



Examining Personal Digital Photo Management and Archiving Strategies

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Abstract

This qualitative research study investigated how academic users manage and archive their personal digital photographs. A total of eight 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.

Methods



The current study investigated how academic users manage and archive their personal digital photographs, by using a qualitative research design approach. A combination of a 30 minute interview and a 10 minute paper questionnaire were given. Questions from the interview and questionnaire were analyzed quantitatively by using a figure from The Uses of Personal Networked Digital Imaging: An Empirical Study of Cameraphone Photos and Sharing, in CHI '05 Human Factors in Computing Systems project(2005), which involved the examination of the social uses of personal digital Photographs, and "A personal digital archiving framework" by: Catherine Marshall (2011) that aided in the understanding of the process of managing digital photographs in a simplified way.

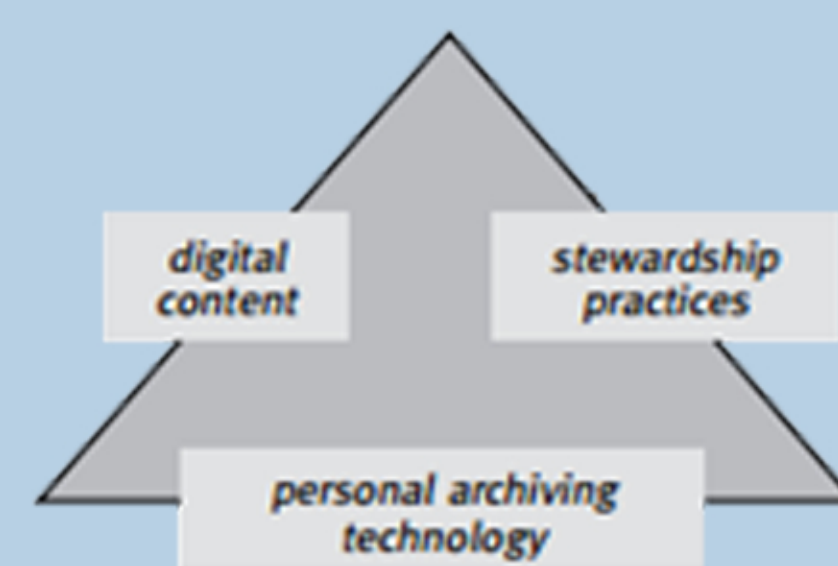


Figure 1. A personal digital archiving framework.

Marshall, C. (2011). Challenges and Opportunities for Personal Digital Archiving. Lee, A.C. (Ed.), I, Digital (320pp.). Chicago, IL: Society of American Archivist.

