03

# Digital Cognition

Intention of the Unit

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

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The 3 pillars

CAPTURE	ORGANIZE	RETRIEVE
Progressive Summarization	**P.A.R.A.**	**Just-in-Time Project Mgmt**

Practice

| **Unit 4**
Progressive Summarization | **Unit 2**
Organizing for Insight | Unit 6
Workflow & Retrieval |

Theory

| Unit 5
Maximizing
Return-on-Attention | **Unit 3**
Digital Cognition | Unit 7
Just-In-Time
Project Management |
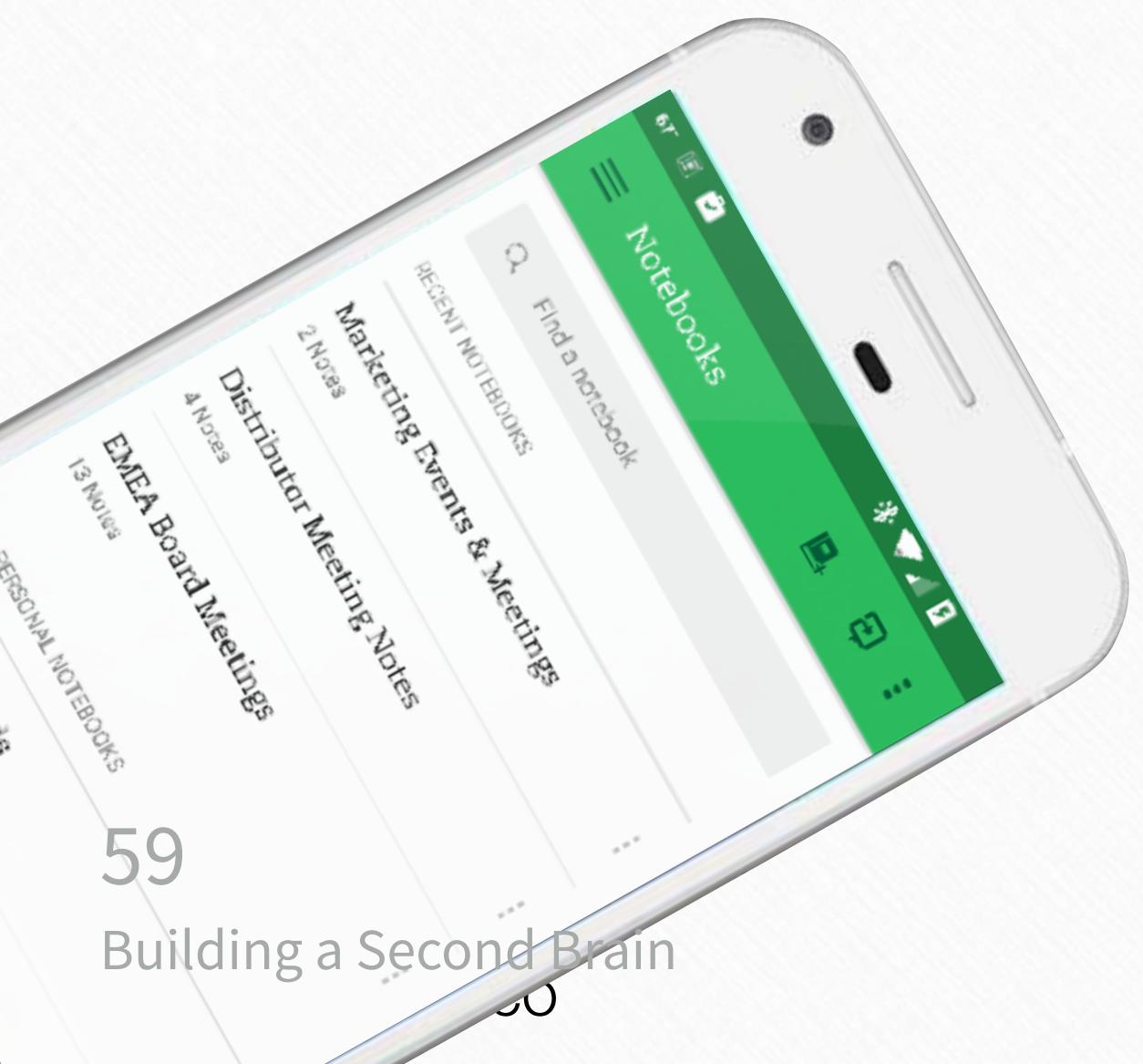
What functions do we need in a digital note-taking tool
to enhance and support our creative output?

