

Feature Proposal — Manny × NotebookLM

Integration & UX Inspiration

Status: Feature proposal (research & product exploration) **Canonical impact:** None (non-binding)

1. Purpose

This document proposes a **sensible, low-risk integration strategy** between Manny and Google's NotebookLM as it exists *today*, alongside a forward-looking view of how NotebookLM's interface and interaction model can inspire a future **Manny-native notebook UX**.

The goal is not to couple Manny technically to NotebookLM, but to: - leverage NotebookLM as a *human sensemaking accelerator* - preserve Manny's autonomy, governance, and learning physics - explore a notebook-style UX that makes Manny's evolving understanding legible

2. Guiding Principle

NotebookLM helps humans read and summarize information.
Manny helps humans own, evolve, and explain understanding.

Any integration must preserve this separation of responsibility.

NotebookLM is treated as **upstream and external**. Manny remains the sole cognitive substrate.

3. NotebookLM Today: Capabilities & Constraints

3.1 What NotebookLM Does Well

- Grounded summarization over a user-provided corpus
- Citation-linked explanations
- Fast synthesis of large document sets
- Human-friendly notebook metaphor

These capabilities strongly support **Domain Curators** in preparing high-quality inputs.

3.2 What NotebookLM Does *Not* Provide

- No persistent learning or evolving understanding
- No internal geometry, basins, or interference
- No replayable cognition
- No public API or programmatic access

NotebookLM is a *product UI*, not a cognitive engine.

4. Practical Integration Pattern (Workable Today)

4.1 Human-in-the-Loop Curation Flow

Step 1 — Curate with NotebookLM - Domain Curator uses NotebookLM to: - summarize documents - extract key passages - surface disagreements or themes - annotate timelines or assumptions

Step 2 — Export Curated Artifacts - Outputs are exported as: - text notes - quoted excerpts - timelines - structured summaries

Step 3 — Manny Ingestion - Manny ingests these artifacts as **curated experiences**, not truths - All relations enter with low initial κ - Understanding is earned through repetition, traversal, and interference

4.2 Why This Is the Right Boundary

- Humans remain accountable for source selection
 - NotebookLM accelerates *reading*, not *thinking*
 - Manny remains responsible for learning and explanation
 - Governance and ownership are preserved
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5. Drive-Centric Workflow (Optional)

Because NotebookLM operates over Google Drive: - Manny can integrate at the **document layer**, not the model layer - Manny monitors a domain-specific Drive folder - New or changed documents are ingested as events

This avoids tight coupling while supporting enterprise workflows.

6. What Not to Do (Explicit Non-Goals)

- Do not scrape NotebookLM UI
- Do not treat NotebookLM outputs as authoritative structure
- Do not import NotebookLM reasoning as κ updates
- Do not attempt API-level coupling where none exists

These approaches risk governance drift and technical fragility.

7. NotebookLM as UX Inspiration (Future Direction)

NotebookLM demonstrates a powerful interaction model: - notebook-centric exploration - tight coupling between text and questions - visible grounding in sources

Manny can adopt a **similar UX metaphor**, while exposing *very different internals*.

8. Manny Notebook UX (Conceptual)

8.1 Core UX Elements

A Manny-native notebook would allow users to: - view evolving domain notes - ask reflective questions ("why?", "what changed?") - see trace-backed explanations inline - navigate concept basins over time

8.2 What Manny Adds Beyond NotebookLM

- Visible evolution of understanding
- Replayable reasoning traces
- Temporal comparison of basins
- Explicit ambiguity and disagreement
- Jazz Sessions embedded as exploratory tools

The notebook becomes a **window into cognition**, not just a reader.

9. Example UX Flow (Tomorrow)

1. User opens a Manny Domain Notebook
2. Sees:
3. current understanding summaries
4. recent changes
5. unresolved tensions
6. Asks:
7. "Why do we believe this now?"
8. "What shifted after last month?"
9. Manny responds with:
10. narrated trace
11. links to source artifacts
12. comparison to prior state

This preserves trust while enabling deep sensemaking.

10. Strategic Value

This proposal: - leverages an existing, trusted product (NotebookLM) - avoids unnecessary competition - accelerates Manny adoption via familiar workflows - provides a clear path to a differentiated Manny UX

NotebookLM today becomes the **inspiration**, not the dependency.

11. Summary

NotebookLM and Manny occupy adjacent but distinct cognitive roles.

By integrating at the **human curation layer** today, and learning from NotebookLM's UX metaphor for the future, Manny can: - remain governable - remain explainable - remain independent - and evolve toward a notebook-native interface for understanding, not answers.