

# PKM Workshop

Organizing Knowledge with Logseq and Obsidian

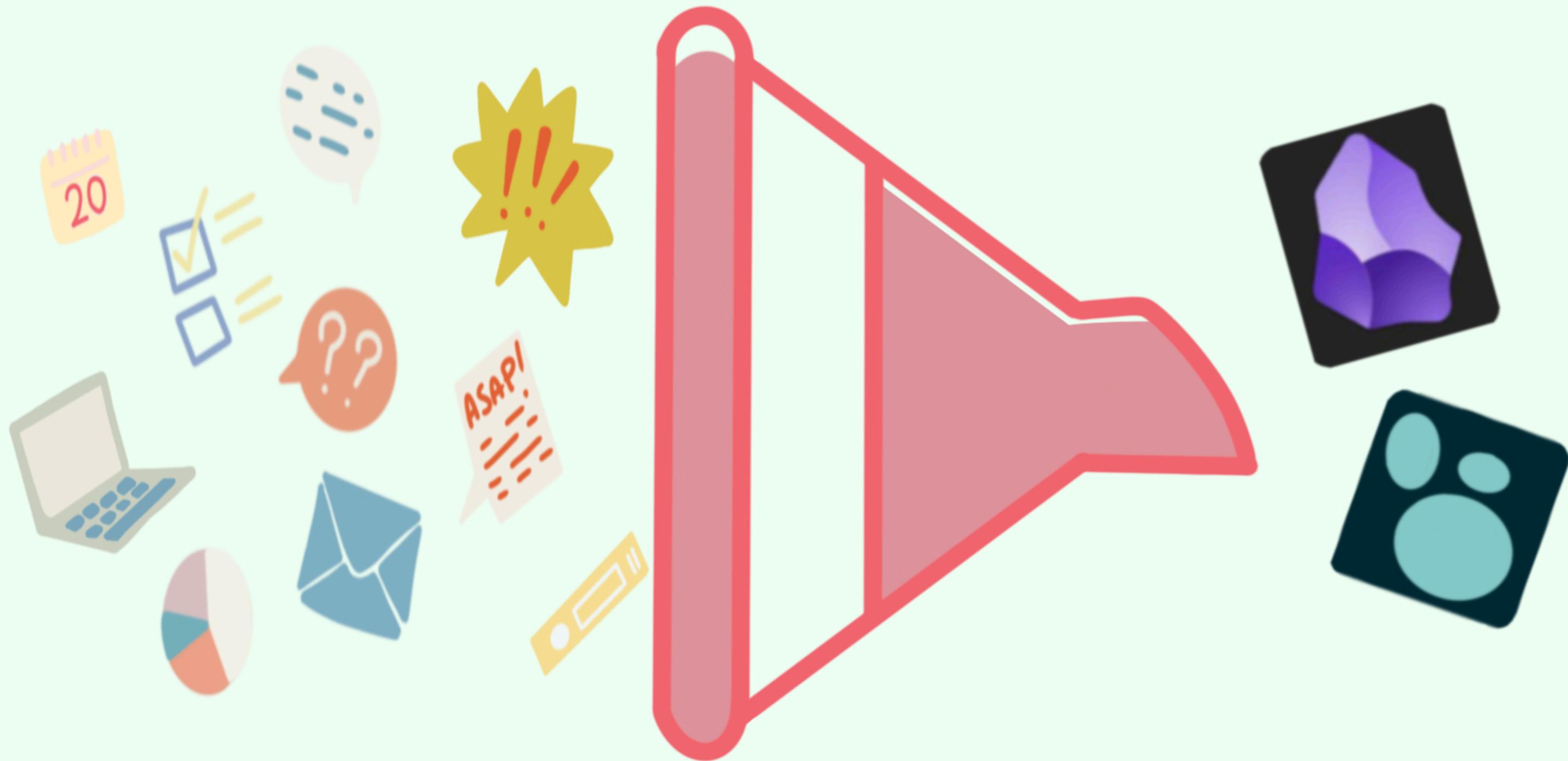
Cecilia Baldoni

2024-12-02

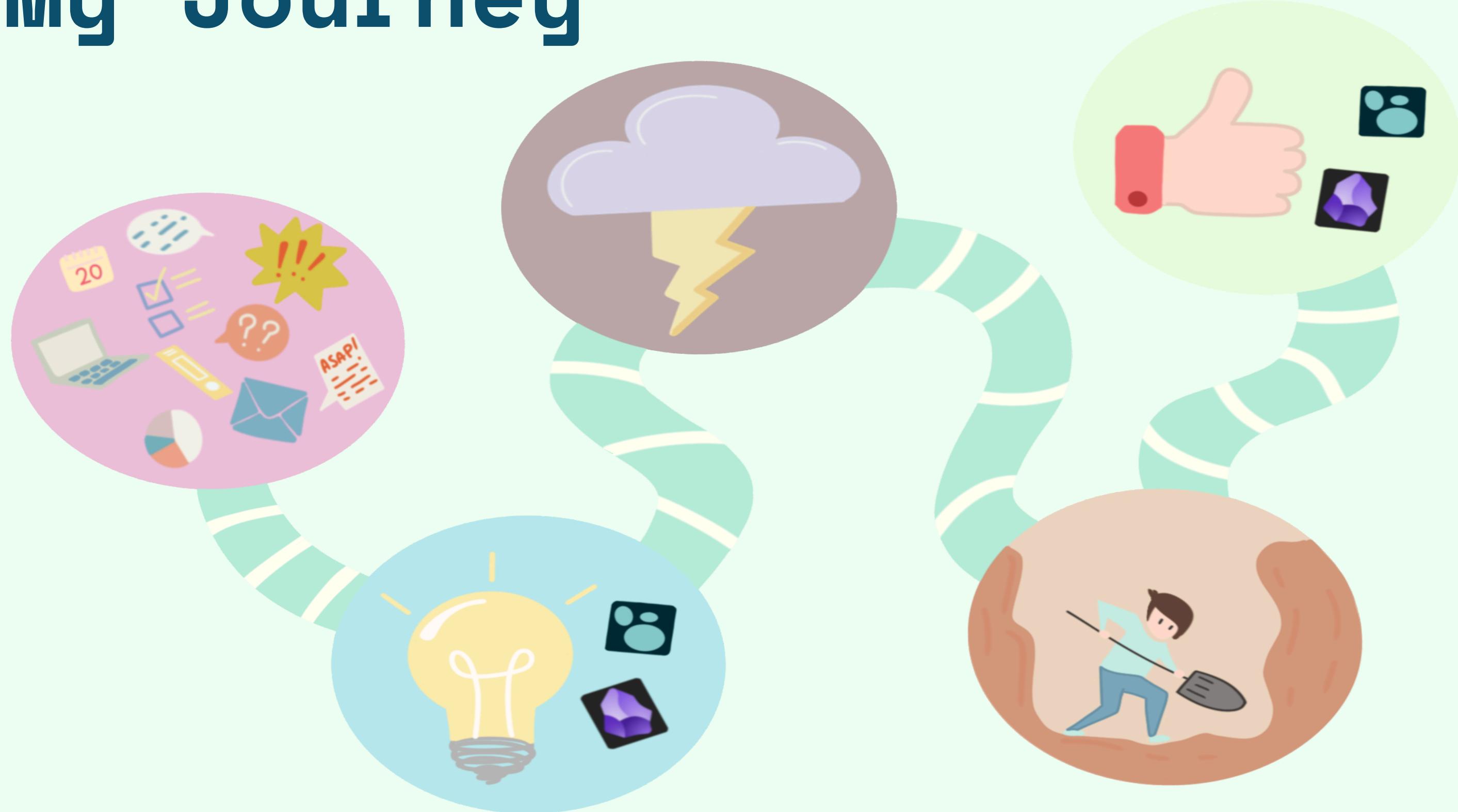
# Welcome to the PKM Workshop

- Learn how to organize knowledge effectively.
- Explore tools: Logseq and Obsidian
- Build systems that work **for you**.

