

How to Input Handwritten Notes in NotebookML

<https://gemini.google.com/share/44bedf6f12ed>

This conversation explores the process of digitizing handwritten notes for use in **NotebookLM**, specifically focusing on workflows that support technical and academic research. <https://gemini.google.com/share/d663f8e005be>

1. Handwritten Notes and NotebookML

The platform uses advanced OCR to convert physical handwriting into actionable digital sources.

- **Mobile App (Direct):** Use the "Add Source" > **Camera** feature to take live photos. NotebookLM handles the OCR automatically.
- **Desktop Upload:** Upload existing **.jpg, .png, or .pdf** files. Scanned PDFs are preferred for multi-page documents.
- **The Google Docs Bridge:** For complex or messy handwriting, open an image in **Google Drive with Google Docs**. This creates a high-fidelity text version that can then be imported.
- **Digital Tablets:** Export notes from apps like Goodnotes or Notability as **searchable PDFs** for near-perfect accuracy.

Tips for Best Results

- Ensure high contrast (dark ink on light paper).
- Avoid shadows across the page.
- Neat printing is more effective than cursive for LaTeX and technical terms.

2. Automation with Python

To manage large volumes of scans, a Python script can automate the renaming process, ensuring files are organized before upload.

- **Logic:** The script identifies image/PDF files, sorts them by creation date, and renames them using a custom prefix and date stamp.
- **Key Benefit:** Prevents "Page 1" and "Page 2" from being misordered due to generic

camera filenames (e.g., IMG_001).

- **Format Example:** Physics_Notes_2026-01-26_001.jpg

3. Future Workflow Enhancements

- **PyInstaller:** The renaming script can be converted into a standalone executable (.exe or .app) using PyInstaller, allowing for a "drag-and-drop" cleanup workflow without needing to run the code manually each time.
- **NotebookLM Citation:** Well-named files help NotebookLM provide clearer citations in its "Source Guide" when answering questions about specific derivations.

Would you like me to provide the specific PyInstaller command to turn the renaming script into a one-file executable?