

the scores, various kinds of techniques may be used, such as, for example, identicalness of words included in information, which have been conventionally used.

[0164] Other items of information relating to the specified information **1100** via other relation criteria, other than the selected relation criterion (that is, other items of information including another keyword included in the specified information **1100**, other than the keyword selected as the selected relation criterion), are displayed aligned on non-selection axes for each relation criterion. The items of information aligned on the non-selection axes are displayed smaller than the items of information aligned on the selection axis **1110**. On a non-selection axis **1111b**, information H, which is higher in score calculated by similarity in information contents to the specified information **1100**, is displayed closer to the specified information **1100** than information I, which is lower in the score. The same also applies to items of information aligned on non-selection axes **1111e** to **1111p**.

[0165] However, in case the specified information **1100** includes six or more keywords, only two keywords before and two keywords after (in a circulating sense) a keyword selected as the selected relation criterion become relation criteria to be displayed in a display area on the display device **104**. The items of information relating to the specified information **1100** via each of the relation criteria are displayed on the non-selection axes **1111b** to **1111g**. Other items of information that include the other keywords are hypothetically displayed outside the display area, outside the visible field of the display **105**. In case that the specified information **1100** includes only a single keyword, the keyword itself is selected as the selected relation criterion and items of information are displayed aligned on the selection axis **1110**. In this case, no information is displayed on the non-selection axes **1111b** to **1111p**.

[0166] For example, in FIG. **11**, keywords b, e, f and g are selected as keywords corresponding to other relation criteria, other than the selected relation criterion, and displayed on the display device **105**. Other items of information O and P, relating to the specified information **1100** via a keyword h, corresponding to a relation criterion that has not been selected are also aligned on the non-selection axis **1111h**, in the same way as the items of information aligned on the non-selection axis **1111b**. However, the items of information O and P that are aligned on the non-selection axis **1111h** are not displayed in the display area of the display device **105**. The same also applies to other items of information Q and R, which relate to the specified information **1100** via a keyword p and are aligned on the non-selection axis **1111p**.

[0167] In case that there is an input from the up direction key of the input device **104**, items of information aligned on the selection axis **1110** move up by one, thereby changing the specified information **1100**. For example, when there is an input from the up direction key in the condition in FIG. **11**, the information A becomes the specified information **1100** in place of the information B. In this embodiment, as no information is displayed in an area above the specified information **1100** on the selection axis **1110**, an input from the down direction key is cancelled.

[0168] Also, in case that there is an input from the left and right direction keys of the input device **104**, a keyword to become the selected relation criterion is changed according to the input. For example, in case that there is an input from

the left direction key in the example shown in FIG. **11**, the keyword f, which is a relation criterion of the non-selection axis **1111f**, becomes the selected relation criterion. In this case, items of information including the keyword f, besides the information B, are displayed aligned on the selection axis **1110**. With this, the keyword a becomes a relation criterion other than the selected relation criterion, and a non-selection axis corresponding to the keyword a is set in a position of the non-selection axis **1111e** in FIG. **11**, in which items of information including the keyword a besides the information B are displayed aligned. Furthermore, positions of the non-selection axes **1111e**, **1111b**, **1111p**, . . . , **1111h** and **1111g** also move and, for example, the non-selection axes **1111e**, **1111b**, **1111h** and **1111g** move respectively to the positions of **1111b**, **1111p**, **1111g** and **1111f** in FIG. **11**. Also in case that there is an input from the right direction key, the same applies to the case in which there is an input from the left direction key, except only that the direction of movement is inverted.

[0169] This embodiment is the same as the first embodiment in that the selection axis **1110** and the non-selection axes **1111b** to **1111p** need only be recognized by the user, and need not be recognized by the CPU **101**. Furthermore, this embodiment is also the same as the first embodiment in that, each time the specified information **1100** or the selected relation criterion changes, the history is stored, and the previous display mode is returned by an input from the X-button of the input device **104**. This embodiment is also the same as the first embodiment in that the specified information **1100** and the selected relation criterion are bookmarked by an input from the square button, and the bookmarked display mode is restored by an input from the triangle button. This embodiment is also the same as the first embodiment in that a process corresponding to the specified information **1100** is executed by an input from the circle button.

[0170] Also, in case that the specified information **1100** is changed by an input from the up direction key or an input from the X-button or the triangle button, other items of information, including another keyword, other than a keyword selected as the selected relation criterion, of keywords included in new specified information **1100**, are retrieved for each relation criterion (that is, for each keyword). Then, scores of similarity in contents to the new specified information **1100** are calculated for the other items of information retrieved, and an order in which the items of information are displayed on the non-selection axes **1111b** to **1111p** is decided according to the calculated scores.

[0171] Hereafter, a description will be given of a process executed in the information processing apparatus according to this embodiment. FIG. **12** is a flowchart showing the process in this embodiment. Although other processes, other than the process shown here, are carried out in the information processing apparatus as the skilled artisan will readily appreciate and recognize, an exemplary and non-limiting process minimally necessary for describing the invention will be shown here.

[0172] First, in the information processing apparatus, the CPU **101** reads specified information stored in the specified information area **401a** from a history storage area indicated by the pointer **410** among a plurality of history storage areas **401** to **40n** in the history buffer **400** provided in the main