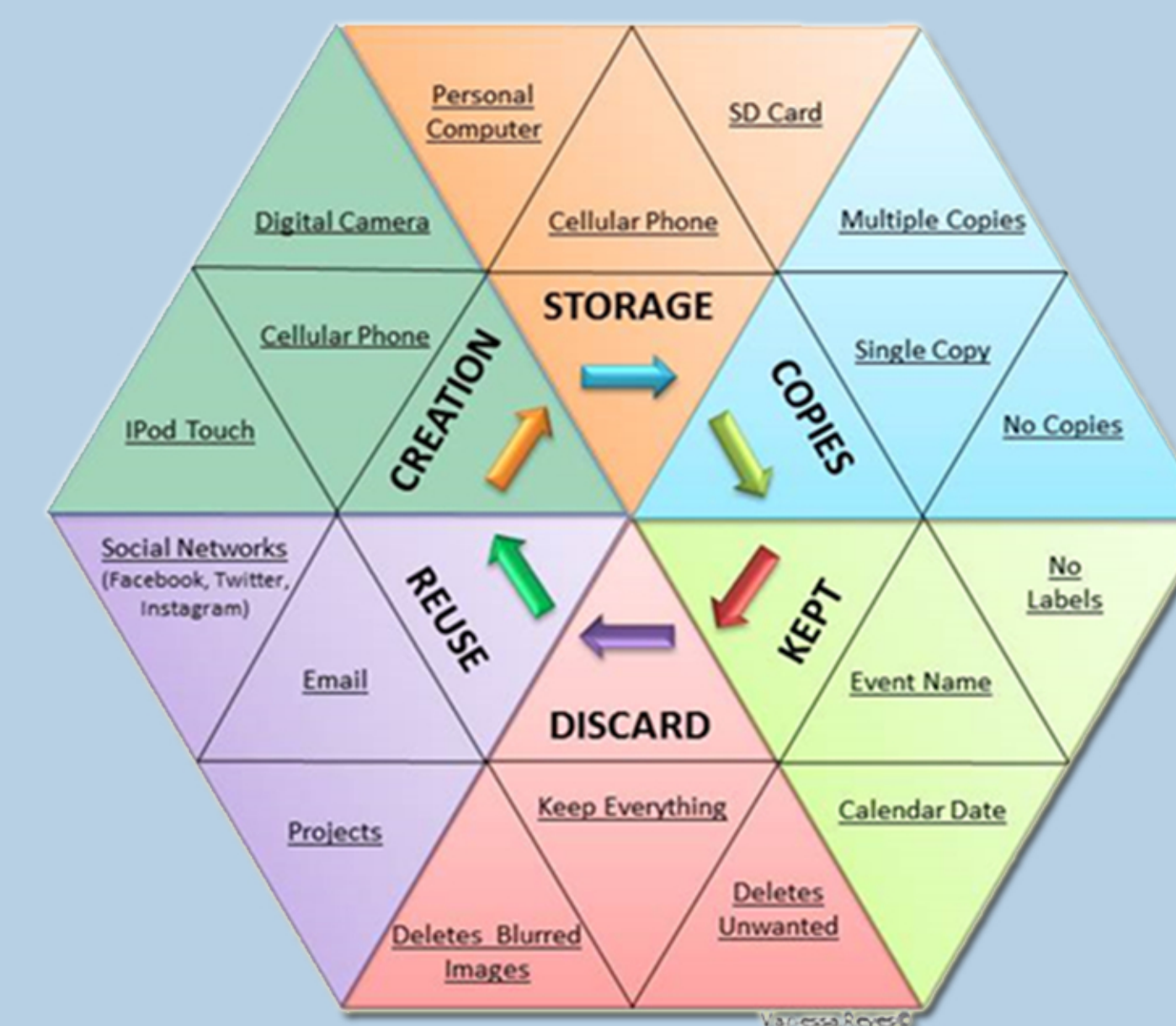
Social relationships	Personal and group memory	Self-presentation	Self-expression	Functional, self	Functional, others
					
