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Systems and methods for providing media content

Abstract

Systems and associated methods are described for providing media content. The system retrieves from memory a media consumption pattern profile, which includes first and second media characteristics associated as a pattern of media consumption and a time duration indicating how long a first media content item having the first media characteristic was output by a user device before the user device changed to outputting a second media content item having the second media characteristic. The system outputs a media content item onto the user device. In response to detecting the media content item has the first media characteristic and has been output for the time duration, the system outputs a third media content item having the first and second media characteristics onto the user device and after outputting the third media content item, outputs a fourth media content item having the second media characteristic onto the user device.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION (1) This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/245,665, filed Apr. 30, 2021, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

(1) This disclosure relates to systems and methods for providing media content to a user, and more particularly, to systems and methods for dynamically outputting media content based on a media consumption pattern indicating time duration of different media characteristics of media content consumed by the user.

SUMMARY

(2) Modern media distribution systems enable a user to access more media content than ever before. However, given the large variety of media providers and media content available to users of media services (e.g., cable, broadcast, satellite, over-the-top provider), it may be a challenging task

to not only continuously provide media content that will be consumed by the user but also provide a smooth transition of media content of different characteristics for an improved user's visual experience in real time.

(3) In one approach, when a user is consuming media content with a specific media characteristic (e.g., a specific genre) on a user device, a system will automatically provide (e.g., by auto playing) other media content with the same media characteristic. For example, when a user is watching a media content of comedy genre online on YouTube™ or other short video platforms with active auto-play in an ON mode the platform will commonly auto-play other short videos in the comedy genre. However, often a user may lose interest in the media with a media characteristic and will not want to watch the comedy genre media content while the system continues to provide this comedy genre media content onto the user device for a long time. In one example, while the system continues to provide the comedy genre media content, the user may wish to watch media content of a mystery genre. In this approach, in order for the user to switch watching to the media content of the mystery genre, the user has to manually search for and select the media content of the mystery genre. Also, this drastic switch of the media content of the comedy genre to the mystery genre provides an overall unpleasant viewing experience to the user. Moreover, with the auto-play in the ON mode, the media content of the same characteristics is continuously provided onto the user device, which causes the user device to consume resources such as a large amount of processing power and will require a huge quantity of media content being provided at a high bandwidth on a network when the user is not consuming the media content resulting in wastage of these resources.

(4) In some embodiments, to overcome these problems, methods and systems for dynamically providing media content recommendations to the user in real time based on the user's consumption pattern of the media content of different media characteristics (e.g. genre, character, rating, locations, etc.) and corresponding time durations. In one embodiment, the system tracks the user's behavior (e.g. mood, activity, etc.) to determine a pattern of time duration of the user's consumption of the media content of each of different media characteristics. The system outputs media content on the user device and detects that the media content has media characteristic that is the same as the first media characteristic of first media content in the user's consumption pattern and has been consumed for the time duration. Based on the user's consumption pattern, the system determines that the user will very likely lose interest in the media content (or does not watch the media content) after the time duration and would want to watch a media content of a second media characteristic. The system then outputs a media content of a combined first and second media characteristics onto the user device followed by an output of media content of the second characteristics onto the user device. Thus, the embodiments of the present invention dynamically provide media content that is continuously being consumed by the user and also provides a smooth transition of the media content of different characteristics, which results in a pleasant viewing experience for the user. Also, with the auto-play in the ON mode, the user is continuously consuming a large quantity of media content provided to the user device resulting in highly efficient usage of both a large amount of processing power and the high bandwidth. Thus, the embodiments of the current invention ensure that these resources are not being wasted and are being utilized in real time.

(5) In some embodiments of the present disclosure, the media content of the combined first and second characteristics includes first set of media frames of the first characteristics and a second set of the media frames of the second characteristics. In one embodiment, the system outputs the first set of media frames followed by the second set of media frames onto the user device. In another embodiment, the system outputs the second set of media frames followed by the first set of media frames.

(6) In some embodiments of the present disclosure, the system retrieves from memory the media consumption pattern profile. The system identifies a media content item being output by a user device. The system detects that the media content item has the first media characteristic and has

been output for the time duration onto the user device. The system generates a playlist manifest including another media content item having the first media characteristics and second media characteristics (different from the first media characteristics) and transmits the playlist manifest to the user device. After transmitting the playlist manifest, system transmits a different media content item having the second media characteristics to the user device.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) The above and other objects and advantages of the present disclosure will be apparent upon consideration of the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters refer to like parts throughout, and in which:
- (2) FIG. 1 depicts an illustrative example scenario for a scenario of a system for providing media content over a duration of time, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure;
- (3) FIG. 2A depicts an example of a graphical structure illustrating transition of characteristics of media content over a period of time, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure;
- (4) FIG. 2B depicts an example of a graphical structure illustrative media content recommendations during the transitions of the characteristics of media content over period of time, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure;
- (5) FIG. 2C depicts an example of a graphical structure representing recommendations of media content of combined genres over a period of time, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure;
- (6) FIG. 3 shows an illustrative block diagram of a system hosting a content delivery application, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure;
- (7) FIG. 4 is an illustrative block diagram showing additional details of a system hosting the content delivery application, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure;
- (8) FIG. 5 is a flow chart a method for providing media content over a period of time, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure;
- (9) FIG. 6 is a flow chart of a method for providing media content having combination of characteristics, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure;
- (10) FIG. 7 depicts an illustrative flowchart of process for switching media content of various characteristics in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure;
- (11) FIG. 8 depicts an illustrative flowchart of process for switching media content of various characteristics in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure;
- (12) FIG. 9 depicts an illustrative flowchart of process for generating media consumption pattern profile; in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure;
- (13) FIG. 10 depicts an illustrative flowchart of process for generating media consumption pattern profile in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure;
- (14) FIG. 11 depicts an illustrative flowchart of process for providing media content in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure; and
- (15) FIG. 12 depicts an illustrative flowchart of process for generating media consumption pattern profile.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- (16) FIG. 1 shows an example of a scenario **100** of a system providing media content items to one or more users, in accordance with some embodiments of this disclosure. Scenario **100** of FIG. 1 may include a server **101** (server **401** of FIG. 4) including a memory **103** and a control circuitry **102** (control circuitry **402** of FIG. 4). Scenario **100** may also include a user or computing device

