

# 03

## Digital Cognition



## **Intention of the Unit**

To understand how digital note-taking programs can support and enhance creative output

# The 3 pillars

CAPTURE

**Progressive Summarization**

ORGANIZE

P.A.R.A.

RETRIEVE

**Just-in-Time Project Mgmt**

Practice

Theory

**Unit 4**

**Progressive Summarization**

**Unit 5**

**Maximizing  
Return-on-Attention**

**Unit 2**

**Organizing for Insight**

**Unit 3**

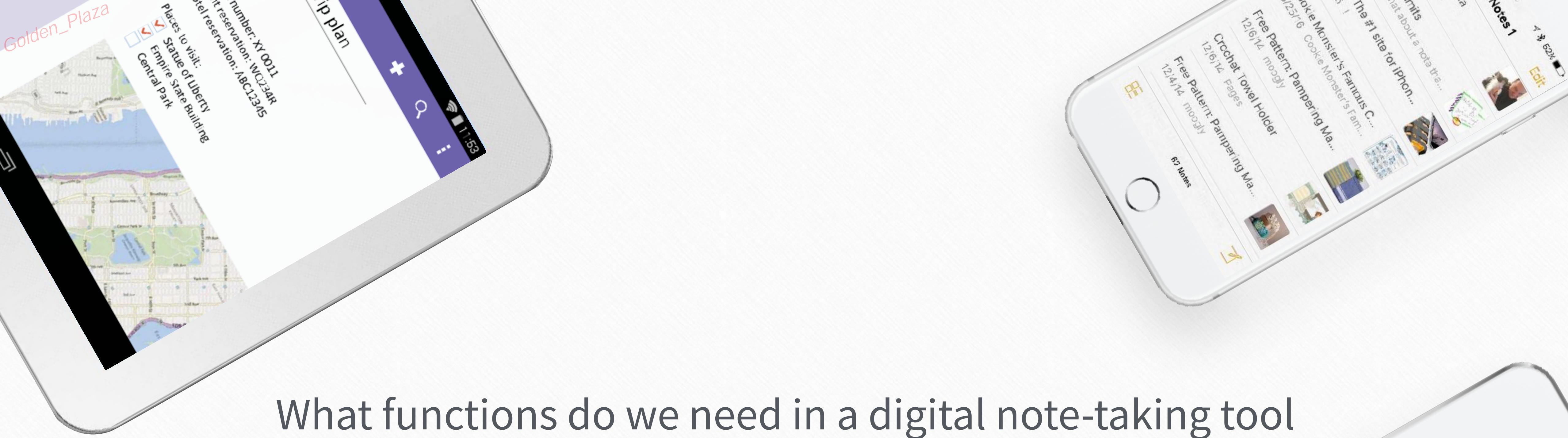
**Digital Cognition**

**Unit 6**

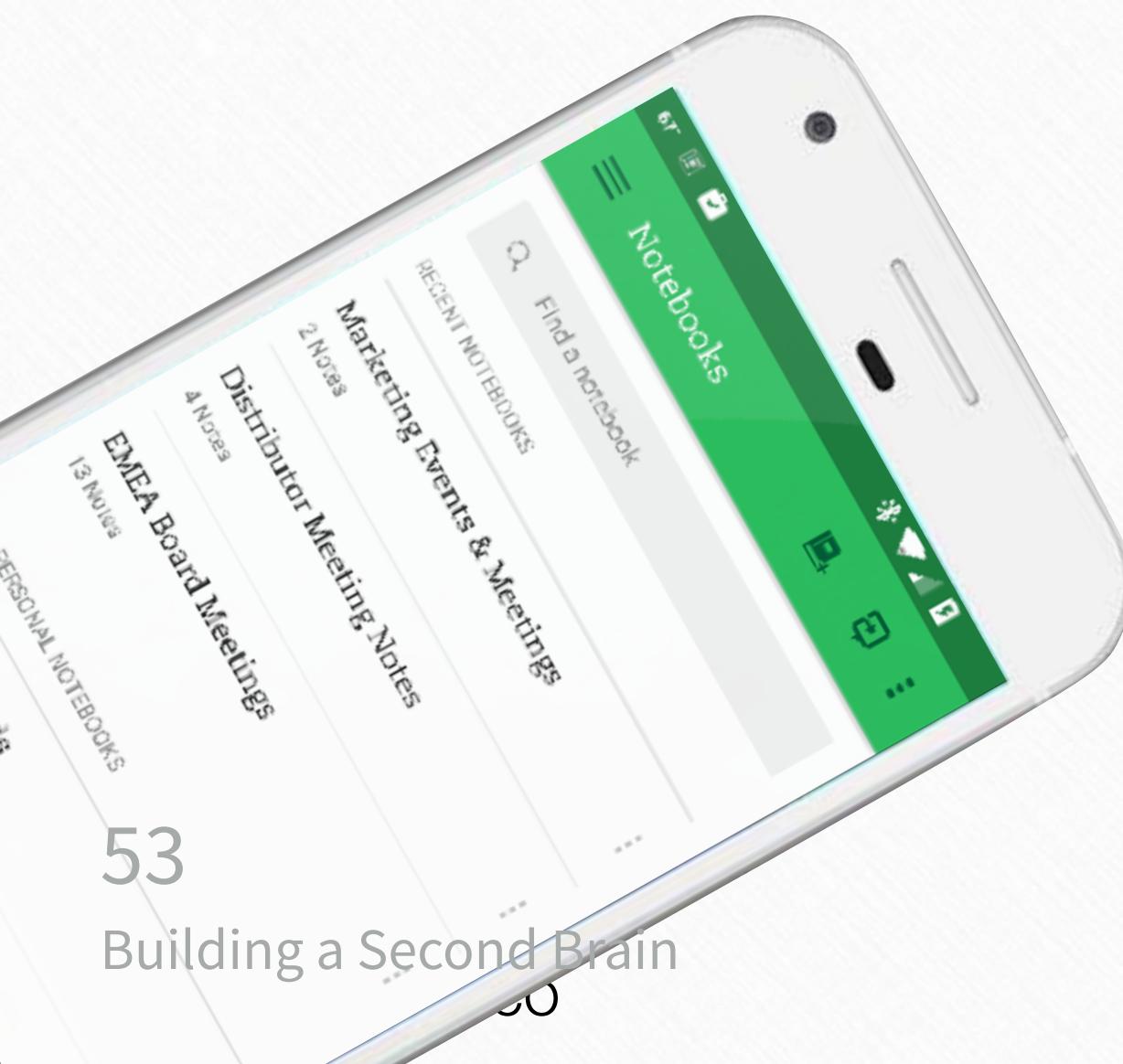
**Workflow & Retrieval**

**Unit 7**

**Just-In-Time  
Project Management**



# What functions do we need in a digital note-taking tool to enhance and support our creative output?



# Functions of a digital note-taking tool

Promote unusual associations between pieces of information



Incubate ideas over long periods of time

- Create visual artifacts
- Provide the raw material for unique interpretations and perspectives

# Functions of a digital note-taking tool

#1 Promote unusual associations between pieces of information

Incubate ideas over long periods of time



Create visual artifacts

Provide the raw material for unique interpretations and perspectives

*“...creative people are better at  
recognizing relationships, making  
associations and connections...”*

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Eddie Opera, *The Atlantic*

*“...increased sensitivity to unusual associations is another important contributor to creativity.””*

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Scott Barry Kauffman, *Harvard Business Review*

