

[0026] The non-selectable information displayer may display an item of information having a closest similarity to the specified information adjacent to the specified information from among the other items of information relating to the specified information via another relation criterion, other than the selected relation criterion.

[0027] Also, the selectable information displayer may display selectable other items of information relating to the specified information via the selected relation criterion so that the more similar to the specified information the other items of information are, the closer to the specified information they are displayed. The non-selectable information displayer may also display non-selected other items of information relating to the specified information via another relation criterion, other than the selected relation criterion, so that the more similar to the specified information the other items of information are, the closer to the specified information they are displayed.

[0028] Thus, by displaying the items of information with the closest similarity to the specified information adjacent to the specified information, or the more similar they are to the specified information, the closer they are displayed to the specified information, even when they relate to one another via the same relation criterion, it becomes easier for a user to visually comprehend how to select the new specified information in order to reach the desired information from the present specified information.

[0029] In the display information selection apparatus, the selectable information displayer may display a predetermined number of items of information, from among the other items of information relating to the specified information via the selected relation criterion, aligned on the selection axis.

[0030] In this case, the non-selectable information displayer may display a predetermined number of items of information, or fewer, from among the other items of information relating to the specified information via the other relation criterion, other than the selected relation criterion, aligned on the non-selection axis.

[0031] By thus limiting a number of other items of information, other than the specified information displayed aligned on selection axis and non-selection axis, a size of display of the other items of information, other than the specified information, on the display is prevented from becoming too small even when there are a large number of items of information relating to the specified information via different respective ones of relation criteria. Also, even in the event of limiting the number of items of information displayed aligned on selection axis and non-selection axis, as long as a fixed number of items of information are displayed, it presents no great impediment to the user in visually perceiving a relationship between the other information and the specified information. Furthermore, by making the number of items of information on the selection axis equal to or greater than the number of items of information on the non-selection axis, it becomes easier to perceive other information which can be made or selected to be the new specified information in response to an input from the first input.

[0032] In the display information selection apparatus, a number of the relation criteria, relating the items of infor-

mation to respective different ones of items of information, may differ for each of the plurality of items of information. In this case, the non-selectable information displayer may include a non-selection axis setting system that sets a non-selection axis for each of the other relation criterion, other than the selected relation criteria, in accordance with a number of the relation criterion relating the specified information to the other items of information. The non-selectable information displayer may further include a relation-criterion-based displayer that displays the other items of information relating to the specified information via the other relation criterion, other than the selected relation criterion, side-by-side on the non-selection axis set for each of the other relation criterion.

[0033] In this case, non-selection axes are provided in accordance with a number of relation criteria relating the specified information to the other items of information. The other items of information are displayed on different respective ones of non-selection axes for each of the other relation criteria, other than the selected relation criterion. Thus, even when the number of relation criteria differs in accordance with the selected specified information, it becomes possible for a user to perceive the other items of information relating to the present specified information via another relation criterion, other than the selected relation criterion, for each of the relation criteria.

[0034] A non-selection axis may be set by the non-selection axis setting system so that the non-selection axis is recognized by the user as the non-selection axis, by displaying other items of information aligned with each of the relation criterion. That is, there is no necessity to recognize a process of setting the non-selection axis in the display information selection apparatus. In other words, the non-selection axis for each of relation criteria can be recognized by the user depending on the display positions of the other items of information in accordance with a difference between respective ones of relation criteria. The same applies to a case of a non-selection axis setting system in which an item of information having three or more relation criteria, relating the other items of information thereto, is made the specified information (to be described later).

[0035] In this case, the plurality of items of information may include an item of information having a single relation criterion, relating the other items of information thereto. Herein, the non-selectable information displayer may display the other items of information relating to the specified information via the other relation criterion, other than the selected relation criterion, under a condition that a number of the relation criteria relating the specified information to the other items of information is not one.

[0036] In this case, in case that there is only a single relation criterion relating the specified information to the other items of information, only the other items of information relating to the specified information via the selected relation criterion are displayed on the selection axis besides the specified information itself. Thus, it becomes easy for a user to visually understand that the presently selected specified information is related to the other items of information via only a single relation criterion.

[0037] In the display information selection apparatus, the plurality of items of information may include an item of information having three or more relation criterion relating