

scope or meaning of the claims. In addition, in the foregoing Detailed Description, various features may be grouped together or described in a single embodiment for the purpose of streamlining the disclosure. This disclosure is not to be interpreted as reflecting an intention that the claimed embodiments require more features than are expressly recited in each claim. Rather, as the following claims reflect, inventive subject matter may be directed to less than all of the features of any of the disclosed embodiments. Thus, the following claims are incorporated into the Detailed Description, with each claim standing on its own as defining separately claimed subject matter.

[0219] The above disclosed subject matter is to be considered illustrative, and not restrictive, and the appended claims are intended to cover all such modifications, enhancements, and other embodiments that fall within the true spirit and scope of the present disclosure. Thus, to the maximum extent allowed by law, the scope of the invention is to be determined by the broadest permissible interpretation of the following claims and their equivalents, and shall not be restricted or limited by the foregoing detailed description.

[0220] Although several exemplary embodiments have been described, it is understood that the words that have been used are words of description and illustration, rather than words of limitation. Changes may be made within the purview of the appended claims, as presently stated and as amended, without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention in its aspects. Although the description refers to particular means, materials and embodiments, the invention is not intended to be limited to the particulars disclosed, but rather extends to all functionally equivalent structures, methods, and uses such as are within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A display information selection apparatus for selectively displaying a plurality of items of information on a display in accordance with an input from an input device including at least a first input and a second input, each of the plurality items of information relating to another item of information via at least one relation criteria, the apparatus comprising:

a specified information displayer that displays specified information in a specified position on the display, the specified information being selected from among the plurality of items of information;

a selectable information displayer that displays selectable other items of information relating to the specified information via a selected relation criterion selected from the at least one relation criteria, the selectable other items of information being aligned on a selection axis set on the display with the specified position as a reference;

a non-selectable information displayer that displays non-selected other items of information relating to the specified information via at least one other relation criterion, the non-selected items of information being aligned on a non-selection axis set on the display beside the selection axis with the specified position as a reference;

a specified information changer that changes a selection of the specified information to another item of information displayed adjacent to the specified information on the selection axis in accordance with the first input; and

a selected criterion changer that changes a selection of the selected relation criterion to another relation criterion in accordance with the second input.

2. The display information selection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specified information displayer displays the specified information larger than the other items of information.

3. The display information selection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the selectable information displayer displays the other items of information relating to the specified information via the selected relation criterion larger than the other items of information relating to the specified information via the another relation criterion.

4. The display information selection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the selectable information displayer displays the other items of information relating to the specified information via the selected relation criterion and that are displayed adjacent to the specified information as being larger than the other items of information not displayed adjacent to the specified information.

5. The display information selection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the selectable information displayer displays an item of information having a closest similarity to the specified information adjacent to the specified information from among the other items of information relating to the specified information via the selected relation criterion.

6. The display information selection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the selectable information displayer displays a predetermined number of items of information, from among the other items of information relating to the specified information via the selected relation criterion, aligned on the selection axis.

7. The display information selection apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the non-selectable information displayer displays a predetermined number of items of information, from among the other items information relating to the specified information via the another relation criterion, aligned on the non-selection axis.

8. The display information selection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

a number of relation criteria relating the plurality of items of information to respective different ones of items of information differs for each of the plurality of items of information; and

the non-selectable information displayer includes:

a non-selection axis setter that sets a non-selection axis for each of the another relation criterion in accordance with a number of the relation criterion relating the specified information to the other items of information; and

a relation-criterion-based displayer that displays the other items of information relating to the specified information via the another relation criterion side-by-side on the non-selection axis set for each of the other relation criterion.

9. The display information selection apparatus according to claim 8, wherein