# Promoting unusual associations



# Functions of a digital note-taking tool

Promote unusual  
associations  
between pieces of  
information



Incubate ideas over  
long periods of time

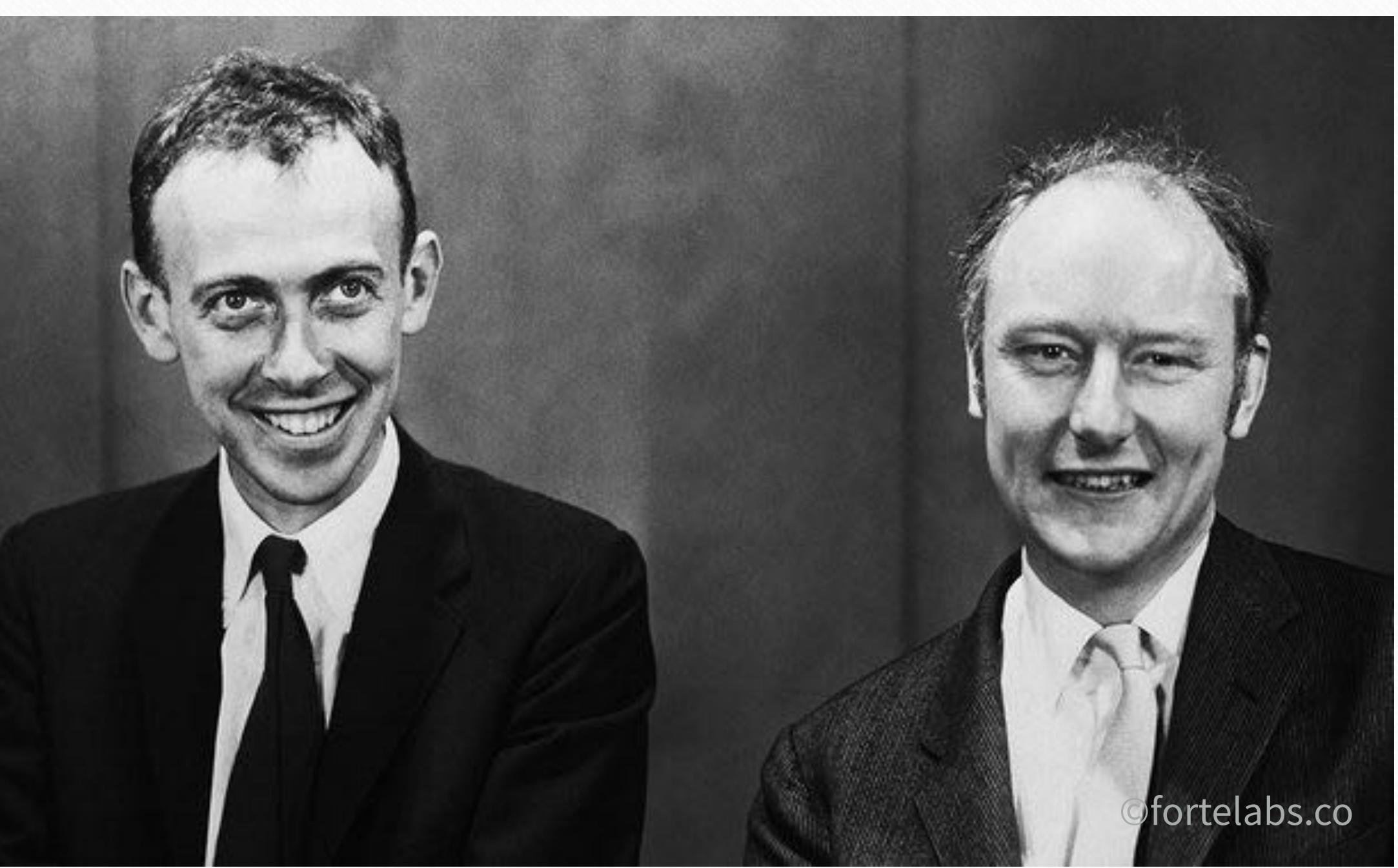