(device) **112** (computing device **460** of FIG. **4**), which may be a smart phone, a smart television, a personal computer, a laptop computer, tablet, or any other type of computing device that displays and/or audio drivers, such as speakers (not shown in FIG. **1**) that are respectively configured to visibly and/or audibly present content to one or more users. In one embodiment In some embodiments, the device **112** may include a control circuitry **110** (control circuitry **410** of FIG. **4**) and an input/output (I/O) circuitry **114** (I/O circuitry **416** of FIG. **4**). The device **112** may also include various graphical user interfaces (GUIs) **120**, **130**, **140**, enabling users to interact with a media content item via the I/O circuitry **114**. As referred to herein, the term “media content item” should be understood to mean an electronically consumable user content, such as television programming, as well as pay-per-view programs, on-demand programs (as in video-on-demand (VOD) systems), Internet content (e.g., streaming content, downloadable content, webcasts, etc.), videos, video clips, audio, playlists, websites, articles, electronic books, blogs, social media, applications, games, and/or any other media or multimedia, and/or combination of the same.

(17) In some embodiments, memory **103** may include a media content database **104** a media consumption pattern database **104**, which may be included in any of server **302**, media content source **304**, and/or media guidance data source **306** of FIG. **3**. In one embodiment, the media content database **104** includes media content of various media characteristics (e.g. genre, character, rating, locations, etc.). As shown in FIG. **1**, in one example, the media characteristics is a genre and the media content database **104** includes media content of comedy, mystery, action, combination of comedy & mystery, combination of mystery and action, combination of comedy and action genres.

(18) In one embodiment, the media consumption pattern database **108** includes a media consumption pattern profile data generated by one of the control circuitry **102** or the control circuitry **114**. The media consumption pattern profile data includes a plurality of media characteristics (e.g. genre, character, rating, locations, etc.) of a plurality of media content items as a pattern of media consumption and a time duration (t) indicating how long each media content item having the respective media characteristic was outputted for display on the computing device **114**. As shown in FIG. **1**, in one example, the media characteristics is a genre and the media consumption pattern database **108** includes a pattern of comedy genre of a time duration **t1** followed by mystery genre of a time duration **t2** followed by action genre at a time duration **t3** followed by **t2**. In one embodiment, the media consumption pattern profile is generated based on user's behavior or activity associated with each of the media content items outputted for display on the computing device **114**. Based on the user's behavior the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** determines whether user is interested in a currently displayed content item. As an example, when a first media content item is being displayed on the device **112**, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** accesses the media content database **104** and identifies the first media content item as the media content of a comedy genre. In one example, after some time, **t1**, user may start searching for another media content item on the device **112** via the I/O circuitry **114**. At time **t1**, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** determines that the user is no longer interested in the comedy genre media content item and detects the user switches to a second media content item after **t1**. The control circuitry **102** and/or **110** then accesses the media content database **104** and identifies the second media content item as a mystery genre. In one example, after some time, **t2**, user may start searching for another media content item on the device **112** via the I/O circuitry **114**. Then, after **t2**, the user switches to a third media content item. The control circuitry **102** and/or **110** accesses the media content database **104** and identifies that the second media content item is of a mystery genre. The control circuitry **102** and/or **110** also detects that the user watched the mystery genre content item for time **t3** before searching or switching to another media content item. Even though, the example described above is based on user's activity on the user device such as searching or switching to different media content items, other user's activity or behavior may be user appears bored or falls asleep while watching currently displayed media content item after the time **t** or the user stopped watching the currently displayed media content item the after time **t**.

(19) In one embodiment, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** determines a media characteristics strength score of each of the plurality of media characteristics during each of the time duration (t) of the respective media content item and generates the media consumption pattern profile. FIG. 2A illustrates an example of a graph structure **200** representing media consumption pattern profile data including a pattern of transition of genres of media content items in a previous viewing session. In one example, y-axis shows a genre strength score **202** of the genre of the media content and x-axis shows the time duration t **204** during the previous viewing session. As discussed above, user's behavior or activity is tracked to determine the genre of the media content items and the time (t) during which each of the media content items was consumed by the user. In one embodiment, genre strength is determined by tracking user's past behavior or activity towards each of the media content items of respective genres during the time t. For example, the graph **200** illustrates the genre strength scores **202** of three genres, comedy **206**, mystery **208** and action **210** during the time duration t of a previous viewing session. In one example, comedy genre strength is high and mystery genre strength is low during the time t₁ of the t of the previous viewing session. After t₁, it is determined that the user's mood has changed and is starting to lose interest in the media content with the comedy genre and begins to take interest in the media content with mystery genre, which results in a transition of media content such that user begins to watch only mystery genre starting at beginning of time duration time t₂. Starting at the t₂, the comedy genre strength begins to decrease and mystery genre strength begins to increase. During time t₂ the mystery genre strength is high and comedy genre strength is low indicating that that the user is watching the media content of only mystery genre. After t₂, it is determined that the user's mood has changed again and is starting to lose interest in the mystery genre and begins to take interest in the action genre, which results in transition of the media content such that the user begins to watch action only genre content starting at beginning of time duration t₃. Starting at the t₃, the mystery genre strength begins to decrease and action genre strength begins to increase. During time t₃ the action genre strength is high and mystery genre strength is low indicating that that the user is watching the media content of only action genre.

(20) In one embodiment, the pattern consumption profile data in the graph structure 2A is updated based on tracking user's behavior or activity towards the media content items during a current viewing session. For example, during the current viewing session, it is determined that the time duration t₁ is longer or shorter than stored in the user consumption profile. Then, t₁ is updated based on the time duration of user consuming the media content of comedy genre during the current viewing session. In another example, during the current viewing session, it is determined that the after t₁, user switches to a media content item of a drama genre. Then, mystery genre strength is replaced with drama genre strength based on user switching from the comedy genre media content to the drama genre media content.

