

NETWORKED THINKING WITH

# Smart Sketchnotes

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

NETWORKED THINKING WITH

# 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)

# Foreword

*A **foreword** is written by someone other than the author and tells the readers why they should read the book.*

This is a book about ...

In this draft version it's just a collection of ideas and drawings from the authors personal learning journey and experiences about the concepts of Visual Thinking and Digital Sketchnotes.

London

N.N.

February 2022

# 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.

*A **preface** is written by the author and tells readers how and why the book came into being.*

I love to visualise ideas ...

(New for the second edition)

### **Conventions used in this book**

Hidden secrets in quotes:



**QUOTATION IS THE HIGHEST COMPLIMENT YOU CAN PAY TO AN AUTHOR -  
ANDRÉ-MARIE AMPÈRE**



Acknowledgements



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# INTRODUCTION

About this book

Motivation, Why

How this book is organized

What to expect

Overview

Navigating this book

Let's get started

# Understand The Value of Smart Sketchnotes

Take Notes

#1

Ideas,  
not  
Art

- MIKE ROHDE



#EDMUND'2021



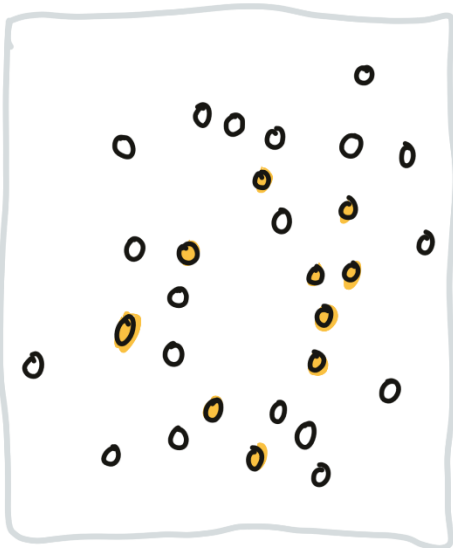
# Take Sketchnotes



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

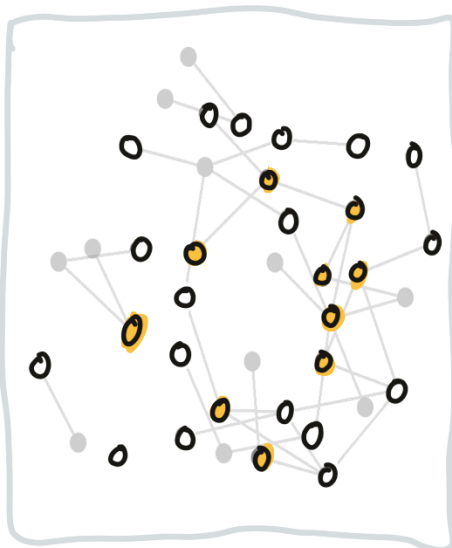
– MIKE RHODE (THE SKETCHNOTE HANDBOOK)