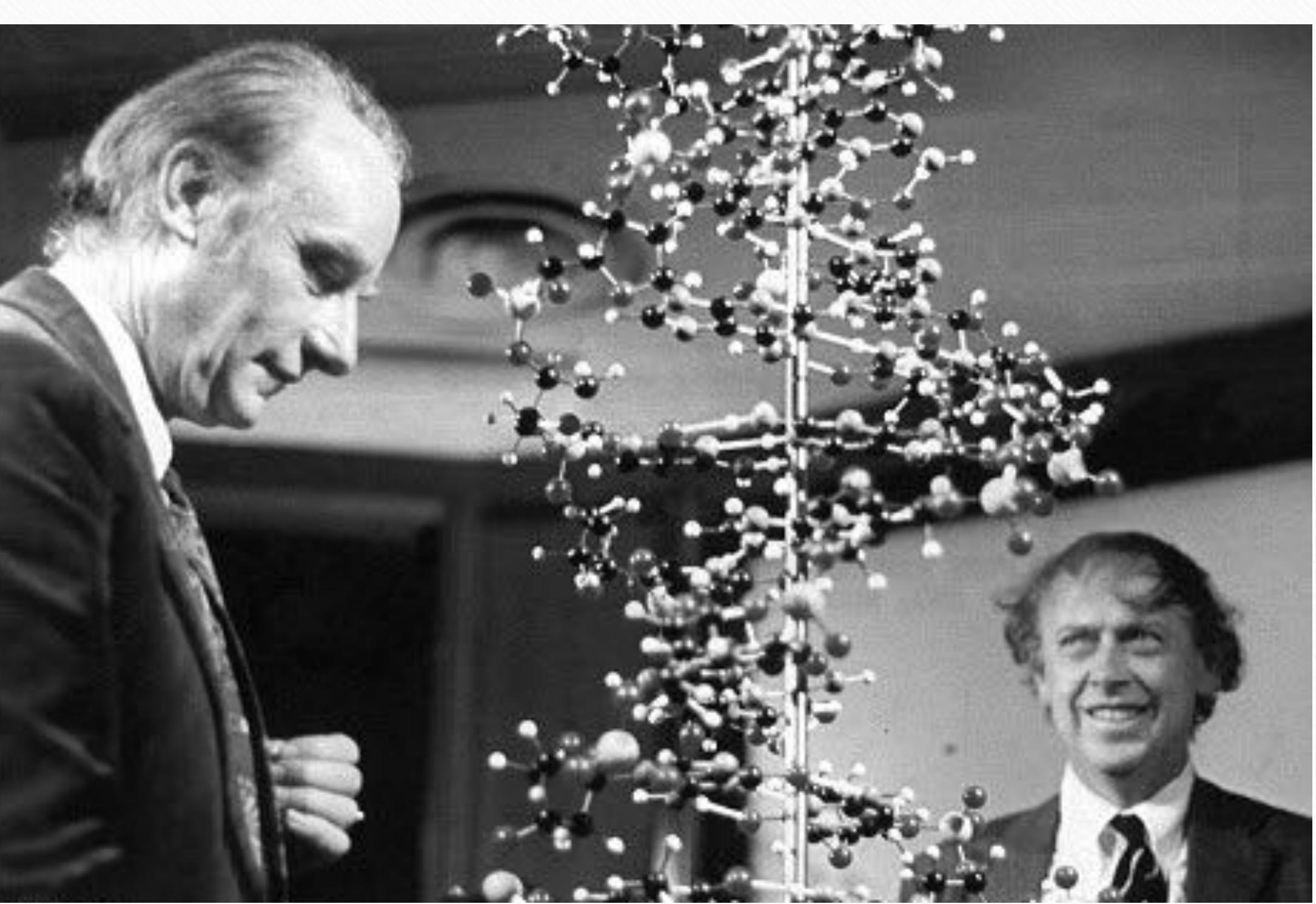
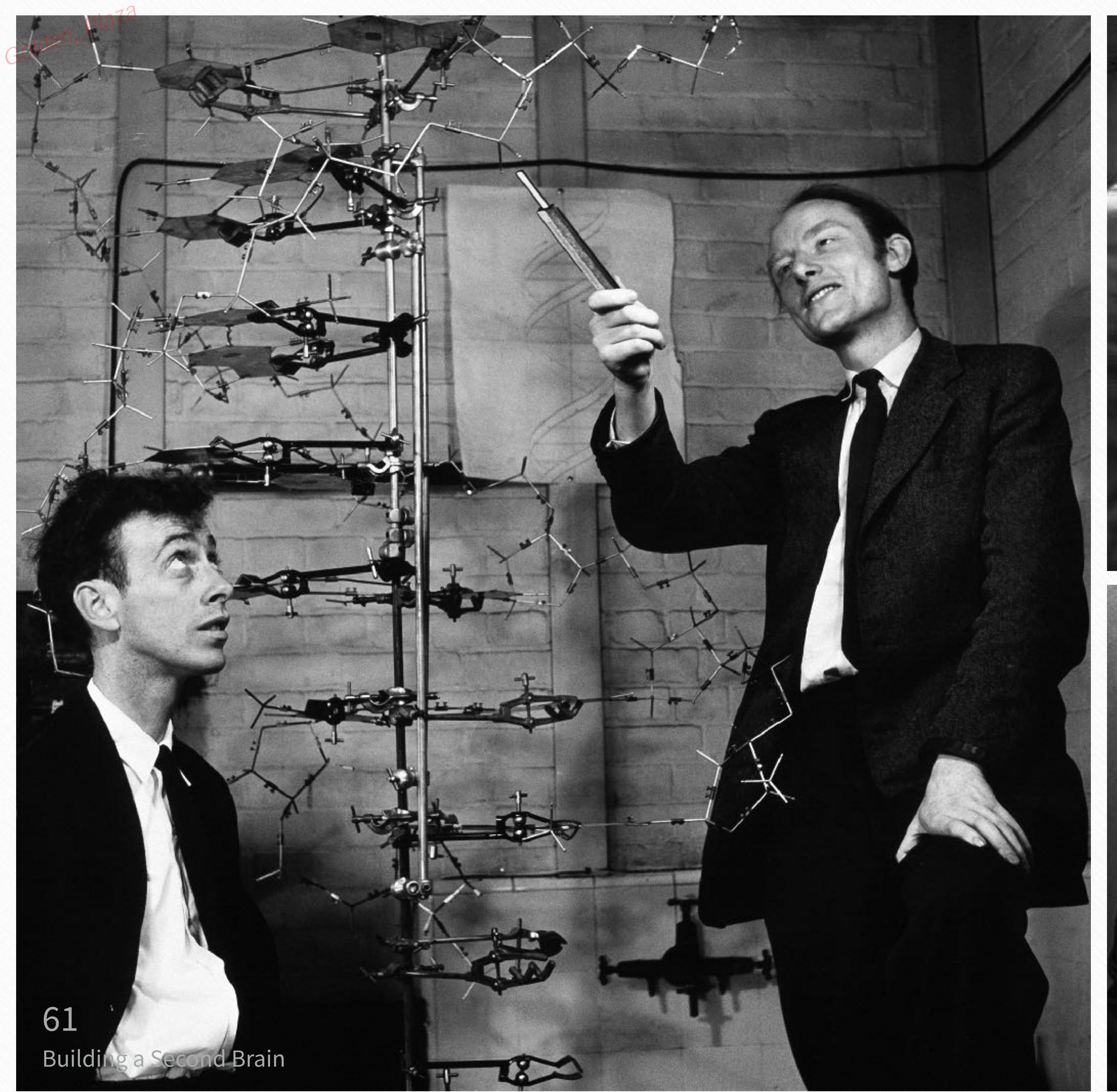
**#2 Create visual  
artifacts**