Building a Second Brain

Functions of a digital note-taking tool

Promote unusual associations between pieces of information

Create visual artifacts

Incubate ideas over long periods of time

Provide the raw material for unique interpretations and perspectives

Building a Second Brain

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Functions of a digital note-taking tool

#1 Promote unusual associations between pieces of information

Create visual artifacts

Incubate ideas over long periods of time

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"…*creative people are better at recognizing* **relationships**, *making* **associations** *and* **connections**…"

—————

Eddie Opera, *The Atlantic*

*"…increased sensitivity to **unusual associations** is another important contributor to creativity.""*

Scott Barry Kauffman, *Harvard Business Review*

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Promoting unusual associations

handwritten notes

text

screenshots

book notes

files

voice memos

paper documents

photos

webpages

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Functions of a digital note-taking tool

Promote unusual associations between pieces of information

#2 Create visual artifacts

Incubate ideas over long periods of time

Provide the raw material for unique interpretations and perspectives

Building a Second Brain

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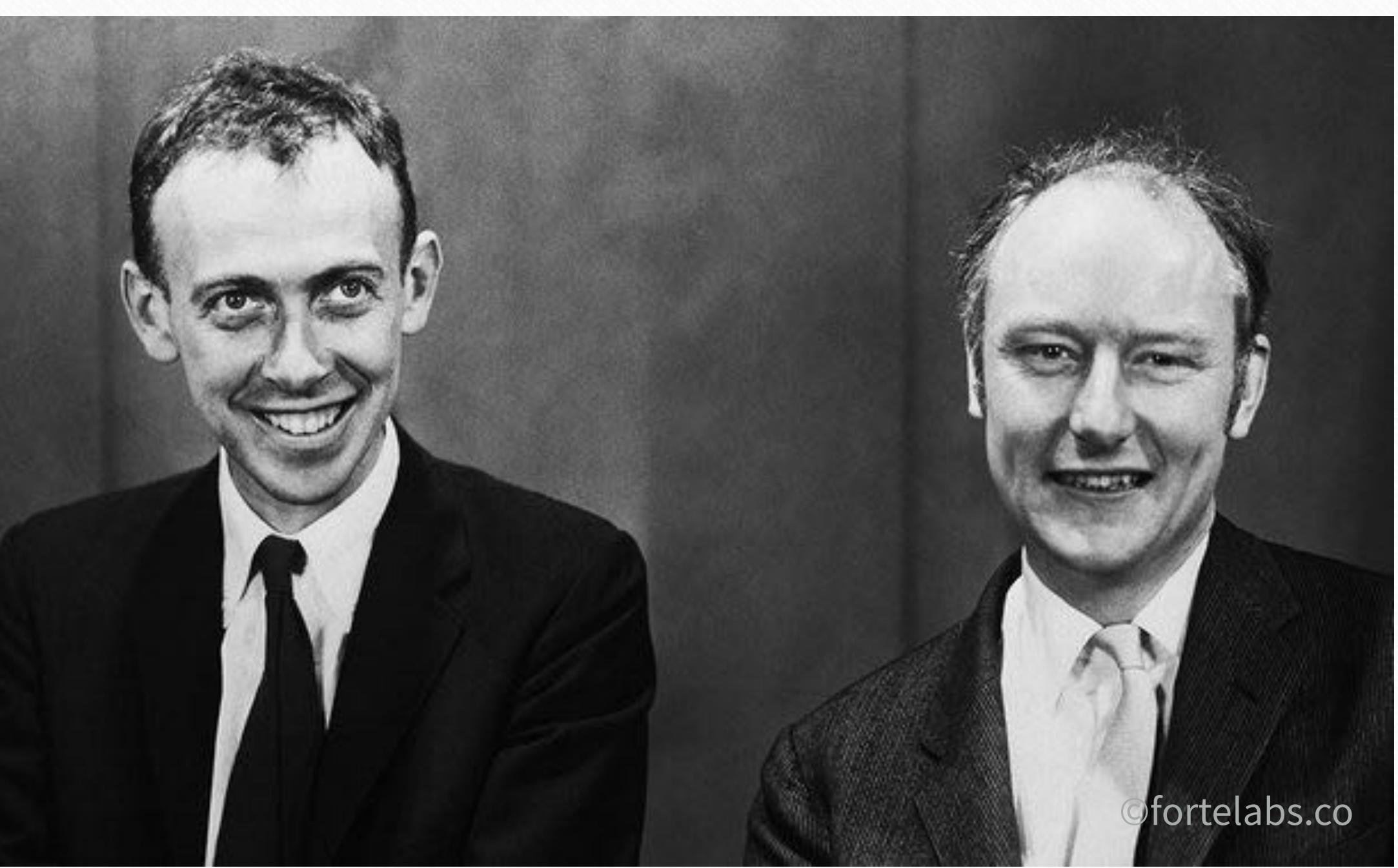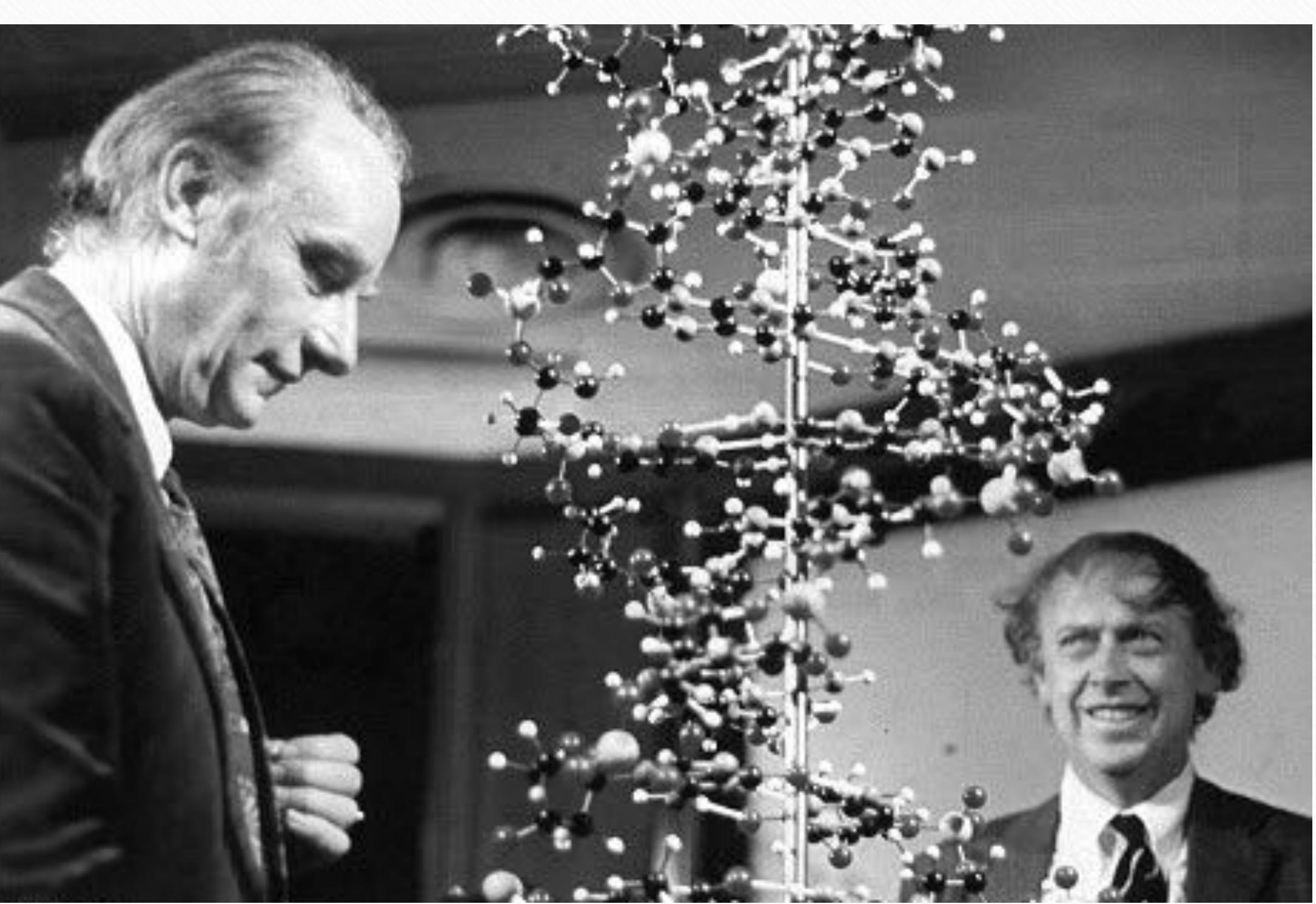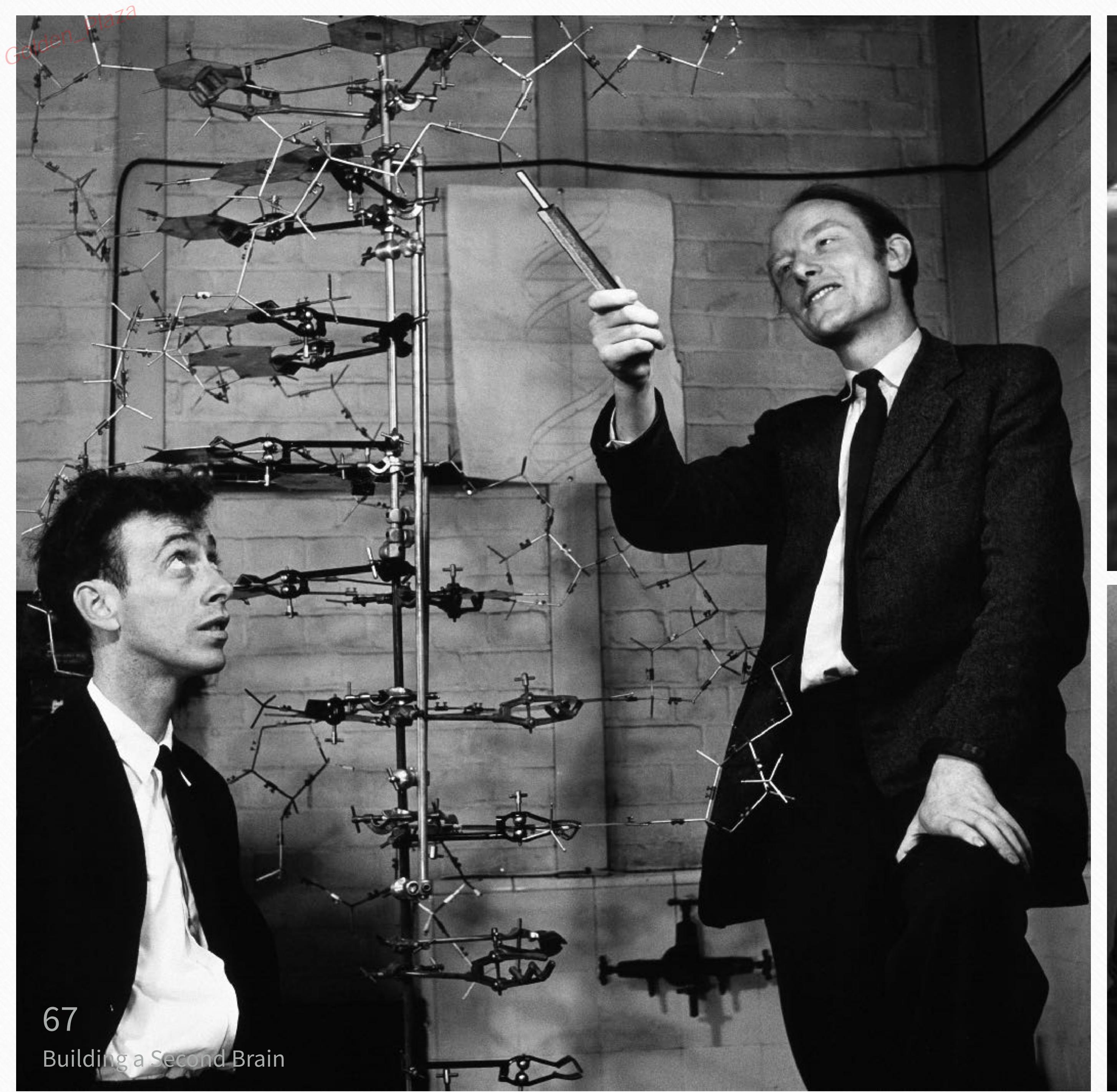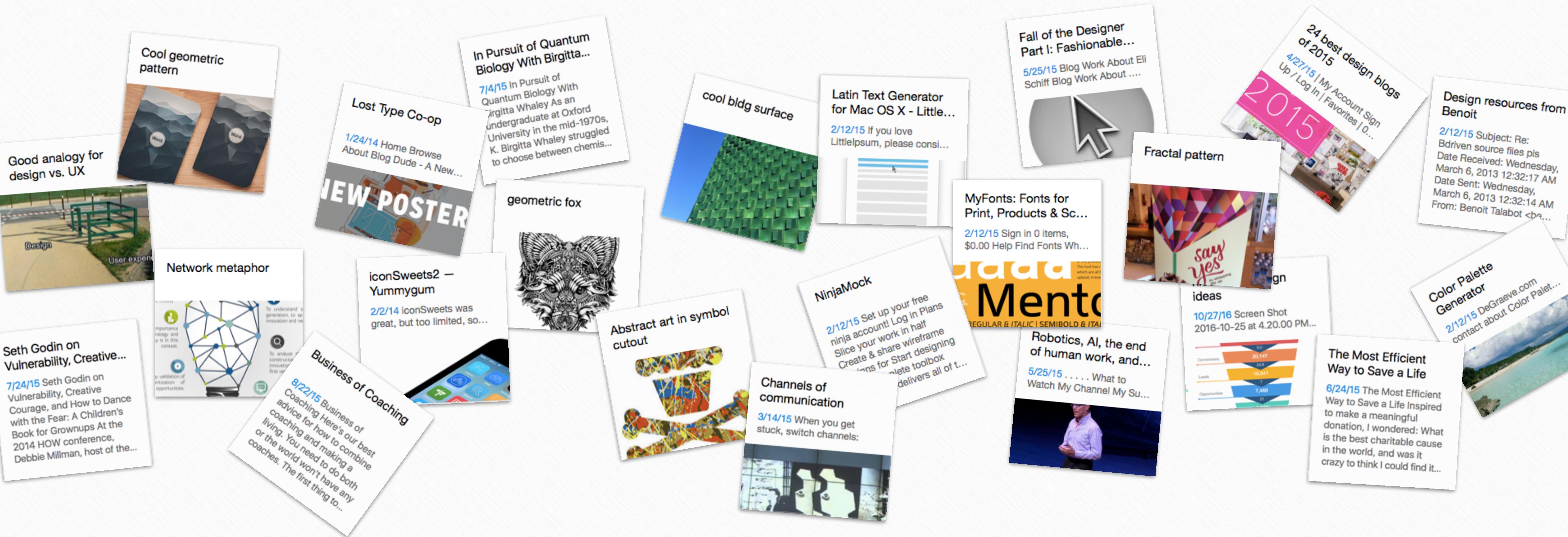
*"…the basic functioning mode of the human mind is not reasoning and planning, but **interacting** via perception and action with the environment."*

