

MAKING BOOKS II: TOOLS FOR IDEAS



Hraban Ramm · ConT_EXt meeting 2024

How to get from a dream to a book?



LAST NIGHT I HAD THE STRANGEST DREAM



... a boy, strolling at a Baltic beach on a stormy evening, playing with a plane toy he found in a tree, getting swept away by a huge wave, finding himself clinging to the shutters of a window on the second floor, wet and freezing.

Half asleep or maybe still dreaming, I was thinking what could happen.

*Someone opened the window to let him in. It was a girl his age, and she was blind.
Don't ask me why.*

FIRST TOOL: **the notebook that I keep by my bedside**



AND OUR FRIENDS ARE ALL ABOARD, MANY MORE OF THEM LIVE NEXT DOOR



Quickly my protagonists grew families, friends and classmates.
They belonged to different groups and schools...

How to organize a collection of dissimilar information?

TOOL: **TiddlyWiki**



I HOB IN KALENDER GSCHAUT, HEIT GEHT DA WIND



When will we three meet again?

TOOL: **iCal** (OR A DIFFERENT CALENDAR)



STANDING ON A PLANET THAT'S EVOLVING



For non-technical texts, I find writing in a text processor less distracting than directly in code.

It looks more like becoming a book, and I like the structure view.

IMPORTANT TOOL: **LibreOffice**



TODAY I'M GONNA TRY AND CHANGE THE WORLD



I love typesetting. Even more, if I don't need to do it twice.

TOOL: **docx2ctx.py** && **postprocess**

codeberg.org/fiee/context-tools



DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT BIOLOGY



My story touches many subjects that I find interesting but know not enough about.

Proper research is essential, but avoid over-researching.

You need to know more than what you want to write.

(Good example: Umberto Eco. Bad example: Noah Gordon.)

TOOLS: The Internet, books, movies



HELP ME IF YOU CAN, I'M FEELING DOWN



Can I write this? – Probably.

Should I write this? – Probably not.

Should I write it this way? – Hell no!

But I do anyway.

TOOLS: **stubbornness**



I NEED A BREAK AND I WANT TO BE A PAPERBACK WRITER



How to get this into public?

Finding a publisher or self publishing?

TOOL: a publishing house

