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BIBLIOGRAPHIC SEARCH THROUGH A MIND MAP EDITING TOOL

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Mind mapping is an effective technique for organizing information. Mind maps provide a visual representation of concepts starting from a central idea. This makes these diagrams easier to memorize and facilitates data retrieval. Among other applications (e.g. educational and business situations), they are commonly used in academia, either in the early steps of the research process as brainstorms for determining the problem and defining the question to answer, or during later stages for organizing ideas and classifying references. There is a lot of software for creating and editing mind maps, both desktop based (e.g. Freemind) and web-based (e.g. MindMup or MindMeister). These tools make it easier to work with mind maps, and usually offer extra features such as real-time collaboration, node personalization or the possibility of attaching elements to nodes such as images, documents, spreadsheets or links. Generally, these tools support different file formats that allow interchange of files between each other. Our proposal is to join a mind map editing tool (MindMeister) with a web search engine of academic publications (Google Scholar). This union is made through a browser extension for Google Chrome that augments MindMeister's functionality. Thanks to this extension, researchers are able to perform a bibliographic search based on a composition of ideas, tags or author names represented as nodes in a mind map. The value of our approach is that this is achieved without leaving the mind map editor, and results are automatically integrated in the diagram as new nodes. Additionally, researchers can navigate through these newly added nodes to obtain a publication's references or related articles.