Francis Heylighen and Clément Vidal,
Free University of Brussels

Building a Second Brain

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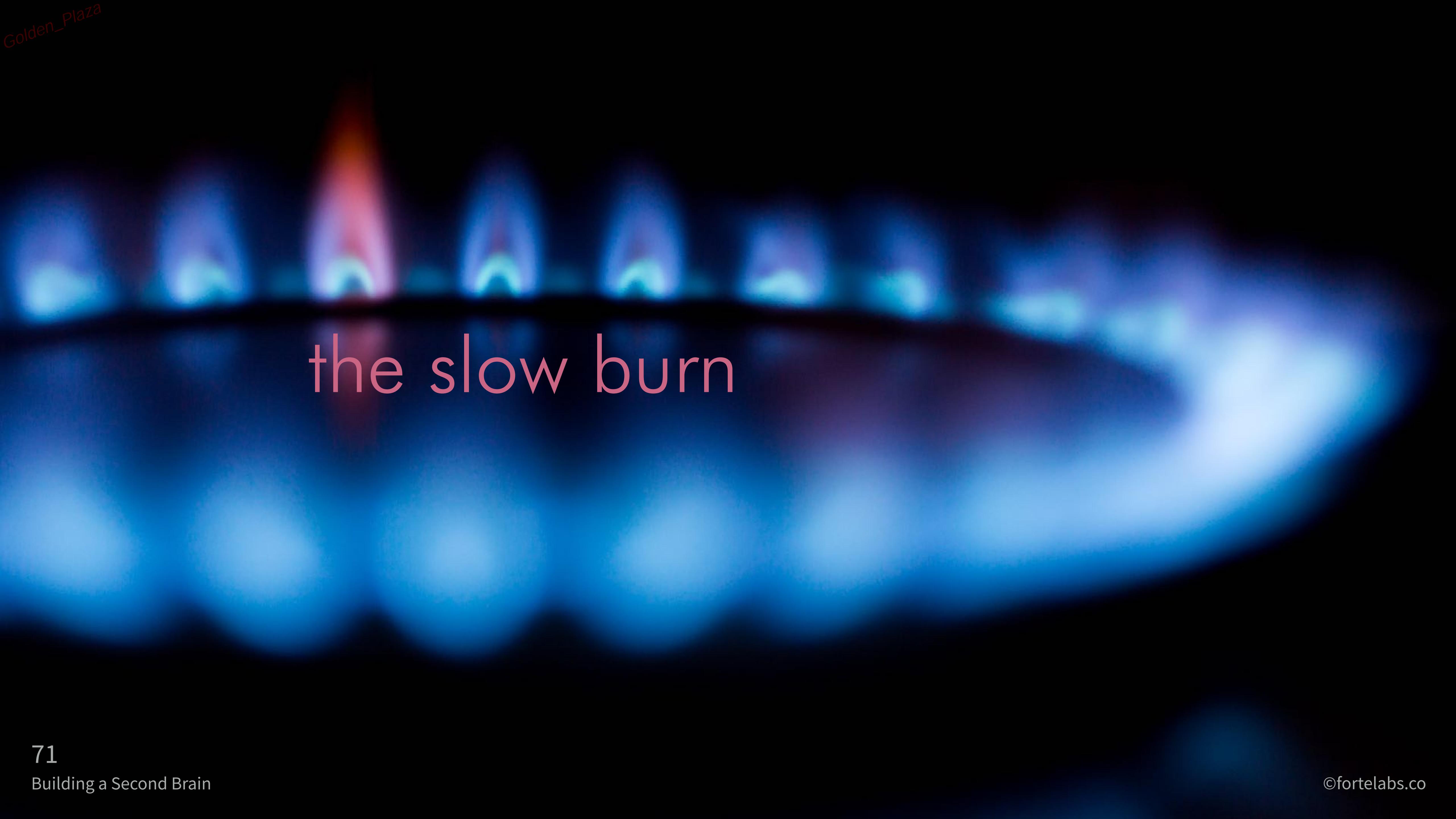
# Visual artifacts

