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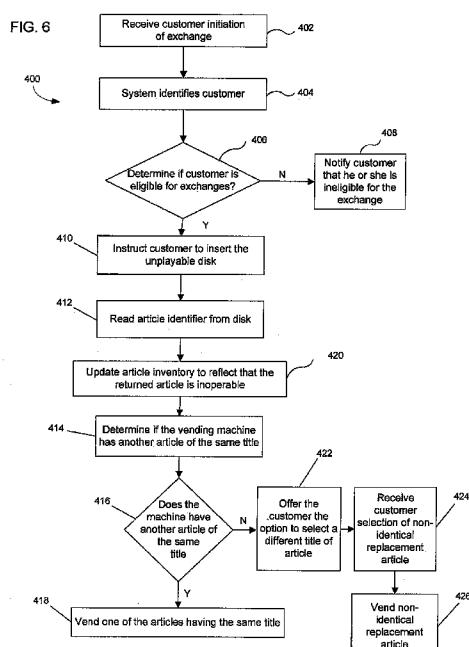
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ARTICLE VENDING MACHINE AND METHOD FOR EXCHANGING AN INOPERABLE ARTICLE FOR AN OPERABLE ARTICLE



(57) Abstract: An article vending machine in a network of article vending machines capable of exchanging an inoperable rental article received from a user for an operable replacement article. The article dispensing machine checks customer identification information against one or more customer rental criteria to determine if the customer is eligible to exchange an inoperable article for an operable one. The article vending machine searches for an identical replacement article within an inventory of the machine itself and within inventories of the networked article vending machines. Alternatively, the article vending machine may provide a refund for the inoperable article.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

G07F 11/54(2006.01)i, B65H 1/00(2006.01)i

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

G07F 11/54; G07F 9/00; A63F 7/02; G06F 17/60; G07F 7/12

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Korean utility models and applications for utility models
Japanese utility models and applications for utility modelsElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords:vend, refund, replace, network

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 2004-094857 A (FUJI ELECTRIC RETAIL SYSTEMS CO LTD) 25 March 2004 see paragraph [0007]-paragraph [0104]; claims 1-9 and figures 1-13.	1-26
A	JP 2009-043143 A (OTSU SHUHEI) 26 February 2009 see paragraph [0001]-paragraph [0031]; claims 1-8 and figure 1.	1-26
A	JP 2003-036328 A (SONY CORP) 07 February 2003 see paragraph [0001]-paragraph [0104]; claims 1-8 and figures 1-7.	1-26

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 2004-094857 A	25.03.2004	JP 4131150 B2	13.08.2008
JP 2009-043143 A	26.02.2009	None	
JP 2003-036328 A	07.02.2003	None	