

9

plurality of Braille characters, wherein said display is located on the keyboard below the area of said first set of plurality of keys when said keyboard is in said first orientation, and wherein said display is located on the keyboard above the area of said second set of plurality of keys when said keyboard is in said second orientation.

20. The unit of claim 19, wherein said second set of plurality of keys has a key corresponding to the second set of plurality of keys of the first set.

21. The unit of claim 20, wherein said first plurality of keys includes at least seven keys.

22. The unit of claim 20, wherein said first plurality of keys includes at least seven keys and a plurality of function keys.

23. The unit of claim 19, wherein said first set of plurality of keys includes at least six keys.

24. The unit of claim 19, wherein said display includes a plurality of cells for displaying Braille characters.

25. The unit of claim 19, comprising switching means for switching the orientation of the characters displayed on said display to correspond to one or the other of the first orientation or the second orientation.

26. The unit of claim 25, wherein said switching means comprises a user actuated switch.

27. The unit of claim 19, comprising
a computer for processing information,

10

means for transmitting an input in the form of an electrical signal from the keyboard to the computer to detect a striking of one or more keys,

software for controlling the computer to read and compare the input associated with the striking of one or more keys, wherein said processor compares a plurality of input signals associated with a plurality of key strikes with stored data to determine whether the keyboard is being used in a first orientation or a second orientation.

28. The unit of claim 27, wherein said computer is controlled by software which displays on said keyboard display a plurality of Braille characters, wherein said display displays characters oriented to correspond to the orientation of the keyboard.

29. The unit of claim 27, further comprising means for connecting the keyboard to the electronic means of a computer, and means for sensing the input of a keystroke.

30. The unit of claim 19, further comprising refreshing means for actuating the refreshment of the display.

31. The unit of claim 30, where the refreshing means comprises a user actuated switch.

32. The unit of claim 30, wherein said cells are arranged in a bank having a first end and a second end, and wherein the refreshing means comprises a sensor disposed to sense the position of the user's finger at at least one of the first bank end and the second bank end.

* * * * *