

NETWORKED THINKING WITH

# Smart Sketchnotes

Sketchnote Book by Edmund Gröpl | 25.04.2022 | v0.08 | draft

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# SMART SKETCHNOTES

Sketchnote Book  
by Edmund Gröpl

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Cover: Sketchnote inspired by Graham Shaw at TEDx, 2015  
[https://lnkd.in/eC\\_7RRjy](https://lnkd.in/eC_7RRjy)

# Preface

I'm a data scientist and data storyteller. Networked thinking is part of my job since more than 30 years. Working with sketchnotes is a basic need. But why should I start writing a book about Smart Sketchnotes? The answer is easy.

What I've learned in my digital life:

1. Moments are precious.
2. So, I'm taking photos to remember.
3. Too many photos are overwhelming.
4. So, I love to create Photo Books.

But I needed much longer to understand:

1. Ideas are precious.
2. So, I'm taking sketchnotes to remember.

3. Too many sketchnotes are overwhelming.
4. So, I'm just creating my first Sketchnote Book about Digital Sketchnotes.

Do you already have a photo book? And what about having your own Sketchnote Book collecting Digital Sketchnotes?

If you love the idea, here are some more great examples:

- A Simple Guide To Sketchnoting, Alessio Bresciani  
<https://www.amazon.de/dp/B01LYP6JWZ/>
- Essentials of Visual Language, Yuri Malishenko  
<https://leanpub.com/visualthinkingworkbook/>
- The xLontrax Theory of Sketchnote, Mauro Toselli  
<https://www.maurotoselli.com/blog/the-xlontrax-theory-of-sketchnote>
- Sketchnotes aus Australien, Annelies Schippke  
<http://meisterbar.de/australien/>

- Collection of 98 Digital Sketchnotes, Chris Spalton  
<https://lnkd.in/gpkmMngK>

But collecting Digital Sketchnotes is only the first step. In this book you will learn how to benefit from networked thinking. We will start taking notes and taking sketchnotes as well. Linked together we can see almost hidden structures. That's the stuff Smart Sketchnotes are made of. Start reading to discover your new world of thinking.

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# INTRODUCTION

#1

Ideas,  
not  
Art

- MIKE ROHDE



#EDMUND'2021

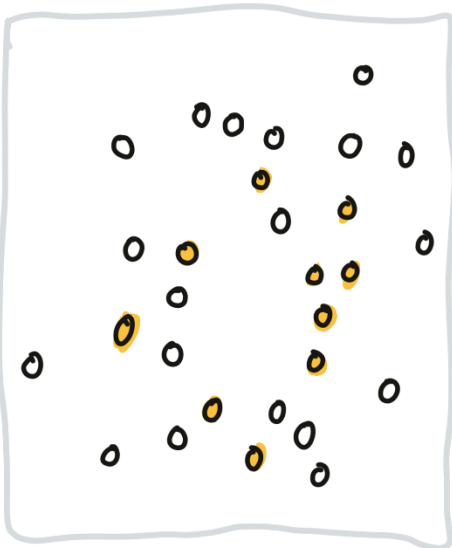
# Take Sketchnotes



SKETCHNOTES ARE RICH VISUAL NOTES CREATED FROM A MIX OF HANDWRITING, DRAWINGS, HAND-DRAWN TYPOGRAPHY, SHAPES, AND VISUAL ELEMENTS LIKE ARROWS, BOXES, AND LINES.

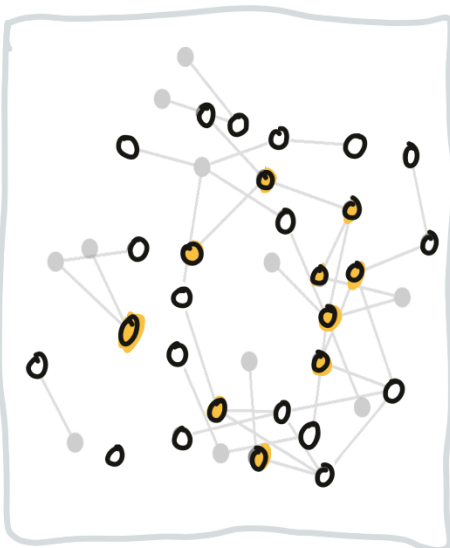
– MIKE RHODE (THE SKETCHNOTE HANDBOOK)

