

opportunity. An information service provider would typically accumulate subject matter, preferably of interest to a particular user, for broadcast or distribution through a wireless radio link, the Internet, or perhaps a telephone network. Once such information is collected, it is preferably formatted to expedite the display on a single line of a PDA display screen or other limited area thereof. Of course transmission in the form of a radio broadcast, but also in the form of an Internet distribution or a telephone download would enable the distribution of the information of interest to the various users.

[0042] By offering advertising space in the information stream, revenue might be generated for the information service provider at least partially or completely off setting the cost to provide such a service to users. In a two way or bi directional data link, the information service provider might receive responses to advertising copy allowing the information service provider and accordingly the advertiser to provide yet additional data in the form of a second information stream broadcast via a radio link or distributed via an Internet or other transmission media, preferably providing additional information of interest on a particular product or service to the PDA user.

What is claimed is:

1. A personal digital assistant (PDA) comprised of:

a PDA communication device, for receiving signals that carry information sent to said personal digital assistant by an information service provider, and, for coupling said information to a PDA display device, said information sent to said PDA being selected for delivery to said PDA according to PDA-user criteria;

a PDA display and input device operatively coupled to said communications device capable of:

displaying information in at least one predetermined region of said display and input device in response to informational data coupled into said display and input device; and

receiving an input entered into said display and input device in response to displayed information, received input responses causing information displayed on said display and input device to display different information on said display and input device.

2. The personal digital assistant of claim 1 wherein said communication device is a communication device that is capable of receiving Instant Delivery messages.

3. The personal digital assistant of claim 1 wherein said communication device is a communication device that is capable of receiving information that is comprised of content information and advertising information.

4. The personal digital assistant of claim 1 wherein said display and input device is comprised of a display device, capable of displaying scrolling information in at least one predetermined region of said display and input device in response to information signals coupled into said display and input device.

5. The personal digital assistant of claim 1 wherein said display and input device is comprised of a display device capable of displaying horizontally scrolling information in at

least one predetermined region of said display and input device in response to information signals coupled into said display and input device.

6. The personal digital assistant of claim 1 wherein said display and input device is comprised of a display device capable of displaying vertically scrolling information in at least one predetermined region of said display and input device in response to information signals coupled into said display and input device.

7. The personal digital assistant of claim 1 wherein said communications means comprises a radio.

8. The personal digital assistant of claim 1 wherein said communications means comprises an infrared receiver.

9. The personal digital assistant of claim 1 wherein said communications means comprises a direct network connection.

10. The personal digital assistant of claim 1 wherein said display and input device is comprised of a touch-sensitive screen, responsive to tactile inputs.

11. A method of displaying information on a portable communications device having an included display device comprised of the steps of:

receiving, at said portable communications device, a signal carrying at least a first stream of information to be displayed on said included display device, said first data stream of information comprised of information that substantially conforms with user-specific criteria;

recovering from said signal, said stream of information to be displayed on said included display device;

processing at least a portion of said stream of information to be displayed, so as to be able to display at least a first portion of said stream of information on said included display device in a pre-determined region of said included display device;

displaying at least a first portion of said stream of information on said included display device.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said method is further comprised of the step of:

displaying a second stream of information on said included display device in response to an input signal from a user of said portable communications device, said input signal from a user being responsive to said first stream of information that is displayed on said included display device.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said second stream of information is obtained via an Internet hyper link.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein said first stream of information is the Hewlett-Packard Instant Delivery service.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein said first stream of information is comprised of information content and advertising content.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein said step of displaying said first stream of information on said included display device includes the step of:

scrolling said first stream of information as a ticker tape display in a confined region of said included display device.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said step of scrolling said first stream of information in a confined region of said included display device includes the step of scrolling said stream of information horizontally.