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Understanding what research means is the first step to become a better researcher. As fundamental as it may be, researchers cannot move forward if they don't understand what they are doing. In my research to develop an visual representation of what research is, it was clear that the cover should symbolize that first step of understanding.

My research led me to many definitions. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it as "studious inquiry or examination; especially : investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws". Most definitions were like this one, which research is defined as a highly abstract, intellectual process of questioning that seeks evidence in the world of its validity.

I found inspiration not only on the definition of research, but also in its practice: the limitless search for answers, the arduous repetition and experimenting, and the impossibility for finality of an answer. However, one of the most fascinating things I found was that researchers organize their thoughts and finds visually, through thinking maps. These maps are pinned on walls, or drawn down, and connections are made , through lines, on how everything connects or doesn't connect. These aids of thought resemble neurons. In that sense, researchers are drawing connections that are literally happening in their brains.

Once all these ideas were gathered, I sought to create an abstract concise image that portraits the facts of what research is, and how research is conducted.