(21) As discussed above, the user behavior is tracked based on user's behavior or activity. Some examples of user's behavior or activity includes user input such as user switching media content from one genre to another, prior search queries by the user, prior user interactions with media content, like or dislike of the media content, positive or negative comments on the media content, shares and/or number of shares of the media content, blogs or discussion related to the media content, other social media interactions by the user related to media content etc. In some embodiments, the user behavior or activity may be determined based on user's mood or emotions such as happy, sad, bored, furious etc. detected. Such moods or emotions may be detected based on facial expressions captured via an sensor (not shown), such as camera or based on pulse and/or heart rate detected via a smartwatch (not shown) worn by the user. In some embodiments, user behavior or activity may be determined based on user's daily schedule. In example, the system determines that the user watches comedy genre media content before dinner time (i.e. comedy genre strength is high and mystery genre strength is low) and does not watch any media content during dinner time (i.e. both comedy and mystery genre strength is low) and watches mystery genre

media content after dinner time (i.e. mystery genre strength is high and comedy genre strength is low). The system may generate the user consumption pattern profile data such that the comedy genre media content is provided to the user before dinner time and mystery genre media content is provided to the user after dinner time. In one example, no media content is provided to the user during dinner time. In another example, an advertisement/commercial is provided to the user during dinner time.

(22) FIG. 2B illustrates an example of a graph structure **220**, generated by the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** to represent recommendation of media content of different genres. In one example, during the time duration **t1**, the genre strength of the comedy genre is high, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** functions to recommend comedy genre media content. In one example, video clip (s) of the comedy media content recommended is a show “Saturday Night Live.” In one embodiment, during time duration between **t1** and **t2** indicating transition of the decrease of the genre strength of the comedy media content and the increase of the genre strength of the mystery media content, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** functions to recommend media content with a combined comedy and mystery genre. In one example, video clip(s) of the media content with combined comedy and mystery genre recommended is a movie “21 Jump street.” comedy media content. In one embodiment, during the time duration **t2**, genre strength of the mystery media content is high, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** functions to recommend mystery media content. In one example, video clip (s) of the mystery media content recommended is a movie “The Harrow.”

(23) FIG. 2C illustrates an example of a graph structures **230** and **232**, generated by the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** to represent recommendation of media content of combined comedy and mystery genre during the time duration between **t1** and **t2**. The combined comedy and mystery genre media content of sets of media frames. In one example, the first set of media frames include video clip(s) are of comedy genre and a second set of video frames include video clip(s) are of a mystery genre. In one example, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** determines that the media content of comedy genre was displayed onto the user device during the time **t1**. The control circuitry **102** and/or **110** selects to output the first set of media frames of comedy genre for display followed by outputting the second set of media frames of mystery genre for display onto the user device during the time duration between **t1** and **t2** as shown in the graph structure **230**. In another example, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** determines that the media content of mystery genre was displayed onto the user device during the time **t1**. The control circuitry **102** and/or **110** functions to output the second set of media frames of mystery genre for display followed by outputting the first set of media frames of mystery genre for display onto the user device during the time duration between **t1** and **t2** as shown in the graph structure **232**.

(24) Returning back to FIG. 1, in one example, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** accesses the media content database **104** and functions to output a media content to be displayed on the GUI **120** of the device **112**, which is currently being viewed by the user **114**. In one embodiment, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** determines that the media content on the GUI **120** is of a comedy genre and determines that it matches with the comedy genre in the media consumption pattern database **104**. In one example as shown, current viewing session for the user is two hours. In one embodiment, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** detects that the user **114** is watching the media content of comedy genre (comedy media content) for an approximate time of 25 minutes. In one embodiment, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** compares the comedy genre of the approximate time of 25 minutes with the time duration **t1** corresponding to the comedy genre in the media consumption pattern database **104** and determines a match. In one embodiment, control circuitry **102** and/or **110** predicts from the media consumption pattern database **104** that after **t1**, the user **114** will switch from watching comedy media content to media content of mystery genre (mystery media content) beginning at the time duration **t2**. The control circuitry **102** and/or **110** selects a combination of comedy and mystery genre media content from the media content database **104** to

output for display onto the device **112** as shown on the GUI **130** after approximate time of 25 minutes. Thus, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** automatically switches to display from comedy media content to the combination of comedy and mystery genre media content after time **t1** but before time **t2**. As an example, the combination of comedy and mystery media content on the GUI **130** is shown beginning at approximately 25 minutes 30 seconds. In one embodiment, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** outputs the combined comedy and mystery media content for display during the time **t1** and **t2**. In one example, video clip of comedy genre of the combined comedy and mystery media content is outputted to be displayed first, which is followed by the video clip of mystery genre of the combined comedy and mystery media content. In another example, video clip of mystery genre of the combined comedy and mystery media content is outputted to be displayed first, which is followed by the video clip of comedy genre of the combined comedy and mystery media content. In one embodiment, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** detects that the time **t2** begins at approximately 30 minutes into the current viewing session. The control circuitry **102** and/or **110** selects the mystery media content from the media content database **104** to output for display onto the device **112** as shown on the GUI **140** at approximate 30 minutes into the current viewing session. Thus, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** automatically switches the display on the GUI **140** from combined comedy and mystery media content to mystery media content beginning at approximately 30 minutes into the current viewing session. Thus, in one embodiment, the control circuitry **102** and/or **110** functions to predict and/or detect when to switch the media content item in real time.

(25) FIG. 3 shows an illustrative block diagram of a system **300** for displaying content, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure. In various aspects, system **300** includes one or more of server **302**, media content source **304**, media guidance data source **306**, communication network **308**, and one or more computing devices or user equipment **310**, e.g., user television equipment **310a** (e.g., a set-top box), user computer equipment **310b** (e.g., a desktop or laptop), and/or wireless user communications device **310c** (e.g., a smartphone device or tablet). The computing device or user equipment **310** may correspond to computing device **102** in FIG. 1 and may include one or more sensors or devices (e.g., a camera, a microphone, eye scanner, fingerprint scanner, remote control, etc.) to collect biometric data of users. Although FIG. 3 shows one of each component, in various examples, system **300** may include fewer than the illustrated components, multiples of one or more illustrated components, and/or additional components. Communication network **308** may be any type of communication network, e.g., the Internet, a mobile phone network, mobile voice or data network (e.g., a 4G or LTE network), cable network, public switched telephone network, or any combination of two or more of such communication networks. Communication network **308** includes one or more communication paths, such as a satellite path, a fiber-optic path, a cable path, a path that supports Internet communications (e.g., IP TV), free-space connections (e.g., for broadcast or other wireless signals), or any other suitable wired or wireless communication path or combination of such paths. Communication network **308** communicatively couples various components of system **300** to one another. For instance, server **302** may be communicatively coupled to media content source **304**, media guidance data source **306**, and/or computing device **310** via communication network **308**.

