

# **What Personal Information Management and Archiving Strategies Do Individuals use that Compare to the DCC Curation Model?**

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**Abstract:** The digital era has redefined and reshaped the nature, scope, and use of personal information. Individuals are continuously collecting and storing an increasing volume of digital personal information in convenient portable devices. This qualitative research study investigated how academic users manage and archive their personal digital information. Specific focus was placed on learning how graduates of different disciplines managed their personal digital information. Twelve graduate students from diverse disciplines were interviewed, provided with a background questionnaire, and then placed into focus groups that matched their personal information management methods. One focus group discussion was guided by questions that made reference to a model the author created in a previous study of how graduate students of diverse disciplines manage their personal digital photographs; while the other group's discussion focused on questions that made reference to the Digital Curation Centre's DCC lifecycle model.

The majority of students in the present study reported that they primarily manage their personal digital information on their laptop computers and cellular phones. On average students responded that they typically produce over 100 files per month. At least one student from each graduate program claimed to store most of their personal digital information on online cloud storage services such as Google Drive and Drop Box. Overall students related more to a model that was previously created based on results from a previous study rather than to the DCC Model. These results have provided great insight into the process of managing digital information and may reveal a need for the reexamination of best practices and accepted standards.

**About the author:**

*Vanessa Reyes* is a Doctoral Student at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College. She holds an M.S. in Library and Information Studies from Florida State University and a B.A. in English from Florida International University. Having worked in legislative, university, and public libraries, she became interested in exploring the PIM field when she noticed that researchers' interest were sparked when they used appropriately organized and preserved personal collections for scholarly work. Her current research contributes to the emerging field of personal information management (PIM), quantifying how individual users are organizing, managing, and preserving digital information. Future goals consists of finding ways to make a sustainable difference in how our digital heritage is preserved for future generations by examining trends of how individual users are managing and preserving their information.