Family	Party	Self-portrait	Argh!	Good wine	Deadline reminder

Figure 1. Social Uses of Images

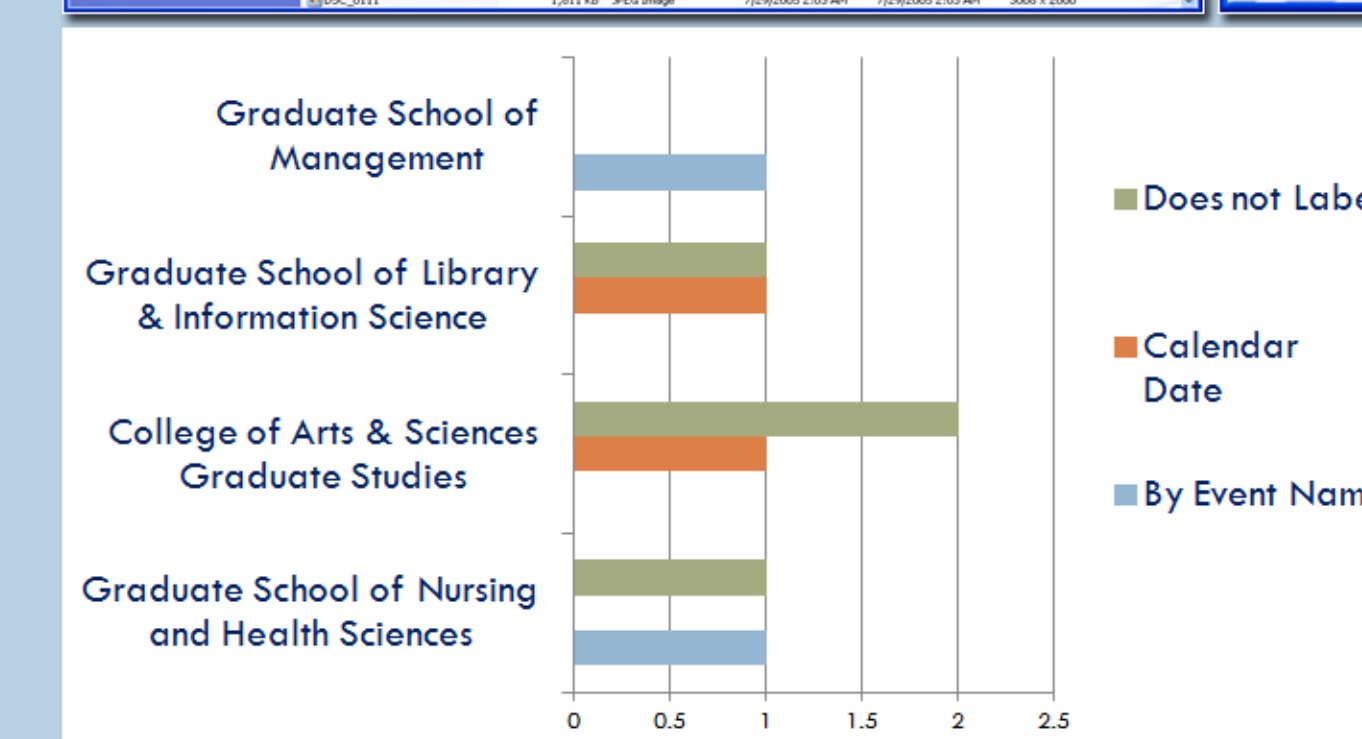
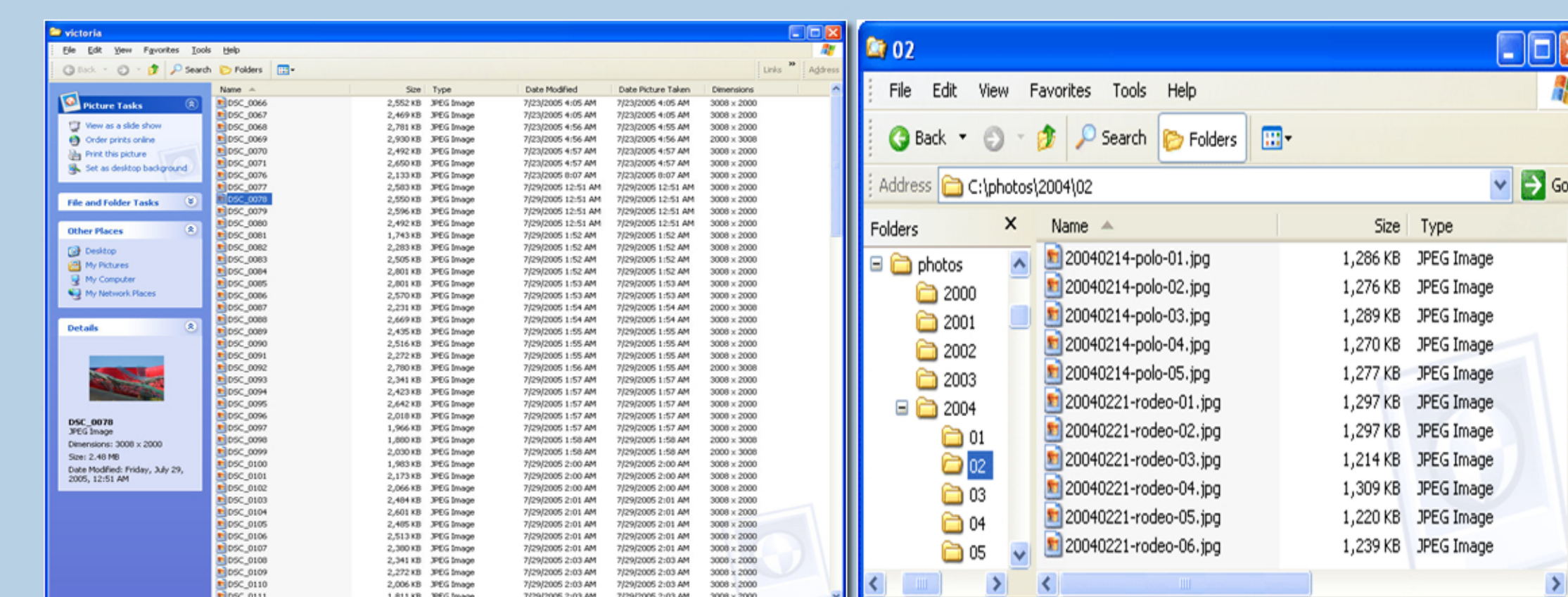
Van House, N. A., Davis, M., Ames, M., Finn, M., and Viswanathan, V. The Uses of Personal Networked Digital Imaging: An Empirical Study of Cameraphone Photos and Sharing, in CHI '05 Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2005, ACM Press, 1853-1856.

