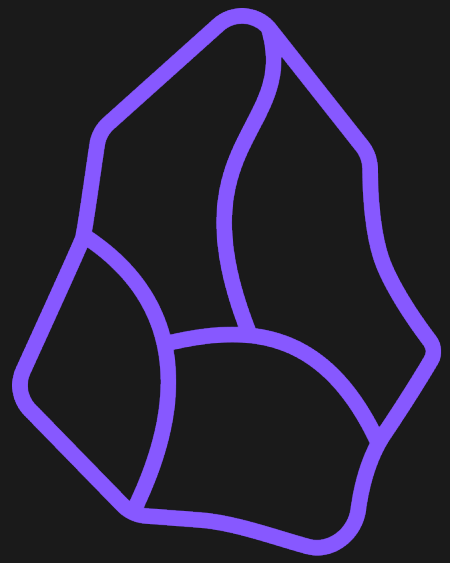
EFFECTIVE NOTE-TAKING WITH OBSIDIAN

Selina Baldauf



Session 1: The Basics

Welcome

- (Theoretical) Ecology
- Scientific Programmer at Freie Universität Berlin
- Research + Coding + Teaching



The challenge of note-taking

- It’s important
- It’s hard
- It’s a skill you can learn

What you will learn

- Note-taking as a **fundamental** academic **skill**
- **Workflows** that support different aspects of your scientific work
- **Obsidian** as a practical tool

What you will learn

Session 1: The basics

- Reflect on current **note-taking habits**
- Obsidian **basics**
- Create your first **Obsidian vault (notebook)**

What you will learn

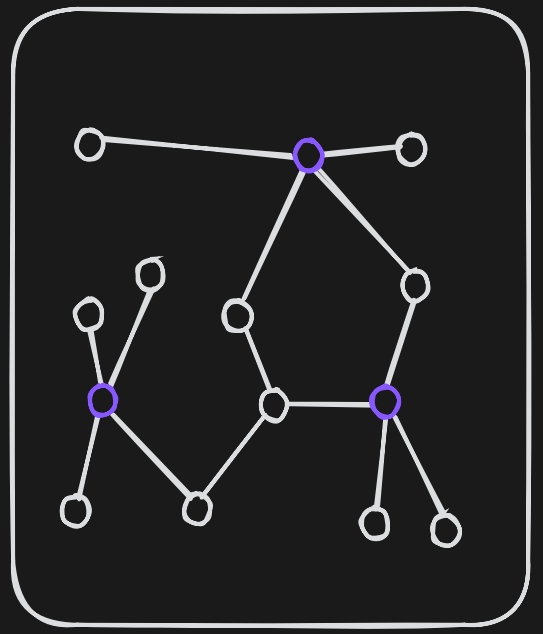
Session 2: Organizing and planning

- **Plan** your work time with **periodic notes**
- **Manage** your **tasks** in Obsidian
- **Organize projects** effectively

What you will learn

Session 3: Knowledge management

- **Organizing** notes and **literature**
- Create an **inter-connected knowledge** base (Zettelkasten/second brain)
- Build a system that supports thinking, writing and creativity



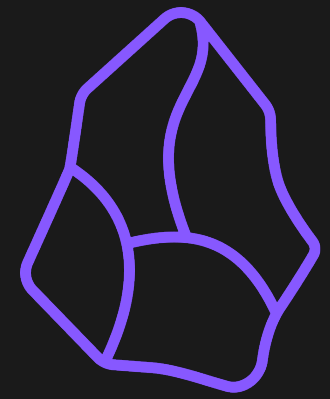
Organization

- Theory + Live demo + Hands-on exercises
- Materials are on the workshop website
  - Documentation
  - Exercises
  - Additional tips and resources
- Questions and feedback welcome
- Contact me: selina.baldauf@fu-berlin.de

LET’S GET STARTED

If you haven't installed Obsidian yet,

please do that now: https://obsidian.md/

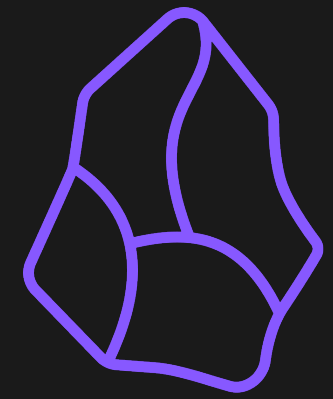


EXERCISE 1

5 mins

How do you already take notes and which tools do you use?

Shared White Board



What makes notes useful?

🔎 Searchable (digital)

🗓️ Sustainable

Can you understand them in years?

Does the software still exist?

