CLAIMS

1. An information processing apparatus, comprising:

a central element acquisition unit that acquires a central element which is central to thought;

a central element display instruction unit that issues an instruction to a user terminal to perform a display of the central element;

a peripheral element acquisition unit that acquires a first peripheral element related to the central element;

a peripheral element display instruction unit that issues an instruction to the user terminal to perform a display of the first peripheral element around the central element;

a link acquisition unit that acquires a first link between the central element and the first peripheral element; and

a link display instruction unit that issues an instruction to the user terminal to perform a display of the first link between the central element and the first peripheral element.

2. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the central element includes a subject or a proposition, the subject or the proposition being central to the thought.

3. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the peripheral element acquisition unit further acquires a second peripheral element related to the first peripheral element,

the peripheral element display instruction unit further issues an instruction to the user terminal to perform a display of the second peripheral element around the first peripheral element,

the link acquisition unit further acquires a second link between the first peripheral element and the second peripheral element, and

the link display instruction unit further issues an instruction to the user terminal to perform a display of the second link between the first peripheral element and the second peripheral element.

4. The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the first link and the second link include a plurality of types of links.

5. The information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

the plurality of types of links includes a link indicating a parent-child relationship, a link indicating an equal relationship, and a link indicating an opposition relationship.

6. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a publication unit that publishes, in response to a viewing request from the user terminal, a display screen of a thought structure diagram to the user terminal, the thought structure diagram including the central element, at least one of a plurality of the first peripheral elements, and at least one of a plurality of the links, the at least one of the plurality of links connecting the central element and the at least one of the plurality of first peripheral elements;

a storage unit that stores information on visibility in association with the thought structure diagram, the visibility restricting viewing of the thought structure diagram by the user terminal; and

a restriction unit that restricts, based on the information on the visibility, publication of the thought structure diagram by the publication unit.

7. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a voting result acquisition unit that acquires a vote from a user with respect to the central element; and

a voting result display instruction unit that instructs the user terminal to display a voting result on the central element, the voting result being a voting result in which the vote with respect to the central element has been collected.

8. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a voting result acquisition unit that acquires a vote from a user with respect to the first peripheral element; and

a voting result display instruction unit that issues at least one of an instruction to the user terminal to display a voting result on the first peripheral element and/or an instruction to the user terminal to display a voting result on the central element or a voting result on another peripheral element, the voting result on the first peripheral element being a voting result in which the vote with respect to the first peripheral element has been collected, the voting result on the central element or the voting result on the other peripheral element being a voting result in which reflection of the voting result on the first peripheral element has been performed in a

destination of the first link.

9. The information processing apparatus according to claim 7 or 8, further comprising:

a voting result acquisition unit that acquires a vote from a user with respect to the first link; and

a voting result display instruction unit that instructs the user terminal to reflect a voting result on the first link and display the first link, the voting result being a voting result in which the vote with respect to the first link has been collected.

10. The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein

the voting result display instruction unit causes a voting result to be reflected and generates the first link, the voting result being a voting result on whether the first link is generated between two elements.

11. The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a condition acquisition unit that acquires a filtering condition for filtering the voting result; and

a filtering reflection unit that searches the voting result meeting the filtering condition and reflects the voting result, which has been searched, in at least one of the display of the central element, the display of the first peripheral element, and/or the display of the first link.

12. The information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

the reflection of the voting result is indicated by at least one of a size change, a color change, a transparency change, a shape change, and/or a surrounding color change in at least one of the display of the central element, the display of the first peripheral element, and/or the display of the first link.

13. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a comment acquisition unit that acquires a comment from a user on one of the central element, the first peripheral element, the first link, and a thought structure diagram, the thought structure diagram including the central element, the first peripheral element, and the first link; and

a comment display instruction unit that instructs the user terminal to display the comment.

14. The information processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein

the comment display instruction unit instructs the user terminal to display in an identifiable manner on which of the central element, the first peripheral element, and the first link the comment is.

