

Examining Personal Digital Photo Management and Archiving Strategies

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Abstract: The digital era has redefined and reshaped the nature, scope and use of personal information management. Individuals are continuously collecting and storing an increasing volume of digital personal information in convenient portable devices. This qualitative research study investigates how academic users manage and archive their personal digital photographs. Specific focus is on learning how graduate students manage their personal digital photographs. A total of 8 graduate students of diverse disciplines were interviewed and provided with a background questionnaire. The majority of students reported that they primarily manage their personal digital photographs on their laptop computers and cellular phones. On average students reported to typically produce 30 to 50 photographs per month. At least one student from each of the graduate schools claimed that their cellular phone cameras were the only means for them to take photos. These results provide great insights into the process of managing personal digital photographs and may reveal a need for standardization or best practices.

About the author:

Vanessa Reyes is a doctoral Student at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College. Her research interests include personal information management, personal digital archiving, and library and archive instruction. Vanessa intends to work closely on research that analyzes personal digital collections, in particular to understand how they are created, managed, and made accessible. She is also interested in exploring the potential scholarly uses of future personal digital collections.