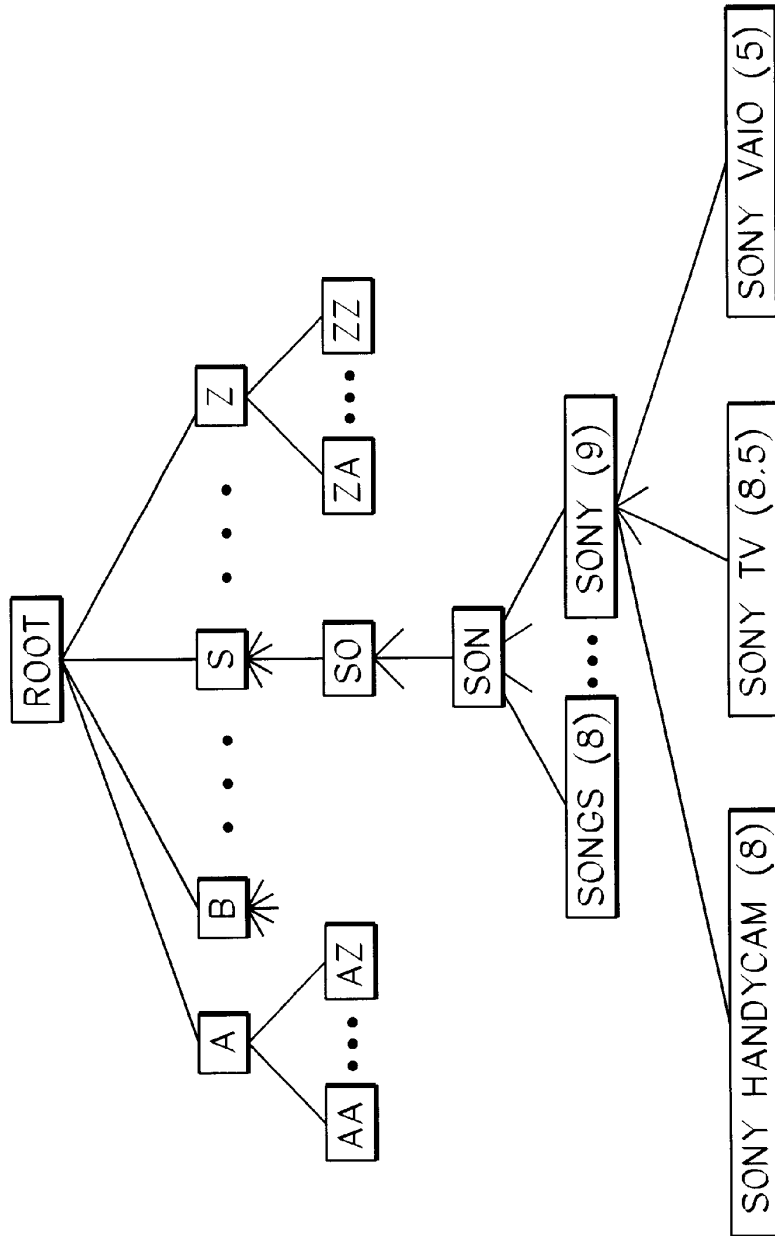SONY TRINITRON
SONY HANDYCAM

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FIG. 2B

FIG. 3

DOCKET ALARM

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