

[0057] The electronic book data obtaining unit obtains a display content to be displayed on the display unit **301** of the electronic book **300**. The display content can be obtained by reading it from a recording medium that the electronic book data is stored in, or by receiving the content from a wired or wireless transmission path. The electronic book data can be arranged in a data format conforming to a predetermined format, or any given data format. When the display control apparatus obtains the electronic book data in a given data format, it is acceptable to provide software that configures the display content as a one-page layout.

[0058] FIG. 3B is a schematic for illustrating a data structure of a display content storing unit. Electronic book data **320** stored in the display content storing unit includes book data **321** and bookmark information **322**. The book data **321** includes book data obtained from the electronic book data obtaining unit. While the example of FIG. 3B includes only one type of electronic book data (one book), more than one piece of electronic book data (books) can be stored within the memory capacity of the electronic book **300**. In this case, plural sets of data **320** including the book data **321** and the bookmark information **322** will be present.

[0059] Book data specifically includes text data, image data, cover data, page configuration data that indicates the configuration of a page for each command relating to a display position on the page or in a layout of texts and images, page image data forming an image such as one scanned from a page of a book, search data such as keywords and an index, and so on. Index data includes, for example, chapter numbers, chapter titles, the number of pages in the chapter, starting pages of chapters, end pages of chapters, chapter headings, and tab color data.

[0060] The book data can be data configured for electronic book use beforehand and obtained from the electronic book data obtaining unit, or general text data not intended for display in the electronic book that is obtained and then configured as book data by the display content retaining unit. The bookmark information **322** has page data (page data **1** to page data **N**) corresponding to bookmark data (bookmark **1** to bookmark **N**). Unlike the book data **321**, the data stored as the bookmark information is accumulated as the operator uses the electronic book. The bookmark information **322** also includes the content of the display page being displayed when the power of the electronic book is turned off. When the power is turned back on, information relating to the display page stored in the bookmark information **322** is read and displayed by the display unit **301**.

[0061] In this example, the detecting units **302** to **307** of the display unit **301** shown by way of example in FIG. 3A are set to the following display commands.

[0062] Left top edge detecting unit **302**: When an inward bend (flexure) is detected, mark the display content. When an inward bend (flexure) is detected after marking, cancel marking.

[0063] Left center edge detecting unit **303**: When an abrupt bend (flipping action) is detected, switch display content to previous page.

[0064] Left bottom edge detecting unit **304**: When an inward bend (flexure) is detected, switch display content to previous page.

[0065] Right top edge detecting unit **305**: When an inward bend (flexure) is detected, mark the display content. When an inward bend (flexure) is detected after marking, cancel marking.

[0066] Right center edge detecting unit **306**: When an abrupt bend (flipping action) is detected, switch display content to subsequent page.

[0067] Right bottom edge detecting unit **307**: When an inward bend (flexure) is detected, switch display content to subsequent page.

[0068] FIG. 4 is a schematic of a display content of an electronic book. When a command to switch the display content is made by an operation such as that described in FIG. 3A, the display content is switched such that the page appears to be turned. The display of the page-turn speed changes according to the bend level such as a curvature **400**. This example is set such that the greater the bend level is, the faster the page-turn speed is, and the smaller the bend level is, the slower the page-turn speed is.

[0069] When the display content displayed on the display unit **301** is turned one page, the boundary line between the currently displayed page and the subsequently displayed page (the ear part of an actual book) moves leftward from a right page edge **309** until it reaches the position of a left page edge **308**, thereby switching to the next page, i.e., turning the page. The display contents on the left and right of the boundary line change depending on where in the display unit **301** the boundary line is located.

[0070] FIGS. 5A to 5F are schematics for illustrating changes in a page-turn operation. As shown in FIG. 5A, of the left and right pages currently displayed on the display unit **301**, “1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9” is displayed in a horizontal row on the right page, and “A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I” is displayed in a horizontal row on the left page. After turning the right page once, “11, 22, 33, 44, 55, 66, 77, 88, 99” is displayed in a horizontal row on the next right page, and “AA, BB, CC, DD, EE, FF, GG, HH, II” is displayed in a horizontal row on the next left page. Before turning the page, a boundary line **500** is positioned on a right page edge **309** of the display unit **301**. Since there is no display unit **301** on the right side of the boundary line **500**, nothing is displayed there, and the display contents of the right page and the left page currently displayed, respectively “1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9” and “A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I”, are all displayed on the left side of the boundary line **500**.

[0071] When the right page in FIG. 5B starts to turn, the boundary line **500** moves leftward from the right page **309** to between the center of the display unit **301** and the right page **309**. At this time, the display content “99” of the right edge section of the right page when one page is turned is displayed on the right side of the boundary line **500**. On the left side, all the display content of the left page currently displayed, namely, “A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I” and the content of the right page currently displayed without the right edge section, namely, “1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8”, are displayed.

[0072] As the boundary line **500** moves to the left, the display range of the right edge section of the next page increases toward the left. The display content displayed only as “99” in FIG. 5B gradually displays the display content on the left side of 99, and the display range of the left side of the next page increases according to the position of the