

[0146] First, in the exemplary non-limiting information processing apparatus, the CPU 101 reads specified information, which is stored in the specified information area 401a in a history storage area indicated by the pointer 410 from the plurality of history storage areas 401 to 40n in the history buffer 400 provided in the main memory 102 (shown, for example, in FIG. 4A). The CPU 101 also reads a selected relation criterion (here, an information package type), which is stored in the selected criterion area 401b. Then, the CPU 101 displays information on the display device 105 in accordance with the read specified information, the information packages including this specified information, and the read selected relation criterion (step S201).

[0147] Next, the CPU 101 determines whether there is an input from the up or down direction keys of the input device 104 (step S202). If there is an input from the up or down direction keys (“Yes” at step S202), the CPU 101, in accordance with a direction input from the direction key, changes the specified information to another item of information, which is related to the present specified information 800 by the selected relation criterion, as the new specified information 800 (step S203). Next, the CPU 101 stores the changed selection condition of the specified information 800 and the selected relation criterion in a history storage area subsequent to the history storage area indicated by the pointer 410 in the history buffer 400, and moves the pointer 410 to the subsequent history storage area (step S204). The CPU 101 searches for an information package including the same information as the changed specified information 800 (step S205). Then, the CPU 101 returns to the process in step S201.

[0148] If there is no input from the up or down direction keys (“No” at step S202), the CPU 101 determines whether there is an input from the left or right direction keys of the input device 104 (step S206). If there is an input from the left or right direction keys, the CPU 101, in accordance with a direction input by the direction key, changes the selected relation criterion to another information package corresponding to the present specified information 800 (step S207). Next, the CPU 101 stores the changed selection condition of the specified information 800 and the selected relation criterion in a history storage area subsequent to the history storage area indicated by the pointer 410 in the history buffer 400, and moves the pointer 410 to the subsequent history storage area (step S208). Then, the CPU 101 returns to the process in step S201.

[0149] If there is no input from the left or right direction keys (“No” at step S206), the CPU 101 determines whether there is an input from the X-button of the input device 104 (step S209). If there is an input from the X-button (“Yes” at step S209), the CPU 101 returns the pointer 410 to a history storage area immediately previous to the history storage area indicated by the pointer 410 in the history buffer 400 provided in the main memory 102. By returning the pointer 410 to the previous history storage area, the display mode of the display device 105 is returned to the previous condition in history (step S210).

[0150] The CPU 101 determines whether the specified information to be changed is the same as the changed specified information (step S211). If they are the same (“Yes” at step S211), the CPU 101 returns to the process in step S201. On the other hand, if the items of specified

information are not the same (“No” at step S211), the CPU 101 searches for an information package including the same information as the changed specified information 800 (step S212), and returns to the process in step S201.

[0151] If there is no input from the X-button (“No” at step S209), the CPU 101 determines whether there is an input from the square button of the input device 104 (step S213). If there is an input from the square button (“Yes” at step S213), the CPU 101 stores an item of information selected as the specified information 800 at the present time in the specified information area 420a of the bookmark buffer 420 provided in the main memory 102. At the same time, the CPU 101 stores a relation criterion selected as the selected relation criterion at the present time in the selected criterion area 420b (step S214). Then, the CPU 101 returns to the process in step S201.

[0152] If there is no input from the square button (“No” at step S213), the CPU 101 determines whether there is an input from the triangle button of the input device 104 (step S215). If there is an input from the triangle button (“Yes” at step S215) the CPU 101 reads specified information stored in the specified information area 420a of the bookmark buffer 420 and a selected relation criterion stored in the selected criterion area 420b. Then, the CPU 101 makes a change to the read specified information and selected relation criterion (step S216). Next, the CPU 101 stores the changed selection condition of the specified information 800 and selected relation criterion in a history storage area subsequent to the history storage area indicated by the pointer 410 in the history buffer 400, and moves the pointer 410 to the subsequent history storage area (step S217).

[0153] The CPU 101 determines whether the specified information to be changed is the same as the changed specified information (step S218). If they are the same (“Yes” at step S218), the CPU 101 returns to the process in step S201. On the other hand, if the items of specified information are not the same (“No” at step S218), the CPU 101 searches for an information package including the same item of information as the changed specified information 800 (step S219), and returns to the process in step S201.

[0154] If there is no input from the triangle button (“No” at step S215), the CPU 101 determines whether there is an input from the circle button of the input device 104 (step S220). If there is an input from the circle button (“Yes” at step S220), the CPU 101 carries out a process according to the present specified information 800. Since the execution of a process in accordance with the specified information does not have a direct relationship to the invention, a detailed description will be omitted. If there is no input from the circle button (“No” at step S220), the CPU 101 returns to the process in step S201.

[0155] As described heretofore, in this embodiment, the items of information that may be selected to become the specified information 800 are those items of information that relate to each other via an identical relation criterion group, which together form information packages 701 to 707 for each relation criterion. In case that specified information 800 is displayed in the center of the display device 105, items of information that are displayed on the selection axis 810 and the non-selection axes 820 to 850 are displayed in an order in which items of information having close similarity in contents are adjacent to each other. The items of information