

according to such input as well as any search results. The system **100** can operate on any type of mobile computing device, including, but not limited to, a PDA, text messenger, cellular phone, pocket personal computer, smartphone, ultra-mobile tablet PC and the like. Input can also include user input using a touch screen, keypad, joystick, button control or the like. In addition, input can include audio data such as input from voice recognition software. A single interface component **104** is illustrated herein for simplicity; however, multiple interface components **104** can be utilized, including separate interface components for user input and input from software applications.

[0029] A content manager **108** can utilize search terms or criteria from the search component **102** to obtain content from one or more content sources **110**. The content manager **108** can act as or include a content sharing system capable providing a standard interface between the search component **102** and content sources **110**. The content manager **108** can facilitate the retrieval of content from content sources **110** such as software applications, without requiring the search component **102** to have knowledge of the underlying data structures or even the identities of the various applications and their data stores.

[0030] The content manager **108** can generate one or more queries based upon the search initiated by the search component **102**. The queries can be distributed to one or more content sources **110** and the results of the query or queries can be assembled at the content manager **108** and returned to the search component **102**.

[0031] The content manager **108** can manage the supply of data and simple tasks associated with the data to the search component **102**. Content sources **110** can register categories or classifications of data and associated tasks with the content manager **108**, automatically allowing the search component **102** to search the new data categories and tasks. Content sources **110** can also provide the content manager **108** with data supplier components capable of retrieving data from the underlying data stores of the content sources **110**. In addition, content sources can provide task executors capable of executing actions or tasks on selected data types or categories. The central content sharing system of the content manager **108** can provide data and tasks in response to queries or requests.

[0032] The content manager **108** can obtain data and associated tasks by generating a query specifying the category or type of data requested as well as context used to identify relevant data of the requested category. A set of data requests based upon a search from the search component **102** can be distributed to data supplier components for various content sources **110**. The data supplier components can retrieve the relevant data from the underlying data stores of associated content sources **110** and the retrieved results can be assembled and returned to the search component **102**. The query, data requests and query results can be specified in a declarative language, such as extended markup language (XML) to facilitate transfer of data without requiring knowledge of data structures by the search component **102**.

[0033] Referring now to FIG. 2, the search component **102** can include an input component **202**, a search request component **204**, a result component **206** and a display component **208**. The input component **202** can receive and/or request input including user input and context from

the interface component **104**. Input can include search terms or criteria, such as characters entered by a user, the context or current state of the user and/or the type of matching to be performed. For example, the context can specify any data items currently selected and the type of such data items. Context can also include past history of user input. The input component **202** can wait until all search input has been entered before passing search criteria to the search request component **204** to begin a search. Alternatively, searches can be dynamically generated as the user input is received.

[0034] The search request component **204** can utilize data from the input component **202** to generate a search based upon search criteria included in the input. A search can include one or more search queries. Search queries within a search can retrieve different types or classes of data. A search query can include search criteria such as data to be matched. For example, the search query can specify that all search results must begin with letters "CA." Search queries can specify the type of matching to be performed for the search criteria (e.g., exact matching and partial matching). For an exact match, each character within the search input should appear in the exact same order and no additional characters should appear in the match. For instance, if the search criteria includes text string "Smith" and an exact match is requested, data labeled "Smith" should be returned, but not information associated with the "Smithsonian." Alternatively, search queries can specify that partial matches are to be returned. For a partial match, each character within the search input should appear in the same order; however, the match can contain additional characters. In the previous example, the search results would include data labeled "Smith" and also any data labeled "Smithsonian." The type of matching to be performed can be determined automatically or based upon user input.

[0035] The search request component **204** can generate a single search that can be utilized by an association engine to retrieve relevant data from all available sources. Alternatively, the search request component **204** can generate a set of search queries. A separate search query can be utilized for each type of data or result desired. For instance, separate queries can be used to request email messages, contacts, images, video files and the like.

[0036] In addition, multiple search queries can be utilized, where the input has multiple interpretations. For example, the numbers on the keypad of a mobile telephone can correspond to multiple characters in the English language. A search query can be generated for each possible interpretation of input from a keypad. In addition, the search request component **204** can make inferences regarding the interpretations most likely to generate relevant results. Certain letter or number combinations are much more common in a given language than other combinations. For instance, the keypad number "8" can be interpreted as the English language characters "T," "U" or "V" and keypad number "9" can be interpreted as "W," "X," "Y" or "Z." The numerical sequence of "98" can be interpreted as multiple letter combinations. However, certain combinations are far more likely than others. For example, the letter combination "YU" (e.g., Yule, Yul Brynner, Yukon) is likely to generate more search results than the letters "XV."

[0037] Results from searches are received or obtained by the result component **206**. The result component **206** can