## 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.

BENEFIT FROM  
PROVEN  
CONCEPTS

# Use Zettelkasten Method

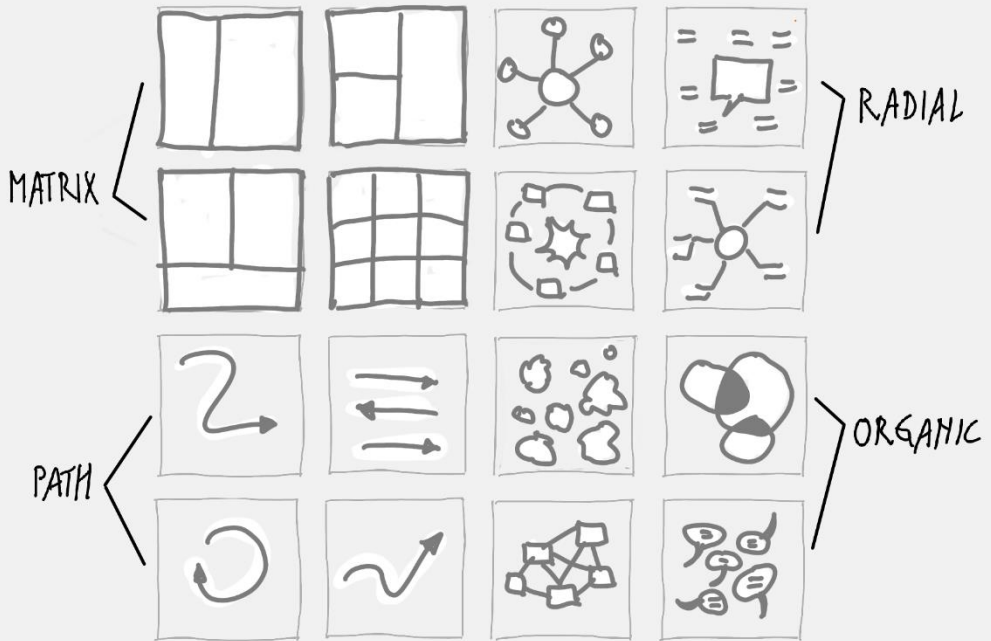


**ONE CANNOT THINK WITHOUT SKETCHNOTING**

What are we to do with all our sketchnotes we had produced over the years? Certainly, at first, we will produce mostly garbage. But we have been educated to expect something useful from our activities and soon lose confidence if nothing useful seems to result. We should, therefore, reflect on whether and how we arrange our sketchnotes so that they are available for later access.

# lernos<sup>co</sup> SKETCHNOTES

KATA 13 - WEEK 5



BASIC

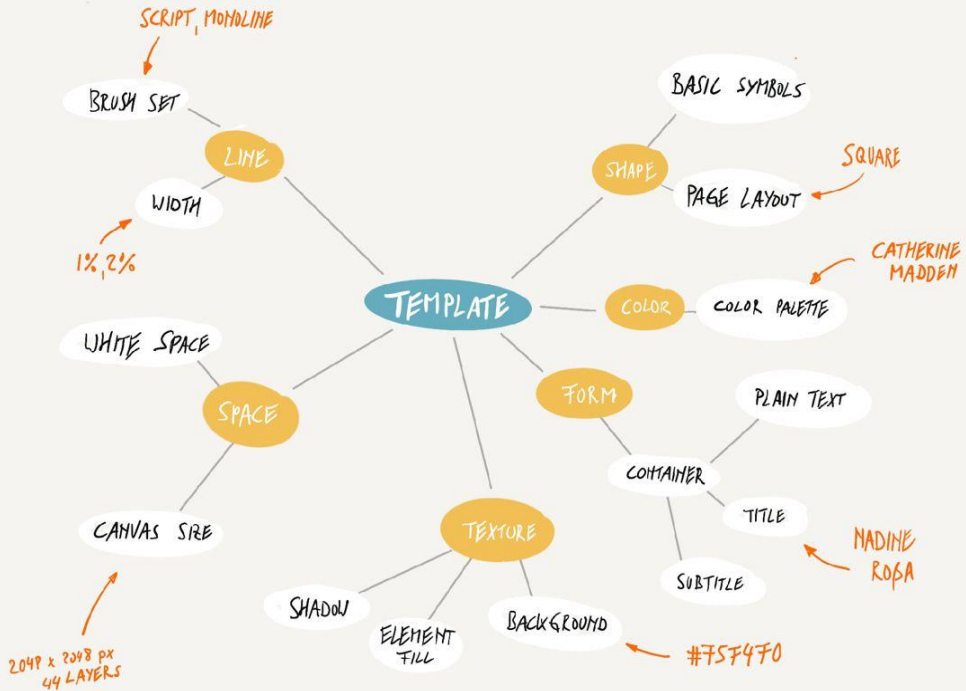
LAYOUT

STRUCTURES

Use Visual Elements

# lernos<sup>®</sup> SKETCHNOTES

KATA 13 - WEEK 5



MINDMAP

LAYOUT

CLASSIC



# Layout & Structure

What do I know about layouts? - For me it is the main question lernOS sketchnoting comes up with in week 5. Which layouts do I know? Which are the basic rules working with layouts? Which layouts I'm already using? Which layout do I always wanted use? ...