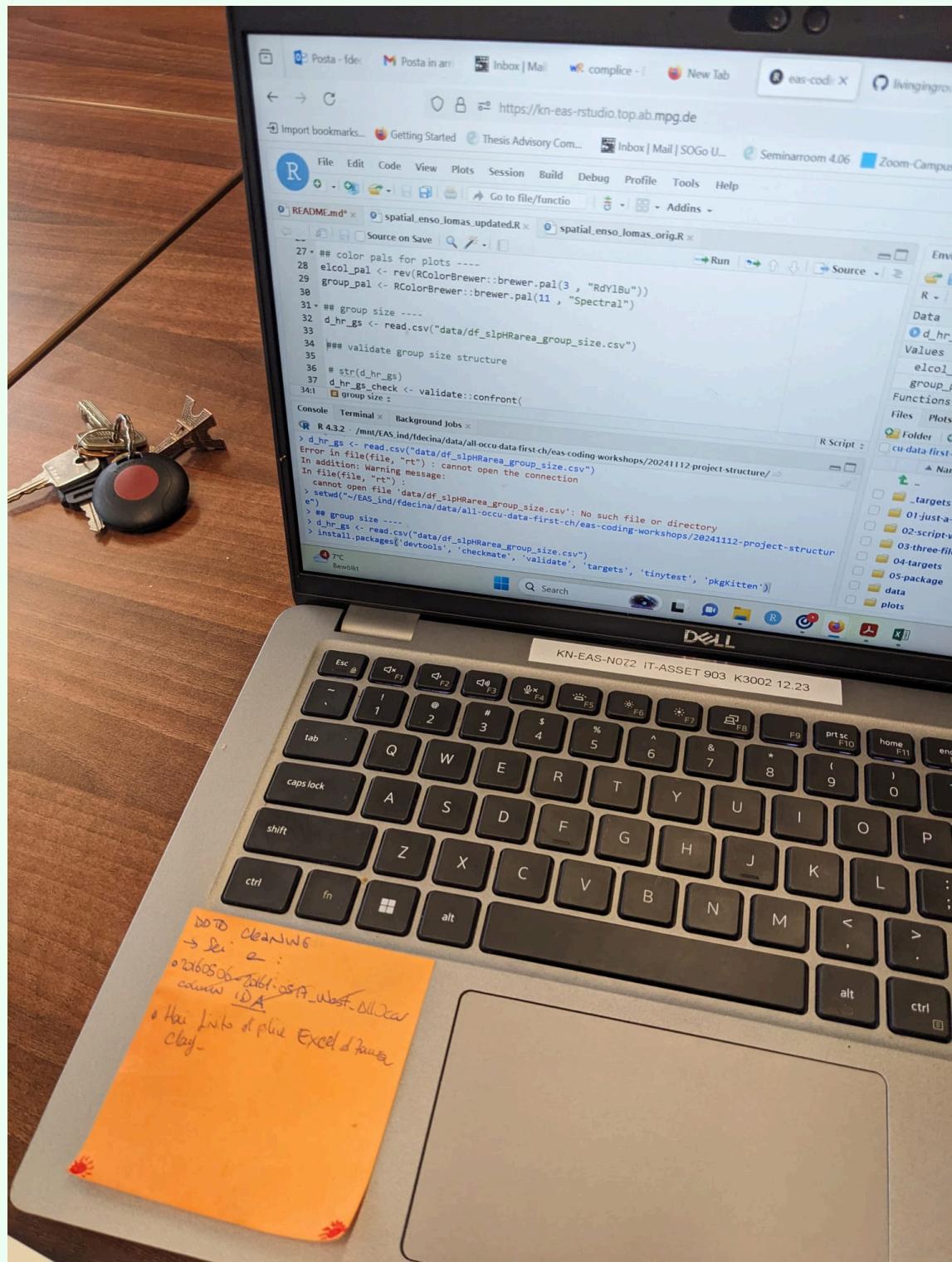
# Today's Goal



# My Journey



# You are the expert



- No one-size-fits-all solution.
- You are the expert on your own needs

# What is PKM

**PKM:** Personal Knowledge Management  
A system for **capturing**, **organizing**, and **retrieving** knowledge efficiently.

