

**600** for the FLIGHTS RESULTS window **201b**, instead of the OED for the FLIGHTS window **201a**. However, as anyone who has booked airline reservations online would probably recognize, there likely are several different web pages or windows in this web site that might need access to the VALIDATE AIRLINES method. In such a case, it is wise to make that method available in the FLIGHTS window since the FLIGHTS window will form part of most, if not all, of the web pages of the web site. Then, other windows of the web site can simply inherit the properties of the FLIGHTS window and, thus, have that method available to it. This is easily represented in the OEDs by showing inheritance of the properties of the FLIGHTS window in the OED for the other object by drawing an inheritance symbol between the FLIGHTS window symbol and the other object to illustrate that the other object is to inherit the properties of the FLIGHTS window. This is done in the OED **600** for the FLIGHTS RESULTS window **201b**, for instance, as will be discussed in more detail below in connection with **FIG. 6**.

[**0069**] Turning now to **FIG. 6**, it is the OED **600** for FLIGHTS RESULTS window **201b**. Accordingly, it comprises an appropriately labeled window symbol **601** in the center of a large circle **602**, indicating that the FLIGHTS RESULTS window **601** is the main object of this particular diagram **600**. The FLIGHTS RESULTS window inherits the properties of the FLIGHTS window **301**, as demonstrated by drawing the symbol **501** for the FLIGHTS window within the circle **602** and connecting it to the flights results window with an inheritance symbol **603**.

[**0070**] Upon opening and upon closing of the flights results window **601**, other programs (methods or functions) are executed. Therefore, event script symbols **604** and **605** are drawn within the circle **602** and are appropriately labeled OPEN and CLOSE, respectively, to indicate the specific event that invokes the script. Once again, it is important to bear in mind that the event script symbol does not represent the method that is invoked responsive to the event, but just that the event (e.g., opening the window) causes execution of a script that invokes another program. Merely for explanatory purposes, for instance, upon opening of the flights results window **201b**, script **604** might invoke a method that retrieves data from a database that is needed to build potential flight plans. The invoked method will be represented by a separate method symbol in this OED or an OED of another object from which the FLIGHTS RESULTS window inherits properties. In this case, the OPEN script **604** invokes the GET DATABASE CONNECTION method **565** shown in OED **500** for the FLIGHTS window (**FIG. 5**).

[**0071**] The FLIGHTS RESULTS window **201b** includes 13 buttons. They are represented in the OED **600** by a "SEARCH" button symbol **650**, a "CLOSE" button symbol **652**, a "DETAILS" button symbol **654**, a "RETURN" button symbol **656**, a "BUILD" button symbol **658**, an "ADD" button symbol **660**, a "PRINT" button symbol **662**, a "DEPART" button symbol **672**, an "ARRIVE" button symbol **674**, a "DIRECT" button symbol **668**, a "CONNECT" button symbol **670**, an "AIRLINES" button symbol **666**, and a "SEE ALSO" button symbol **664**. Since each button will cause something to happen, i.e., some piece of code to be executed, each button has associated with it an event script **651**, **653**, **655**, **657**, **659**, **661**, **663**, **673**, **675**, **669**, **671**, **667**, and **665**, respectively, to represent the event which will

cause that button to invoke code. In this particular example, the event is a single mouse click for each button. The actual function performed by the button is not shown in the OED and, as previously mentioned, might be defined in a separate document, such as a text document. Alternately, also as previously discussed, a description may be provided or referenced within the button symbol by means of hidden text, hyperlinking, or otherwise.

[**0072**] The OED **600** represents the five text boxes of FLIGHTS RESULTS window **200b** with general symbols, namely "FROM" symbol **680**, "TO" symbol **682**, "TIME" symbol **684**, "AIRLINES" symbol **686**, and "DATE" symbol **688**, all of which are static objects. All of those text boxes have scripts associated with them, represented by script symbols **681**, **683**, **685**, **687**, and **689**, respectively. The script symbol labels disclose the event that will cause the script to be executed and the name of the method invoked by the script. Thus, the word "deselect" appears within the script symbols **681**, **683**, **685**, **687**, **689** to indicate that the corresponding script is executed when the particular box is "deselected" by the user. In this context, "deselect" refers to the user exiting the corresponding text box by hitting the TAB key (e.g., presumably after typing text in the box, such as typing the name of a destination airport or city in the "TO" box). Merely for purposes of clarity, the methods invoked with each of these scripts might be logic that determines if the text string entered in the corresponding text box is valid. For example, in the DATE box, if the date must be typed in using the form mm/dd/yyyy, the script will invoke a method that checks that the typed text is a real date (e.g., 11/27/2003) and will flag as incorrect text that does not meet the specified criteria (e.g., 13/33/2001, which comprises a non-existent month, a non-existent date and a year that is in the past, all three of which are clearly erroneous).

[**0073**] Frame **290** in **FIGS. 2 and 4** is represented by frame symbol **690** in the OED **300b** of **FIG. 6**. This is the frame in which flight plan records that are built responsive to the query parameters entered by the user in the aforementioned text boxes in window **201b** will be displayed. Frame object **690** is a somewhat complex object and, therefore, has its own OED, which is shown in **FIG. 7** and will be discussed in detail further below. However, this OED shows some details about frame object **690**. Specifically, it shows that an event, namely, a double mouse click (termed "dclick" in the diagrams) over a particular flight plan record **291** listed in the frame will invoke an event script. This is represented in the OED by event script symbol **611**. Event script **611** will invoke a method called START RESERVATIONS. THE START RESERVATIONS method is not represented by the event script symbol **611**. Nevertheless, by way of explanation, that method would, for example, open a RESERVATIONS window (shown in **FIG. 7**, which is discussed in detail below) within which the user can book the selected flight.

[**0074**] Frame object **690** is a somewhat complex object that might warrant creation of a separate OED for that object. Accordingly, **FIG. 7** is an OED **700** for frame object table **690**. The frame **690** is, therefore, shown within a circle **701** to show that it is the main object of this diagram. It inherits the properties of the FLIGHTS RESULTS window object **601**, which is represented in the OED **700** by drawing the FLIGHTS RESULTS window symbol **601** within the circle **701** and connecting it to the frame symbol **690** with an