It's like watching an iceberg. Only 10 to 15% are visible. I've just started to learn more about layouts to explore more of the hidden principles. But it seems to be a long journey. ;-)

# Use Mind Maps

**FOCUS ON SOMETHING YOU WANT TO LEARN AND FOCUS ON IT - MARC GUTMAN**

**KEEP A BAD DRAWING UNTIL BY STUDY YOU HAVE FOUND OUT WHY IT IS BAD - ROBERT HENRI**

**WE LEARN BY COPYING. WE ADVANCE THROUGH INTEGRATION. WE MASTER BY TAPPING INTO OUR OWN SOURCE. - KELVY BIRD<sup>1</sup>**

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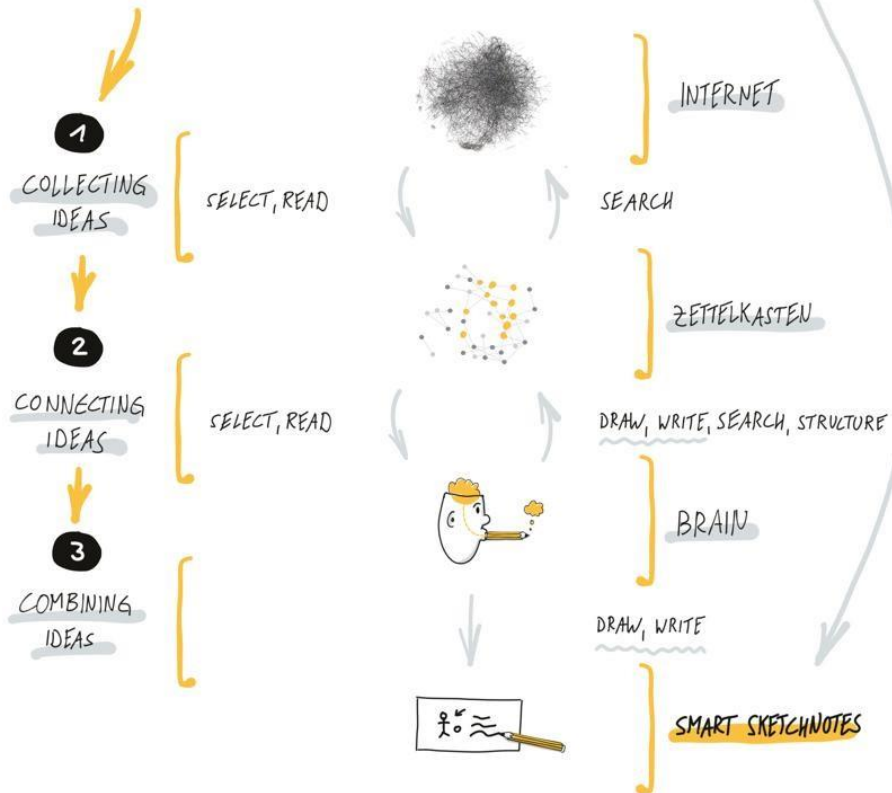
<sup>1</sup> [1]

Use Concept Maps



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.

Focus on Creating  
Output



Make it a Habit

USE DIGITAL  
TOOLS TO  
SUPPORT YOUR  
WORKFLOW



**GET A NEW PEN - MARC GUTMAN**

**THE PAINTER DRAWS WITH HIS EYES, NOT WITH HIS HANDS - MAURICE GROSSER**

**YOU ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT TOOL - MARTINA GRIGOLEIT**

I started digital sketchnoting with Paper53®, Adobe Sketch® and Procreate®. But now I surprisingly prefer vector-based tools like PowerPoint®, OneNote®, Miro® and Concepts®. It's also great fun to use a mind mapping tool like SimpleMind®<sup>2</sup> to create structured mind maps like this one.