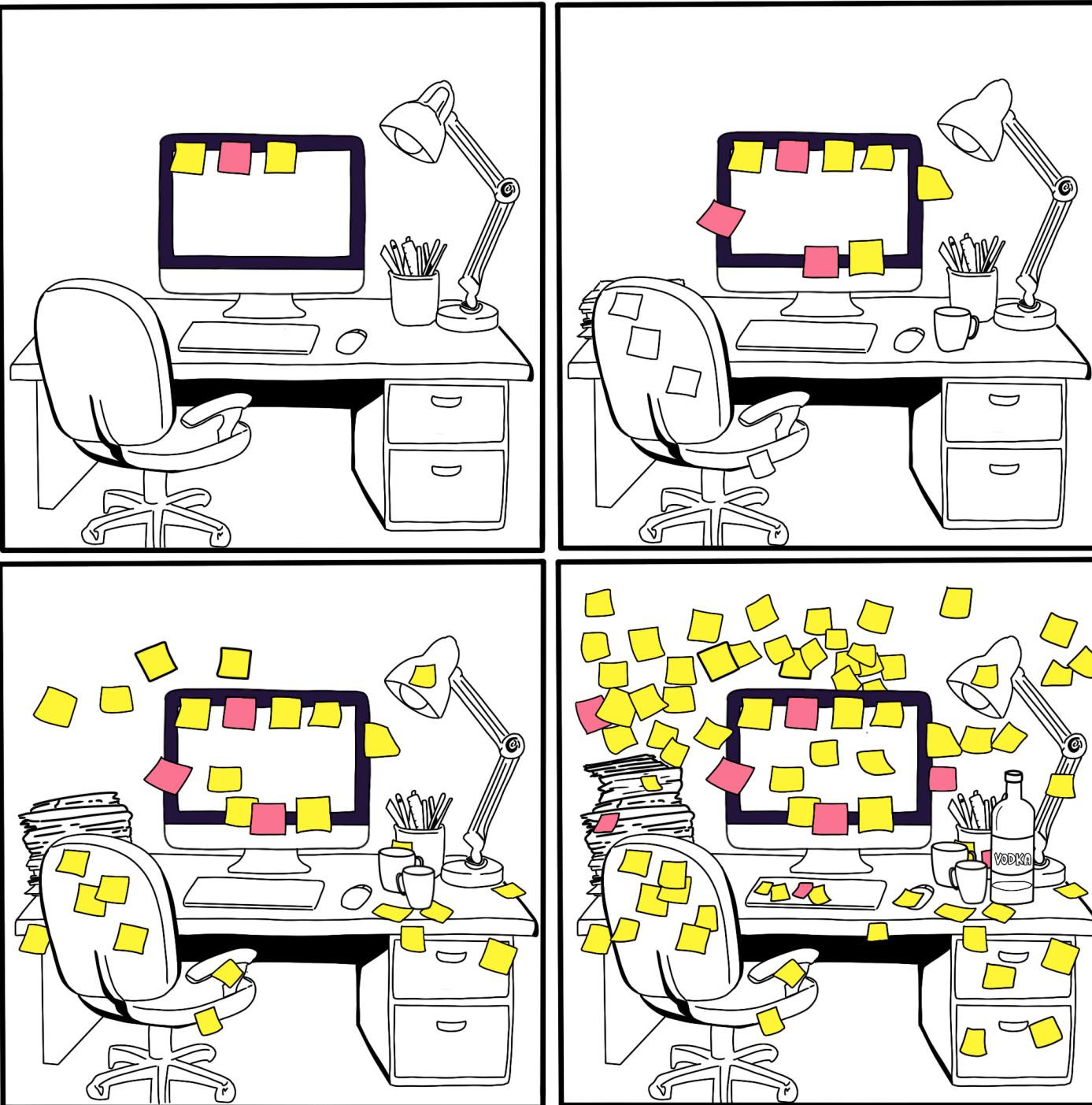
**PKM helps with:**

- Information overload,
- Information retrieval,
- Scattered notes,
- Communication



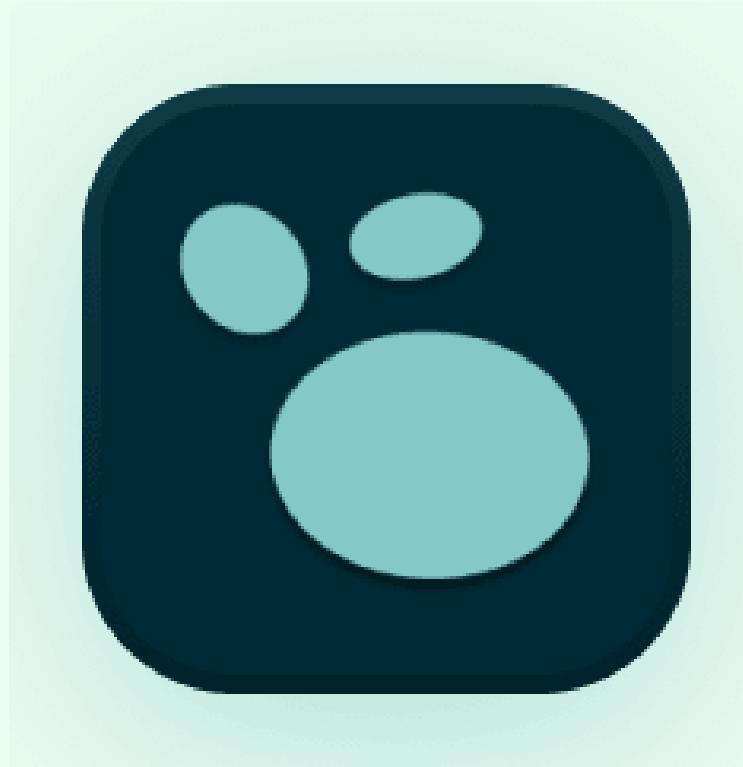
# Your Current Workflow

- **Reflect on your practices:**
  - Tools you use (analog or digital)
  - How you organize notes (folders, random papers)
- **Challenges:**
  - Losing track of papers or ideas
  - Overwhelming, unstructured notes



# Apps to the Rescue!

Note Taking Apps provide the practical infrastructure for implementing a PKM system



# Common Pitfalls

- Challenges:
  - Overcomplication
  - Inconsistency
  - Fear of starting: Blank page syndrome
- Solutions:
  - Start small
  - Build workflows iteratively
  - Focus on consistency

# Tools for PKM:

## Logseq and Obsidian

### Logseq

- Open-source
- Uses Markdown (future-proof)
- Great for journaling and task management
- Helps build structured, hierarchical notes

### Obsidian

- Free with optional paid extras
- Uses Markdown (future-proof)
- Great for visualizing connections (Graph View)
- Flexible with many plugins

# Tools for PKM:

Why not other apps?

