

by the aspect name and the name of the action so ASPECT\_NAME and ACTION\_NAME fields are key fields for SCOL\_ASP\_ACTION table. The field PARAM\_STRUCTURE refers to a data structure that holds input data parameters for the action. The field INPUT\_KEY\_ASPECT refers to the name of a key aspect that defines the type of keys used to designate which instances of data types in repository 18 are acted upon by the action. The field PROVIDER\_CLASS refers to the name of the action service provider class providing the action from the service provider implementing the aspect named in ASPECT\_NAME field.

TABLE 2

<u>SCOL_ASP_ACTION definition</u>		
Field Name	Key	Description
ASPECT_NAME	X	Name of the aspect
ACTION_NAME	X	Name of the Action
PARAM_STRUCTURE		The corresponding data structure of the input parameters
INPUT_KEY_ASPECT		The name of the key aspect of the input aspects
PROVIDER_CLASS		The name of the action service provider class

[0070] Aspects can be related with each other. Descriptions of the relations between aspects are stored in Table 3, SCOL\_RELATION. A relation is uniquely defined by its name so the key of a relation table is the relation name specified in field RELATION\_NAME. For each relation, the field SOURCE\_ASPECT defines the aspect that is the source of the directed relation, the field TARGET\_ASPECT defines the aspect that is the target of the directed relation, the field TARGET\_PROVIDER defines the query relation service provider for the target aspect, the field REL\_PARAM\_TYPE defines the type of the relation (Parent-Child or Child-Parent), and the field REL\_PARAMETER defines the cardinality of the relation. The repository 18 can also have a corresponding table for the description of a relation.

TABLE 3

<u>SCOL_RELATION definition</u>		
Field Name	Key	Description
RELATION_NAME	X	Name of the relation
SOURCE_ASPECT		Name of the source aspect of the relation
TARGET_ASPECT		Name of the target aspect of the relation
TARGET_PROVIDER		Name of the query relation service provider class
REL_PARAM_TYPE		Type of the relation
REL_PARAMETER		Parameter of the relation

[0071] The properties of a service module are stored in the Table 4, SCOL\_SVC\_MODULE. Each Service module is uniquely described by its name so SVC\_MODULE\_NAME field is the key field for a SCOL\_SVC\_MODULE table. For each service module, the field TRANSAC\_PROVIDER specifies the name of the transaction provider 40 for the service module. The repository 18 also has a corresponding table for the description of a service module.

TABLE 4

<u>SCOL_SVC_MODULE definition</u>		
Field Name	Key	Description
SVC_MODULE_NAME	X	Name of the service module
TRANSAC_PROVIDER		The name of the corresponding transaction service provider class

[0072] Every service module is associated with aspects that can be used within the service module. Names of the aspects that can be used within each service module are stored in the Table 5, SCOL\_ASPECT\_USE. Since each aspect-service module usage is uniquely described by a name of a service module and the name of an aspect, the fields SVC\_MODULE\_NAME and ASPECT\_NAME are the keys for SCOL\_ASPECT\_USE table.

TABLE 5

<u>SCOL_ASPECT_USE definition</u>		
Field Name	Key	Description
SVC_MODULE_NAME	X	Name of the service module
ASPECT_NAME	X	Name of the aspect

[0073] Service Modules can provide queries to retrieve data. Descriptions of the queries of a service module are stored in the table SCOL\_QUERY illustrated in Table 6 below. The structure of the database table is defined in Table 6. Since each query is uniquely defined by a service module and a query name, the fields SVC\_MODULE\_NAME and QUERY\_NAME are key fields for SCOL\_QUERY table. Other fields include RESULT\_ASPECT that specifies the name of an aspect defining the data type returned by the query and PARAM\_STRUCTURE that specifies a data structure containing the input parameters for the query. For example, a query done on a particular aspect (e.g., specified in field RESULT\_ASPECT) associated with the service module can include input parameters that are matched with attributes of instances of the particular aspect and the matching instances are returned as a dataset of keys referring to those instances. The field INPUT\_KEY\_ASPECT is used to define the key aspect describing keys that could be used as filters for the query. The PROVIDER\_CLASS specifies the name of the query service provider 32 associated with each query. The repository 18 also has a corresponding table for the description of a query.

TABLE 6

<u>SCOL_QUERY definition</u>		
Field Name	Key	Description
SVC_MODULE_NAME	X	Name of the service module
QUERY_NAME	X	Name of the query
RESULT_ASPECT		Name of the result aspect of the query
PARAM_STRUCTURE		The corresponding data structure of the input parameters
INPUT_KEY_ASPECT		The name of the key aspect of the input aspects