- Die App mit den schönen, anpassbaren Pinselspitzen?
- Die Cloud-App, die gleichzeitig ein partizipatives Collaboration-Tool ist?
- Die kostenlose App, die tolle Ebenenfunktionen auch auf

---

<sup>2</sup> [11]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i79VqhShVww>

Windows bereitstellt?

- Die Vektor-App mit den unendlich skalierbaren Bildern?
- Die App, die als Teil eines Organizers deine Gedanken aufzeichnet?
- Die App, die du nach 5 Minuten bereits souverän bedienen kannst?

My favourite tools:

Collect Ideas

# 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



Excel

Visualize Ideas

## Ebenen



## Präzision

☒ Gitter ☐ Punktraster

☐ Einrasten ☐ Optionen

☐ Messen ☐ 1:1 mm

☐ Hilfslinie ☐ Bogen

MISTER MAIKEL

# SKETCHNOTE

WORKSHOP

STRICHSTÄRKE

0,2mm | 0,3mm | 0,5mm | 0,6mm

SONNE



EINFAMILIENHAUS



LASTWAGEN



APPL

SMARTPHONE



DIAMANT



GLÜHBIRNE



KAF

HOCHHAUS



KAFFE



ODER TEE

WA



PERSÖNLICHE  
HIGHLIGHTS  
ERSTE WOCHE



# Concepts

Why not starting from scratch? Also, you have some experience in sketchnoting there is always the chance to learn and improve. My idea is to restart with the new book from @mister.maikel Michael Geiß-Hein and also with the drawing tool @conceptsapp . As Maikel proposes: It will need no longer than 6 weeks. So let's start.



