

VIDEO DISPLAY DOCUMENT

BACKGROUND

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] This invention relates to a combination of the field of document presentation with the field of video storage and display systems and, more particularly, to a system and method of presenting a video sequence either as a discrete, individual document, or as an adjunct to printed materials within an integrated, hybrid master document.

[0003] 2. Discussion of the Prior Art

[0004] Because the invention involves a combination relating to two very different fields, a brief description of the nature of the invention would help to give a framework in which to examine the prior art.

[0005] At different stages of the highly stylized field of trial advocacy, parties are required to prepare and submit documents in accordance with a rigid and comprehensive set of rules. These rules are typically concerned with such aspects as paper size, margins, line spacing, letter size and font, and even paper color. To the extent a party wishes, at a given stage of trial, to offer documentary exhibits in support of certain motions or pleadings for consideration by the judge, such exhibits must either comply with the applicable rules or defer action until that exhibit can be presented in a subsequent hearing. Disadvantageously, no satisfactory method has heretofore been available to the legal practitioner to facilitate the submission of audio/video evidence.

[0006] Stylized sets of document rules are not, of course, unique to the courts. Moreover, there are other situations in which it may be desirable to produce a hybrid document comprising both an audio/video component and a conventional component comprising printed sheets of paper, divider tabs, and the like. By way of illustrative example, hybrid documents of the aforementioned type might be employed in the preparation of promotional packages used in sales and marketing activities, comprehensive compilations of medical records, study aid materials, and many others.

[0007] It is further contemplated by the inventor herein that there are many other situations in which it would be beneficial to employ a "stand-alone" or self-contained video document capable of providing the user with a convenient, economically practical way to present a stored video sequence, slide show, sequence of graphs or charts, or some combination of these to an individual or group without the need for costly, non-specialized computer equipment.

[0008] The prior art which may be relevant to this invention is described hereinafter.

[0009] U.S. Pat. No. 4,159,417 to Rubincam discloses a portable, battery powered electronic viewer that reads and displays data stored in a holographic memory card. The memory can be page oriented so that each hologram represents a page in a book and the entire book can be stored on one card. An alternative embodiment provides a book-sized container hinged like a book so that 2 opposing displays can be read in a manner similar to the reading of a book. The device incorporates controls for controlling pagination, for adjusting the speed of leafing through the book and for displaying and entering page numbers. This disclosure describes facing displays mounted in a hinged book-sized

device with plug-in memory card storage for a single book and functions that provide page control.

[0010] U.S. Pat. No. 4,545,023 to Mizzi discloses a handheld, battery-powered computer comprising various electronic cards and a flat touch screen. The touch screen eliminates the need for a keyboard or other input keypads. The screen can display alphanumeric characters and graphics. Any area touched on the screen is identified by its coordinates. The device can be connected to a remote host computer via an acoustic coupler and a telephone line. The device can be adapted for particular uses such as handwriting recognition or TV or radio receiving by plugging in special purpose electronic cards. This disclosure describes a battery-powered, handheld computer that uses a large, flat touch screen display to replace a mechanical keyboard and that has the facilities to communicate with a remote host over telephone lines.

[0011] U.S. Pat. No. 4,649,499 to Sutton et al. discloses computer programs designed to emulate a three dimensional object such as a rotary card file or a hand calculator on a computer touch screen. Functions are performed by touching appropriate symbols on the touch screen, for example, a knob to rotate the cards, a tab label to select and view a card, plus softkeys to perform other functions on the cards. An emulation that puts up a functional calculator touch screen display is also disclosed. This disclosure describes the interaction between a touch screen and the operation of a computer and software to present a display of information with softkey areas that are used to provide user control of the associated information or function.

[0012] U.S. Pat. No. 4,855,725 to Fernandez discloses a simulated book that uses a battery-powered microprocessor with ROM for the program and RAM storage for data and a large LCD screen to display up to 2 pages of information transmitted from a CD-ROM equipped PC over an attached infrared transceiver to a transceiver incorporated into the simulated book. The book uses a touch screen to display the data and to control paging through the material. The device automatically requests additional pages of information to be transmitted from the PC for storage in the book. Data storage is maintained by a battery powered RAM. An alternative version disclosed includes a keypad and a tactile pad switch for inputting requests for a particular page or to page forward or backward. The book displays a single page at a time with the program automatically requesting pages of information to be transmitted from the PC to the book on the fly as the user reads or pages through the book.

[0013] U.S. Pat. No. 4,918,632 to York discloses a battery-powered, portable touch screen computer designed with a multitude of holes along one edge so that the computer can be disguised as a 3-ring binder notebook to avoid theft.

[0014] U.S. Pat. No. 5,031,119 to Dulaney et al. discloses a handheld, keyboardless computer with a split liquid crystal display (LCD) screen, the top half of the screen displays an application and the bottom half displays a keyboard. A glass overlay with an electrically-conductive coating interacts with an electrically conductive pen so that the user can input keystrokes on the bottom half of the screen or use the pen to perform mouse-like functions on the top half.

[0015] U.S. Pat. No. 5,109,354 to Yamashita et al. discloses a portable pocketbook device comprising a touch