

[54] **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR RETRIEVING AND GROUPING IMAGES REPRESENTING TEXT FILES BASED ON THE RELEVANCE OF KEY WORDS EXTRACTED FROM A SELECTED FILE TO THE TEXT FILES**

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[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **G06F 17/30; G06F 17/21**

[52] U.S. Cl. **395/605; 364/419.19; 395/348; 395/759**

[58] **Field of Search** **395/600, 159; 364/419.08, 419.19**

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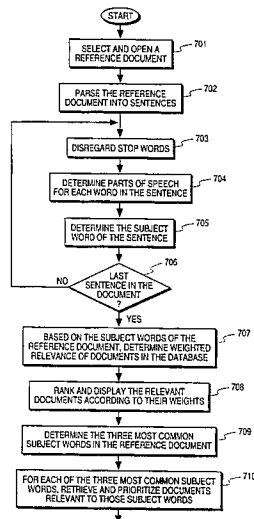
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for searching and retrieving files in a database without a user being required to provide keywords or query terms. A user first selects and opens a reference file. A natural language recognition algorithm is used to determine the subject words of the selected file. Next, a statistical comparison between the subject words and the contents of files in a database is performed. Based on the statistical comparison, files are assigned weighted relevancies. Relevant files are prioritized and displayed to the user in groups. The groups are formed based on the retrieved files relevance to specific subject works of the selected file. The groups of retrieved files are displayed in associating with the subject word they are relevant to.