(26) In some examples, media content source **304** and media guidance data source **306** may be integrated as one device. Media content source **304** may include one or more types of content distribution equipment including a television distribution facility, cable system headend, satellite distribution facility, programming sources (e.g., television broadcasters, such as NBC, ABC, HBO, etc.), intermediate distribution facilities and/or servers, Internet providers, on-demand media servers, and other content providers. NBC is a trademark owned by the National Broadcasting Company, Inc.; ABC is a trademark owned by the American Broadcasting Company, Inc.; and HBO is a trademark owned by the Home Box Office, Inc. Media content source **304** may be the originator of content (e.g., a television broadcaster, a Webcast provider, etc.) or may not be the

originator of content (e.g., an on-demand content provider, an Internet provider of content of broadcast programs for downloading, etc.). Media content source **304** may include cable sources, satellite providers, on-demand providers, Internet providers, over-the-top content providers, or other providers of content. Media content source **304** may also include a remote media server used to store different types of content (e.g., including video content selected by a user) in a location remote from computing device **310**. Systems and methods for remote storage of content and providing remotely stored content to user equipment are discussed in greater detail in connection with Ellis et al., U.S. Pat. No. 7,761,892, issued Jul. 20, 2010, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

(27) Media content source **304** and media guidance data source **306** may provide content and/or media guidance data to computing device **310** and/or server **302** using any suitable approach. In some embodiments, media guidance data source **306** may provide a stand-alone interactive television program guide that receives program guide data via a data feed (e.g., a continuous feed or trickle feed). In some examples, media guidance data source **306** may provide program schedule data and other guidance data to computing device **310** on a television channel sideband, using an in-band digital signal, an out-of-band digital signal, or any other suitable data transmission technique.

(28) As described in further detail below, server **302** may manage the communication of a live content stream (e.g., a live sporting event broadcast, a live news broadcast, or the like) and recorded streams from media content source **304** to computing device **310** via communication network **308**. For instance, in some embodiments, content from media content source **304** and/or guidance data from media guidance data source **306** may be provided to computing device **310** using a client/server approach. In such examples, computing device **310** may pull content and/or media guidance data from server **302** and/or server **302** may push content and/or media guidance data to computing device **310**. In some embodiments, a client application residing on computing device **310** may initiate sessions with server **302**, media content source **304**, and/or media guidance data source **306** to obtain content and/or guidance data when needed, e.g., when the guidance data is out of date or when computing device **310** receives a request from the user to receive content or guidance data. In various aspects, server **302** may also be configured to detect events within the live content stream and, based on the detected events, control the display of content and/or navigation menu options via computing device **310**. Additionally, although FIG. 3 shows media content source **304** and media guidance data source **306** as separate from server **302**, in some embodiments, media content source **304** and/or media guidance data source **306** may be integrated as one device with server **302**.

(29) Content and/or media guidance data delivered to computing device **310** may be over-the-top (OTT) content. OTT content delivery allows Internet-enabled user devices, such as computing device **310**, to receive content that is transferred over the Internet, including any content described above, in addition to content received over cable or satellite connections. OTT content is delivered via an Internet connection provided by an Internet service provider (ISP), but a third party distributes the content. The ISP may not be responsible for the viewing abilities, copyrights, or redistribution of the content, and may transfer only IP packets provided by the OTT content provider. Examples of OTT content providers include FACEBOOK, AMAZON, YOUTUBE, NETFLIX, and HULU, which provide audio and video via IP packets. YouTube is a trademark owned by Google LLC; Netflix is a trademark owned by Netflix, Inc.; Hulu is a trademark owned by Hulu, LLC; Facebook is a trademark owned by Facebook, Inc.; and Amazon is a trademark owned by Amazon.com, Inc. OTT content providers may also include any other OTT content provider. OTT content providers may additionally or alternatively provide media guidance data described above. In addition to content and/or media guidance data, providers of OTT content can distribute applications (e.g., web-based applications or cloud-based applications), or the content can be displayed by applications stored on computing device **310**.

(30) FIG. 4 is an illustrative block diagram showing additional details of the system **400** (which may be the same as system **300** of FIG. 3), in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure. In particular, server **401** (e.g., the same server as server **302**) includes control circuitry **402** and I/O circuitry **408**, and control circuitry **402** includes storage **404** and processing circuitry **406**. Computing device **460** (e.g., one or more of devices **310a**, **310**, and **310c**) includes control circuitry **410**, I/O circuitry **416**, speaker **418**, display **420** (as well circuitry for generating images for display on display **420**), and user input interface **422**. Control circuitry **410** includes storage **412** and processing circuitry **414**. Control circuitry **402** and/or **410** may be based on any suitable processing circuitry such as processing circuitry **406** and/or **414**. As referred to herein, processing circuitry should be understood to mean circuitry based on one or more microprocessors, microcontrollers, digital signal processors, programmable logic devices, field-programmable gate arrays (FPGAs), application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs), etc., and may include a multi-core processor (e.g., dual-core, quad-core, hexa-core, or any suitable number of cores). In some embodiments, processing circuitry may be distributed across multiple separate processors, for example, multiple of the same type of processors (e.g., two Intel Core i9 processors) or multiple different processors (e.g., an Intel Core i7 processor and an Intel Core i9 processor).