Results

Personal Digital Photo Management Cycle



This model depicts the main process participants underwent when managing their personal digital photographs. Beginning with the creation, storage, copies made, how digital photos were kept, what gets discarded, and what is information reused for. Under each of these categories is a list of the three most common reported answers.



Demonstrates how participants labeled their personal digital photos.

Conclusion

- The participants who produced the most photographs within a semester belonged to the College of Arts and Sciences and Education majors.
- Most participants reported to typically use their cellular phones for the creation and storage of their personal digital photographs.
- Participants from the Graduate School of Nursing and Health Sciences were as organized as the participants from the school of library and information sciences.

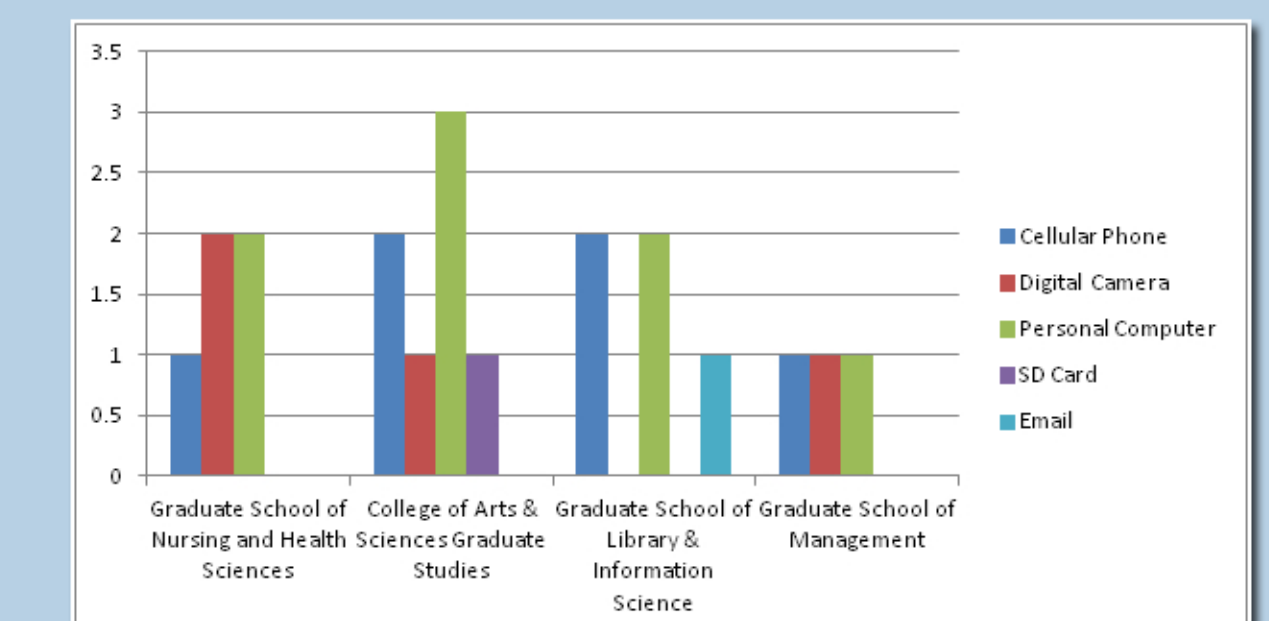


Table 1: Demonstrates where participants store their personal digital photographs.