- **Privacy**: your data is stored on their servers
- **Cloud-based**: require Internet for most features
- **Money**: one time payment or monthly subscriptions
- **These Two Work Well**:
  - Both Logseq and Obsidian store notes locally and work offline
  - They are free!

# Limitations

- **Logseq:**
  - Still in beta: Occasional bugs and incomplete features
  - Limited plugin availability compared to Obsidian
- **Obsidian:**
  - Plugin dependency: Many advanced features rely on community plugins
  - Not possible to collaborate

# PKM Strategies

# Common PKM Strategies

- Zettelkasten
- Para
- Second Brain
- MindMapping

# Once again...

You are the expert

The **key** to Personal Knowledge Management (PKM) is organizing your knowledge in a way that ensures **you'll find it when you need it**.

A **great system isn't about perfection**; it's about making retrieval easy and reliable.

# Once again...

You are the expert

A good system should **support your workflow**, not distract you from it

**Do Not Perfect** your PKM structure at the expense of getting things done

# PKM Strategies

# Zettelkasten

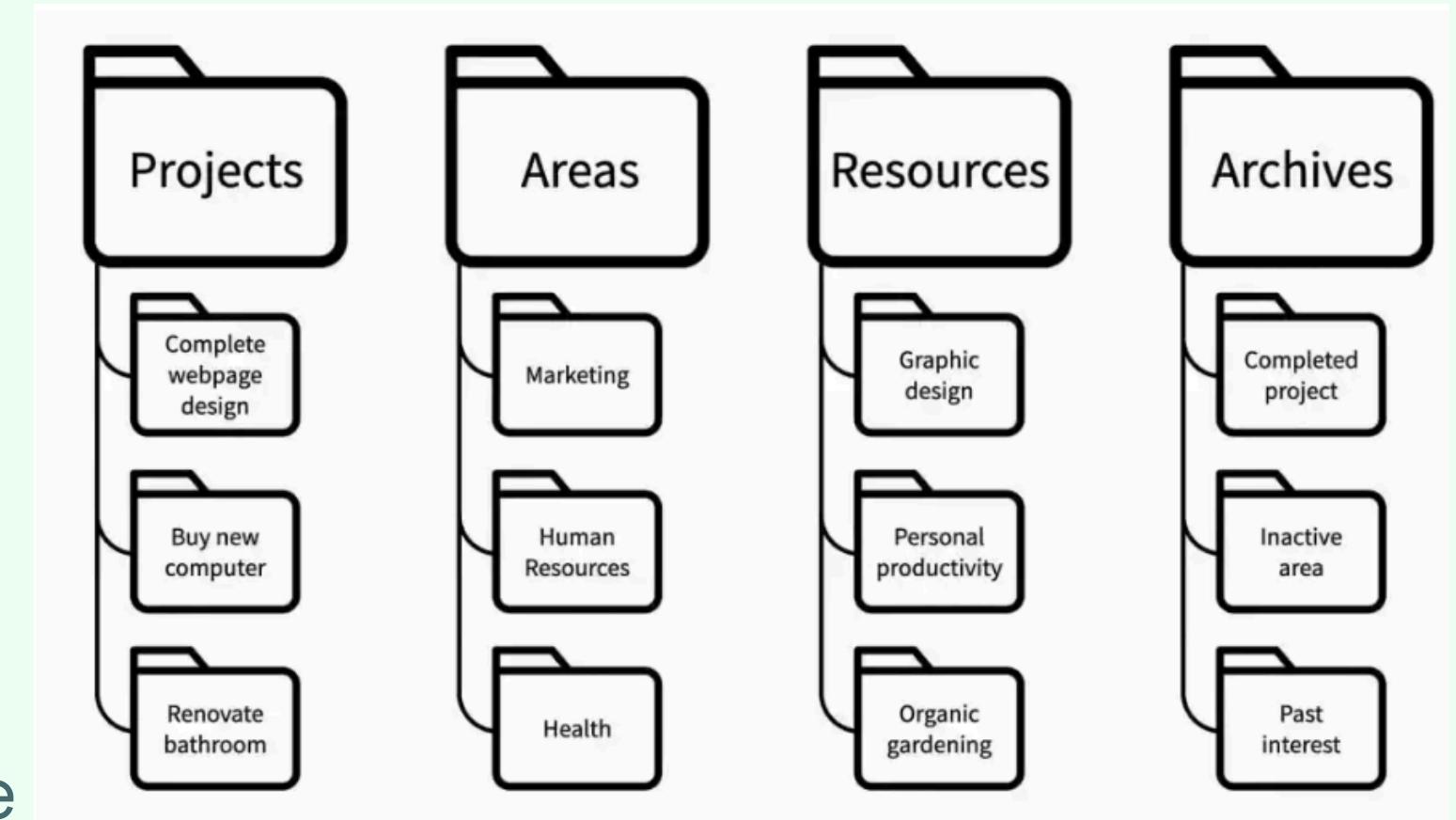
- German for “slip-box”, popularised by [Niklas Luhmann](#)
  - Focuses on creating small notes containing one single idea
  - Notes are connected through meaningful links, forming a web of related ideas
- 
- **Best for:**
    - Developing a knowledge base that fosters creative thinking