Provide the raw  
material for unique  
interpretations and  
perspectives

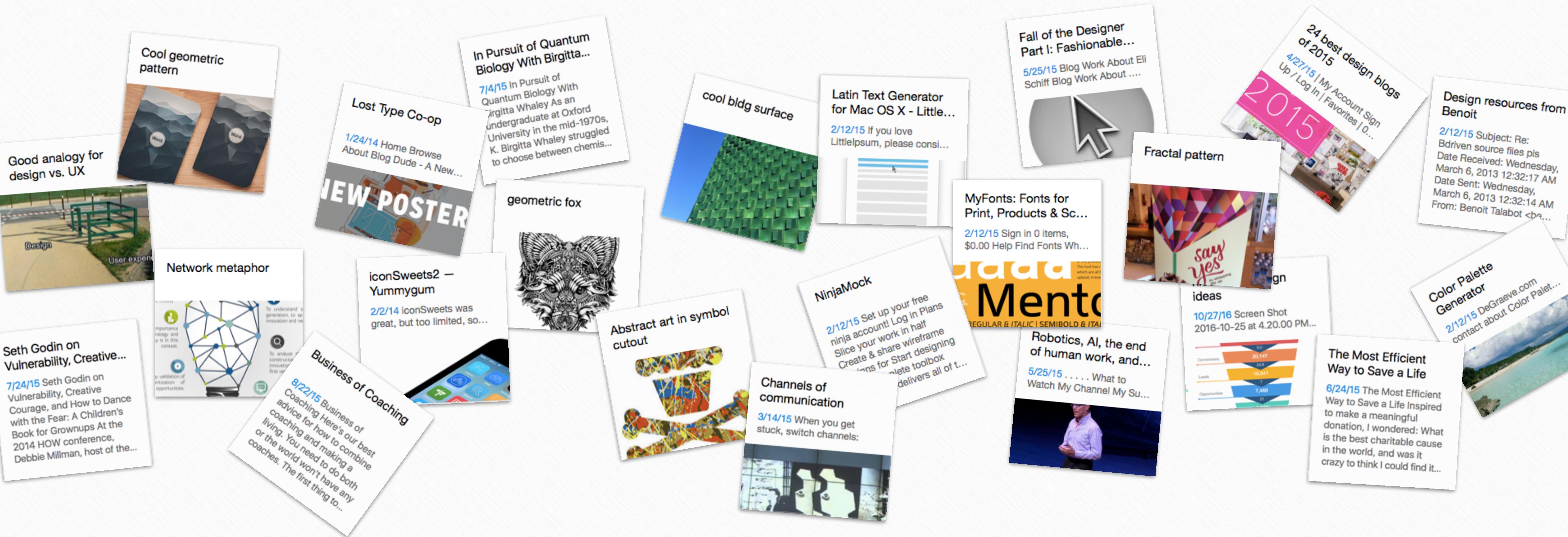
*“...the basic functioning mode of the  
human mind is not reasoning and planning,  
but interacting via perception and action  
with the environment.”*

