

Personal Information Management Strategies in Higher Education



Sara P. Robinson
Dept. of Information & Communications
Manchester Metropolitan University

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What is PIM?

Personal Information Management is...

“the acquisition, organisation, maintenance and retrieval of the information people keep for their own use” (Jones, 2007)

“the methods and procedures by which we handle, categorise and retrieve information on a day-to-day basis”
(Landsdale, 1988)

“system developed or created for an individual for personal use in a work environment” (Barreau, 1995)

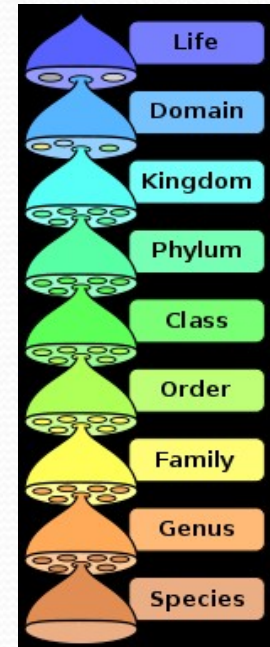
A Complex Information Environment



Organising our world



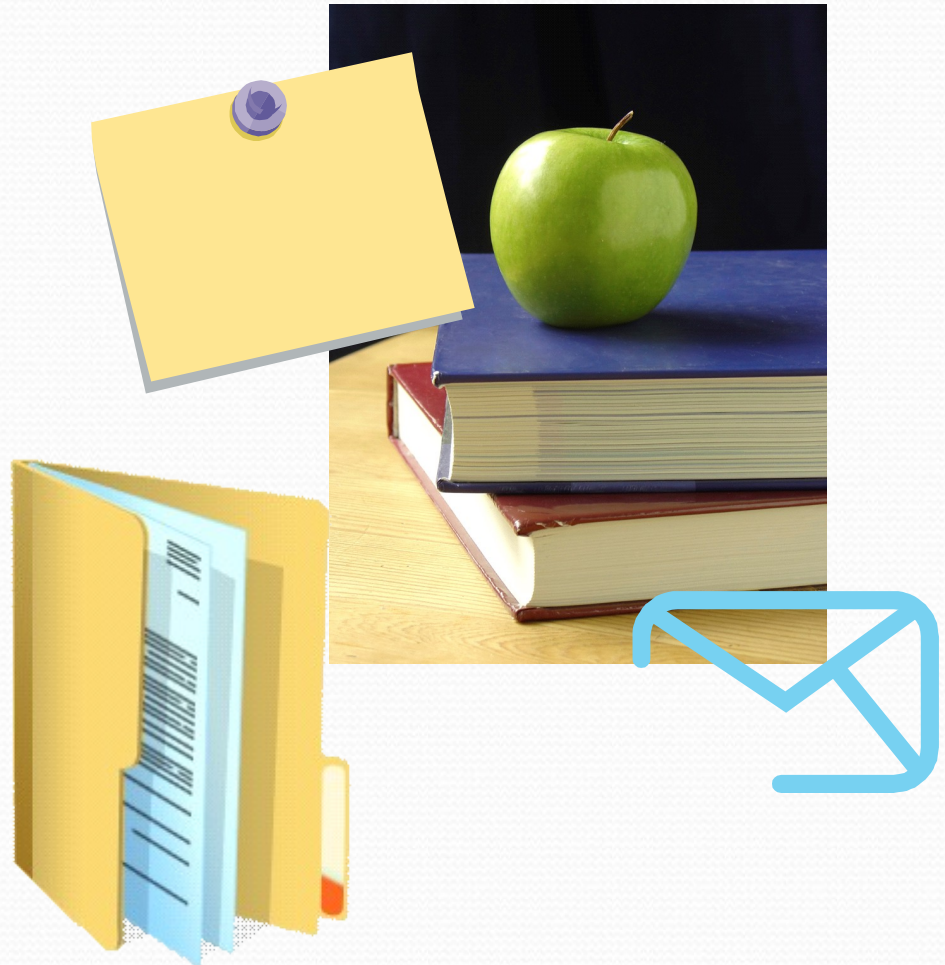
GUIDECRAFT™



Your information world

A complex but unique environment full of

- Books
- Papers
- Post it notes
- Lists
- Emails
- Etc etc...



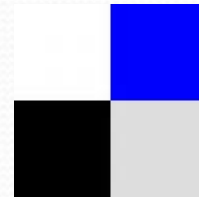
My information world



Is there a solution?