(31) Each of storage **404**, storage **412**, and/or storages of other components of system **300** (e.g., storages of media content source **454**, media guidance data source **456**, and/or the like) may be an electronic storage device. In some embodiments, media content source **454** may be the same as media content source **304**. In some embodiments, media guidance data source **456** may be the same as media content source **306**. As referred to herein, the phrase “electronic storage device” or “storage device” should be understood to mean any device for storing electronic data, computer software, or firmware, such as random-access memory, read-only memory, hard drives, optical drives, digital video disc (DVD) recorders, compact disc (CD) recorders, BLU-RAY disc (BD) recorders, BLU-RAY 3D disc recorders, digital video recorders (DVRs, sometimes called a personal video recorders, or PVRs), solid state devices, quantum storage devices, gaming consoles, gaming media, or any other suitable fixed or removable storage devices, and/or any combination of the same. Each of storage **404**, storage **412**, and/or storages of other components of system **400** may be used to store various types of content, media guidance data, and or other types of data. Non-volatile memory may also be used (e.g., to launch a boot-up routine and other instructions). Cloud-based storage may be used to supplement storages **404**, **412** or instead of storages **404**, **412**. In some embodiments, control circuitry **402** and/or **410** executes instructions for a media content application stored in memory (e.g., storage **404** and/or **412**). Specifically, control circuitry **402** and/or **410** may be instructed by the media content application to perform the functions discussed herein. In some implementations, any action performed by control circuitry **402** and/or **410** may be based on instructions received from the media content application. For example, the media content application may be implemented as software or a set of executable instructions that may be stored in storage **404** and/or **312** and executed by control circuitry **402** and/or **410**. In some embodiments, the media content application may be a client/server media content application where only a client content application resides on computing device **460**, and a server content application resides on server **401**.

(32) The media content application may be implemented using any suitable architecture. For example, it may be a stand-alone content application wholly implemented on computing device **460**. In such an approach, instructions for the media content application are stored locally (e.g., in storage **412**), and data for use by the media content application is downloaded on a periodic basis (e.g., from an out-of-band feed, from an Internet resource, or using another suitable approach). Control circuitry **410** may retrieve instructions for the media content application from storage **412** and process the instructions to perform the functionality described herein. Based on the processed instructions, control circuitry **410** may determine what action to perform when input is received from user input interface **422**.

(33) In client/server-based embodiments, control circuitry **410** may include communication circuitry suitable for communicating with a content application server (e.g., server **401**) or other networks or servers. The instructions for carrying out the functionality described herein may be stored on the application server. Communication circuitry may include a cable modem, an integrated services digital network (ISDN) modem, a digital subscriber line (DSL) modem, a telephone modem, an Ethernet card, a wireless modem for communication with other equipment, or any other suitable communication circuitry. Such communication may involve the Internet or any other suitable communication networks or paths (e.g., communication network **458**). In some embodiments, communication network **458** may be the same as network **308**. In another example of a client/server-based application, control circuitry **410** runs a web browser that interprets web pages provided by a remote server (e.g., server **401**). For example, the remote server may store the instructions for the application in a storage device. The remote server may process the stored instructions using circuitry (e.g., control circuitry **402**) and generate the displays discussed above and below. Computing device **460** may receive the displays generated by the remote server and may display the content of the displays locally via display **420**. This way, the processing of the instructions is performed remotely (e.g., by server **401**) while the resulting displays, such as the display windows described elsewhere herein, are provided locally on computing device **460**. For example, computing device **460** may include display circuitry (e.g., video card circuitry or combination motherboard and video card circuitry) configured to generate for display the display windows. Computing device **460** may receive inputs from the user via input interface **422** and transmit those inputs to the remote server for processing and generating the corresponding displays.

(34) A user may send instructions to control circuitry **402** and/or **410** using user input interface **422**. User input interface **422** may be any suitable user interface, such as a remote control, trackball, keypad, keyboard, touchscreen, touchpad, stylus input, joystick, voice recognition interface, or other user input interfaces. User input interface **422** may be integrated with or combined with display **420**, which may be a monitor, television, liquid crystal display (LCD), electronic ink display, or any other equipment suitable for displaying visual images.

(35) Server **401** and computing device **460** may receive content and data via input/output (hereinafter “I/O”) circuitries **408** and **416**, respectively. For instance, I/O circuitry **416** may include circuitry that includes one or more of communication port configured to receive a live content stream from server **401** and/or media content source **454** via a communication network **458**. Storage **412** may be configured to buffer the received live content stream for playback, and display **420** may be configured to present the buffered content, navigation options, alerts, and/or the like via a primary display window and/or a secondary display window. I/O circuitries **408**, **416** may provide content (e.g., a live stream of content, broadcast programming, on-demand programming, Internet content, content available over a local area network (LAN) or wide area network (WAN), and/or other content) and data to control circuitry **402**, **410**. Control circuitry **402**, **410** may be used to send and receive commands, requests, and other suitable data using I/O circuitries **408**, **416**. I/O circuitries **408**, **416** may connect control circuitry **402**, **410** (and specifically processing circuitry **406**, **414**) to one or more communication paths (described below). I/O functions may be provided by one or more of these communication paths but are shown as single paths in FIG. **4** to avoid overcomplicating the drawing.

(36) Having described systems **300** and **400**, reference is now made to FIG. **5**, which depicts an illustrative flowchart of process **500** for providing media content that may be implemented by using systems **300** and **400**, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure. In various embodiments, the individual steps of process **500** may be implemented by one or more components of systems **300** and **400**. Although the present disclosure may describe certain steps of process **500** (and of other processes described herein) as being implemented by certain components of systems **300** and **400**, this is for purposes of illustration only, and it should be understood that other components of systems **300** and **400** may implement those steps instead. For example, the steps of

process **500** may be executed by server **401** and/or by computing device **460** to provide media content.

(37) At **502**, control circuitry **410** outputs a media content item to display onto the user device. At **504**, control circuitry **402** retrieves from a database media characteristic of the media content item. At **506**, control circuitry **402** compares media characteristic of the media content item with a first media characteristics and a second media characteristics in a media consumption pattern profile, wherein the first media characteristics corresponds to a first media content item and the second media characteristic corresponds to a second media content item. At **508**, control circuitry **402** determines whether the media characteristic of the media content item match with the first media content characteristic. When at **508**, it is determined that the media characteristic of the media content item does match with the first media content characteristic, then at **510**, control circuitry **402** compares time duration of the media content item outputted onto the user device with a time duration of the first media content item in the media consumption pattern profile. At **512**, control circuitry **402** determines whether the time duration of the media content item match with the time duration of the first media content item. When at **512**, it is determined that the time duration of the media content item does not match with the time duration of the first media content item, then then control circuitry **410** continues to output the media content item to display onto the user device at **502**. When at **512**, it is determined that the time duration of the media content item does match with the time duration of the first media content item, then at **514**, control circuitry **402** retrieves from a media content database a media content item having the first and the second characteristics. At **516**, control circuitry **410** outputs the retrieved media content item having the first and the second characteristics onto the user device. In one embodiment, the control circuitry **402** transmits the retrieved media content item to the control circuitry **410**. At **518**, control circuitry **402** retrieves from a media content database a media content item having the second characteristics. At step **520**, control circuitry **410** outputs the retrieved media content item having the second characteristics onto the user device.

