

ANALOG NOTEMAKING

STRUCTURED SKETCH METHODS

OVERVIEW:

We will be using analog media to make both quick and more extended field notes. While you have already developed your own methods of note-taking, these methods aim to produce notes that can be more easily analyzed, extended, and collated with other media.

PAGINATION AND INTERNAL REFERENCES:

Adding page numbers to your sketchbook will allow you to more easily navigate your notes and also provide a way to internally reference between drawings that are spread throughout your notebook but are spatially and/or thematically linked.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Use the first page or two of your notebook as a table of contents for your sketchbook, add to this as you go along. You could also use this page to start thematically linking or grouping different investigations throughout your notes.

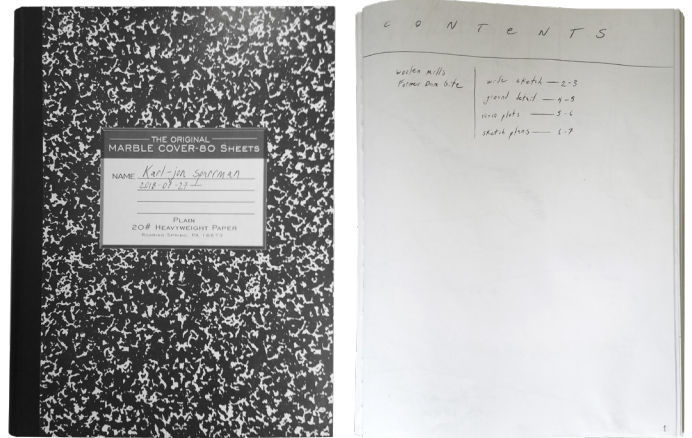
PAGE METADATA:

Adding a section of each page for analog metadata can both streamline referencing and help focus your note-taking. Include information such as date, time, motivating questions, keywords, and other textual information. Develop a standard — e.g. always sectioning off the bottom inch or two of your page — so that notes are legible to your future self and others.

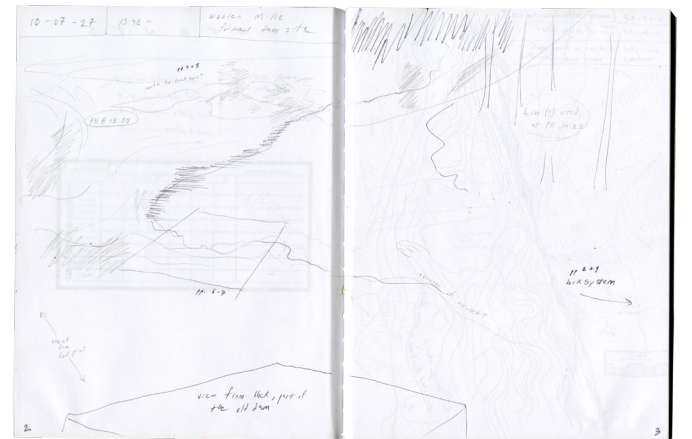
Use keywords as a way to focus your note taking and aid in later navigation and collation. Attempt to synchronize your keywords across media (for photographs, video, samples, sketches).

PHOTOGRAPH REFERENCES:

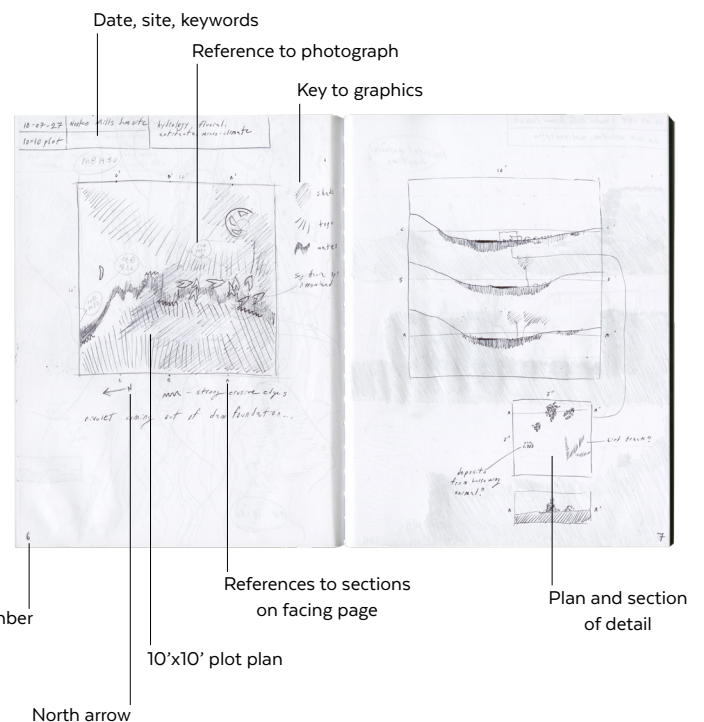
I often find it useful to relate sketches or notes to photographs, video, or audio of the same subject/site. A quick way to do this is to reference the time that the media was created. As long as the date is also incorporated on that page, the related images can be quickly found later. For example, for photographs, I typically write “Ph. @ [hour]:[minute]”.



