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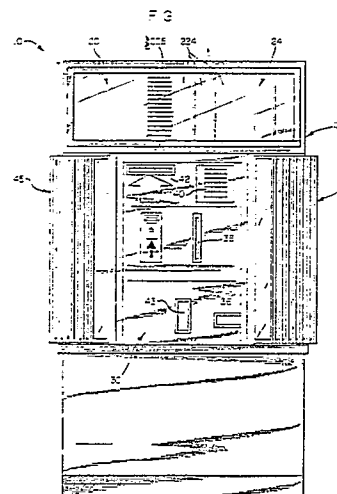
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54 Automated library article terminal.

57 An automated library article terminal is externally operable by the user, to, through a delivery chute mounted and arranged to deliver articles through an external wall, automatically stock, vend, and selectively accept return of and re-stock, so that they can be re-vended, a plurality of reusable articles each having a unique code. A memory stores information comprising the location of the plurality of articles in the terminal. A control is coupled to the memory and is responsive to operation of the terminal by a user to generate control signals. A vertical track member has a rotational drive responsive to the control signals for revolving the vertical track member about a given axis. A vertical lift member is mounted for vertical movement on the vertical track member. A vertical drive is responsive to the control signals for vertically moving the lift member relative to the vertical track member. An article handling member mounted on the vertical lift member extends and retracts in a generally horizontal direction relative to the vertical lift member and can be manipulated to selectively engage and release one of the articles. A code reader is mounted for reading the code of any article transported by the article handling member to or from the delivery chute and for generating an article code signal representative of the code so read and transmitting the article code signal to the memory. Apparatus coupled to the drivers generates a signal corresponding to the location of an article

placed by the article handling member and transmits the article location signal to the memory.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	US-A-4 668 150 (BLUMBERG) * Abstract; figures 1-3,9-11; column 1, line 1 - column 3, line 44; column 5, line 1 - column 6, line 62; claims 1-15 *	1,2,4-17	G 07 F 7/06 G 07 F 11/62 G 07 F 11/54
A	---	3,18	
A	EP-A-0 249 367 (BRADT et al.) * Abstract; page 3, line 1 - page 4, line 31; claims 1-31; figures 1,2,4,9-12 *	1-18	
A	---		
A	US-A-4 519 522 (McELWEE) * Whole document *	1-17	
A	---		
A	EP-A-0 251 199 (GUIGAN et al.) * Abstract; figures 1-4,16,22,25,27-29,34; claims 1-17 *	1,2,4-17	
A	---		
A	WO-A-8 803 506 (BLUMBERG) * Abstract; figures 1-11 *	1,2,4-10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
A	---		
A	WO-A-8 602 758 (NYEGAARD) * Abstract; figures 1-4 *	1,10	G 07 F
A	-----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 29-11-1989	Examiner GUIVOL, O.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			