Functions of a digital note-taking tool

Promote unusual associations between pieces of information

Create visual artifacts

#3 Incubate ideas over long periods of time

Provide the raw material for unique interpretations and perspectives

HEAVY LIFTS

70

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the slow burn
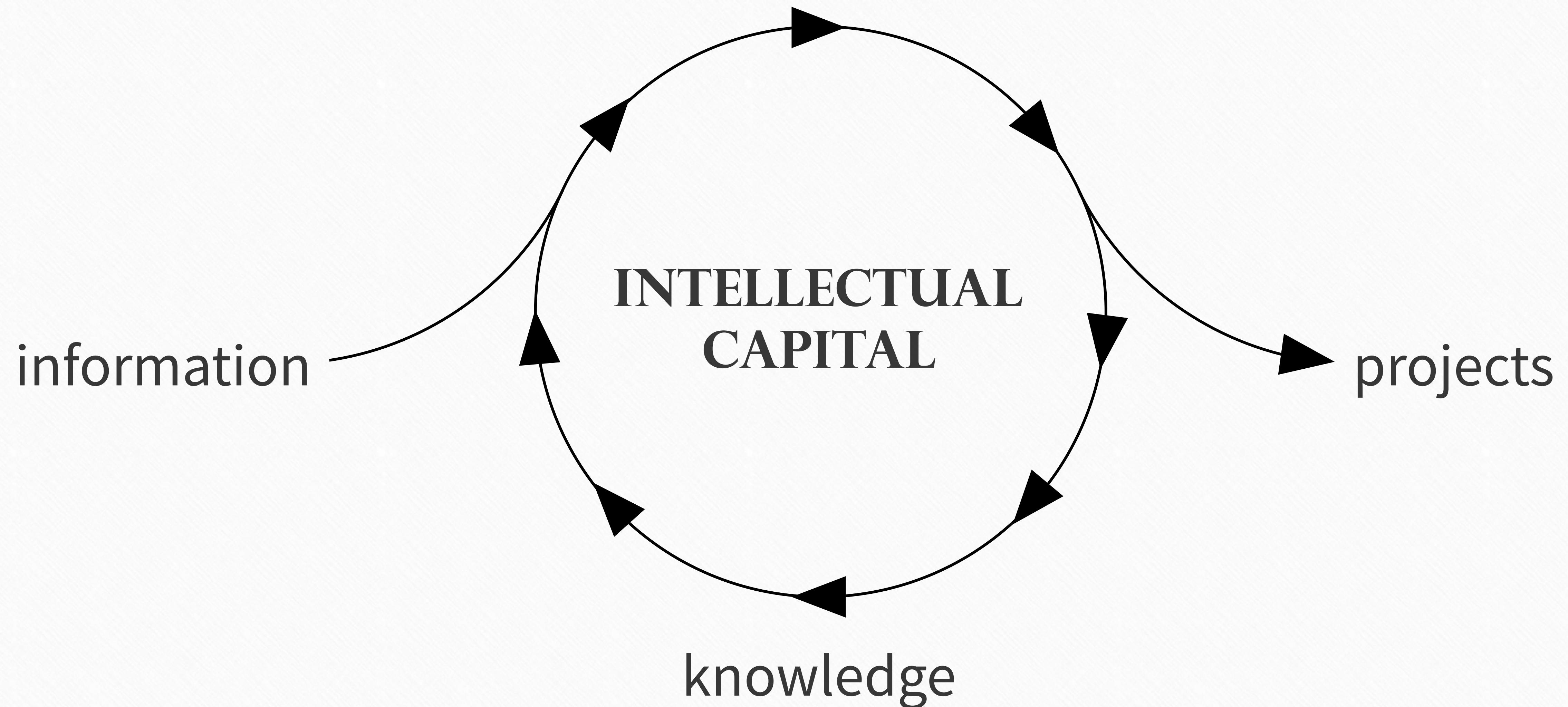
71
Building a Second Brain

*"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!"***

Richard Feynman, Nobel Prize-winning physicist

Reuse and recycle

information → INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL → projects

knowledge

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Functions of a digital note-taking tool

Promote unusual associations between pieces of information

Create visual artifacts

Incubate ideas over long periods of time

#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[†] and Michael A. Osborne[‡]

September 17, 2013

.