EndNote
...Bibliographies Made Easy™


EVERNOTE



jog the web
Share Your Content Your Own Way

diigo

Surfulater
Save what you Surf



ConceptDraw™

 **Microsoft Office OneNote 2007**

digg™

inspiration


The Study

- Explore the **potential value** of both online and desktop tools and their **specific functions** designed for personal information management.
- Identify information **types** retrieved and stored by students and methods of storage
- **Analyse strategies** that students use to deal with the volume of information they find when seeking information
- **Determine common factors** in students' interaction with information after retrieval and **analyse their decision making** during the process of filtering, storing, discarding and re-finding information

Research Methods

- Pilot questionnaire of **43** Information and Library Management students at MMU
- Screen captures of students digital workspaces
- Qualitative analysis of an online discussion at <http://www.donationcoder.com>

Initial Findings - Storage and Organising

- Information collections become fragmented across multiple devices
- Use of physical resources and printing is still common
- Meaningful names and the ability to connect themes is crucial to knowledge creation

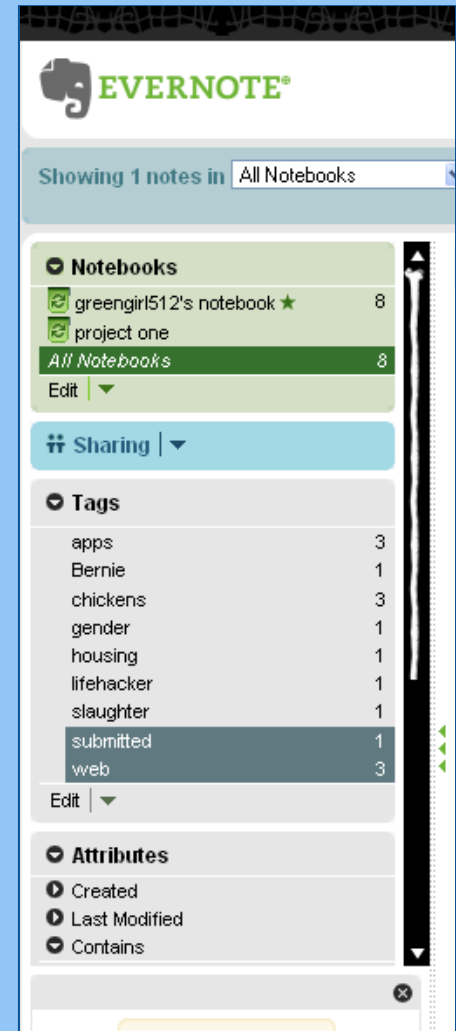
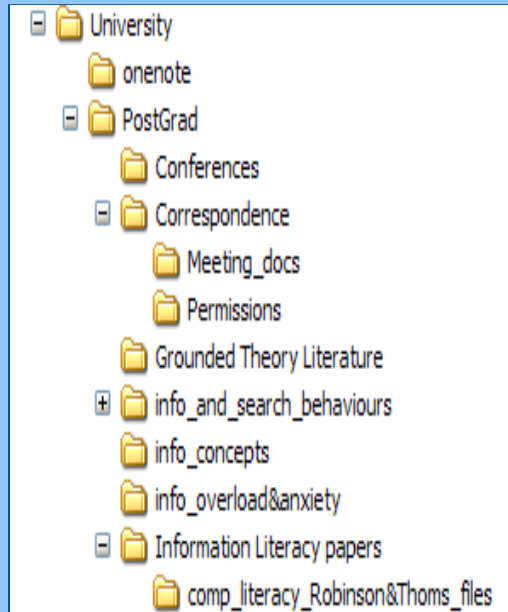


Findings - Use of Technology in PIM activities

- Few students use software to assist in their PIM activities
- Social networking is popular amongst students
- Social Networks are rarely used for academic purposes

Findings - PIM functional requirements

- Multiple data views
- Create relationships between items
- Import a wide variety of file types
- Enable search/filter by keyword
- Text Editor to add formatting to notes



Summary

- Information becomes fragmented across multiple devices
- No “one size fits all” solution
- PIM is individual
- A PIM strategy is crucial for students

Future Work

- Further Analysis of the Online Discussion
- Interviews with students

Objectives

- Explore **how students perceive their own purpose or intentions** throughout their PIM activities during interviews and observations using an ethnographic approach
- Develop a **model of external and cognitive factors** and their effect on how students articulate their actions whilst performing PIM activities

Thank You.

Any comments or questions?

Sara P. Robinson

sara.robinson2@stu.mmu.ac.uk