

Examining the Red Thread of Information in Young Children's Interests: A Child-Centered Approach to Understanding Information Practices

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation explored 5- to 7-year-old children's information experience related to their individual interests. Using task-centered activities, participants articulated information wants that included descriptions, procedures, and explanations. They described information activities that involved information seeking (things, people, and experiences that "can tell you stuff") and use (applying information to their activities and sharing information with others). Children faced challenges related to their own capabilities and skills, constraints of information sources, and parental restrictions when engaging in information activities, while enablers included the child's personality, affordances of technology, and parental support.

TOPICS

information needs; information seeking; information use; special populations