

[0057] In the preferred embodiment depicted in **FIG. 2**, the step of receiving called party information is accomplished by Receive Called Party Information step **220**. In response to Monitor Call Initiation Signals step **210**, Receive Called Party Information step **220** receives called party information from the calling party. Additional information concerning the receiving function and called party information is provided above in reference to Receiver **150** depicted in **FIG. 1**. In a preferred embodiment, Receive Called Party Information step **220** includes the step of associating identification information with the calling party. In a preferred embodiment, the identification information includes calling party location information. Additional information concerning identification information and calling party location information is provided above in reference to Receiver **150**.

[0058] In the preferred embodiment depicted in **FIG. 2**, the step of producing a list of telephone numbers is accomplished by Produce List Of Telephone Numbers step **230**. In response to the called party information, Produce List Of Telephone Numbers step **230** produces a list of telephone numbers. Additional information concerning the producing function is provided above in reference to Producer **115** depicted in **FIG. 1**. In a preferred embodiment, Produce List Of Telephone Numbers step **230** includes the use of a telephone number database. In a further preferred embodiment, the telephone number database includes information on valid area codes, information on the geographical areas associated with valid area codes, information on valid exchanges within valid area codes, and information on geographical areas associated with valid exchanges. In a further preferred embodiment, the telephone number database includes information on valid telephone numbers within valid exchanges.

[0059] For example, in a preferred embodiment, Database **120** includes international, national, and local dialing rules for selected geographical locations for use in determining the appropriate dialing codes to be used when calling from a particular geographical area to a particular geographical area. In preferred embodiments, a mobile phone or other subscriber telephone unit includes a full set of worldwide dialing rules for use in making calls from any geographical location to any geographical location. In preferred embodiments, a mobile phone or other subscriber telephone unit contains only a subset of the worldwide dialing rules, for example, those dialing rules that are relevant to the geographical areas from and to which the calling party using the mobile phone expects to place calls.

[0060] In preferred embodiments, Database **120** includes telephone numbers accessible by dialing assistance mechanisms such as speed dialers, autodialers, and voice activated dialers, as is known in the art.

[0061] In a preferred embodiment, Produce List Of Telephone Numbers step **230** includes the step of updating the telephone number database. Additional information concerning the database updating function is provided above in reference to Producer **115** and Database **120**, depicted in **FIG. 1**.

[0062] In a preferred embodiment, the telephone number database includes information on the relationship of area code service areas. As described above in more detail in reference to Database **120**, depicted in **FIG. 1**, in preferred

embodiments, this relationship information may indicate the geographic proximity of area code service areas to each other, or may indicate the likelihood that a call to a particular area code service area was, in fact, intended for a different particular area code service area. Two predetermined standards of scope based on relationship information may be created so that certain area codes are designated to be within a predetermined scope of a specific area code, while those and additional area codes may be designated to be within a predetermined expanded-scope of the specific area code.

[0063] In a preferred embodiment, the list of telephone numbers includes valid telephone numbers in area code service areas within a predetermined scope responsive to calling party location information. In a further preferred embodiment, the list of telephone numbers includes valid telephone numbers in area code service areas within a predetermined expanded-scope responsive to the calling party location information. Additional information concerning the predetermined scope and the predetermined expanded-scope are provided above in reference to Database **120**, depicted in **FIG. 1**.

[0064] In a preferred embodiment, at least one pre-designated area code service area is considered to be within the predetermined scope. In a further preferred embodiment, at least one pre-designated area code is a toll-free service access code. Additional information concerning pre-designated area code service areas and toll-free service access codes is provided above in reference to Database **120** depicted in **FIG. 1**.

[0065] In the preferred embodiment depicted in **FIG. 2**, the step of selecting a target telephone number from the list of telephone numbers is accomplished by Select Target Telephone Number step **240**. In response to Produce List Of Telephone Numbers step **230**, Select Target Telephone Numbers step **240** obtains the list of telephone numbers, presents the calling party with the list of telephone numbers, and permits the calling party to select the target telephone number from the list. Additional information concerning the selection function is provided above in reference to Selector **155**, depicted in **FIG. 1**.

[0066] In a preferred embodiment not depicted in **FIG. 2**, the method for processing telephone numbers of the present invention includes the steps of monitoring call initiation signals from a calling party; receiving called party information in response to the monitoring step; producing a list of telephone numbers in response to the called party information; selecting a target telephone number from the list of telephone numbers in response to the producing step; and initiating a call to the target telephone number through a telecommunications network in response to the selecting step. In a preferred embodiment, the monitoring step, the receiving step, the producing step, and the selecting step are performed as described above in reference to **FIG. 2**. In a preferred embodiment, the step of initiating a call to the target telephone number through a telecommunications network is performed by initiating a telephone call, as is known in the art and in response to the selecting step, to the target telephone number. Additional information concerning the initiating function and the telecommunications network is provided above in reference to Call Generator **160**, depicted in **FIG. 1**.