

information can be only two-dimensionally arranged on a display. With a three-dimensional arrangement of items of information, it is possible to project an information relationship onto a two-dimensional plane by means of a perspective transformation, or the like, but a tridirectional input is required. On the other hand, the input device is generally only equipped with two-dimensional up/down and left/right direction input keys.

[0047] Meanwhile, according to an aspect of the invention, even in case that there are three, or four or more, relation criteria relating the specified information to other items of information, it is possible to select information in a user's desired direction with respect to the present specified information as new specified information by sequentially selecting the specified information with an input of a first dimensional direction and the selected relation criterion by an input of a second dimensional direction. For this reason, even with a display that displays an image in a two-dimensional planar coordinate system, and an input device having two-dimensional direction input keys, it becomes easily possible for the user to visually perceive a relationship between each of the items of information, from among a plurality of items of information intricately related via a relation criterion in three, or four or more dimensions, and to facilitate selection of desired information.

[0048] The first dimensional direction input may input a positive direction and a negative direction of the prescribed dimension, while the second dimensional direction input inputs a positive direction and a negative direction of the other dimensions. In this case, when there is an input of the positive direction of the prescribed dimension, the specified information changing system may change the selection of the specified information to another item of information displayed adjacent to the specified information on the selection axis in the positive direction of the prescribed dimension. Meanwhile, when there is an input of the negative direction of the prescribed dimension, the information changing system may change the selection of the specified information to another item of information displayed adjacent to the specified information on the selection axis in the negative direction of the prescribed dimension. When there is an input of the positive direction of the other dimensions, the selected criterion changing system may change the selection of the selected relation criterion to a relation criterion corresponding to a non-selection axis displayed in a position corresponding to the positive direction with respect to the selection axis. Meanwhile, when there is an input of the negative direction of the other dimensions, it changes the selection of the selected relation criterion to a relation criterion corresponding to a non-selection axis displayed in a position corresponding to the negative direction with respect to the selection axis.

[0049] In the display information selection apparatus, the input device may further include, in addition to the first input and the second input, a selection confirmation input that carries out an input for confirming a selection of the specified information. In this case, the display information selection apparatus may further include a selection processing system that carries out a process determined in accordance with the specified information when there is an input from the selection confirmation input.

[0050] Thus, by carrying out a process determined in accordance with the specified information with an input

from the selection confirmation input, it becomes possible for the user to visually perceive and select a process which he or she wants to carry out.

[0051] The display information selection apparatus may further include an information extraction system that extracts information from an information storage system storing the plurality of items of information. Each of the plurality of items of information may include a plurality of items of individual information corresponding to respective different ones of relation criterion. In this case, the selectable information displayer may cause the information extraction system to extract items of information, including the individual information corresponding to the selected relation criterion, in common, and cause the display to display the extracted items of information aligned on the selection axis. The non-selectable information displayer may cause the information extraction system to extract items of information, including the individual information corresponding to the other relation criterion, other than the selected relation criterion, and cause the display to display the extracted information aligned on the non-selection axis.

[0052] The display information selection apparatus may further include an information search system that searches an information storage system for one or more relation criterion information sets, including the specified information. The relation criterion information set is a set of a plurality of items of information relating to each other via respective different ones of the relation criteria and being stored in the information storage system in association with each of the relation criteria. In this case, the selectable information displayer may display other items of information, other than the specified information included in the relation criterion information set corresponding to the selected relation criterion, from among the relation criterion information sets searched out by the information search system, aligned on the selection axis. The non-selectable information displayer may display other items of information, other than the specified information included in a relation criterion information set corresponding to the other relation criterion other than the selected relation criterion, from among the relation criterion information sets searched out by the information search system, aligned on the non-selection axis.

[0053] Herein, the information storage system may be furnished inside a computer apparatus configuring the display information selection apparatus. Also, in case the computer apparatus configuring the display information selection apparatus is connected to a network, the information storage system may be furnished inside another computer apparatus existing on the network. The information storage systems may exist dispersed on the network with respect to each of the relation criterion information sets.

[0054] The display information selection apparatus may further include an information search system that searches the information storage system that stores a plurality of items of information, each of which includes relation criterion information identifying a relation criterion relating the item of information to other items of information, for another item of information including the same relation criterion information as the relation criterion information included in the specified information with respect to each of the relation criteria. In this case, the selectable information