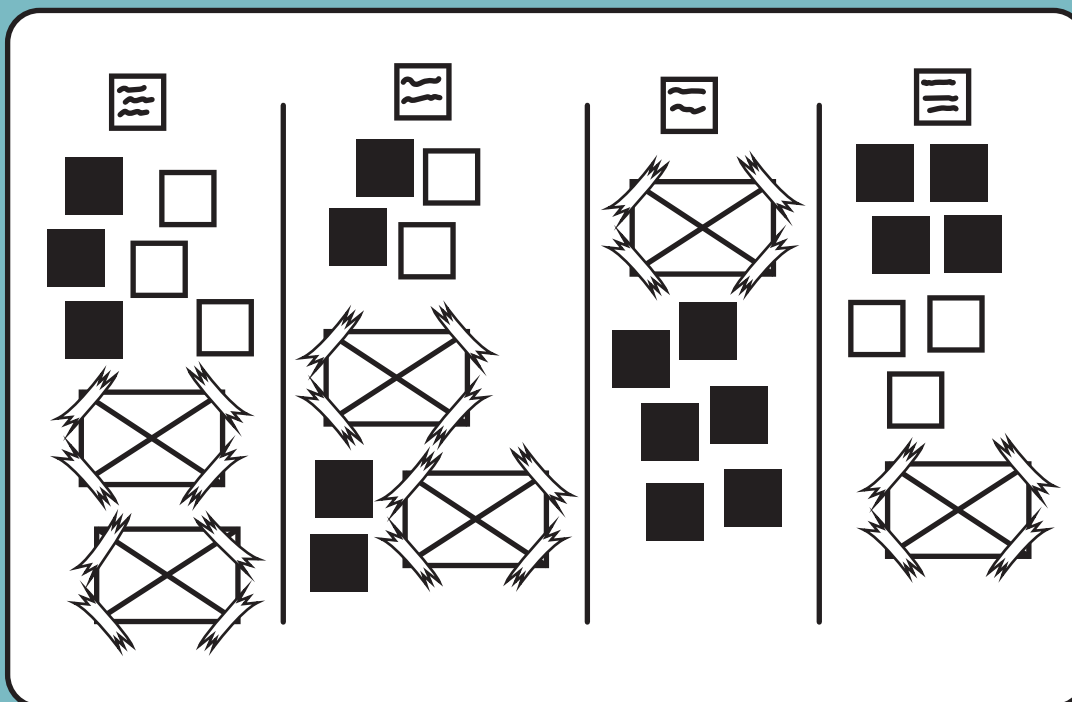


ANALYSIS METHOD: 25. CLUSTERING



25. CLUSTERING

This method is a way of discovering what categories emerge from the research collected. You sort and place the collected information and research on a shared board, using closeness or distance to map out and clarify relationships and differences between research data in a visual and tangible way. This makes it easier to understand a subject and create new knowledge or develop ideas in project work.

Materials needed: Either a large sheet of paper or cardboard, printed photos and paper or a digital online shared board e.g. padlet, where you can upload and move photos and notes around.

Time required: 30–45 minutes.

How?

1) Find a space on a wall or on a desk and put up the information gathered in the form of notes on post-it notes, small photos or drawings, pieces of text, etc.

2) You can do Clustering in different ways:

– Cluster the bits of information by placing information/pictures close to similar material and then find titles or headers that emerge for the different clusters and find relationships between them.

– Choose some predefined categories like: “location, time and size”, or “facts, opinions, ideas and challenges” or: hierarchies like “often, seldom, low and high” and categorise the information accordingly.

What’s next: You could use the Analytical Diagrams (method no. 30).