Labeled cover and contents page



A perspectival sketch of the larger area provides a quick way to orient sketches on subsequent pages.



CODING AND SYMBOLOGY:

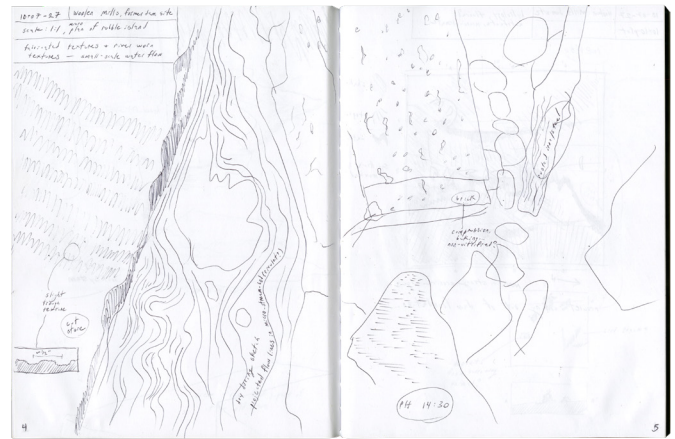
Develop your methods of graphic representation. Try using colors, hatches, or linetypes to convey different types of information. Keep a key as you develop these abstract languages.

INCLUSION OF MATERIAL SAMPLES:

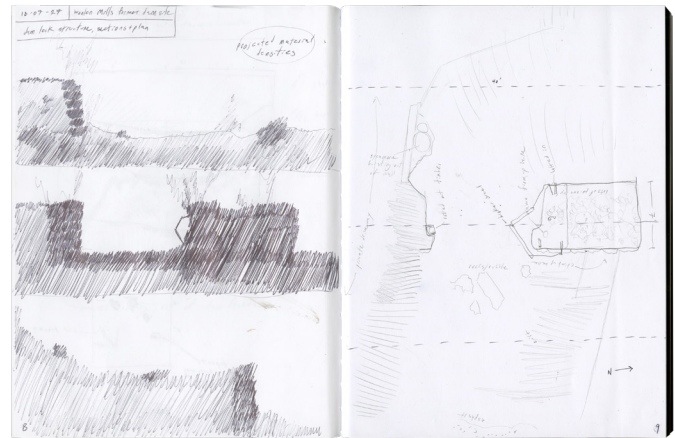
Flat objects — papers, leaves, etc. — can be added to the pages of your notebook, but bulkier items that further a particular inquiry can be collected in containers.

DIGITIZING NOTES:

Photograph your notes with an even and consistent light source. We will be using color registration strips for later color correction. The notes will be added to your batches of photographic images to comprise a portion of the day's documentation



A 1:1 scale material and hydrology study. Annotations of visible surfaces and anticipated phenomena.



Approximations of subsurface features can be made from surficial clues.

MATERIAL SAMPLING

IN-SITU AND EX-SITU PROTOCOLS

OVERVIEW:

We will make both *ex situ* material collections and *in situ* recordings of materials and objects.

EX-SITU COLLECTION PROTOCOLS:

To take objects or substances from the field for later study and assembly will also require making notes on where those objects were obtained and other contextual information (e.g. how deep a soil sample was in the ground). Use plastic bags or vials as appropriate for the material. Label the sample with information linking it to a geographic position, time-stamp, image, or other media. Note that most of the sites we will be working on have restrictions on the taking of materials.

IN-SITU RECORDING:

For many materials and objects that we are interested in documenting, we will be using pre-printed background sheets which will provide color, exposure, and scale registration devices.

These pre-printed sheets are water-resistant. Use a clipboard to provide a steady backing.

Consider how your documentation forms a larger comparative body of materials and aims to address a particular question or set of questions. That is, we are not just grabbing whatever we find, but curating a selection that can help inform a more pointed inquiry.

CONTEXTUALIZING SAMPLES:

Contextualize the location of any samples, whether taken from or photographed in the field. Try doing this in multiple ways. Reference photograph numbers or time-stamps with bagged samples. Take a photograph of the wider area in which a photographic sample is being taken. Mark sample locations on printed maps or in a GPS smartphone application.



Try taking a wider angle photograph to contextualize the sample. This camera recorded GPS coordinates, embedding location in the metadata.



A photograph of the sample on the registration sheet can be color corrected in post-processing.



Labeling a bag with a time-stamp can allow for collation with GPS tracking information. A photo of the bag *in situ* allows for further contextualization.