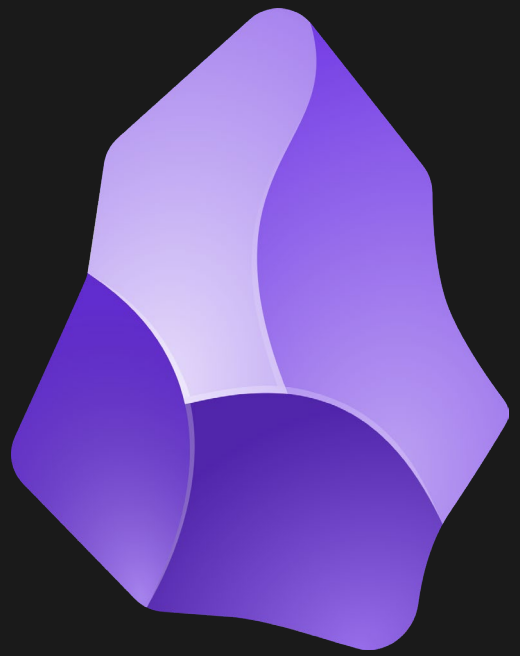
🧱 **Open** and **simple formats**

🔗 **Connected**

😃 **Easy and enjoyable** to write

Obsidian

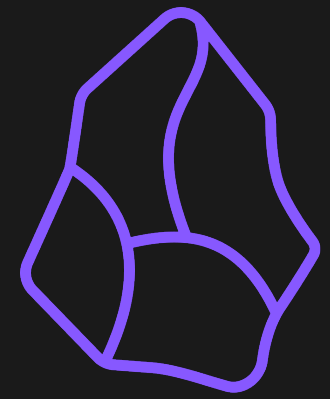
- **Free** for personal use
- **All major OS** and mobile devices
- Notes are **simple Markdown** files
- Local first: Keeps your notes **private**
- Very **simple** at it’s core
- **Extend** and **customize** with plugins



THE OBSIDIAN BASICS

How to get started with your first notebook

ⓘ Don’t follow along, there will be an exercise afterwards

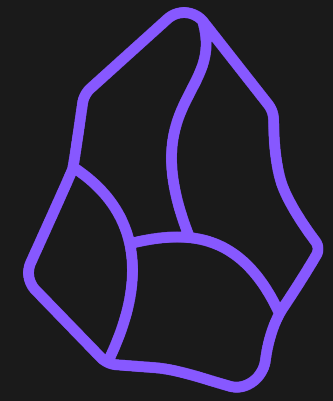


EXERCISE 2

20 mins, link to the exercise

Create your first Obsidian notebook

- Stay here to do the task
- I will be in the breakout room “Questions”
- If you have questions or problems: Join from **Breakout rooms** in meeting controls
- Exercise is on the lecture website
  - Optional tasks for the fast ones at the bottom

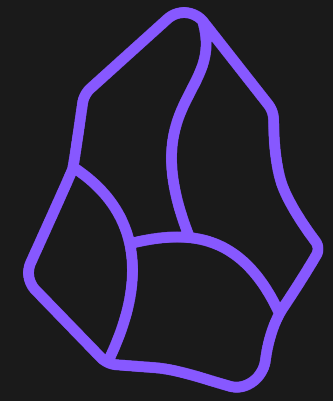


EXERCISE 3

10 min, link to the exercise

Create your own Canvas

- Stay here to do the task
- I will be in the breakout room “Questions”
- If you have questions or problems: Join from **Breakout rooms** in meeting controls
- Exercise is on the lecture website



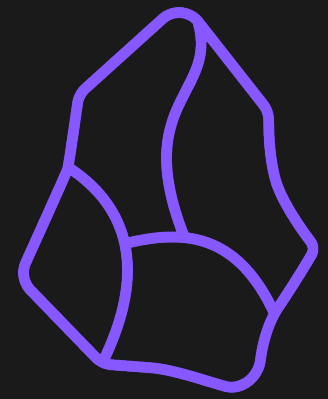
Hotkeys

- Check and set hotkeys under Settings -> Hotkeys

Most important for now:

- Bold: Ctrl/Cmd + B
- Italic: Ctrl/Cmd + I
- Insert Link: Ctrl/Cmd + K
- Command palette: Ctrl/Cmd + P

WRAP UP



Recap

- Note-taking habits
  - Different **tools**, **purposes**, **time horizons**
  - Note-taking is **individual**

- Obsidian basics
  - Write, structure, link notes
  - Canvas for visual note-taking

Next session

Workflows to support your **day-to-day** academic work.

How to use Obsidian to:

- **Plan** your work time with periodic notes
- **Manage** your tasks
- **Organize** projects effectively

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

See you in the next session ☺

