

[0208] In the first to third embodiments, the specified information **300, 800, 1100** is sequentially changed by an operation of the input device **104**. However, explanation has not been made as to which information is first selected as the specified information **300, 800, 1100**. The first specified information **300, 800, 1100** may be appropriately selected in the information processing apparatus, or may be selected in accordance with a user's instruction depending upon a configuration of the information to be displayed on the display device **105**. In order to select the first specified information, for example, it is possible to use the electronic program guide.

[0209] FIG. 14A is a diagram showing an example of the electronic program guide. As shown in the figure, in the electronic program guide, channels are set on its horizontal axis and hours are set on its vertical axis, and programs are displayed in a list format on a per channel and hour basis. In order to select the first specified information in accordance with the electronic program guide, first, the electronic program guide is displayed on the display device **105**.

[0210] In the electronic program guide, the channel is changed by operating the left or right direction keys of the input device **104**, and the hour is changed by operating the up or down direction keys. For example, in the non-limiting example shown in FIG. 14A, 11:30 news on channel 2 is selected (for example, shown in the figure by the shaded area). At this point, when the left direction key is operated, 11:30 news on channel 1 is selected and, when the up direction key is operated, a 10:30 current affairs special on channel 2 is selected. For example, when the user operates the circle button of the input device **104**, the selected program becomes the first specified information.

[0211] FIG. 14B is a diagram showing an example of a display mode of information on the display device **105** in a case in which the 11:30 news on channel 2 is set as the first specified information. In this case, the 11:30 news on channel 2 is displayed in the center of the display device **105** as specified information **1400**. Also, other programs relating to each other via the same relationship of the channel 2 are displayed aligned on a selection axis **1410**. Other programs relating to each other via the same relationship of news are displayed aligned on a selection axis **1420**. Other programs relating to each other via the same relationship of a news presenter XX Taro are displayed aligned on a selection axis **1430**.

[0212] With such a configuration, from among items of information displayed in a list (here, individual programs), a desired item of information is selected as an item of information to become the first specified information, it becomes possible to more easily reach a user's desired item of information.

[0213] In the first to third embodiments, information relating to items of information is not displayed on the display device **105**, but information as to which relation criterion is made the selected relation criterion with respect to the specified information **300, 800, 1100** may be displayed. Also, the number of items of information relating to the specified information **300, 800, 1100** via the relevant selected relation criterion may be displayed. In this case, the user can change the display condition while noting the number of items of information aligned on the selection axis **310, 810, 1110**.

[0214] In the first to third embodiments, the four keys, that is, up, down, left and right keys are provided as the direction input keys of the input device **104**. However, a component device of the input device **104** necessary for carrying out a direction input is not limited to this configuration. As long as a key, like a direction key, is provided for giving an instruction to make a transition of the specified information **300, 800, 1100** or the selected relation criterion, a joystick, a mouse, a track ball or the like may be applied. Also, information that is to become the specified information **300, 800, 1100** may be directly indicated through devices such as, for example a touch panel, a biometrics device, or the like. The input device **104** may not necessarily be included in a main body of the information processing apparatus, but may instead be a remote device such as, for example a remote controller, or the like.

[0215] In the first to third embodiments, information selectively displayed on the display device **105** and a program executed by the CPU **101** are stored in the HDD **103**, but the invention is not limited to this configuration. The information and the program may be downloaded from a server device via a network through the communication device **106** and stored in the main memory **102**. Also, it is possible to provide an information processing apparatus having the information and the program stored in advance in the main memory **102**. In addition, it is possible to distribute the information and the program by various methods according to hardware applied as a platform.

[0216] The illustrations of the embodiments described herein are intended to provide a general understanding of the structure of the various embodiments. The illustrations are not intended to serve as a complete description of all of the elements and features of apparatus and systems that utilize the structures or methods described herein. Many other embodiments may be apparent to those of skill in the art upon reviewing the disclosure. Other embodiments may be utilized and derived from the disclosure, such that structural and logical substitutions and changes may be made without departing from the scope and spirit of the disclosure. Additionally, the illustrations are merely representational and are not drawn to scale. Certain proportions within the illustrations may be exaggerated, while other proportions may be minimized. Accordingly, the disclosure and the figures are to be regarded as illustrative rather than restrictive.

[0217] One or more embodiments of the disclosure may be referred to herein, individually and/or collectively, by the term "invention" merely for convenience and without intending to voluntarily limit the scope of this application to any particular invention or inventive concept. Moreover, although specific embodiments have been illustrated and described herein, it should be appreciated that any subsequent arrangement designed to achieve the same or similar purpose may be substituted for the specific embodiments shown. This disclosure is intended to cover any and all subsequent adaptations or variations of various embodiments. Combinations of the above embodiments, and other embodiments not specifically described herein, will be apparent to those of skill in the art upon reviewing the description.

[0218] An Abstract of the Disclosure is provided to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b) and is submitted with the understanding that it will not be used to interpret or limit the