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Francis Heylighen and Clément Vidal,  
*Free University of Brussels*



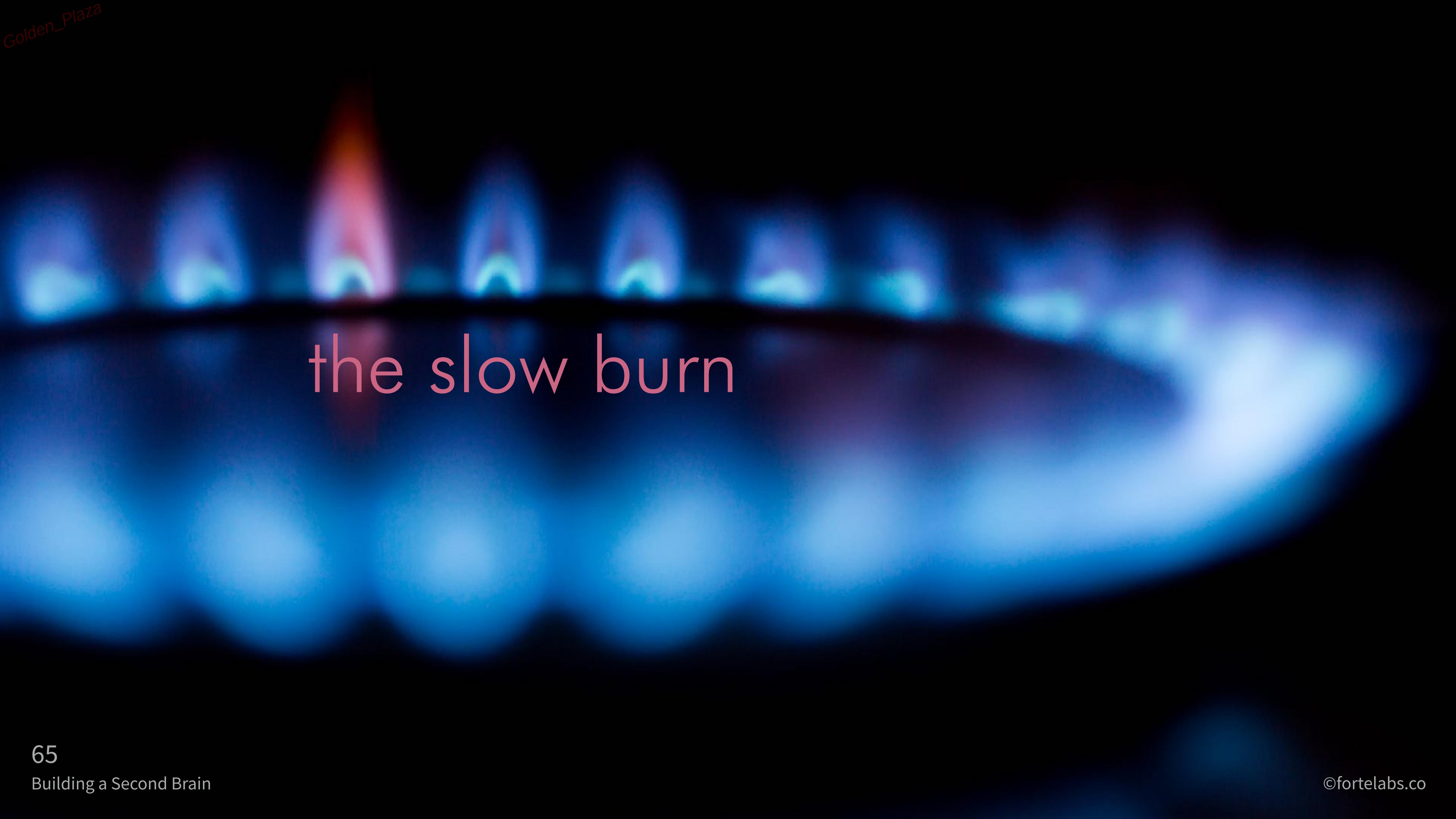
# Visual artifacts



# Functions of a digital note-taking tool







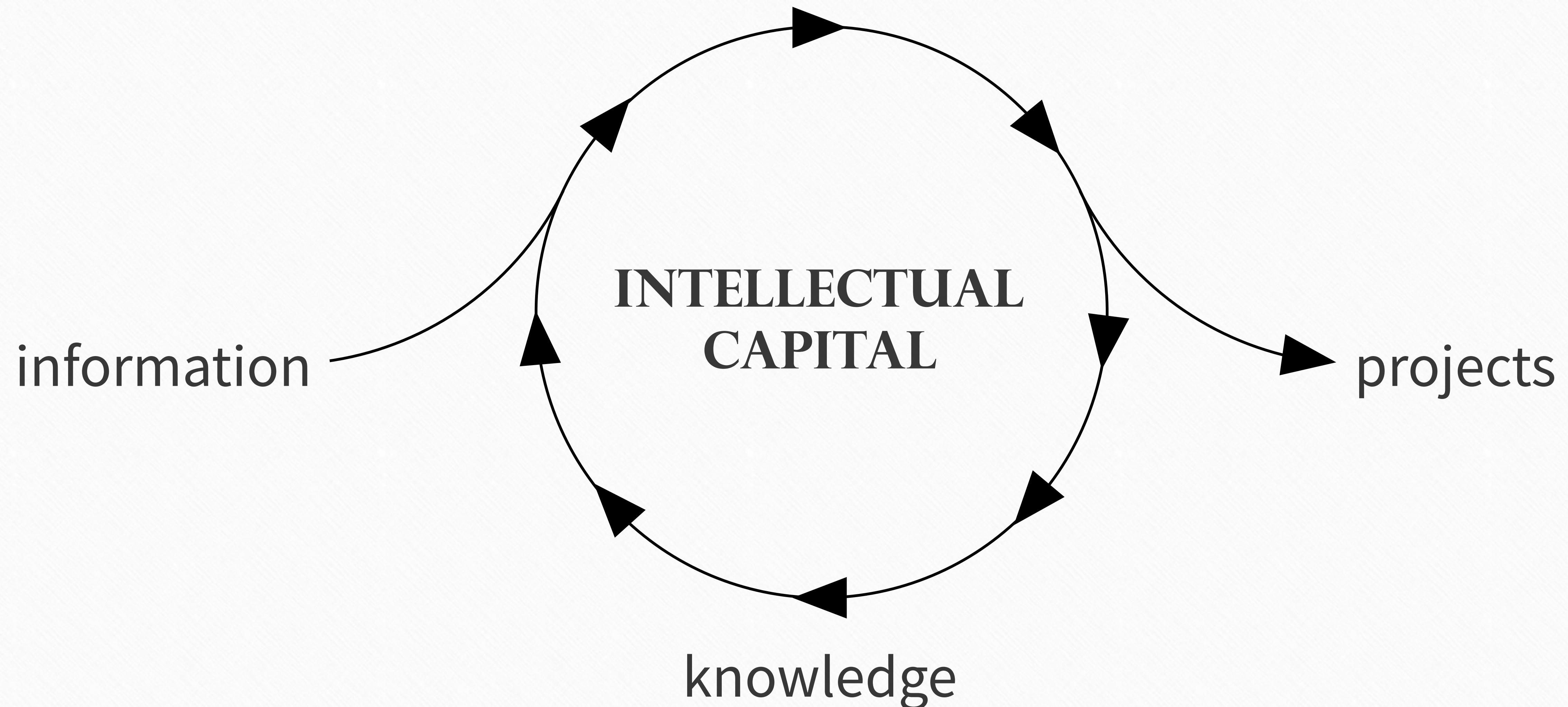
the slow burn

*“You have to keep a dozen of your favorite problems constantly present in your mind, although by and large they will lay in a dormant state. Every time you hear or read a new trick or a new result, test it against each of your twelve problems to see whether it helps. Every once in a while there will be a hit, and people will say, “How did he do it? He must be a genius!””*

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Richard Feynman, Nobel Prize-winning physicist

## Reuse and recycle



# Functions of a digital note-taking tool

Promote unusual  
associations  
between pieces of  
information



Incubate ideas over  
long periods of time

Create visual  
artifacts

#4 Provide the raw  
material for unique  
interpretations and  
perspectives

*“...the ability to convey not just information but a particular interpretation of information.”*