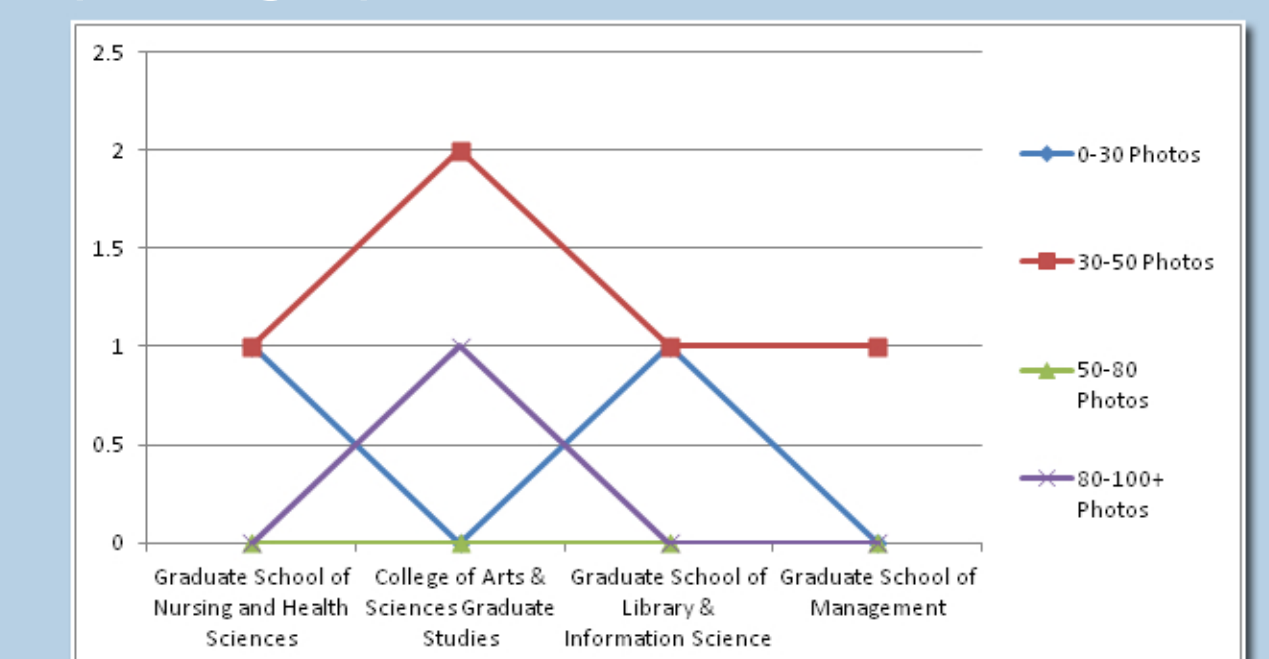


Table 2: Demonstrates average amount of digital photos produced a month.