A Zettelkasten

# PARA

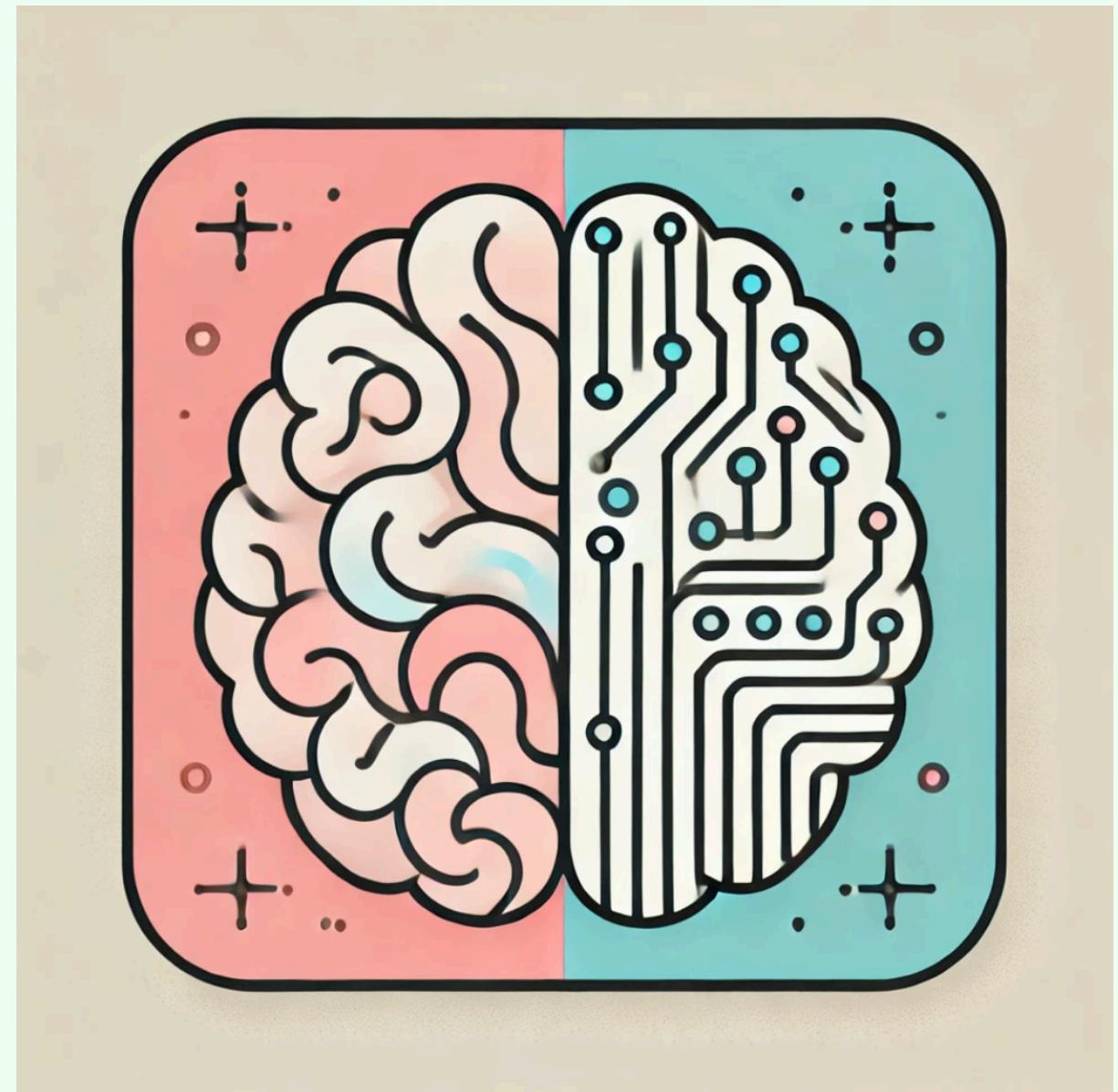
- A system by [Tiago Forte](#) for organizing all information.
- **Projects**: represent active, short-term goals
- **Areas**: broader, long-term responsibilities
- **Resources**: library of reference materials
- **Archives**: final place for anything that is no longer active



More info here: [PARA](#)

