



[54] SEAMLESS INTEGRATION OF INTERNET RESOURCES

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[73] Assignee: America Online, Inc., Dulles, Va.

[\*] Notice: This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

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[22] Filed: Nov. 10, 1997

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of application No. 08/476,711, Jun. 7, 1995, abandoned.

[51] Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... A47C 27/14

[52] U.S. Cl. .... 709/201; 707/3; 707/10; 705/26; 705/27

[58] Field of Search ..... 395/500, 600, 395/700, 145-161, 200.03, 200.09, 148, 188, 189, 200.31, 200.49; 707/3-10, 4, 5, 6; 709/201, 202, 206, 218; 705/26, 27

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

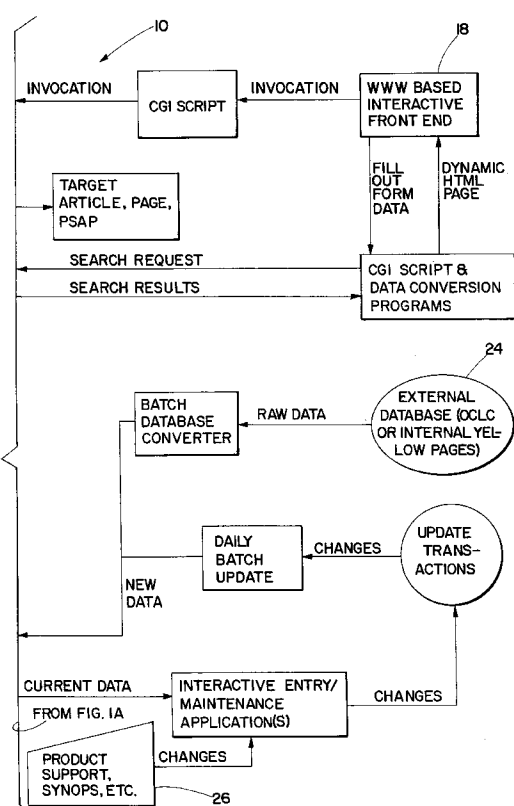
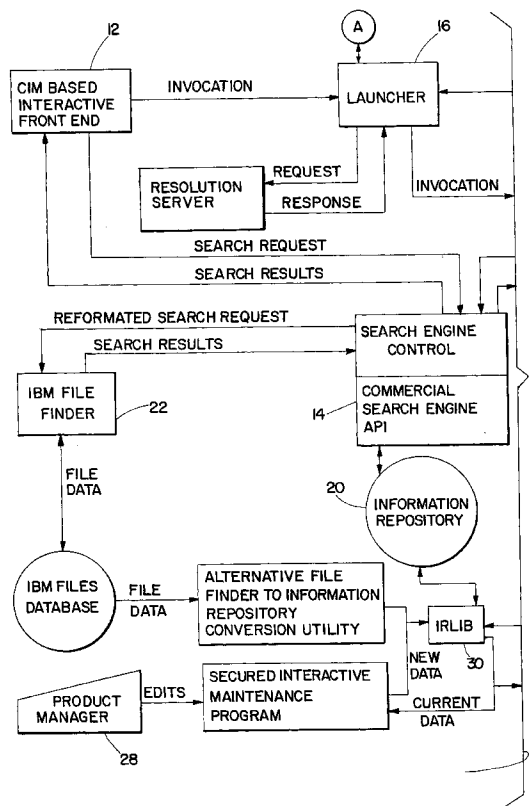
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Primary Examiner—William Grant  
Assistant Examiner—McDievnel Marc  
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Standley & Gilcrest LLP

[57] ABSTRACT

A mechanism for seamlessly searching and accessing information available through the Internet and other resources is disclosed. The present invention maintains a database of file objects available from numerous sources. The present invention updates the database periodically to ensure the accuracy and completeness of it. The present invention also may access and retrieve data from numerous sources when prompted by a sig and simple command initiated by the user. The user is shielded from the quirks and intricacies of various information sources.