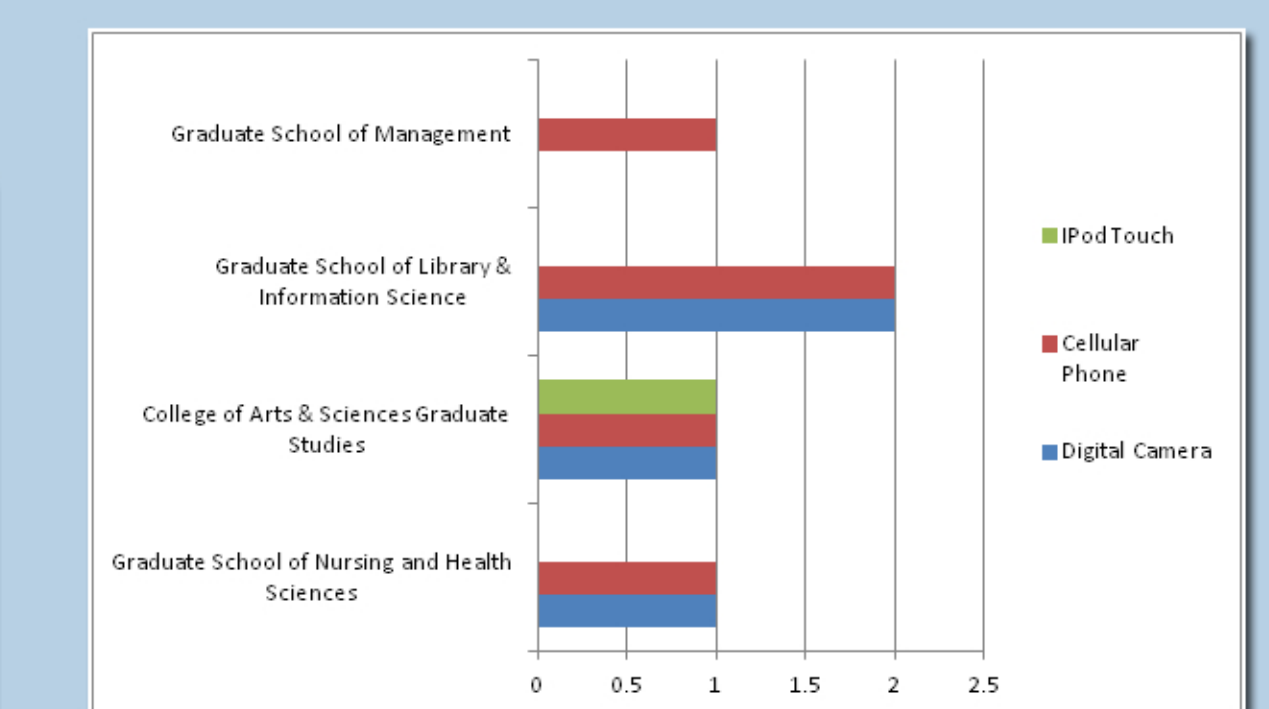


Table 3: Demonstrates what device is most commonly used to create personal digital photographs.

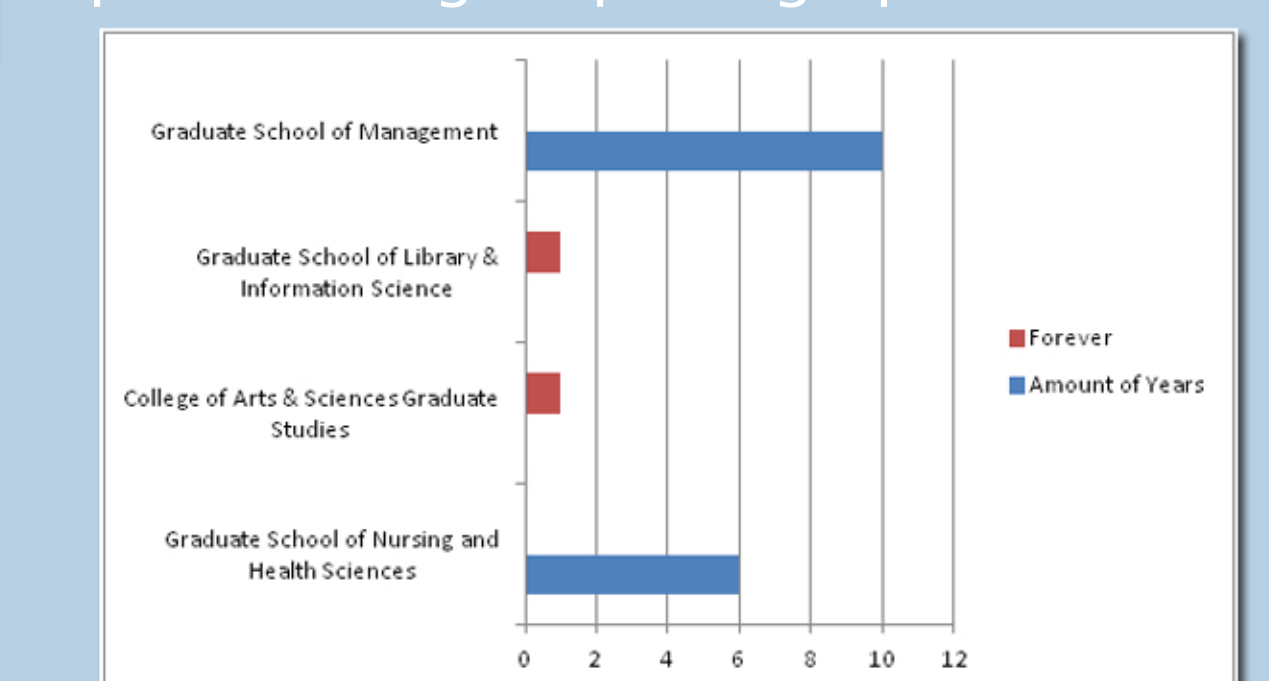


Table 8: Demonstrates how long participants keep their personal digital photographs for.