(38) Returning back at **508**, when it is determined that the media characteristic of the media content item does not match with the first media content characteristic, then at **522**, control circuitry **402** determines whether media characteristic of the media content item match with the second media content characteristic. When at **522**, it is determined that the media characteristic of the media content item does not match with the second media content characteristic, then control circuitry **410** continues to output the media content item to display onto the user device at **502**. When at **522**, it is determined that the media characteristic of the media content item does match with the second media content characteristic, then at **524**, control circuitry **402** compares time duration of the media content item outputted onto the user device with a time duration of the second media content item in the media consumption pattern profile. At **526**, it is determined whether the time duration of the media content item match with the time duration of the second media content item. When at **526**, it is determined that the time duration of the media content item does not match with the time duration of the second media content item, then then control circuitry **410** continues to output the media content item to display onto the user device at **502**. When at **526**, it is determined that the time duration of the media content item does match with the time duration of the second media content item, then then at **528** control circuitry **402** retrieves from a media content database a media content item having the first and the second characteristics. At **530**, control circuitry **410** outputs the retrieved media content item having the first and the second characteristics onto the user device. In one embodiment, the control circuitry **402** transmits the retrieved media content item to the control circuitry **410**. At **532**, control circuitry **402** retrieves from a media content database a media content item having the first characteristics. At **534**, control circuitry **410** outputs the retrieved media content item having the first characteristics onto the user device.

(39) FIG. **6** depicts an illustrative flowchart of process **600** for providing media content having combination of characteristics that may be implemented by using systems **300** and **400**, in

accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure. In various embodiments, individual steps of process **600** may be implemented by one or more components of systems **300** and **400**. Although the present disclosure may describe certain steps of process **600** (and of other processes described herein) as being implemented by certain components of systems **300** and **400**, this is for purposes of illustration only, and it should be understood that other components of systems **300** and **400** may implement those steps instead. For example, the steps of process **500** may be executed by server **401** and/or by computing device **460** to provide media content.

(40) At **602**, control circuitry **410** compares media characteristic of a first set of frames and a second set of frames in the media content item having the first and the second media characteristics. In one embodiment, the media content item having the first and the second media characteristics is stored in the media content database **104**. At **604**, control circuitry **410** determines whether the media characteristic of the first set of frames match with the first media content characteristic. When at **604**, it is determined that media characteristic of the first set of frames match with the first media content characteristic, then at **606**, the control circuitry **410** outputs the first set of media frames onto the user device. At step **608**, the control circuitry **410** outputs the second set of media frames onto the user device after outputting the first set of media frames. When at **604**, it is determined that media characteristic of the first set of frames does not match with the first media content characteristic, then at **610**, the control circuitry **410** outputs the second set of media frames onto the user device. At step **612**, the control circuitry **410** outputs the first set of media frames onto the user device after outputting the first set of media frame.

(41) FIG. 7 depicts an illustrative flowchart of process **700** for switching media content of various characteristics that may be implemented by using systems **300** and **400**, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure. In various embodiments, individual steps of process **700** may be implemented by one or more components of systems **300** and **400**. Although the present disclosure may describe certain steps of process **600** (and of other processes described herein) as being implemented by certain components of systems **300** and **400**, this is for purposes of illustration only, and it should be understood that other components of systems **300** and **400** may implement those steps instead. For example, the steps of process **500** may be executed by server **401** and/or by computing device **460** to provide media content.

(42) At **702**, control circuitry **410** determines whether the time duration of the first media content item having the first media characteristic being displayed onto the user device is completed based on the media consumption pattern profile. In one example, the time duration corresponding to the first media characteristic is t_1 in the media consumption pattern database. At **704**, it is determined whether the time duration of the first media content item has ended. When at **704**, it is determined that the time duration of the first media content item has not ended, then at **706**, the control circuitry **410** continues to output the first media content item for display onto the user device. When at **704**, it is determined that the time duration of the first media content item has ended, then at **708**, the control circuitry **410** switches the display from the first media content item to a third media content item having the first and the second characteristics onto the user device for a time duration. At **710**, it is determined whether the time duration of the third media content item has ended. When at **710**, it is determined that the time duration of the third media content item has not ended, then at **712**, the control circuitry **410** continues to output the third media content item for display onto the user device. When at **710**, it is determined that the time duration of the third media content item has ended, then at **714**, the control circuitry **410** switches the display from the third media content item to a second media content item having the second characteristic onto the user device for a time duration.

(43) FIG. 8 depicts an illustrative flowchart of process **800** for switching media content of various characteristics that may be implemented by using systems **300** and **400**, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure. In various embodiments, individual steps of process **800** may be implemented by one or more components of systems **300** and **400**. Although the present disclosure

may describe certain steps of process **800** (and of other processes described herein) as being implemented by certain components of systems **300** and **400**, this is for purposes of illustration only, and it should be understood that other components of systems **300** and **400** may implement those steps instead. For example, the steps of process **500** may be executed by server **401** and/or by computing device **460** to provide media content.

(44) At **802**, control circuitry **410** determines whether the time duration of the second media content item having the second media characteristic being displayed onto the user device is completed based on the media consumption pattern profile. In one example, the time duration corresponding to the second media characteristic is t_2 in the media consumption pattern database. At **804**, it is determined whether the time duration of the second media content item has ended. When at **804**, it is determined that the time duration of the second media content item has not ended, then at **806**, the control circuitry **410** continues to output the second media content item for display onto the user device. When at **804**, it is determined that the time duration of the second media content item has ended, then at **808**, the control circuitry **410** switches the display from the second media content item to a third media content item having the first and the second characteristics onto the user device for a time duration. At **810**, it is determined whether the time duration of the third media content item has ended. When at **810**, it is determined that the time duration of the third media content item has not ended, then at **812**, the control circuitry **410** continues to output the third media content item for display onto the user device. When at **810**, it is determined that the time duration of the third media content item has ended, then at **814**, the control circuitry **410** switches the display from the third media content item to a first media content item having the first characteristic onto the user device for a time duration.

