

WHAT INFORMATION-RELATED ACTIVITIES DO PEOPLE WITH ESKD USE?

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BACKGROUND

- Information practice is an emerging area of research that seeks to reveal how people learn to connect with the complex multimodal information landscapes that informs their ability to make decisions.¹
- Previous research has identified that people with end stage kidney disease (ESKD) tend to adopt a 'received' or 'engaged' view of information but little is known about the activities of information practice.²

AIM

This study sought to:

- Identify the information-related activities of people with ESKD
- Understand how people use these activities to inform their judgements about their health and the complex treatment regimen of ESKD?

STUDY

- Constructivist methodology using Schatzki practice theory³
- Following human ethical approval, the study took place in a large renal service located in a major city in Australia
- Participants were purposively selected from various renal departments including the in-centre dialysis unit, home training unit, satellite dialysis unit and transplant clinic
- Data collection: semi-structured interviews lasting 30-40 minutes
- Data was subject to thematic analysis by researchers from nursing and information science. Saturation of themes was achieved

FINDINGS

- 6 women and 4 men aged between 20-72 years (mean = 48.6 years)
- Length of time receiving kidney replacement therapy: 2 weeks - 31 years
- A range of activities were undertaken which were conceptualised into three themes:

Orienting

- an activity that people learned as a way to recognise information that may be relevant to their ESKD and the affordances furnished by other people or by technology that connected them with different sources of information.

Sharing

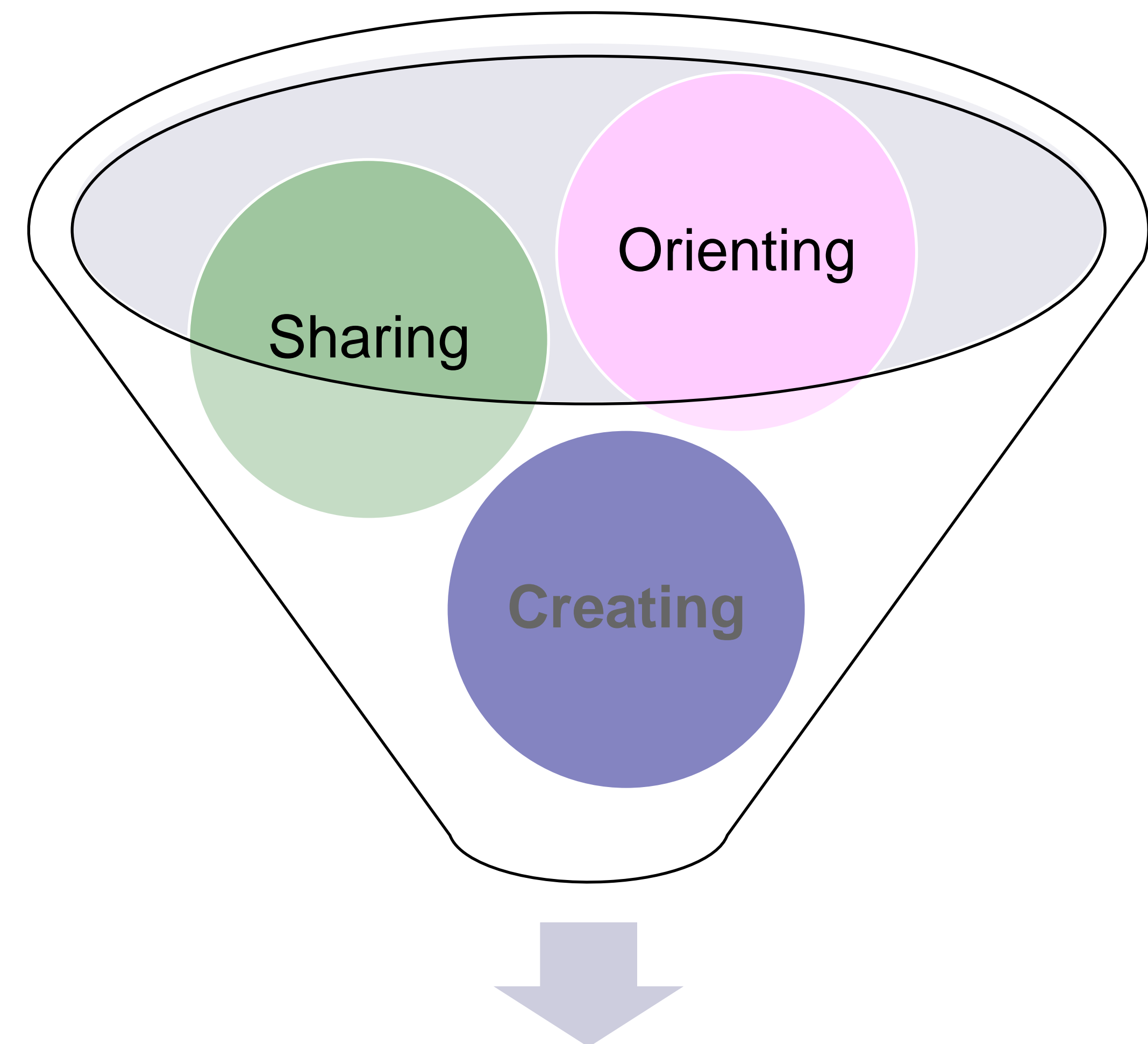
- an activity undertaken to understand the information landscape; it involved professional sharing and peer sharing

Creating

- an activity that created knowledge that was specific to the participants and that acted to situate them in the landscape.

- Participants seemed to use these activities to connect with a ESKD information landscape (figure 1).

Figure 1: Information Activities Used to Create a CKD Information Landscape



ESKD Information Landscape

ESKD Information Landscape

- Created by people with ESKD and acts to situate and position them in relation to their:
 - altered health conditions and the different knowledges required for everyday living
 - healthcare settings and contexts
- Being situated in this landscape enables people to take up opportunities to make meaningful sense of information that is created, reproduced, circulated, disseminated and used.
- An essential and ongoing practice that is critical to becoming and then being an informed person.
- Becoming informed suggests that participants are able to operationalise a range of activities that allow them access to information, in order to construct knowledge.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

- The information practice research approach will enable a better understanding of the underlying relationships between information, knowledge and experience.
- For renal nurses being able to recognise the way people use information will assist in individualising educational sessions and tailoring teaching strategies to make it more meaningful.

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