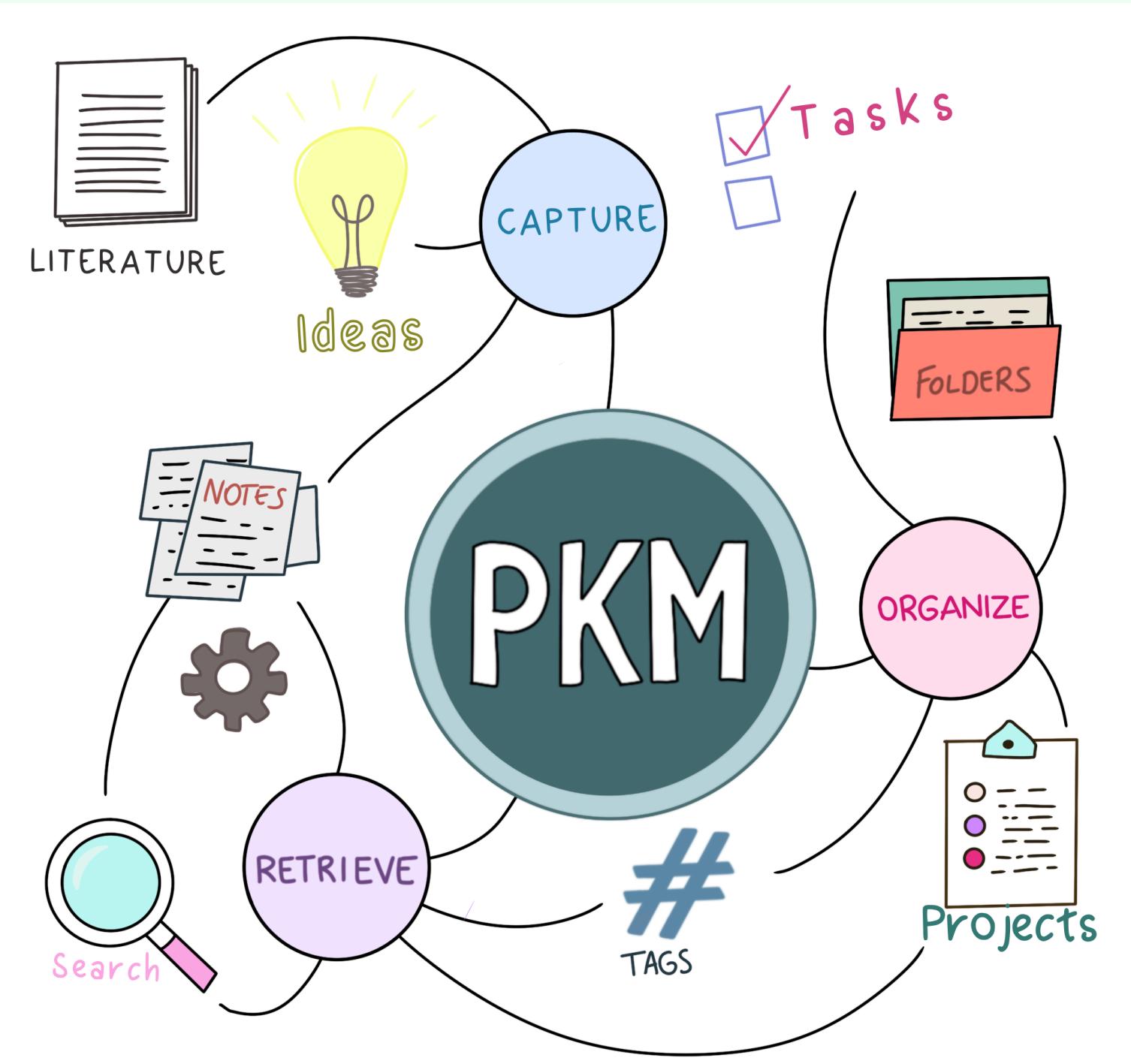
# Second Brain

- A framework by [Tiago Forte](#) for managing and retrieving knowledge efficiently.
- **Capture**: refers to efficient note-taking
- **Organize**: note organization is essential to retrieve information
- **Distil**: learn to summarize information
- **Express**: use your notes actively
- **Best for** building a personal repository of ideas and knowledge



# Mind Mapping

- A visual approach to organizing and connecting ideas.
- Start with a central idea and branch out with related concepts.
- **Best for:**
  - Brainstorming, planning, and exploring relationships visually.



More info here:[Mind Mapping](#)

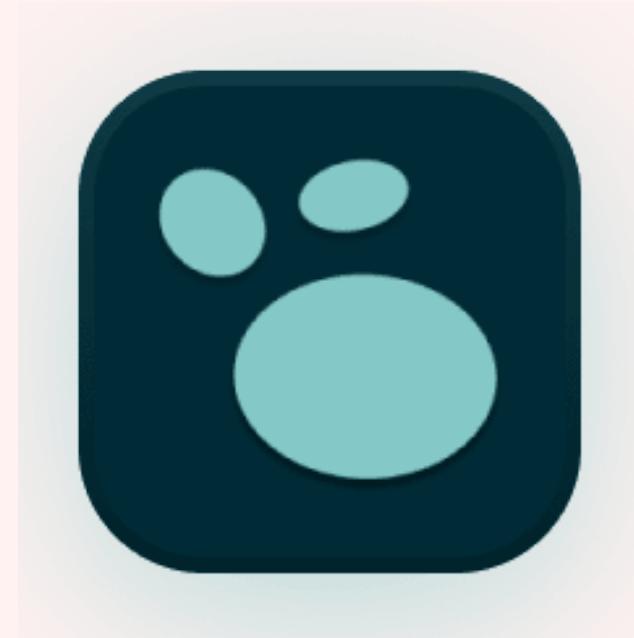
# What We Are Doing Now

- **Explore Obsidian and Logseq:**  
How these tools work and how they can adapt to your workflow.
- **Ask Questions Freely:**  
This session is all about answering your specific questions.
- **What We're NOT Covering:** *How to take notes in general*

# What is Logseq?

# What is Logseq?

- Open-source tool for **PKM** and **task organization**
- Networked outliner
- Folder agnostic

