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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/IB98/00757 (22) International Filing Date: 23 April 1998 (23.04.98) (30) Priority Data: 9708175.6 23 April 1997 (23.04.97) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): XEROX CORPORATION [US/US]; Xerox Square, Rochester, NY 14644 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ANDREOLI, Jean-Marc [FR/FR]; 19, allée des Frênes, F-38240 Meylan (FR). BORGHOFF, Uwe [DE/FR]; 170, chemin de la Source, F-38330 Saint Ismier (FR). (74) Agent: REYNOLDS, Julian, D.; Xerox Limited, Patent Dept., Parkway, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1YL (GB).</p>	<p>(81) Designated States: JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>	

(54) Title: FEATURE CONSTRAINT BASED DOCUMENT INFORMATION RETRIEVAL AND DISTRIBUTION

(57) Abstract

A system including any number of workstations, file servers, printers and other fixed devices coupled in a network, and a number of portable devices carried by users and coupled to the network by infrared (IR) link. Each portable device emulates its user's personal satchel for documents: the device is programmed to receive transmit and store feature constraints (FCs). The FCs are distributed from one person to another by transmission of IR data packets, and once a network-connected computer, printer or multifunction device has received an FC via IR transceiver associated with it, a search request can be derived from the FC and document references (e.g. WWW URLs) satisfying the FC can be obtained via a search engine. For each URL obtained, the corresponding electronic document can be retrieved from a repository and displayed or printed. The portable device is preferably a handheld or wristwatch computer with a graphical display for enabling the user to transfer FCs, and the fixed devices preferably include a scanner/copier/printer having its own IR transceiver.