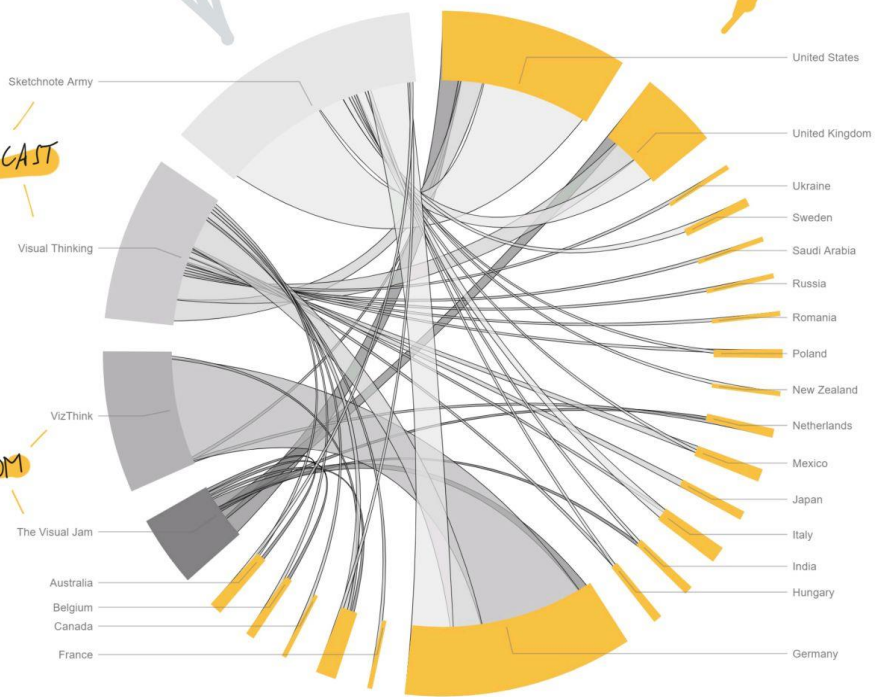
# 4 PLACES TO MEET

GREAT VISUAL THINKERS

FROM MORE THAN  
25 COUNTRIES

PODCAST

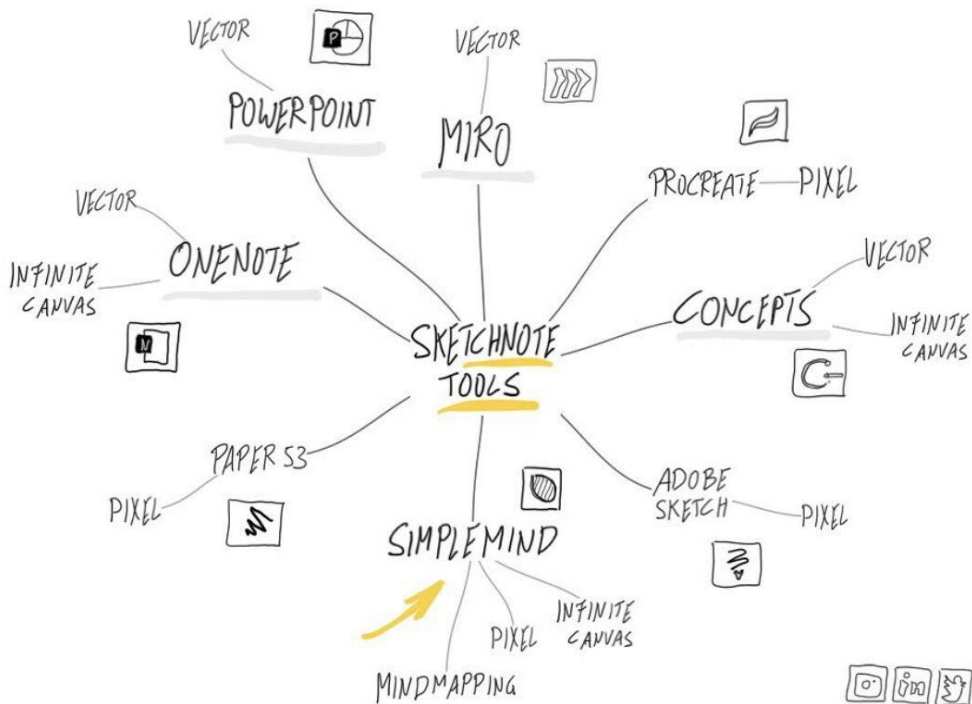
ZOOM



#EDMIND 2022

PowerBI

# Network Ideas



  
#EDMUND2021



# 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



I started digital sketchnoting with Paper53, Adobe Sketch and Procreate. But now I surprisingly prefer vector based tools like PPT, OneNote, Miro and Concepts. It's also great fun to use a mindmapping tool like SimpleMind<sup>3</sup> to create structured mindmaps like this one.

More about: <https://lnkd.in/dUCCbfEm>

My preferred mindmapping tool [#simplemindapp](#) now offers an integrated drawing editor. Combining mindmapping and sketchnoting is a great idea for brainstorming.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i79VqhShVww>

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<sup>3</sup> „SimpleMind“, SimpleMind, zugegriffen 7. April 2022, <https://simplemind.eu/>.

# Obsidian

4

5

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<sup>4</sup> Mike Rohde, „Mike Rohde - Slack“, 2022,  
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Communicate Ideas

