A System for Writing - Literature Map

Concept Map from analytical reading - v0.4 - 14.11.2024

1. What is the book about, as a whole?
2. What is being said in detail, and how?
3. Is the book true, in whole or part?
4. What of it?

A System for Writing - Bob Doto

Doto, Bob. A System for Writing. New Old Tradition, 2024.

A Zettelkasten Primer

Unconventional approach to note-making that can help to capture ideas, think wildly, and write constantly.

Doto tries to help overcome the problems that beginners may have when using the Zettelkasten method based on Niklas Luhmann .

Part 1 - Taking And Making Notes

p. 1

Key terms

- **Notes & Ideas** p. ix-x
  - ideas = content of notes, notes = objects holding ideas
- important words and their meanings
- important words
- **Train of thought** p. ix-x
  - a sequence of ideas linked together within Zettelkasten
- **Compartment (analog) Folder (digital)** p. ix
- **Questions & Facts** p. 42-48
  - belong to
- **Marginalia** p. 28
  - allow to return to highlights from book
  - use for
- **Daily notes** p. 23 — Journal
  - if Zettelkasten worthy
- **Fleeting notes** p. viii, 4-7
  - move to sleeping folder if useful later
- if useful create
- stored in

Inbox

Zettelkasten

Main notes p. ix, p. 35-52
- a single idea with a link to another idea
- reference to it's source

Reference notes p. viii, p. 15-22
- quotes
- page number + brief description
- why, how, when captured
- Bibliographic information on the back
- also use for conversations

Known as: Literature Notes, Source Notes, Bibliographical Notes

- leading propositions in most important sentences
- A single long-note containing citations related to interesting passages you came across while reading a book.

Doto 2024, p. 33

- **Create a note containing the counter argument** p. 51

folder: **1_Fleeting Notes**

folder: **3_Permanent Notes**

folder: **4_References**

Part 2 - Making And Leveraging Connections

p. 55

Key terms

- **Connections** p.57-63
  - "previous" links
  - "see" links
  - with added context
  - Working with a Zettelkasten is a way of finding something that you weren't looking for, but can still use. - Kieserling p.75
  - the slip box provides combinatorial possibilities which were never planned - Luhmann 1981 p.71
  - seek internal possibilities for linkings which result the unexpected - Luhmann 1981 p.71
- **Atomicity** p. 63
  - reduces ideas to the essential points p.64
  - ideas reduced to their essentials are highly connective p.67
  - allows to repurpose ideas p.67
  - contains the fewest number of pieces as necessary to be useful p.66
- **Alphanumeric IDs** p.79
- **Folgezettel** p.79-92
- **Hub Notes** p.96-98
- **Structure Notes** p.98-102
- **Keyword Index** p.102-107
- important words and their meanings

Folgezettel in a digital Zettelkasten

Serendipity

Criteria for good notes

Part 3 - Writing With Your Zettelkasten

p. 109

Key terms

- **Lumps** p.111
  - Clusters
  - Trains of thought
  - Reference notes
  - Structure notes
  - Main notes
- **Blogs** p.136
- **Daily Journal** p. 154
- **Creative log** p.127, 156 — CLOG
- **Triangle of creativity** p.167
- **Outline** p.119, 145
- important words and their meanings

References

p.175-186

- **Ahrens, 2017**
  - To be able to play with ideas, we first have to liberate them from their original context by means of abstraction and re-specification.
- **Luhmann, 1981**
  - If you follow evolutionary theory models, chance plays a leading role. Without it, nothing works, or at least nothing progresses.
  - Without variation in the given body of thought, there is no possibility of testing and selecting innovations.
  - Luhmann, Niklas (1981): Kommunikation mit Zettelkästen. Ein Erfahrungsbericht, in: Horst Baier / Hans Mathias Kepplinger / Kurt Reumann (eds.), Öffentliche Meinung und sozialer Wandel. Für Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann. Opladen, 222-228
- **Allen, 2001**
  - If you don't pay appropriate attention to what has your attention, it will take more of your attention than it deserves.
- **Maedows, 2008**
  - Systems are everywhere around us. We are part of different systems whether we realize it or not. That's why spending time unveiling the various components of the systems you're part of is crucial.
- **Doto, 2024**
  - One of the most common confusion regarding the Zettelkasten has to do with conflicting terms used to describe the various kinds of notes and concepts associated with the practice.

Legend

- From note-making to writing
- Insights
- Elements in my Zettelkasten

Make Useful Notes

https://github.com/groepl/Take-Useful-Notes