

Day 0.4

Four months after starting Hedegreen Research, the largest result is personal: the project has given Dennis a direction while money, time and unfinished work remain unresolved.

DRAFT PREVIEW DENNIS HEDEGREEN JOURNAL DRAFT-LOCAL

[HTTPS://HEDEGREENRESEARCH.COM/ARTICLES/DAY-0-4/](https://hedegreenresearch.com/articles/day-0-4/)

Four months ago, at 02:39, I published a short note. I was tired of keeping the work inside my own head and my own chat windows. I thought I was starting a website. I did not know I was changing the direction of my days.

For a long time, much of my life was about getting through what was in front of me: finding stability, holding on to it, selling Hus Forbi, and dealing with systems that were often better at describing what was wrong than making room for what I could do. Survival is work. I do not want to erase that now. But surviving and building are not the same feeling.

Hedegreen Research gave me something I can build. Not in the vague sense of having a dream. I have had ideas and plans before. The difference is that this one leaves evidence behind. A thought can become an article. A question can become research. A problem can become a tool. A strange idea can be tested instead of only imagined.

The next day, the work is still there. I can return to it, and someone else can read it, question it, use it, or ignore it. It has left my head and entered the world. But public work does not mean making everything public.

When I tried to count the larger active parts of Hedegreen Research, the answer changed depending on what I called public. If everything with some kind of public door counted, the result was almost fifty-fifty. If I divided the mixed projects between their public output and their internal machinery, the picture was roughly forty percent public and sixty percent internal. That feels right.

The website is the visible proof, but there is a larger workshop beneath it. Map Engine, Locfit, LifeOS, report factories, source collections and unfinished experiments do not all belong on a public page. Some work is not ready. Some contains private material. Some needs another person to challenge it before it can responsibly leave the room. Some may be useful precisely because it is allowed to remain rough.

One internal story makes that boundary concrete. It follows a fair-trade label across two crops and asks what kind of labour a consumer is invited to see. In a composite scene, the label reaches a rice supply chain and asks who worked, whether children missed school, who handled chemicals, and who kept the records. Those questions matter. They turn labour conditions that were easy to ignore into standards, records and responsibilities.

But the story also follows tobacco and asks what happens to the same labour questions when the product cannot be made morally comfortable for the buyer. The people behind the crop do not become less real because the final product is unhealthy, but they are harder to place inside the same story of ethical consumption. That does not mean fair trade is fake. It means a system can make labour visible in one part of the field and stop at another. A label can also reveal what it refuses to touch.

The story is still internal. Its characters are composite, and parts of its local texture need validation. Publishing it now would make it look more certain than it is. Keeping it back is part of the research, not a failure to publish. Transparency cannot mean emptying every room onto the street. Trust also requires knowing when not to turn work into public content.

Four months is not long. It is not enough to prove where this will end. Hedegreen Research does not support me financially, and I still do not know exactly what it is becoming. Some rooms are too full. Some tools are unfinished. Some articles should have waited. The life around the work is still ordinary and sometimes unstable.

Money is part of that reality. With a better economy, I could do much more. This is a practical fight over the same hours. I can go out and sell Hus Forbi and bring money home, or I can sit down and do Hedegreen Research work. Lately, Hedegreen Research often comes first.

The honest reason is that I often do not want to go out and sell papers. That does not make the money optional. Selling papers is necessary income. Hedegreen Research is where I feel direction, but most of it does not pay me. An hour spent earning money cannot also be spent building this. But without enough money, the conditions that let me build begin to disappear.

There is nothing romantic about that conflict. I am not choosing between bad work and good work. I am choosing between what helps me survive now and what might help me build a different future. I need both, and they are competing for the same person and the same day.

That tobacco story also entered the economic part of my life in a way I did not expect. Working on it gave me a new motivation to stop smoking. It has not worked yet. I still smoke. But the idea has stayed with me: if I stop, the money I now spend on cigarettes will go directly into research.

That may be the strangest potential funding model in the repository. It is not enough to solve the economy of Hedegreen Research, and I should not count savings I have not made. But it is a real trade I can try to make: less money into cigarettes, more money into research.

That part of the research is still internal, but it has already changed something I want from myself. More broadly, I know what Hedegreen Research has done for me: I finally feel that I am doing something positive with my life. It may be the simplest sentence in this article, and the hardest one to write.

I do not mean that everything I did before was negative, that a website gives a life its value, or that output makes a person worthy. I do not want to turn productivity into morality. It feels positive because I am using parts of myself that had nowhere to go: the part that sees holes in systems, the part that connects things, the

part that keeps asking what the missing mechanism is, and the part that would rather build a better door than keep complaining that the old one is closed.

For years, much of that existed as pressure. Now it can become work. That changes how a day feels. A day is no longer measured only by money earned, an appointment kept, or an administrative box checked. It can also contain one question made clearer, one experiment made more honest, or one tool made slightly more real. Even unfinished work can leave a trail I can return to instead of becoming another thing I once thought about.

There is a danger in that too. Hedegreen Research can open too many doors. It can take too much time. It can make every idea feel urgent. Day 0.2 was partly about learning that starting everything is not the same as building a body of work. That has not stopped being true. Something positive should not be allowed to consume everything else.

But the answer is not to go back to having nowhere for the work to live. The answer is to learn how to carry it. The public side matters. Some of the work that began alone in this room has now reached other people. But the largest result is quieter: I see myself differently. Not as someone who has finally solved everything, but as someone who can build, continue, correct, protect what is not ready, and leave something behind.

Day 0 was about permission to begin. Day 0.1 was proof that the ideas had been there. Day 0.2 was about learning to close. Day 0.3 was about the form the work needed around it. Day 0.4 is more personal. It is about what happens when a project does more than produce work: it gives the person making it a direction.

I have not arrived. My life is not solved. But for the first time in a long time, I am not only trying to get out of something. I am moving toward something. That is what Hedegreen Research has done for me.

— Dennis Hedegreen

RELATION MEMORY

RETURNS TO [Day 0 – Starting Without a Filter](#) · Returns to the original permission to begin and asks what beginning changed personally.

MATURES FROM [Day 0.3](#) · The infrastructure question becomes a personal question about direction, time and what remains internal.

NEARBY [Day 0.2](#) · Keeps the earlier warning that too many open doors can consume the work.