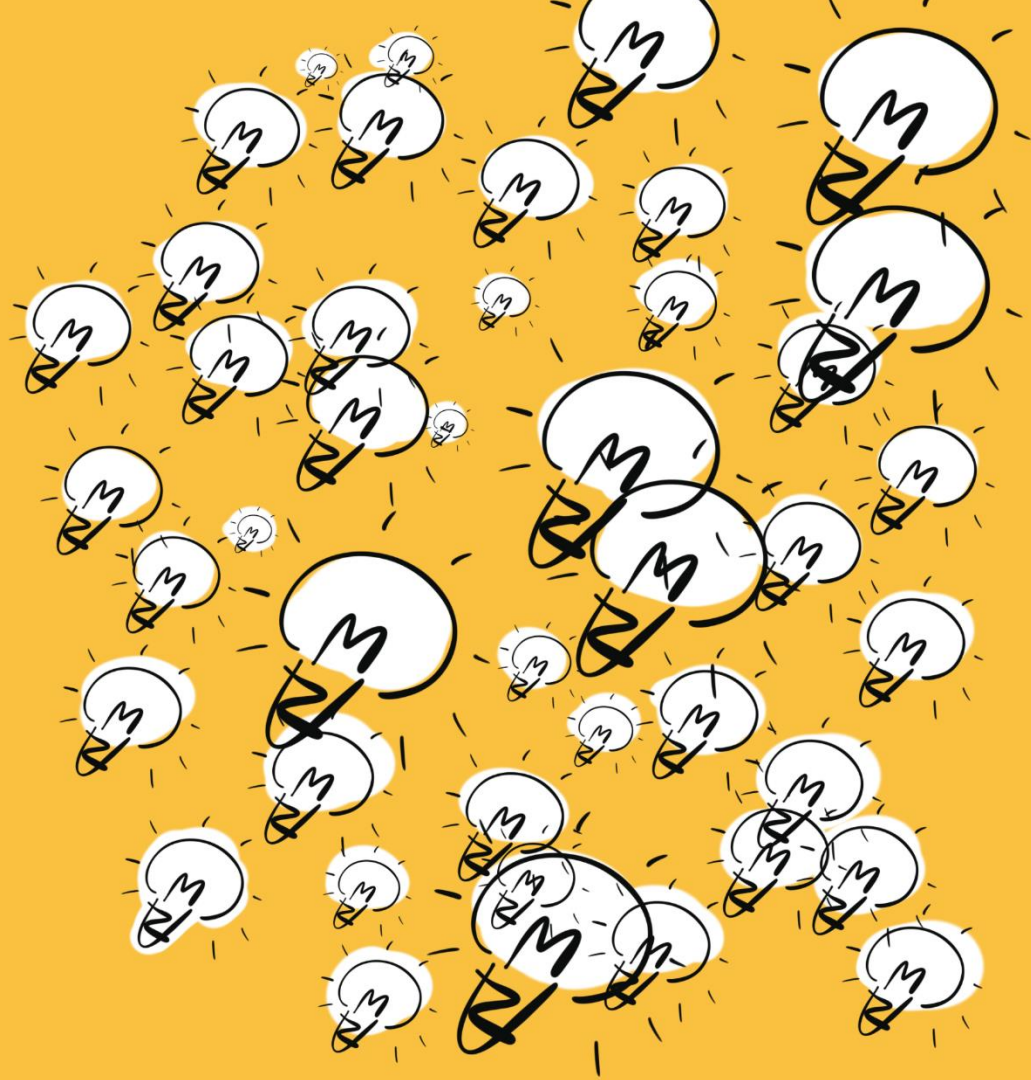
Miro

PowerPoint

Publish Ideas



Word





# Hidden Concepts of

## Data Storytelling



Three  
Basic Elements



Flatten the Curve  
COVID-19 Story



5 Steps



Visual Excellence



Chart Types



Visual Variables



Design Principles



Avoid Pitfalls

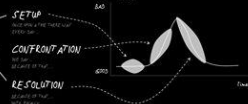


Attention



• The 22 Rules

• Three Act  
Structure



• Business Storylines

• Storytelling Canvas

Why not telling



— your own —

Data Story

?

# PowerPoint

Did you ever use PowerPoint for sketchnoting? Here my first example.

Sketchnotes first. - My old way to design a presentation was quite easy: collecting ideas, giving them a structure, and finally building up my PowerPoint slides.

Why not starting with a sketchnote first? It shows all major ideas and the overall structure on one page, just from the beginning. Give it a try.

