11.10 Keyboards used for Search

By selecting one of displayed options, a range of the object data to be searched is narrowed down.

Special search methods and input methods (when possible options are known clearly) made available by providing images or other means are listed below:

1) Alphabets and Japanese Syllabary Input (one-byte codes)
2) Kanji Input and Japanese Syllabary Input (two-byte codes)
3) Telephone Numbers
4) Zip Codes
5) Region and Prefecture Selection

These keyboards are not used if the general search method is applied, where the options are displayed normally.

These keyboards and codes are used for category assignment.

If there is no relevant data, the corresponding code is deleted from the options or a category is created with its relevant data count = 0. Because any keyboard is used frequently, one-byte codes are used, instead of writing category names, to reduce the data quantity and make distinct representations (such as an image-based selection method).

1) Alphabets and Japanese Syllabary Input (one-byte codes)

   This keyboard is intended for one-byte codes such as ASCII.

   Do not apply this keyboard to Japanese characters if full-size hiraganas (0x829f to 0x82f1) in the Japanese syllabary are input, and they are processed as one-byte codes by using a conversion formula such as:

   Shift JIS code - 0x829e

   (as long as this is not standardized in other countries).

2) Kanji input and Japanese syllabary input (two-byte codes)

   This keyboard is for two-byte codes such as kanji characters.

   Various conditions for application can be set, such as, kanji characters are input, and two-byte hiragana characters only are input.

   For the Japanese syllabary input, it may be reasonable to apply some restriction, such as, inhibit the input of small-size characters or do not use voiced-sound characters.

3) Telephone Numbers

   The numbers keyboard is available by making use of a pushbuttons-design image or numeral keys if provided in a remote-control device.

   The BCD representation is used, because target data can be identified by a search with a mask in units of four bits.

   Because the keyboard may be linked with tone signals to detect the number of digits entered and auto-dialing, compatibility with other countries is required.

4) Zip Codes

   Similar to the telephone number input.

5) District and Prefecture Selection

   Associating the appropriate administrative districts with each country is required.