

word processing application also saves a page number together with the figure ID in order to guarantee uniqueness in the document.

[0108] The word processing application determines whether a position adjustment command input (or selected) from position adjustment commands displayed in step S2001 is the top alignment command, bottom alignment command, or another command. If the word processing application determines that the input position adjustment command is the top alignment command, the flow branches to step S2003; if it determines that the input position adjustment command is the bottom alignment command, to step S2004; if it determines that the input position adjustment command is another command, to step S2005. In steps S2003 to S2007, a “selected figure” is a figure of interest among one or a plurality of selected figures. The “selected figure” does not contain the reference figure selected in S2001.

[0109] In step S2003, the word processing application program 403 matches the top of the selected figure except the reference figure with that of the reference figure. More specifically, the word processing application program 403 changes the Y-coordinate value of the “selected figure” in the main pane-information storage table and horizontal projection pane-information storage table. That is, the word processing application reads the Y-coordinate of the reference figure, and updates the Y-coordinate value of the “selected figure” to that of the reference figure.

[0110] In step S2004, the word processing application program 403 matches the bottom of the selected figure except the reference figure with that of the reference figure. More specifically, the word processing application program 403 changes the Y-coordinate value of the “selected figure” in the main pane-information storage table and horizontal projection pane-information storage table. That is, the word processing application program 403 updates the Y-coordinate value of the “selected figure” to a value calculated by subtracting the height of the “selected figure” from the sum of the height and the Y-coordinate value of the reference figure.

[0111] In step S2005, the word processing application program 403 determines whether the command is either the left and right alignment commands. The first embodiment assumes four position adjustment commands.

[0112] In step S2006, the word processing application program 403 matches the left of the selected figure except the reference figure with that of the reference figure. More specifically, the word processing application program 403 changes the X-coordinate value of the “selected figure” in the main pane-information storage table and vertical projection pane-information storage table. That is, the word processing application program 403 reads the X-coordinate of the reference figure, and updates the X-coordinate value of the “selected figure” to that of the reference figure.

[0113] In step S2007, the word processing application program 403 matches the right of the selected figure except the reference figure with that of the reference figure. More specifically, the word processing application program 403 changes the X-coordinate value of the “selected figure” in the main pane-information storage table and vertical projection pane-information storage table. That is, the word

processing application program 403 updates the X-coordinate value of the “selected figure” to a value calculated by subtracting the width of the “selected figure” from the sum of the width and the X-coordinate value of the reference figure.

[0114] In step S2008, the word processing application program 403 determines whether all selected figures have received attention. The word processing application program 403 implements the processing in step S2008 by determining whether the X or Y-coordinate values of objects whose selection flags are set to “ON” match the X or Y-coordinate value of the reference object. If there is a selected figure which has not received attention yet, the word processing application program 403 pays attention to the selected figure, and the flow branches to step S2002. If all the selected figures have received attention and the processing ends, the flow branches to step S2009.

[0115] In step S2009, the word processing application program 403 draws a three-directional view again on the basis of the contents (especially positions) of the pane-information storage table updated by the above processing. The word processing application program 403 displays the re-drawn image. After that, the flow waits for a new input.

[0116] The processing in FIGS. 20A and 20B are alignment processing to align a plurality of objects, which are selected in the user interface window and contained in different pages, by using an object selected by the operator as a reference in accordance with one alignment processing instruction by the operator. This processing can align objects laid out in a plurality of pages to a reference object by one alignment processing instruction without switching the display page, improving operability.

[0117] Note that a saved document data file is updated upon selecting a “save” command through the user interface. Page data update processing in the flowchart of the first embodiment assumes document data expanded in the RAM 202 or the like.

[0118] FIGS. 13A to 13C show pane-information storage tables when the operator selects and executes the top alignment command and left alignment command using the figure “title 1” of page 1 as a reference in a state represented by the pane-information storage table 801 shown FIG. 9A. The reference figure is the figure “title 1”, and another “selected figure” is the figure “title 3” of page 3. Top alignment command processing updates the respective tables, like a pane-information storage table 1302b. As represented by S2003, the Y-coordinate value of the selected figure “title 3” is updated to that of the reference figure “title 1”. Executing the left alignment command updates the X-coordinate value of the figure “title 3”, which is registered in a vertical projection pane-information storage table 1302c, to that of the reference figure “title 1”. As a result of updating the pane-information storage tables, as shown in FIGS. 13A to 13C, the top and left of “title 1” of page 1 and those of “title 3” of page 3 match each other without switching between the pages, as shown in FIGS. 13D and 13E.

[0119] The word processing application program allows the operator to select objects contained in respective pages of a document data file displayed in the three-directional view 600 without switching between the pages. Even if the selected objects is contained in different pages, the operator