

György MOLNÁR

Images, Charts, and the Flow of Knowledge

It is a trivial observation that reliance on various forms of pictorial representation radically accelerates the reception, processing and storage of novel knowledge. Recall the function describing multisensorial information intake. Visual contents provide information much more rich, complex, and detailed than do merely textual ones; they exploit the potential of the right brain hemisphere: they are clearly conducive to creativity. Significantly, John E. Pfeiffer could speak about a „creative explosion” of knowledge in his 1982 book on primordial, archaic carriers of information. The envisaged talk will attempt to present a brief introduction to the historical development of pictorial representation, focussing on such precursors of contemporary forms, as: node-link diagrams, posters, data-links, tree maps, spiral diagrams, and statistical graphics.

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