24 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



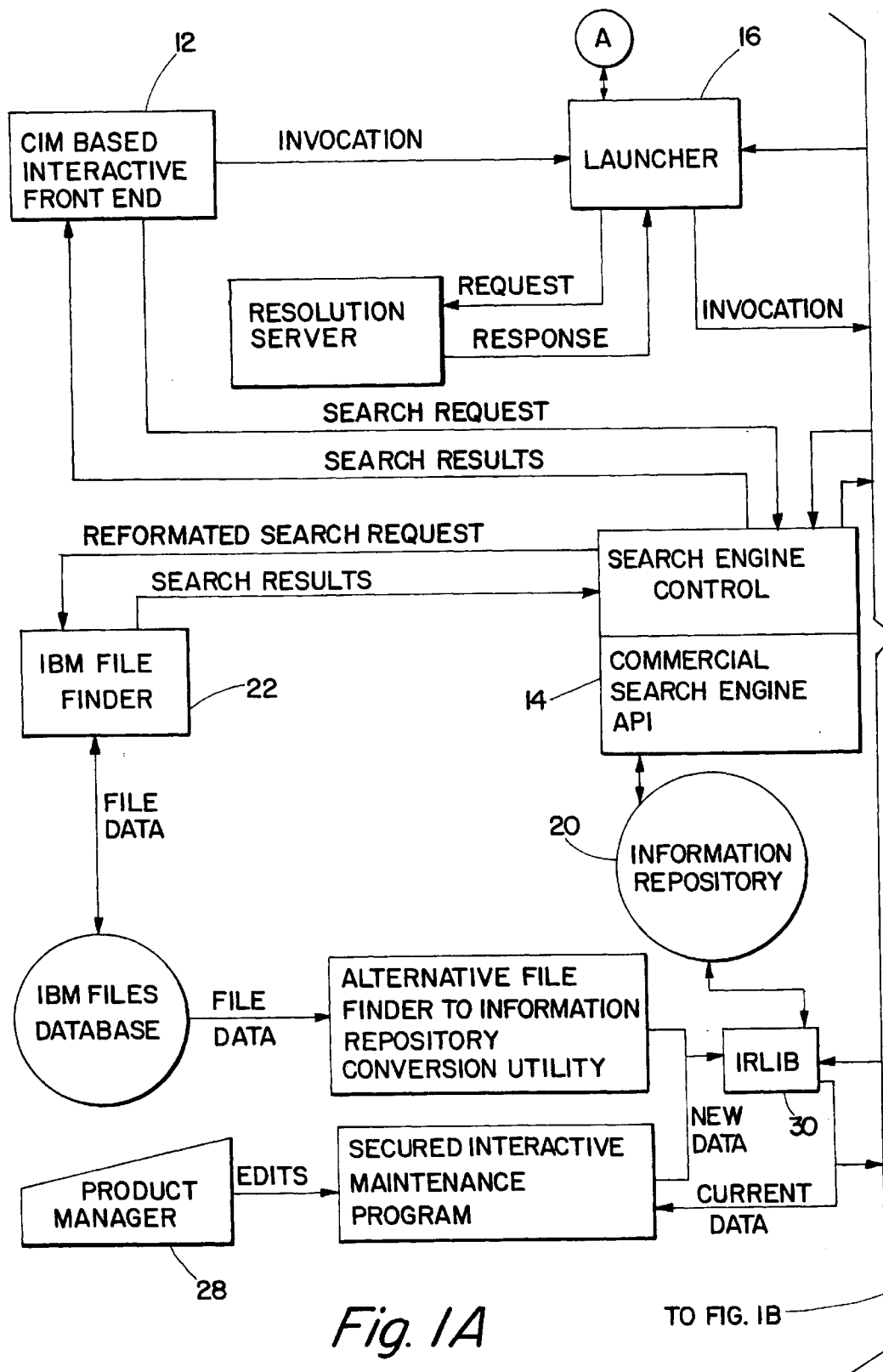