30 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



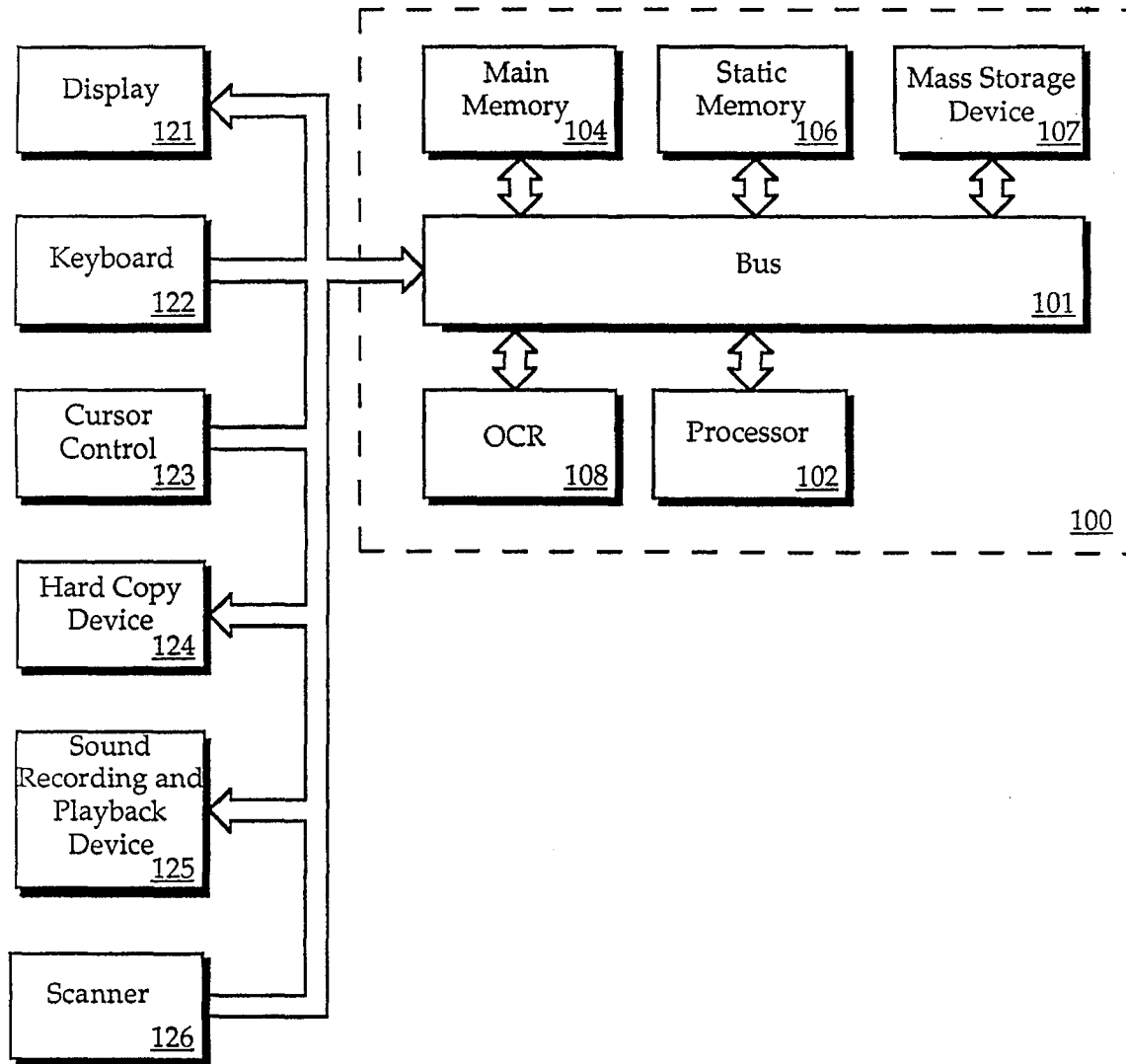