(45) FIG. **9** depicts an illustrative flowchart of process **900** for generating media consumption pattern profile that may be implemented by using systems **300** and **400**, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure. In various embodiments, individual steps of process **800** may be implemented by one or more components of systems **300** and **400**. Although the present disclosure may describe certain steps of process **900** (and of other processes described herein) as being implemented by certain components of systems **300** and **400**, this is for purposes of illustration only, and it should be understood that other components of systems **300** and **400** may implement those steps instead. For example, the steps of process **500** may be executed by server **401** and/or by computing device **460** to provide media content.

(46) At **902**, control circuitry **410** outputs a media content item having media characteristics to display onto the user device. At **904**, control circuitry **410** tracks user's behavior towards the currently displayed media content item. At **906**, it is determined whether the user switched the display to a media content different from currently displayed media content item. When at **906**, it is determined that the user did not switch the display to a different media content, control circuitry **410** continues to track the user's behavior at **904**. When at **906**, it is determined that the user did switch the display to a different media content, at **908**, control circuitry **410** determines a time duration of how long the media content item was displayed prior to the user switched to the display to a different media content item. At **910**, control circuitry **410** identifies the different media content item from the media content database. At **912**, control circuitry **410** retrieves from a database a characteristic of the different media content item and continues to determine whether the user switch the display at **906**.

(47) FIG. **10** depicts an illustrative flowchart of process **1000** for generating media consumption pattern profile that may be implemented by using systems **300** and **400**, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure. In various embodiments, individual steps of process **1000** may be implemented by one or more components of systems **300** and **400**. Although the present disclosure may describe certain steps of process **900** (and of other processes described herein) as being implemented by certain components of systems **300** and **400**, this is for purposes of illustration only, and it should be understood that other components of systems **300** and **400** may implement

those steps instead. For example, the steps of process **500** may be executed by server **401** and/or by computing device **460** to provide media content.

(48) At **1002**, control circuitry **410** outputs a media content item having a first media characteristics to display onto the user device. At **1004**, control circuitry **410** tracks user's behavior towards the currently displayed first media content item. At **1006**, it is determined whether the user switched the display to a second media content item different from currently displayed media content item. When at **1006**, it is determined that the user did not switch the display, then control circuitry **410** continues to track the user's behavior at **1004**. When at **1006**, it is determined that the user did not switch the display, then at **1008**, control circuitry **410** determines a first time duration of how long the first media content item was displayed prior to the user switched the display to the second media content item. At **1010**, control circuitry **410** retrieves from a database a second media characteristic of the second media content item. At **1012**, control circuitry **410** generates a high characteristics score for the first media characteristics and low characteristics score for the second characteristics during the first time duration. At **1014**, control circuitry **410** tracks user's behavior towards the currently displayed second media content item. At **1016**, it is determined whether the user switched the display to a another media content item different from currently displayed second media content item. When at **1016**, it is determined that the user did not switch the display, then control circuitry **410** continues to track the user's behavior at **1014**. When at **1016**, it is determined that user did switch the display, then at **1018**, control circuitry **410** determines a second time duration of how long the second media content item was displayed prior to the user switched the display to the another media content item. At **1020**, control circuitry **410** generates a high characteristics score for the second media characteristics and low characteristics score for the first media characteristics during the second time duration.

(49) FIG. **11** depicts an illustrative flowchart of process **1000** for providing media content that may be implemented by using systems **300** and **400**, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure. In various embodiments, the individual steps of process **500** may be implemented by one or more components of systems **300** and **400**. Although the present disclosure may describe certain steps of process **500** (and of other processes described herein) as being implemented by certain components of systems **300** and **400**, this is for purposes of illustration only, and it should be understood that other components of systems **300** and **400** may implement those steps instead. For example, the steps of process **1100** may be executed by the server **401** and/or by computing device **460** to provide media content.

(50) At **1102**, control circuitry **410** retrieves from memory a media consumption pattern profile including first and second media characteristics associated as a pattern of media consumption and a time duration indicating how long a first media content item having the first media characteristic was output by a user device before the user device changed to outputting a second media content item having the second media characteristic. At **1104**, control circuitry **410** outputs a media content item onto the user device. At **1106**, control circuitry **410** detects that the media content item has a media characteristic same as the first media characteristics and has been output for the time duration approximately same as the first media content item in the media consumption pattern profile. At **1108**, control circuitry **410** outputs a third media content having the first and second media characteristics onto the user device. At **1110**, after outputting the third media content, control circuitry **410**, outputs a fourth media content item having the second media characteristics onto the user device.

(51) FIG. **12** depicts an illustrative flowchart of process **1200** for providing media content that may be implemented by using systems **300** and **400**, in accordance with some embodiments of the disclosure. In various embodiments, the individual steps of process **500** may be implemented by one or more components of systems **300** and **400**. Although the present disclosure may describe certain steps of process **500** (and of other processes described herein) as being implemented by certain components of systems **300** and **400**, this is for purposes of illustration only, and it should

be understood that other components of systems **300** and **400** may implement those steps instead. For example, the steps of process **1200** may be executed by the server **401** to provide media content.

(52) At **1202**, control circuitry **402** identifies a media content item being output by a user device. At **1204**, control circuitry **402** retrieves from memory a media consumption pattern profile including first and second media characteristics associated as a pattern of media consumption and a time duration indicating how long a first media content item having the first media characteristic was output by a user device before the user device changed to outputting a second media content item having the second media characteristic. At **1206**, control circuitry **402**, detects that the identified media content item has a media characteristic same as the first media characteristics and has been output for the time duration approximately same as the first media content item in the media consumption pattern profile. At **1208**, control circuitry **402** generates a playlist manifest including a third media content item having the first and second media characteristics. At **1210**, control circuitry **402** transmits the playlist manifest to the user device. After transmitting the playlist, at **1212** control circuitry **402** transmits a fourth media content item having the second media characteristic to the user device.

