standard, such instructions can be executed on a variety of hardware platforms and for interface to a variety of operating systems. In addition, embodiments of the invention are not described with reference to any particular programming language. It will be appreciated that a variety of programming languages may be used to implement the teachings of the invention as described herein. Furthermore, it is common in the art to speak of software, in one form or another (e.g., program, procedure, process, application, module, logic . . .), as taking an action or causing a result. Such expressions are merely a shorthand way of saying that execution of the software by a computer causes the processor of the computer to perform an action or produce a result. It will be appreciated that more or fewer processes may be incorporated into the methods illustrated in **FIGS. 3 and 4** without departing from the scope of the invention and that no particular order is implied by the arrangement of blocks shown and described herein.

[0074] The above description of illustrated embodiments of the invention, including what is described in the Abstract, is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed. While specific embodiments of, and examples for, the invention are described herein for illustrative purposes, various equivalent modifications are possible within the scope of the invention, as those skilled in the relevant art will recognize. These modifications can be made to the invention in light of the above detailed description. The terms used in the following claims should not be construed to limit the invention to the specific embodiments disclosed in the specification and the claims. Rather, the scope of the invention is to be determined entirely by the following claims, which are to be construed in accordance with established doctrines of claim interpretation.

What is claimed is:

1. A machine-implemented comprising:

receiving first search input within a search field of a web browser application;

determining, based on characteristics of the first search input, whether to automatically submit a first query to a search engine;

automatically submitting the first query to the search engine, the first query based on the received first search input; and

displaying, within the web browser application, a first results web page returned from the first query submitted to the search engine.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the search engine is an Internet search engine.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the search input includes a portion of a keyword.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the search field is included in a toolbar of the web browser application.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the search field is included in a web page presented by the web browser application.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving second search input within the search field, the second search input added to the first search input to create cumulative search input;

determining, based on characteristics of the cumulative search input, whether to automatically submit a second query to a search engine;

automatically submitting the second query to the search engine, the second query based on the cumulative search input; and

displaying, within the web browser application, a second results web page returned from the second query submitted to the search engine, wherein the second results web page replaces the first results web page.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein a uniform resource locator (URL) associated with the first results web page is stored within a record of web pages accessed by the web browser application.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first query is automatically submitted to the search engine if the first search input satisfies a temporal trigger.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein a temporal trigger is satisfied if a length of elapsed time without receiving further search input in addition to the first search input is greater than a predetermined time.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the predetermined time is based on an average pause between typing successive characters by a user.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the predetermined time is based on a connection speed to the search engine.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the first query is automatically submitted to the search engine if the first search input satisfies a substantive trigger.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein a substantive trigger is satisfied if the first input includes at least one space character.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a selection of a first result from the first results web page, the first result associated with a first uniform resource locator (URL);

displaying a first web page associated with the first URL;

storing the first URL within a record of accessed web pages.

15. An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving first search input within a search field of a web browser application;

means for determining, based on characteristics of the first search input, whether to automatically submit a first query to a search engine;

means for automatically submitting the first query to the search engine, the first query based on the received first search input; and

means for displaying, within the web browser application, a first results web page returned from the first query submitted to the search engine.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the search engine is an Internet search engine.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the search input includes a portion of a keyword.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the search field is included in a toolbar of the web browser application.

19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the search field is included in a web page presented by the web browser application.