## THE FUTURE OF EMPLOYMENT: HOW SUSCEPTIBLE ARE JOBS TO COMPUTERISATION?\*

Carl Benedikt Frey<sup>†</sup> and Michael A. Osborne<sup>‡</sup>

September 17, 2013

*“‘Point of view’ is that quintessentially human solution to information overload, an intuitive process of reducing things to an essential relevant and manageable minimum. . . . In a world of hyper-abundant content, point of view will become the scarcest of resources.”*

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Paul Saffo

# Ammunition



examples



illustrations



screenshots



statistics



71

mindmaps

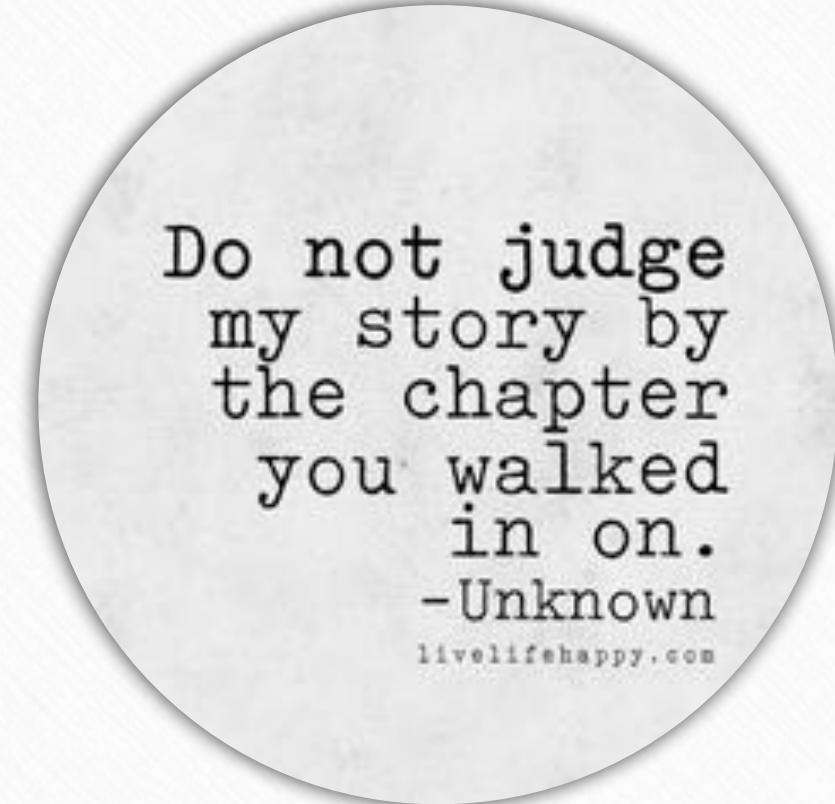
Building a Second Brain



diagrams



book notes



quotes

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## Durable

Backed up in the cloud and on your computer



## Universal

Stores any type of file, works on many devices



## Centralized

Keeps everything in one place



## Transparent

Exposes information visually, instead of hiding it within documents and folders





Up next...

04

## Progressive Summarization