15. The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising

an editing unit that modifies one of a plurality of the instructions to the user terminal to perform the display corresponding to the one of the plurality of instructions, in response to an instruction to perform a change in the first peripheral element or the second peripheral element, an instruction to perform addition of a third peripheral element related to the central element, an instruction to perform addition of a fourth peripheral element related to the first peripheral element or the second peripheral element, an instruction to perform addition of a third link between the central element and the third peripheral element, or an instruction to perform addition of a fourth link between the first peripheral element or the second peripheral element and the fourth peripheral element, from the user terminal.

16. The information processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein

the editing unit includes an editing authority confirmation unit that confirms whether a user who has issued the instruction to perform the change or one of a plurality of the instructions to perform the addition corresponding to the one of the plurality of instructions has editing authority.

17. The information processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

in a case where the user has limited editing authority in which the editing authority is limited, the editing authority confirmation unit approves or rejects an edit by the user who has issued the instruction to perform the change or the one of the plurality of instructions to perform the addition corresponding to the one of the plurality of instructions, in accordance with voting results for approval by a plurality of other users.

18. An information processing method implemented by one or more information processing apparatuses, comprising:

acquiring a central element which is central to thought;

instructing a user terminal to display the central element;

acquiring a first peripheral element related to the central element;

instructing the user terminal to display the first peripheral element around the central element;

acquiring a first link between the central element and the first peripheral element; and

instructing the user terminal to display the first link between the central element and the first peripheral element.

19. An information processing program causing a computer to execute:

acquiring a central element which is central to thought;

instructing a user terminal to display the central element;

acquiring a first peripheral element related to the central element;

instructing the user terminal to display the first peripheral element around the central element;

acquiring a first link between the central element and the first peripheral element; and

instructing the user terminal to display the first link between the central element and the first peripheral element.

20. An information processing apparatus, comprising:

an acquisition unit that acquires an information correlation diagram from a first user terminal operated by a first user, the information correlation diagram including at least two graphic elements and expressing a comment of the first user, the at least two graphic elements indicating a difference in importance of information in an identifiable manner; and

a display instruction unit that instructs a second user terminal to display the information correlation diagram in order to transmit the comment to a second user, the second user terminal being operated by the second user.

21. An information processing apparatus, comprising:

an acquisition unit that acquires a comment of a first user from a first user terminal operated by the first user;

a generation unit that generates an information correlation diagram, the information correlation diagram including at least two graphic elements and expressing the comment, the at least two graphic elements indicating a difference in importance of information in an identifiable manner based on an analysis of the comment; and

a display instruction unit that instructs a second user terminal to display the information

correlation diagram in order to transmit the comment to a second user, the second user terminal being operated by the second user.

22. An information processing system, comprising:

one or more user terminals; and

an information processing apparatus communicatively coupled to the user terminals,

wherein the information processing apparatus includes one or more processors configured to:

acquire a central element which is central to thought;

issue an instruction to one of the user terminals to perform a display of the central element;

acquire a first peripheral element related to the central element;

issue an instruction to the user terminal to perform a display of the first peripheral element around the central element;

acquire a first link between the central element and the first peripheral element; and

issue an instruction to the user terminal to perform a display of the first link between the central element and the first peripheral element.

23. An information processing system, comprising:

one or more user terminals; and

an information processing apparatus communicatively coupled to the user terminals,

wherein the information processing apparatus includes one or more processors configured to:

acquire an information correlation diagram from a first user terminal operated by a first user, the information correlation diagram including at least two graphic elements and expressing a comment of the first user, the at least two graphic elements indicating a difference in importance of information in an identifiable manner; and

instruct a second user terminal to display the information correlation diagram in order to transmit the comment to a second user, the second user terminal being operated by the second user.

24. An information processing system, comprising:

one or more user terminals; and

an information processing apparatus communicatively coupled to the user terminals,

wherein the information processing apparatus includes one or more processors configured to:

acquire a comment of a first user from a first user terminal operated by the first user;

generate an information correlation diagram, the information correlation diagram including at least two graphic elements and expressing the comment, the at least two graphic elements indicating a difference in importance of information in an identifiable manner based on an analysis of the comment; and

instruct a second user terminal to display the information correlation diagram in order to transmit the comment to a second user, the second user terminal being operated by the second user.