## SKETCHNOTES



IDEAS

## SMART SKETCHNOTES



NETWORKED IDEAS

# Create Smart Sketchnotes

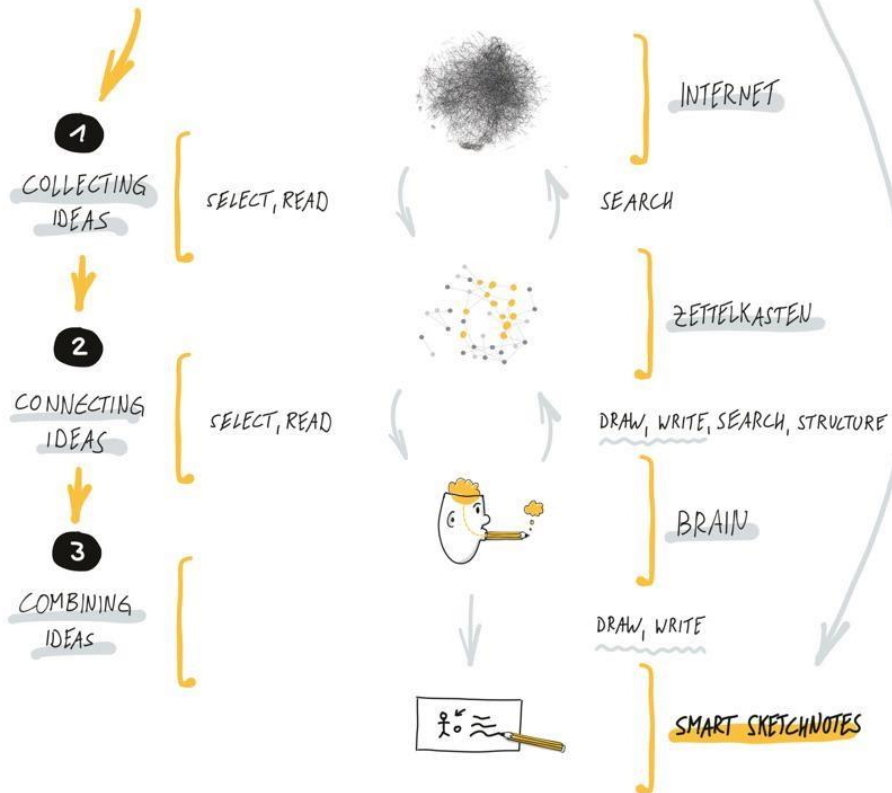


**NO PICTURE PUZZLES – MARTINA GRIGOLEIT**

What is the difference between a sketchnote and a smart sketchnote? It is the same as between ideas and networked idea. Such easy.

BUILD UP YOUR  
WORKFLOW

# WORKFLOW for SMART SKETCHNOTES



# Start with Three Steps



**YOU CANNOT THINK WITHOUT SKETCHNOTING.**

To create Smart Sketchnotes you will need three steps for:

1. collecting ideas,
2. connecting ideas and
3. combing ideas.

Compared with the well know process of sketchnoting there is one element in between: It is the “magic” Zettelkasten, something like a second brain, where you can store and most important connect your selected ideas of value.



USE DIGITAL  
TOOLS TO  
SUPPORT YOUR  
WORKFLOW

# Obsidian

Obsidian is a note-taking and knowledge management app on top of a local folder of plain text Markdown files. It lets you turn a collection of plain text files into a rich network of linked thought.

## Pros

- Incredible graph view. Not only is it super-fast, but you can apply filters, create groups, and even change the look and functionality of the graph itself.
- Cross-platform app available for iOS (iPhone, iPad), MacOS, Windows, Linux
- No account or sign up required.
- Community support
- No need for an active internet connection.
- Obsidian is a fast-growing platform with new tools added regularly.

- Pricing: 100% free for personal use

### **Cons**

- iOS version works only with icloud

# SimpleMind

SimpleMind is a cross-platform Mind Mapping tool with more than ten million users worldwide. It is my preferred tool to create structure notes for my Zettelkasten. Here are my pros and cons from this use case.

## Pros

- HTML export as an input for structure notes in Zettelkasten
- PNG export
- Cross-platform app available for iOS (iPhone, iPad), MacOS, Windows, Android
- Infinite canvas
- Use of Apple pencil to add drawings as images

## Cons

- Drawings with pencil are pixel based, no vector drawing

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## **ABOUT THE BOOK**

NETWORKED THINKING WITH SMART SKETCHNOTES is a book full of insights for sketchnoters of all proficiency levels. It covers a large scale of concepts useful for sketchnoting on digital devices.

We are learning from great visual thinkers and practitioners about their almost hidden secrets. Understanding the overall context helps to navigate in this field of learning. Going in detail will be the next step. The book provides numerous links to valuable resources you need to keep growing.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**



EDMUND GRÖPL is an enthusiast of digital sketchnoting. He is an engineer working as a data scientist and storyteller. Visual thinking is part of his job. Working with sketchnotes and learning from experts is an intense pleasure for him.