

the other items of information thereto. In this case, the non-selectable information displayer may include a non-selection axis setting system that sets two or more non-selection axes for each of the other relation criteria, other than the selected relation criterion, when a number of the relation criteria relating the information selected as the specified information to the other items of information is three or more. 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, on the two or more non-selection axes set for each of the other relation criteria. The selected criterion changing system may sequentially change a selection of the selected relation criterion among the three or more relation criteria when there is an input from the second input.

[0038] Herein, in case that the number of relation criterion relating the specified information to other items of information is three or more, there are two or more other relation criteria, other than the relation criterion, serving as the selected relation criterion. In this case, a non-selection axis is provided for each of the other relation criteria, other than the selected relation criterion, and the other items of information associated with different respective ones of relation criteria are displayed on different respective ones of non-selection axes. Thus, even in case the number of relation criteria corresponding to the selected specified information is three or more, it becomes possible for a user to perceive other items of information relating to the present specified information via other relation criteria, other than the selected relation criterion, with respect to each of the relation criteria.

[0039] When the number of relation criteria relating the information selected as the specified information to other items of information is three or more, one or more non-selection axes may be set for one or more of the other two or more relation criteria, other than the selected relation criterion, and thereby display the other items of information associated with different respective one of relation criterion corresponding to the set non-selection axes. In this case, a non-selection axis is set for a relation criterion for which a non-selection axis is not set at a certain time, when the selected relation criterion is changed in accordance with an input from the second input. Even a relation criterion for which a non-selection axis has not been set at a certain time is eventually made selectable as the selected relation criterion in accordance with a further input from the second input.

[0040] The display information selection apparatus may further include a history storage system that causes a storage device to store information identifying a selection history of the specified information and the selected relation criterion. The display information selection apparatus may still further include a history status restoration system that changes the selection of the specified information, and the selected relation criterion to the specified information, and the selected relation criterion selected previous to the specified information and the selected relation criterion currently selected.

[0041] The history storage system may cause the storage device to store a selection condition of the specified information and the selected relation criterion. In the event that

the selection history of the specified information and the selected relation criterion can be specified based on an input from the input device, the history storage system may cause the storage device to store a history of the input from the input device.

[0042] In this case, since the selection history of the specified information and the selected relation criterion have been stored, it is possible to return to a previous selection condition of the specified information and selected relation criterion in accordance with the stored history. Even when it seems that the specified information is getting away from the user's own desired information, by repeating inputs from the first input or the second input, a user may repeat a selection of the specified information and selected relation criteria again from the previous selection condition of the specified information and selected relation criteria. Thus it becomes easy for the user to select the desired information.

[0043] In the display information selection apparatus, the input device may include, in addition to the first input and the second input, a selection status saving input that carries out an input for saving a selection status of the specified information and the selected relation criterion. The input device may further include a selection status restoration input that carries out an input for restoring the saved selection status of the specified information and the selected relation criterion. In this case, the display information selection apparatus may further include a selection status storage system that causes the storage device to store an item of information identifying the specified information and the selected relation criterion currently selected when there is an input from the selection status saving input. The display information selection apparatus may further include a selection status restoration system that changes the selection of the specified information, and the selected relation criterion to the specified information, and the selected relation criterion identified by the information stored in the selection status storage system, when there is an input from the selection status restoration input.

[0044] In this case, when the user becomes interested in the selection condition of the specified information and selected relation criterion at a certain time, it is possible to record the condition and to restore the recorded selection condition at later times. Even when it seems that the specified information is getting away from the user's desired information, by repeating inputs from the first input or the second input, a user may repeat a selection of the specified information and selected relation criterion from the recorded selection condition of the specified information and selected relation criterion. Thus it becomes easy for the user to select the desired information.

[0045] In the display information selection apparatus, the first input may include a first dimensional direction input that inputs a prescribed dimensional direction of a two-dimensional coordinate system. The second input may include a second dimensional direction input that inputs another dimensional direction of the two-dimension coordinate system as the second input. In this case, the selectable information displayer may display the other items of information relating to the specified information via the selected relation criterion on the selection axis set in the first dimensional direction on the display.

[0046] Generally, as the display device displays an image in a planar coordinate system, a plurality of items of