RESOURCES

[1] <sup>6</sup>

[2] <sup>7</sup>

[3]

[4]

[5]

[6]

[7]

[8]

[9]

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<sup>6</sup> Mike Rohde, *Sketchnote Handbook: The illustrated guide to visual note taking* (Milwaukee: Peachpit Press, 2012).

<sup>7</sup> Yuri Malishenko, „vizthink.dk“, zugegriffen 7. April 2022, <https://www.vizthink.dk/home>.

[11]

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Testen der Notiz





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Style: Chicago

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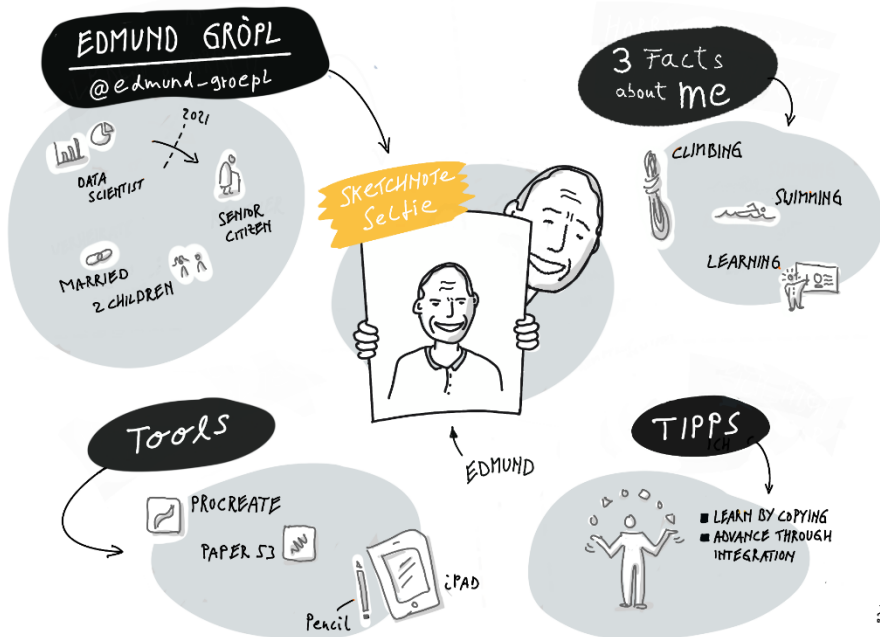
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# lernos® SKETCHNOTES

WEEK 6 - KATA 15: SKETCHNOTE-SELFIE



#edmund13

# The Author

First things first I'm a big fan of data analysis and data discover. It's more than an interest for me to make relations between numbers and produce meaningful results. I have a passion for helping teams to become more data-driven and embracing the power of data storytelling.

I have experience more than 7 years on data analysis, reporting, dashboards and more than 20 years on software development, project management and corporate strategy on biggest companies including research, automation and telecommunications industries in Germany.

In my free time you can find me at the climbing gym, swimming long distances and spending quality time with my wife and my family.

So now I combine these experiences with my math and engineering background in here and I am looking forward to sharing my passion and knowledge with you.

Finally, I love Visual Thinking and Digital Sketchnoting!

### Rework of my Sketchnote Selfie

Why not reworking an existing sketchnote? In week 6 of our [#lernOS](#) journey I had the chance to rework my sketchnote selfie from week 1. Do you see any differences? I'm shure you will recognize the style from [Nadine Roßa](#) Not done so perfectly as it is shown in her brilliant book „Sketchnotes - Die große Symbol-Bibliothek“. Also not so nicely as it is shown in her selfie tutorial video from her newsletter presented with a live drawing on iPad using Procreate. But I'm happy if you can recognize her amazing drawing style. Now it's week 6 for me. Hopefully I can develop my own style some years later. For now it's a great

success for me to create a readable sketchnote which is graceful enough for having a closer look at the presented story.



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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.