Fig. 1A

TO FIG. 1B

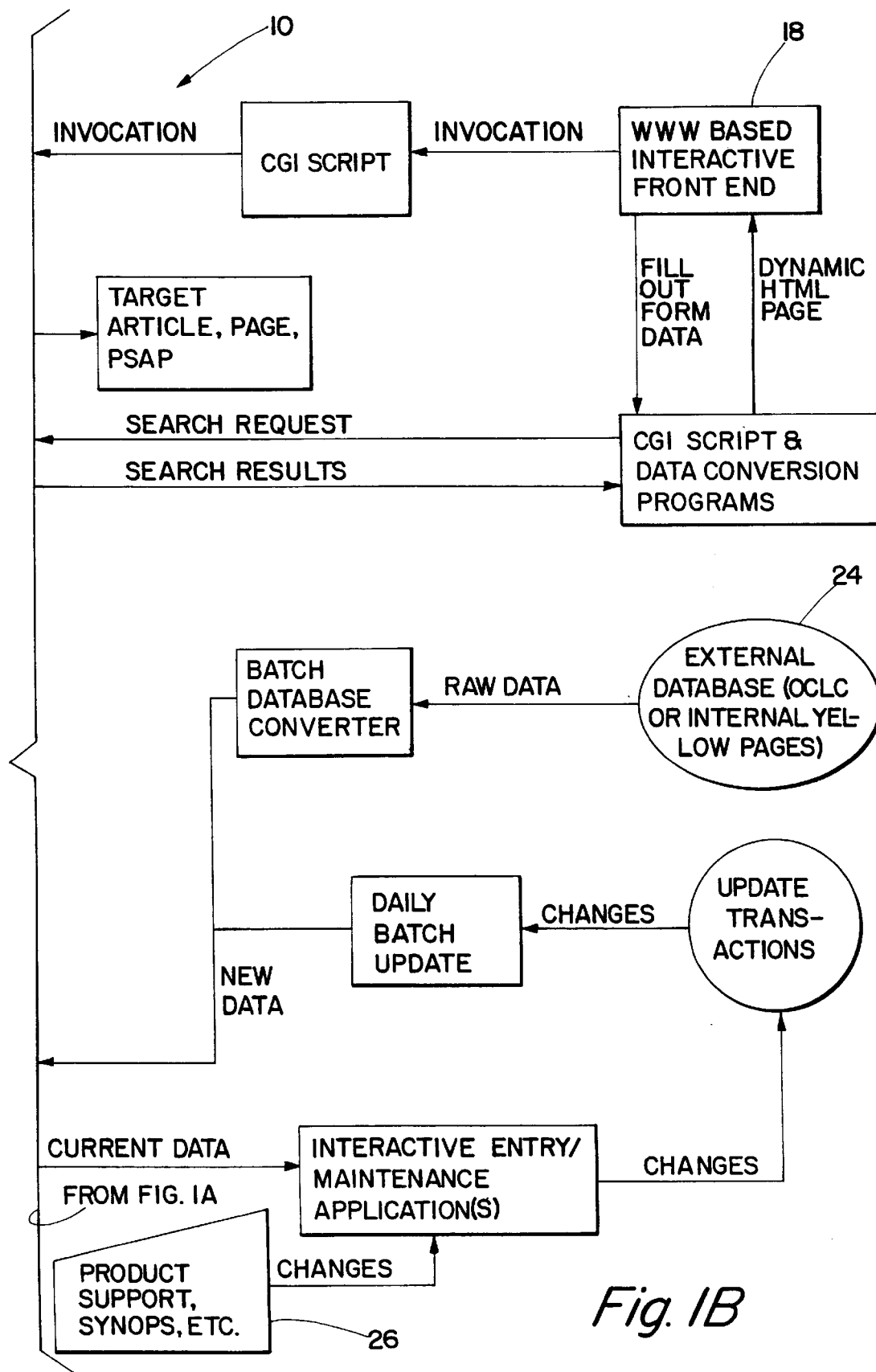