Figure 1

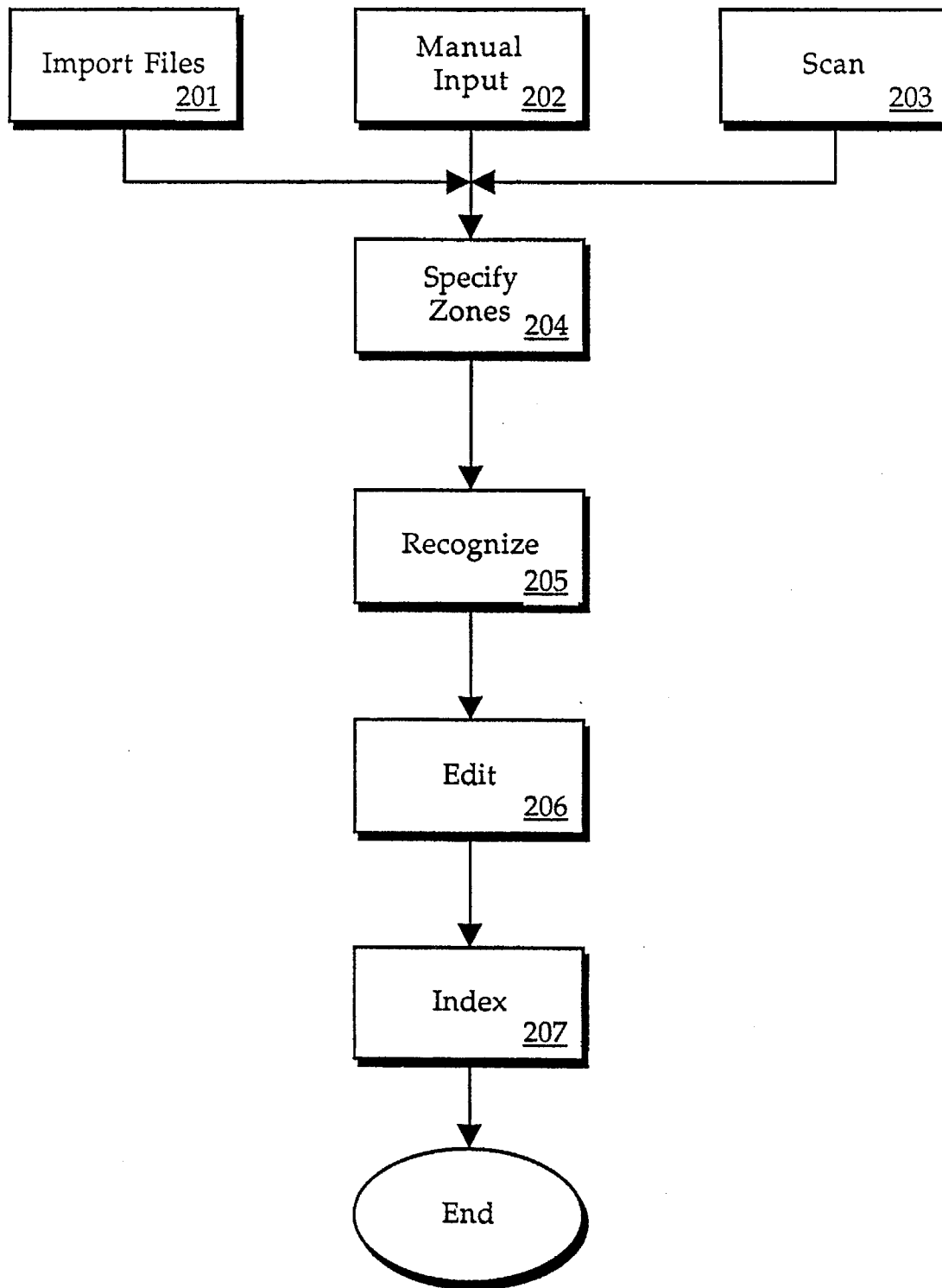


Figure 2

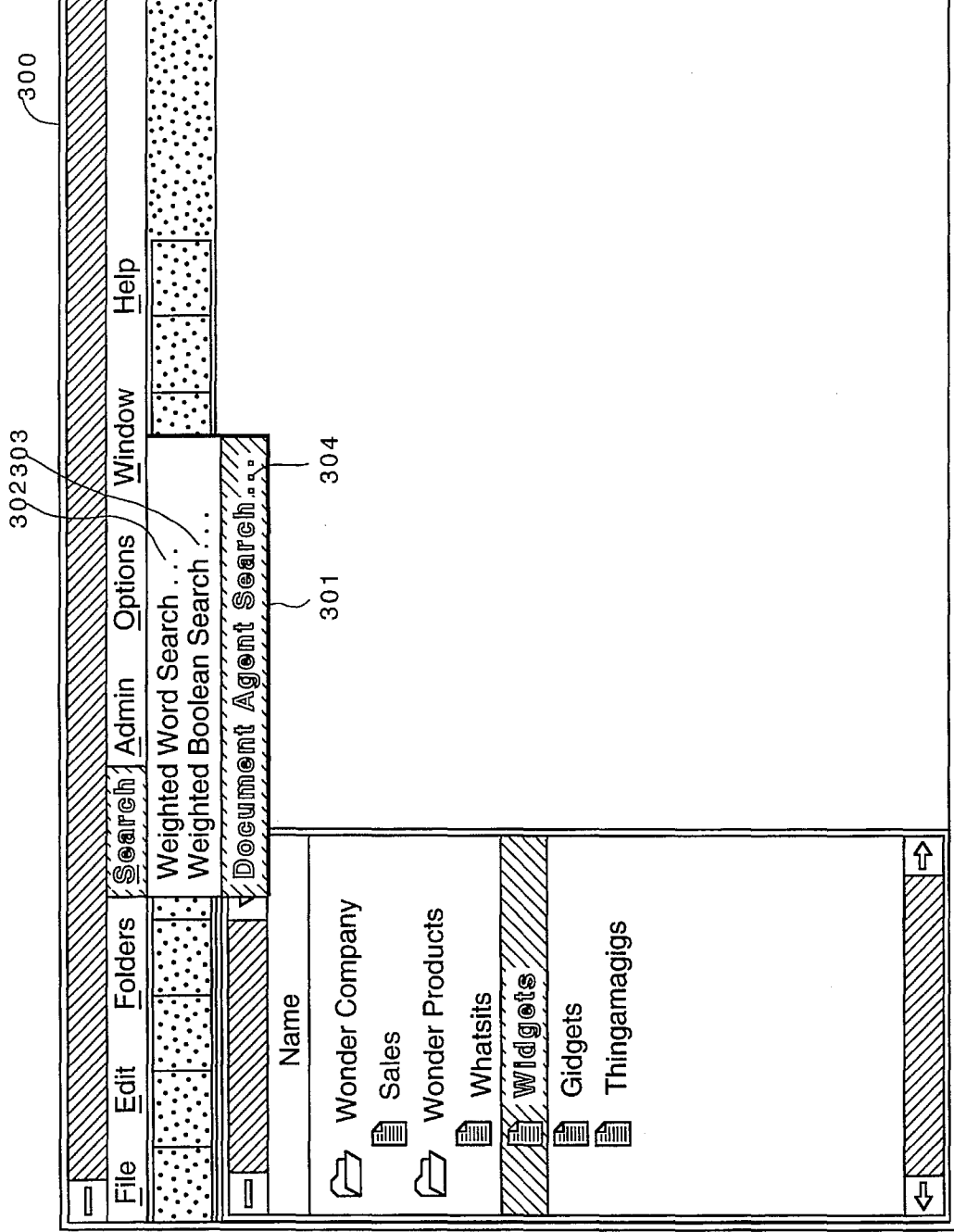


FIG. 3

