

are also positioned in an information package, including the same item of information as the specified information **800**, such that items of information having close similarity in contents are adjacent to each other.

[0156] This embodiment is the same as the first embodiment in the aspect that the specified information **800** is sequentially changed by an input from the up or down direction keys, and the selected relation criterion is sequentially changed by an input from the left or right direction keys. Consequently, in this embodiment too, in the same way as in the first embodiment, it is possible to obtain an advantageous effect in that the user can easily reach a desired item of information by visual perception from among a plurality of items of information intricately related to each other. Furthermore, the same advantageous effect as that of the first embodiment can also be obtained in recording and bookmarking a selection condition history of the specified information **800** and selected relation criterion. Further still, the same advantageous effect as that of the first embodiment can also be obtained in that an item of information having close similarity in contents to the specified information **800** is displayed close to the specified information **800**, and in that the specified information **800** is displayed largest and, of other items of information, items of information adjacent to the specified information **800** are displayed large. In other words, the size with which an item is displayed is a function of the item's similarity to the specified information **800**, such that the larger the displayed item, the more similar the item is to the specified information.

[0157] Meanwhile, in this embodiment, in case the information A is set as the specified information **800** (as shown, for example, in FIG. 8A), three information packages **701**, **703** and **705** are searched for as information packages including the information A (as shown, for example, in FIG. 7), thus the number of non-selection axes is two (for example, **820** and **850** in FIG. 8A). Also, in case the information B is set as the specified information **800** (as shown, for example, in FIG. 8B), four information packages **701**, **702**, **703** and **706** are searched for as information packages including the information B (FIG. 7), thus the number of non-selection axes is three (for example, **820**, **830** and **850** in FIG. 8B). In this way, non-selection axes are provided according to a number of information packages including the specified information **800**, and other items of information are displayed on respective non-selection axes for each relation criterion other than the selected relation criterion. By this means, even though the number of information packages that include the selected specified information **800** may be different, other items of information, related to the present specified information **800** by other relation criteria, other than the selected relation criterion, can be perceived for each relation criterion.

[0158] Also, in case the number of information packages including an item of information selected as the specified information **800** is one, no information is displayed on the non-selection axes **820** to **850**. In this case, other items of information relating to the specified information **800**, with the one information package serving as the selected relation criterion, are displayed on the selection axis **810**. By this means, it becomes easier for the user to visually comprehend

that specified information **800** selected at the present time is related to the other items of information by only one relation criterion.

Third Embodiment

[0159] A configuration of an information processing apparatus applied to this embodiment is also the same as that of the information processing apparatus shown in the first embodiment. In this embodiment, a configuration of information selectively displayed on the display device **105** in response to an input from the input device differs from that of the first and second embodiments. This embodiment is different in information configuration, but is the same as the second embodiment in that a number of axes on which items of information are displayed is based on specified information displayed in the center of the display device **105**, which changes in accordance with the specified information.

[0160] FIG. 10 is a diagram schematically showing a configuration of information selectively displayed on the display device **105** in this embodiment. At this point, items of information **1010**, **1020**, . . . and **1030** are individually stored in the HDD **103** of the information processing apparatus in FIG. 1. The items of information **1010**, **1020**, . . . and **1030** include, in addition to information contents **1011**, **1021**, . . . and **1031** as their respective main bodies, relationship keywords **1012**, **1022**, . . . and **1032**.

[0161] Items of information including the same keywords as the relationship keywords **1012**, **1022**, . . . and **1032** become items of information related to each other by the same relation criterion. For example, as the items of information **1010**, **1020** and **1030** all include a keyword a, they become items of information related to each other by the keyword a. Also, the items of information **1010** and **1020** include a keyword b, but the information **1030** does not include the keyword b. Consequently, the information **1010** relates to the information **1020** via the keyword b, but does not relate to the information **1030**.

[0162] Next, a description will be given of a display mode of information on the display device **105** in this embodiment. FIG. 11 is a diagram showing an example of a display mode of information selectively displayed on the display device **105** in this embodiment. In FIG. 11, information displayed large in an upper portion of the display device **105** is specified information **1100**. One of relationship keywords including information selected as the specified information **1100** is selected as a selected relation criterion.

[0163] Other items of information relating to the specified information **1100** via the selected relation criterion (that is, other items of information including a keyword selected as the selected relation criterion) are displayed aligned on a selection axis **1110**. In FIG. 11, items of information A, D and X are aligned on the selection axis **1110**. The higher in score an item of information (such as, for example, **94**, **93** and **92** for the items of information A, D and X, respectively) the closer it is displayed to the specified information **1100**. The score is calculated as a function of the similarity in content of an item of information to the specified information **1100**. Further, items of information (in this non-limiting example, up to three items of information whose scores have been calculated by similarity in contents to the specified information **100**) are displayed in descending order on the selection axis **1110** on the display device **105**. To calculate