CLAIMS

1) A method (200) for locating at least one available site (304) among a plurality of sites (104) distributed over an area, each capable of being in an available or unavailable state, with respect to a geographical position (302), called reference position, said method (200) comprising the following steps:

1a) automated identification (206), among said plurality of sites (104), of a predetermined number of available sites (304) closest to said reference position (302), depending on location data of said sites (104), and on at least one data, called state data, indicating for each site (104) the availability or not of said site (104); and

1b) displaying (210), in a display window (300), the positions of said identified sites (304) on a geographical map;

characterized in that it comprises

1c) an automatic adjustment (208) of the display scale of said geographical map depending on:

1c1) at least one dimension of said display window (300); and

1c2) at least one distance separating at least one of said identified sites (304) from said reference position (302);

such that said identified sites (304) are all displayed in said display window (300).

2) The method (200) according to claim 1, characterized in that the adjustment comprises determining a display scale that is the largest allowing the display of the position of the identified site that is the furthest among the identified sites (304).

3) The method (200) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the display step (210) also comprises displaying, in the display window (300), at least one unavailable site (308) which is closer to said reference position (302) compared with the site that is the furthest from said reference position (302) among the identified available sites (304).

4) The method (200) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the identification step (206) is carried out progressively in phases(s) by increasing distance segments from the reference position (302), by incrementing a predetermined distance value.

5) The method (200) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the identification step (206) only takes into account the sites (104) located at a distance less than or equal to a maximum distance with respect to the reference position (302).

6) The method (200) according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the maximum distance can be adjusted:

- by the user (148), and/or
- by an operator, and/or
- by a remote server (132), for example a central management server (132) of an installation (100) for the automated rental of vehicles when said method (200) is implemented within the context of such an installation (100).

7) The method (200) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the predetermined number of sites can be adjusted.

8) The method (200) according to the preceding claim, characterized in that said predetermined number can be adjusted:

- by the user (148), and/or
- by an operator, and/or
- by a remote server (132), for example a central management server (132) of an installation (100) for the automated rental of vehicles when said method (200) is implemented within the context of such an installation (100).

9) The method (200) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the reference position (302) is a position determined on the fly in an automated manner depending on geographical location data of a device utilizing said method (200).

10) The method (200) according to any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the reference position (302) is a position for which information has been given beforehand.

11) The method (200) according to any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that it also comprises a step in which the user indicates the reference position (302) by selecting said reference position among a plurality of geographical positions for which information has been given beforehand, or by input of said reference position (302).

12) The method (200) according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the reference position is selected from a list displayed on a screen showing the display window.

13) The method (200) according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it also comprises, for at least one identified available site (304), a step (212) of:

- determining a distance separating said identified available site (304) from the reference position (302), and
- displaying said distance in association with said identified available site (304).

14) The use of the method (200) according to any one of the preceding claims for identifying an available site (104) for the automated rental of vehicles comprising:

- a vehicle available for rental, with respect to a reference position, called departure position; or

- a parking space available for returning a rented vehicle, with respect to a reference position, called arrival position;

within an installation (100) for the automated rental of vehicles comprising a plurality of rental sites (104) for the rental of a vehicle and/or for the return of a rented vehicle.

15) A method (400) for reserving a vehicle within an installation (100) for the automated rental of vehicles comprising a plurality of stations (104) for the automated rental of vehicles distributed over an area, characterized in that it comprises:

- locating (402) at least one available station (104) comprising at least one vehicle available for rental, with the method (200) according to any one of claims 1 to 13,
- selecting (404) an available station (104), and
- reserving (406) at least one vehicle for rental, in said selected station.

16) A method (500) for reserving a parking space within an installation (100) for the automated rental of vehicles comprising a plurality of rental stations (104) distributed over an area, each station (104) comprising at least one parking space, characterized in that it comprises:

- locating (502) at least one available station (104) comprising at least one available parking space, with the method (200) according to any one of claims 1 to 13,
- selecting (504) an available station (104), and
- reserving (506) at least one parking space in said selected station.

17) A method (600) for reserving a journey, within an installation (100) for the automated rental of vehicles comprising a plurality of stations (104) for the automated rental of vehicles distributed over an area, characterized in that it comprises:

- reserving (602) a vehicle in an available station, with respect to a reference position, called departure position, with the method for reserving a vehicle according to claim 15, and
- reserving (604) a parking space in an available station, with respect to a reference position, called arrival position, with the method for reserving a parking space according to claim 16.

18) A computer application for

- a portable device, in particular of the smartphone, tablet or phablet type; or
- a fixed device, of the desktop computer or terminal type;

private or public, comprising the instructions that can be executed by said device for implementing all the steps of the method according to any one of claims 1 to 13 and 15 to 17, or for a use of the method according to claim 14.