Abstract

We examine how susceptible jobs are to computerisation. To as-

*"'**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**."*

**Paul Saffo**

Ammunition

examples

illustrations

screenshots
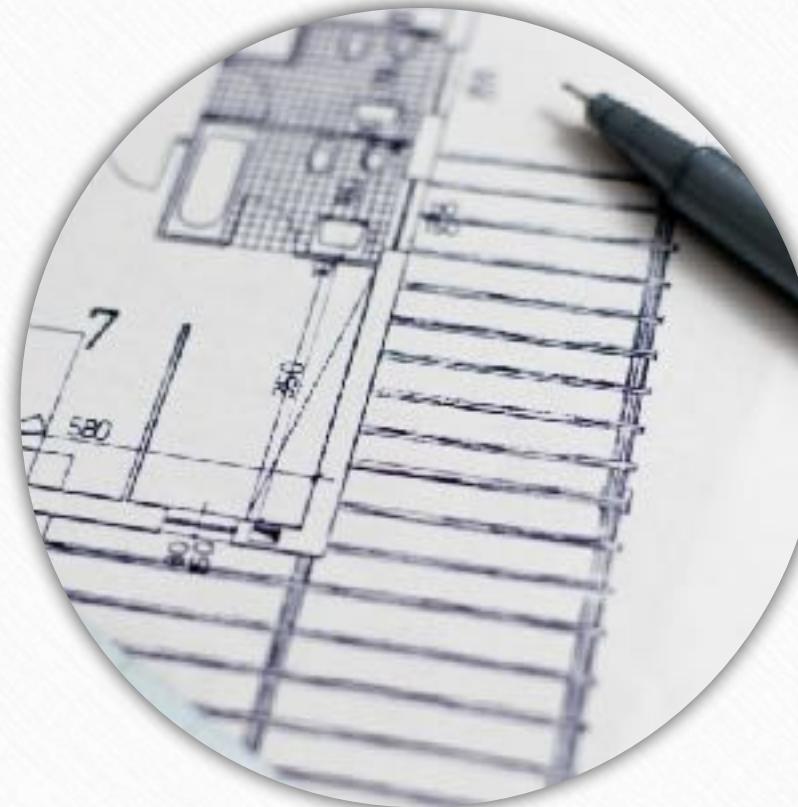
statistics

mindmaps
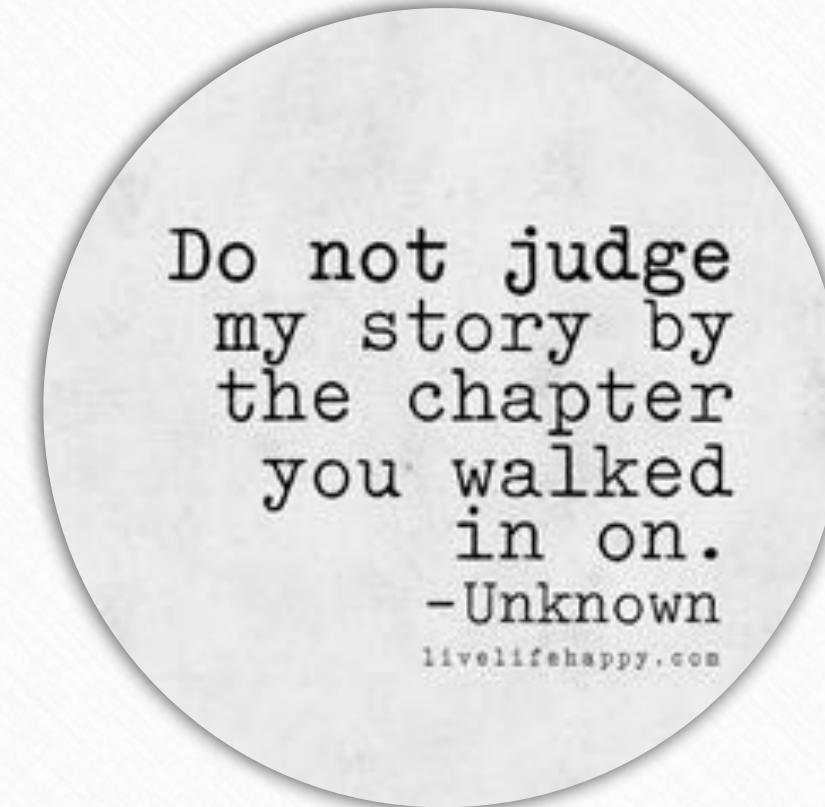
diagrams

book notes

quotes

Building a Second Brain

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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