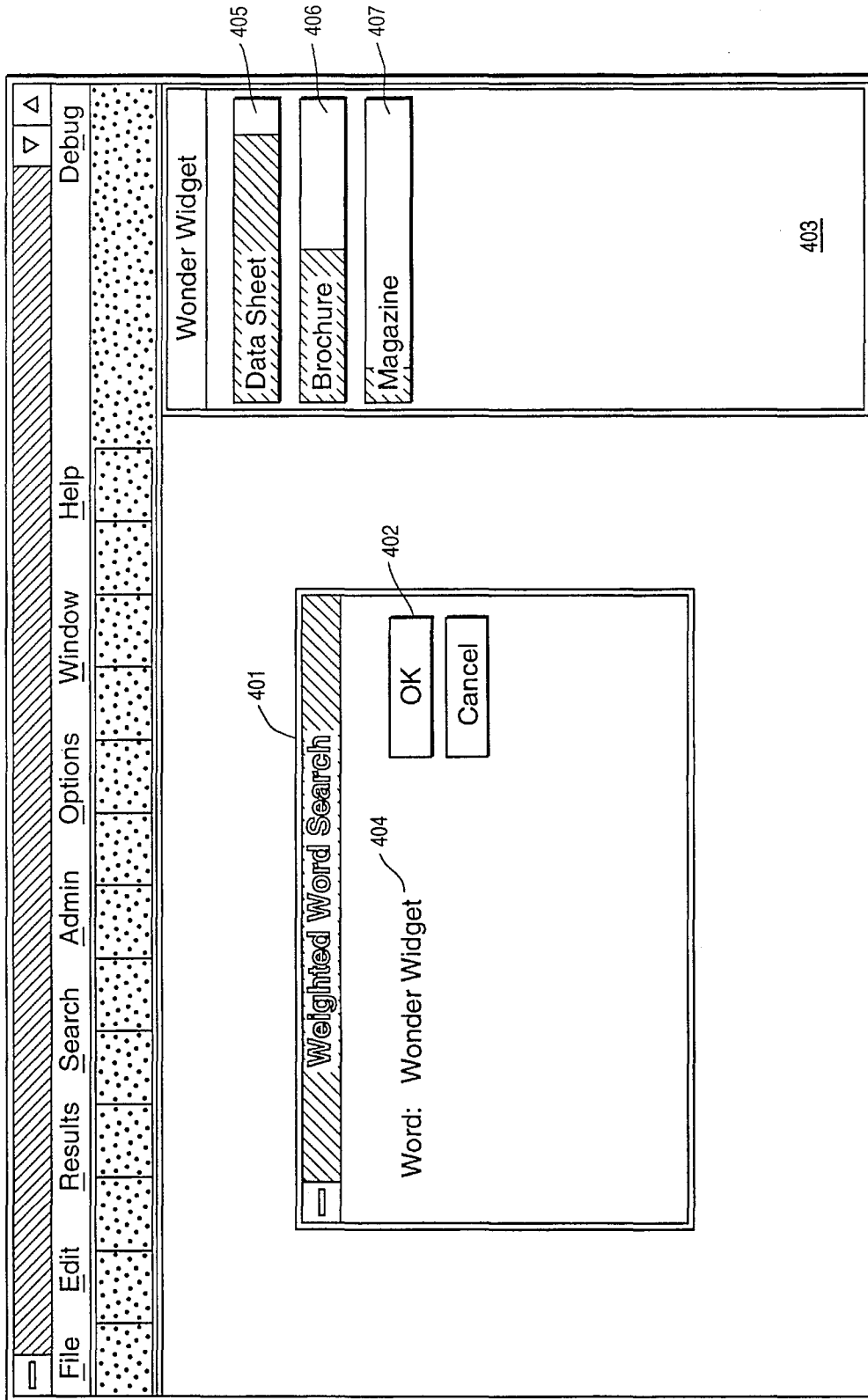


FIG. 4

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