(53) The above-described embodiments of the present disclosure are presented for purposes of illustration and not of limitation, and the present disclosure is limited only by the claims that follow. Furthermore, it should be noted that the features and limitations described in any some embodiments may be applied to any other embodiment herein, and flowcharts or examples relating to some embodiments may be combined with any other embodiment in a suitable manner, done in different orders, or done in parallel. In addition, the systems and methods described herein may be performed in real time. It should also be noted, the systems and/or methods described above may be applied to, or used in accordance with, other systems and/or methods.

Claims

1. A method comprising: determining that a device that is associated with a consumption pattern profile is playing a first media content item with a first media characteristic; analyzing the consumption pattern profile to determine that the device is likely to play one or more media content items with a second media characteristic after playing one or more media content items with the first media characteristic, and to identify a time duration indicating how long the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic was output, wherein the second media characteristic is different from the first media characteristic; based at least in part on the analyzing: identifying one or more second media content items, each of the one or more second media content items having the first media characteristic and the second media characteristic; and identifying a third media content item with the second media characteristic; causing the device to play the first media content item and the one or more second media content items for a total of at most a length of the identified time duration; and after the playing the first media content item and the one or more second media content items for the total of at most the length of the identified time duration, causing the device to play the third media content item.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the analyzing the consumption pattern profile comprises: identifying the time duration indicating the length of time the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic were caused to be output to the device before, responsive to user input, the one or more media content items with the second media characteristic were caused to be output to the device, wherein the causing the device to play the third media content item is performed prior to an end of the time duration.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first media characteristic is a first media genre and the second media characteristic is a second media genre.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the second media content item comprises a first set of media

frames with the first media characteristic and a second set of media frames with the second media characteristic.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the causing the output of the one or more second media content items comprises: outputting the first set of media frames to the device associated with the consumption pattern profile; and after outputting the first set of media frames, outputting the second set of media frames to the device associated with the consumption pattern profile.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the analyzing the consumption pattern profile comprises retrieving a day of the week pattern of consumption or a time of the day pattern of consumption, wherein the determining that the device is likely to play the one or more media content items with the second media characteristic after the playing the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic is based at least in part on the retrieved day of the week pattern of consumption or the time of the day pattern of consumption.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the determining that the device is likely to play the one or more media content items with the second media characteristic after the playing the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic is based at least in part on a time interval indicating, according to the retrieved day of the week pattern of consumption or the time of the day pattern of consumption, a length of time the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic were caused to be output to the device before, responsive to user input, the one or more second media content item with the second media characteristic were caused to be output to the device.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the analyzing the consumption pattern profile comprises: retrieving a first genre strength for the second media characteristic and second genre strength for a third media characteristic different from the first media characteristic and from the second media characteristic, wherein the first genre strength indicates a likelihood that the device is likely to play the one or more media content items with the second media characteristic after the playing the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic, and the second genre strength indicates a likelihood that the device is likely to play one or more media content items with a third media characteristic after playing the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic, wherein the determining that the device is likely to play the one or more media content items with the second media characteristic after the playing the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic comprises determining that the first genre strength is greater than the second genre strength.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the first genre strength is determined based at least in part on a frequency of the device playing the one or more media content items with the second media characteristic after the playing the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic, and wherein the second genre strength is determined based at least in part on a frequency of the device playing the one or more media content items with the third media characteristic after the playing the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying the third media content item is performed such that the third media content item has the second media characteristic and is without the first media characteristic.

11. A system comprising: a memory configured to store a consumption profile associated with a device; and processing circuitry configured: to determine that the device associated with the consumption pattern profile is playing a first media content item with a first media characteristic; analyzing the consumption pattern profile to determine that the device is likely to play one or more media content items with a second media characteristic after playing one or more media content items with the first media characteristic, and to identify a time duration indicating how long the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic was output, wherein the second media characteristic is different from the first media characteristic; based at least in part on the

analyzing: identifying one or more second media content items, each of the one or more second media content items having the first media characteristic and the second media characteristic; and identifying a third media content item with the second media characteristic; causing the device to play the first media content item and the one or more second media content items for a total of at most a length of the identified time duration; and after the playing the first media content item and the one or more second media content items for the total of at most the length of the identified time duration, causing the device to play the third media content item.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the analyzing the consumption pattern profile comprises identifying the time duration indicating a length of time the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic were caused to be output to the device before, responsive to user input, the one or more second media content item with the second media characteristic were caused to be output to the device, wherein the causing the device to play the third media content item is performed prior to the end of the time duration.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the first media characteristic is a first media genre and the second media characteristic is a second media genre.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein the second media content item comprises a first set of media frames with the first media characteristic and a second set of media frames with the second media characteristic.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the causing the output of the one or more second media content items comprises: outputting the first set of media frames to the device associated with the consumption pattern profile; and after outputting the first set of media frames, outputting the second set of media frames to the device associated with the consumption pattern profile.

16. The system of claim 11, wherein the analyzing the consumption pattern profile comprises retrieving a day of the week pattern of consumption or a time of the day pattern of consumption, wherein the determining that the device is likely to play the one or more media content items with the second media characteristic after the playing the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic is based at least in part on the retrieved day of the week pattern of consumption or the time of the day pattern of consumption.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the determining that the device is likely to play the one or more media content items with the second media characteristic after the playing the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic is based at least in part on a time interval indicating, according to the retrieved day of the week pattern of consumption or the time of the day pattern of consumption, a length of time the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic were caused to be output to the device before, responsive to user input, the one or more second media content item with the second media characteristic were caused to be output to the device.

18. The system of claim 11, wherein the analyzing the consumption pattern profile comprises retrieving a first genre strength for the second media characteristic and second genre strength for a third media characteristic different from the first media characteristic and from the second media characteristic, wherein the first genre strength indicates a likelihood that the device is likely to play the one or more media content items with the second media characteristic after the playing the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic, and the second genre strength indicates a likelihood that the device is likely to play one or more media content items with a third media characteristic after playing the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic, wherein the determining that the device is likely to play the one or more media content items with the second media characteristic after the playing the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic comprises determining that the first genre strength is greater than the second genre strength.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the first genre strength is determined based at least in part on a frequency of the device playing the one or more media content items with the second media

characteristic after the playing the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic, and wherein the second genre strength is determined based at least in part on a frequency of the device playing the one or more media content items with the third media characteristic after the playing the one or more media content items with the first media characteristic.