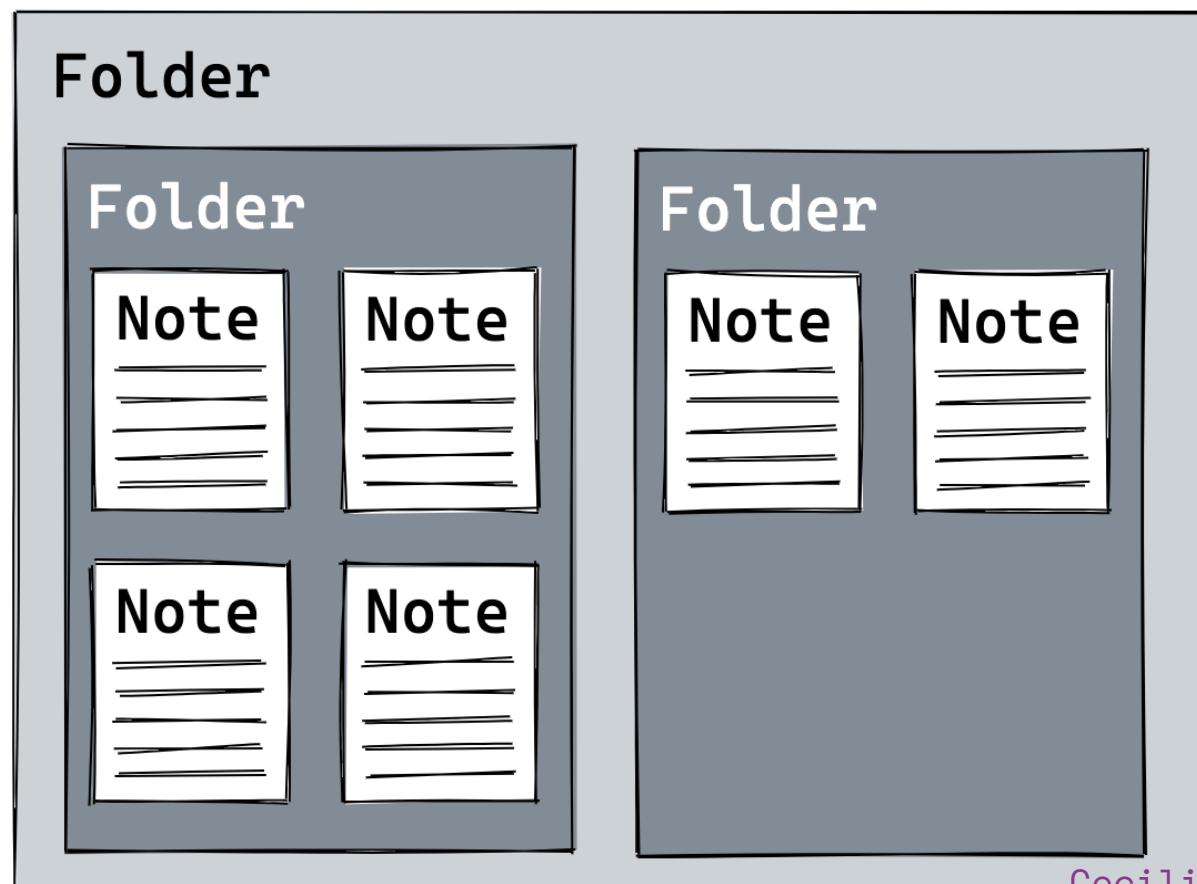




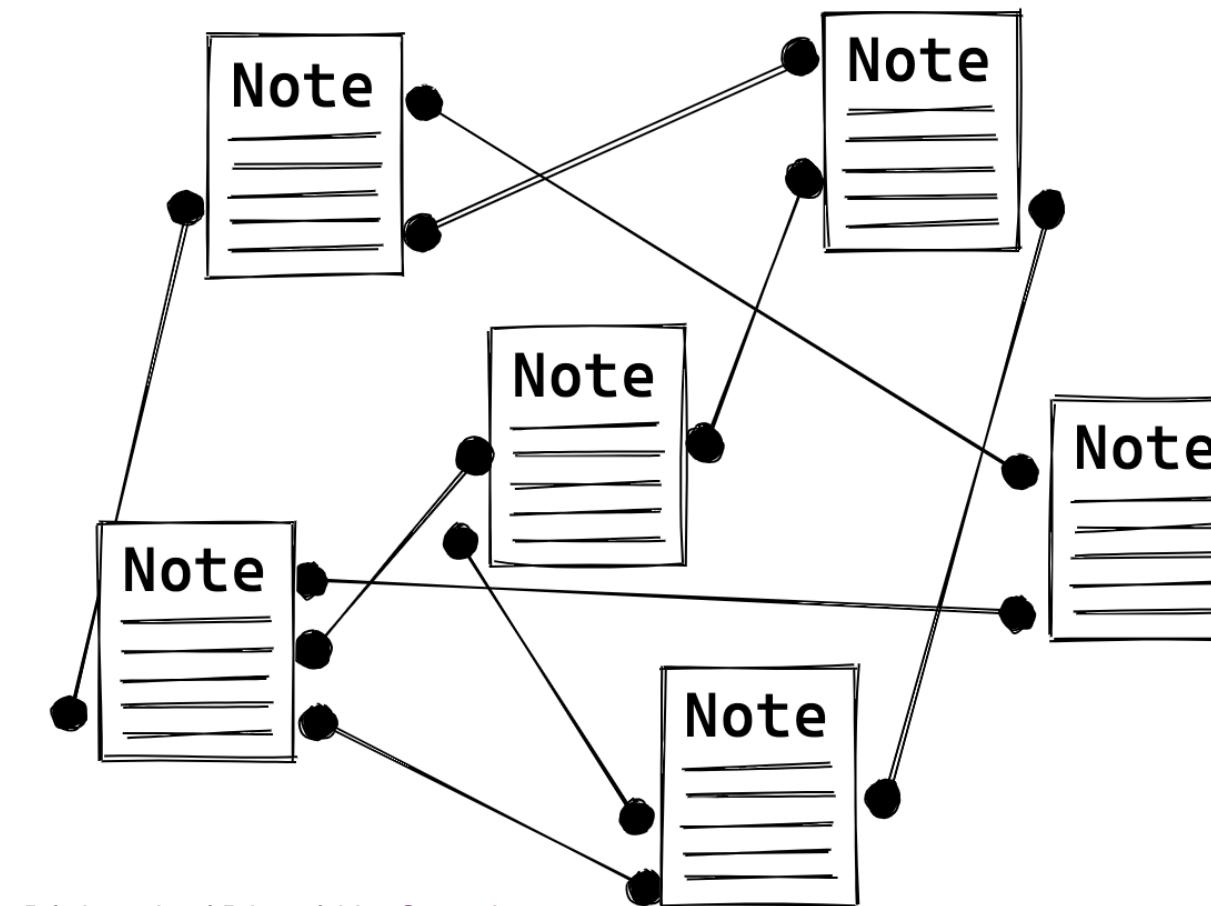
# It helps you:

- Organize thoughts using **blocks**
  - Connections ideas using **backlinks**
  - Daily Journaling

# Hierarchical thinking



# Networked thinking





# Key Features of Logseq:

## Outliner-Based Workflow

- Structures notes into **blocks** (or *paragraphs*)
  - *everything in Logseq is about the blocks!*
- Blocks can be nested hierarchically for:
  - Outlining ideas
  - Organizing complex thoughts
- Easy to reorganize or move blocks

# Key Features of Logseq:

## Backlinks and Linking

- Create links using the [\[\[Link Syntax\]\]](#)
- Backlinks: a link for a page that is shown to the current page
- Encourages a **web of interconnected notes**

# Key Features of Logseq:

## Journaling and Daily Notes

- Automatically creates a **daily note**
- Acts as:
  - A chronological log.
  - A launchpad for other notes.



# Key Features of Logseq:

## Task Management

- Integrates tasks directly into your notes:
  - LATER → NOW → DONE
  - TODO → DOING → DONE
  - CANCELED/CANCELLED, IN-PROGRESS, and WAIT/WAITING
- Tasks can be tracked across notes using **queries**.

