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ANALOGUE — BEFORE — LLM

EXPERIENCE
OBSERVE
QUESTION
MAKE
CONNECT
UNDERSTAND

→ THEN AMPLIFY
WITH AI

DEVELOP HUMAN ABILITIES FIRST.
AI IS A TOOL, NOT A SUBSTITUTE.

Insight.

UNDERSTANDING
BEFORE ACTION.

Impact.

EXECUTION WITH INTENTION.

Excellence.

STEWARDSHIP
BEYOND DELIVERY.

Analogue before LLM.

Before we teach people how to use AI, perhaps we need to make sure we're still teaching them how to see.

Two conversations today brought something I've been thinking about for much of my life into sharper focus, and gave me the nudge to finally share something I've been quietly building.

This morning, a post from [Dr. Martha Boeckendorf](#) explored research comparing handwriting with typing and the very different cognitive activity involved when we physically write, process, and make connections.

She posed an important question: *Which abilities do we need to keep practicing, and which can we safely let go?*

Then, in a wonderful conversation with [Pamela Gibbs](#) today, we found ourselves talking about many of the same ideas: how we develop critical thinking, judgment, creativity, and the ability to make connections before asking technology to accelerate them.

We landed on a wonderfully simple principle: *Analogue before LLM*. I've been exploring that idea from another direction for much of my life. I call it *Teaching Others to See*.

There is tremendous value in foundational, tactile experience. In making something. Taking something apart. Drawing it. Writing it. Building it. Getting it wrong. Trying again.

Not because analogue is inherently better than digital, because experience teaches us to see relationships.

It develops the curiosity to ask why.

The judgment to recognize when something doesn't make sense.

The confidence to challenge an assumption.

The imagination to connect things that, at first, appear unrelated. Those abilities aren't confined to art, technology, operations, strategy, or leadership. They're how we learn to think. And that's why I don't see

AI as the end-to-end answer to human capability. AI can make someone who has developed these muscles extraordinarily more efficient. It can accelerate research, handle repetitive work, surface possibilities, and create capacity for deeper thinking.

That's powerful.

But creating capacity for thought is very different from replacing thought. There's an irony in our current relationship with AI that deserves more attention.

LLMs were built upon an extraordinary inheritance of human creativity, discovery, writing, art, code, problem-solving, experimentation, and innovation.

Before a machine could learn from any of it, a human being had to wonder.

Someone had to observe.

Someone had to make.

Someone had to fail.

Someone had to question what everyone else accepted.

Someone had to see a relationship that hadn't been seen before.

So perhaps one of the most important questions of the AI era isn't simply: What can AI do?

It's: What abilities must we make certain future generations develop before we ask technology to amplify them?

If we teach people primarily how to arrive at answers, AI can become a cognitive crutch, but if we teach them how to observe, question, experiment, make things, wrestle with problems, challenge assumptions, and connect seemingly unrelated ideas, AI becomes something much more interesting: A tool for expanding human capacity.

We shouldn't be teaching future generations to compete with AI. We should be teaching them to think deeply enough to know what to do with it.

Analogue before LLM.

That idea also sits at the heart of something deeply personal I've been building.

Threshold.

It isn't quite a résumé. It isn't quite a portfolio.

It's the story of how a way of thinking was formed—across art, technology, operations, innovation, business, and the experiences that taught me there were never really boundaries between them.

One of its chapters is *Teaching Others to See*. Today felt like the right day to finally open the door.

Thank you, Martha, for the post that provided the nudge—and Pamela, for a terrific conversation that reminded me how much thinking still happens when two humans simply sit down and exchange ideas.

After a lot of building, questioning, rewriting, and probably far too much CSS...



Welcome to *Threshold.*

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