Fig. 1B

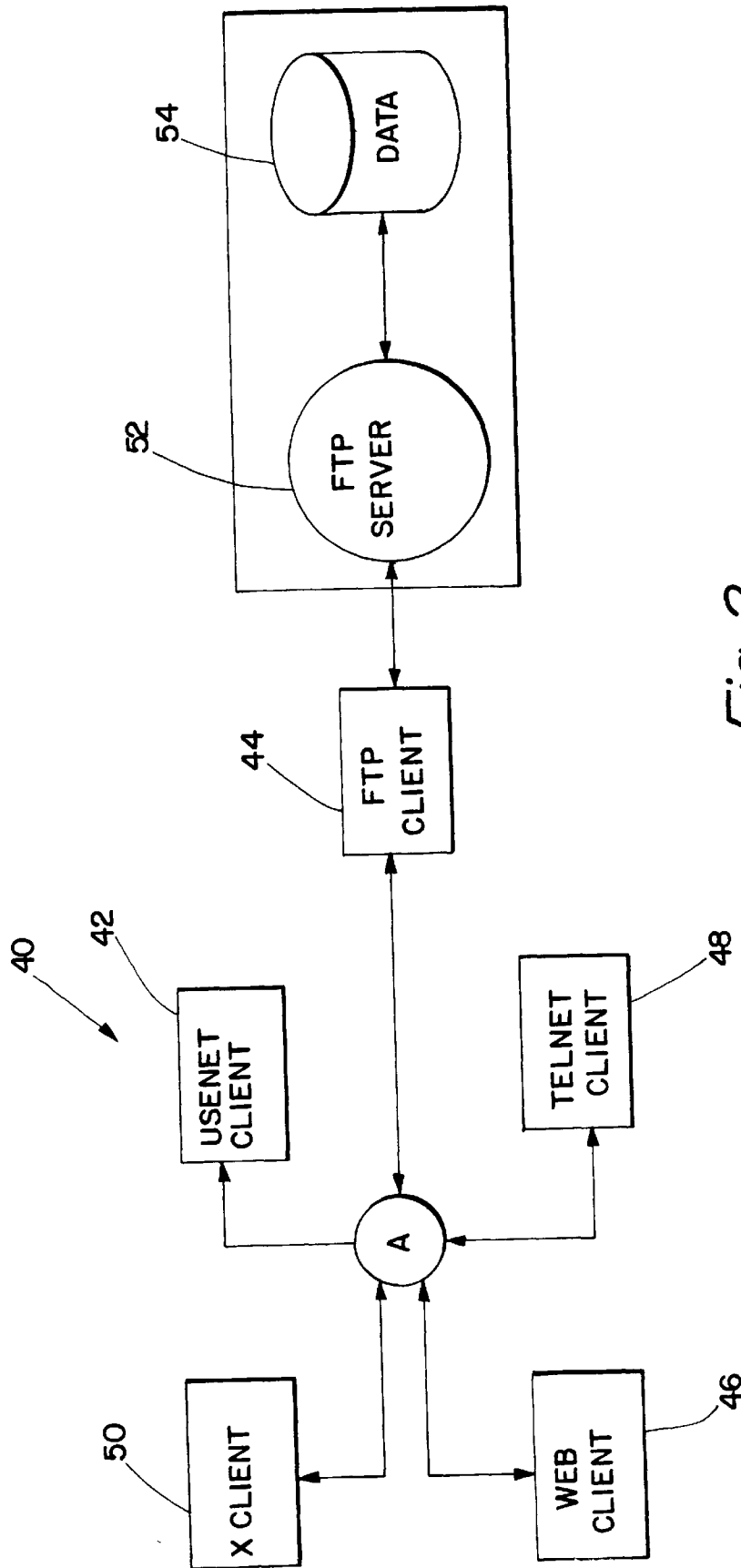


Fig. 2

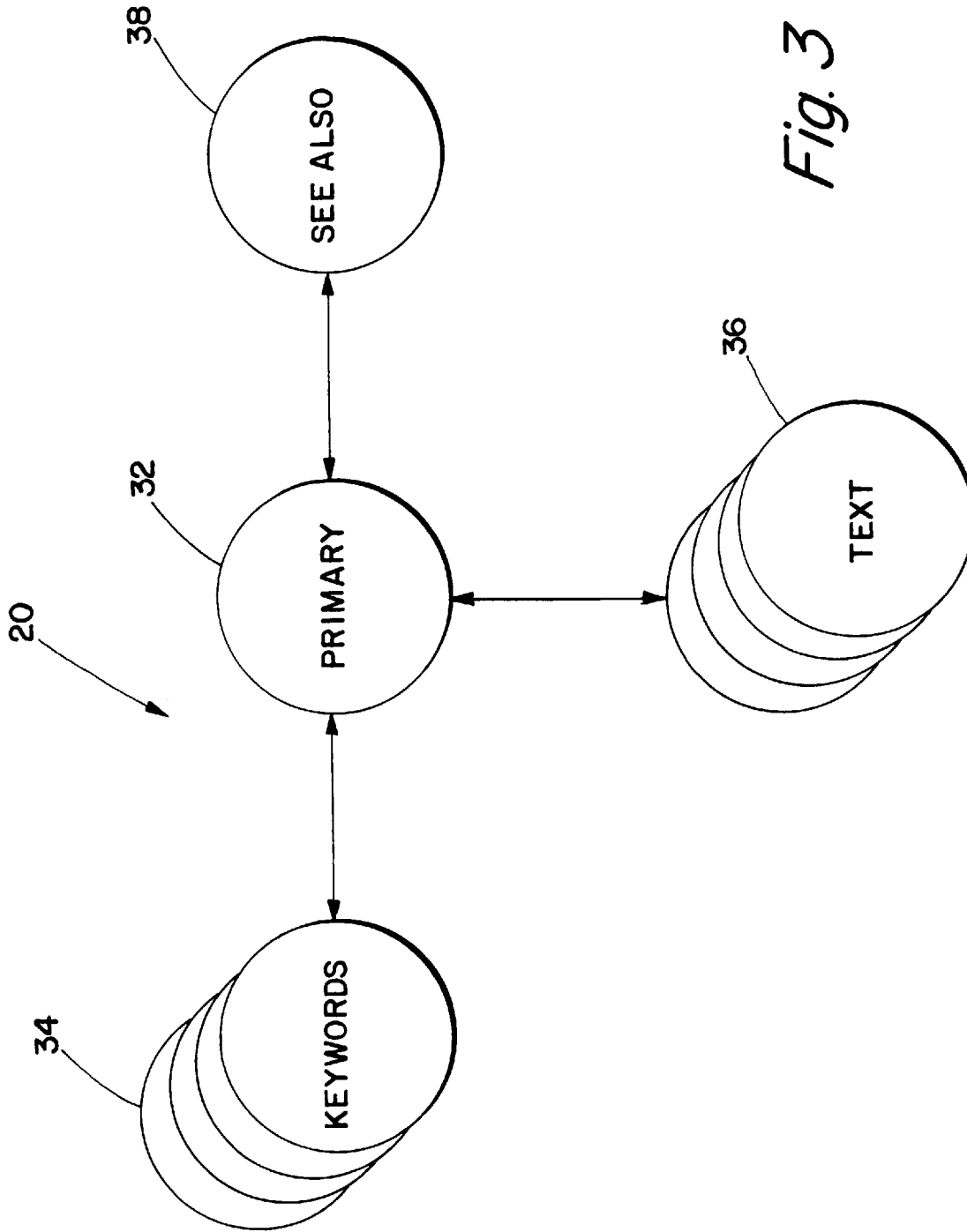


Fig. 3

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