# Key Features of Logseq:

## Page Properties

- Uses **key-value pairs** for structured data:
  - priority:: A deadline:: 2024-12-01
- Helps organize and filter notes based on specific criteria

# Key Features of Logseq:

## Queries

- Dynamically search for and display notes or tasks
- Uses **Clojure syntax** for powerful, customizable queries
- Example: {{query (and [[*tag-name*]] (priority A))}}

# Key Features of Logseq:

## What Makes Logseq Different?

- **Block-Based Organization**
- **Folderless Structure**
- **Emphasis on Journaling**
- **Open-Source and Privacy-Focused**
- **Fully Functional Offline**
- **Advanced Queries**

# What is Obsidian?

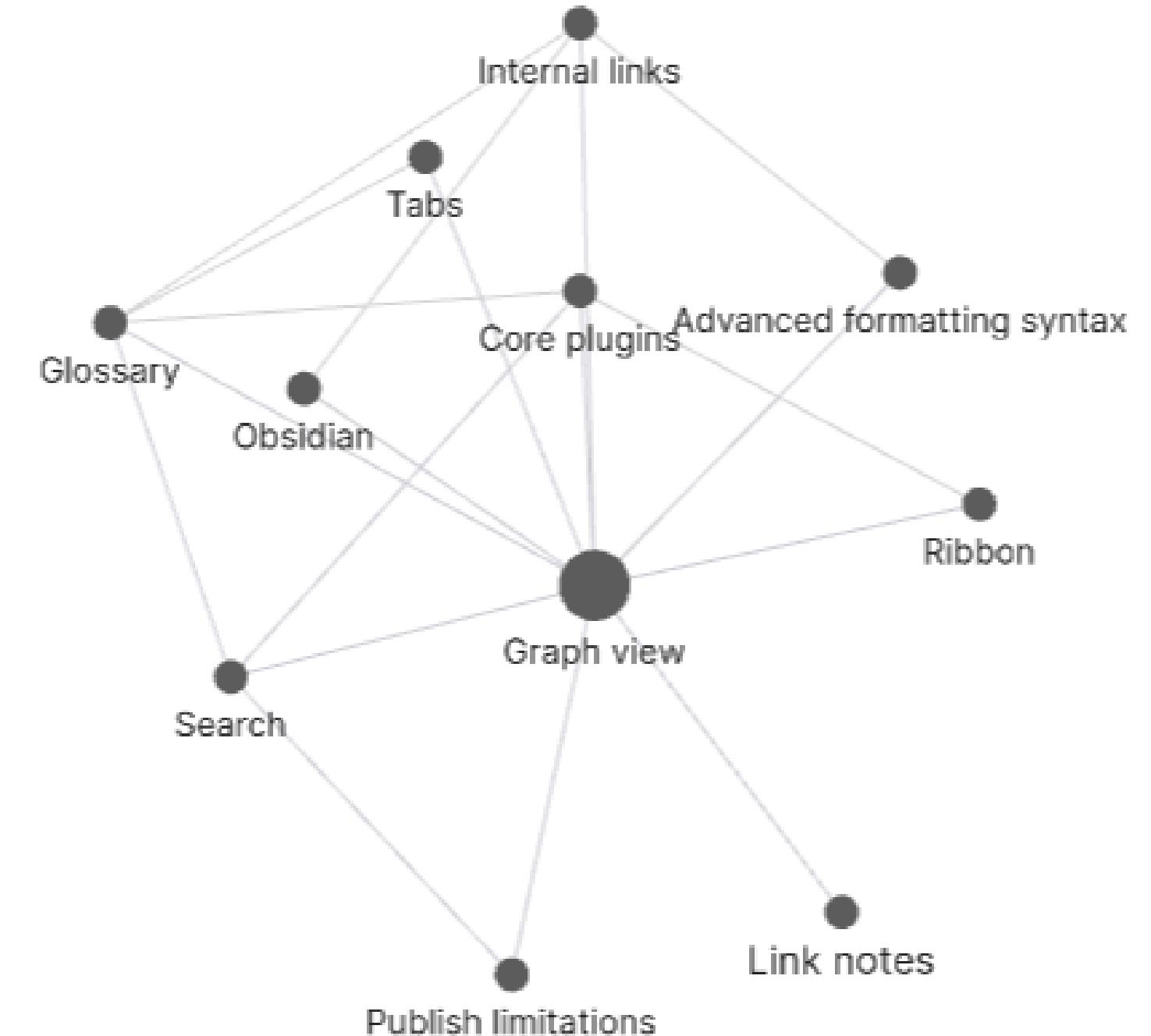
# What Is Obsidian?

- Local, Markdown-based knowledge management tool.
- Flexible, customizable, and perfect for researchers.



# Key Features of Obsidian

- Bidirectional Linking
- Graph View
- Markdown-Based: Future-proof .md files.
- Local Storage



# Using Obsidian for Research

## Literature Review:

- Create notes for papers with links to key themes.
- Tag by topic (e.g., `#methods`, `#results`).
- Use Graph View to see clusters of related ideas.

## Thesis Writing:

- Draft sections in linked notes.
- Use YAML metadata to track progress (`status: draft`).

# Obsidian vs. Logseq

## Similarities:

- Markdown-based and future-proof.
- Local-first, private storage.
- Powerful Graph View.
- Flexible, customizable workflows.

## Differences:

- *Logseq*:
  - Journaling and outliner focus.
  - Built in functions, less plugins available
- *Obsidian*:
  - Note-based, adaptable for any system.
  - Extensive plugins for research and writing.

# What We Are Doing Today

# What We Are Doing Today

- **Explore the Obsidian Vault and Logseq Graph:**  
How these tools work and how they can adapt to your workflow.
- **Ask Questions Freely:**  
This session is all about answering your specific questions.
- **What We're NOT Covering:** *How to take notes in general* - Everyone's style is different and what works for me might not work for you.

# What To Do After Today

- **Reflect on Your Routine:**

- When do you take notes? (e.g., recurring meetings, during experiments, etc)
  - Do your notes follow a common theme?

- **Start Simple:**

- Take one project and break it into **main topics**
    - Are these topics recurring across projects? (e.g., *statistics, foraging*)

# What To Do After Today

- Build Your System Gradually:
  - Test one approach at a time: Folder-based? Tag-based? Link-based?
  - Adjust as you learn what works best

# Designing Your Workflow

- **How to Start:**
  - Identify key goals.
  - Focus on 1-2 knowledge categories (e.g., literature, daily tasks).
- **Build Iteratively:**
  - Customize templates, tags, and metadata.
  - Experiment!

# Final Thoughts

- Obsidian and Logseq are what you make of them
  - Start simple, grow gradually.
- Tame the chaos.
  - Build your knowledge base to serve your needs.