Managing documents at home for serious leisure: a case study of the hobby of gourmet cooking

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Abstract

Purpose
This paper aims to describe the way participants in the hobby of gourmet cooking in the USA manage culinary information in their homes.

Design/methodology/approach
The study utilizes domain analysis and serious leisure as a conceptual framework and employs an ethnographic approach. In total 20 gourmet cooks in the USA were interviewed at home and then their culinary information collections were documented through a guided tour and photographic inventory. The resulting ethnographic record was analyzed using grounded theory and NVivo software.

Findings
The findings introduce the personal culinary library (PCL): a constellation of cooking-related information resources and information structures in the home of the gourmet cook, and an associated set of upkeep activities that increase with the collection's size. PCLs are shown to vary in content, scale, distribution in space, and their role in the hobby. The personal libraries are characterized as small, medium or large and case studies of each extreme are presented. Larger PCLs are cast as a bibliographic pyramid distributed throughout the home in the form of a mother lode, zone, recipe collection, and binder.

Practical implications
Insights are provided into three areas: scientific ethnography as a methodology, a theory of documents in the hobby; and the changing role of information professionals given the increasing prevalence of home-based information collections.

Originality/value
This project provides an original conceptual framework and research method for the study of information in personal spaces such as the home, and describes information phenomena in a popular, serious leisure, hobby setting.

Keywords
Information management, Document management, Leisure activities, Ethnography, United States of America

Citation

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Stebbins defines “serious leisure” as the “systematic pursuit of an amateur, hobbyist, or volunteer activity sufficiently substantial, interesting, and fulfilling for the participant to find a (leisure) career there acquiring and expressing a combination of its special skills, knowledge, and experience.” Just reading that sentence makes serious leisure not sound very leisurely, but in practice it comprises a host of activities popular across time and cultures, like creating art, planting gardens, and playing sports and games. These pursuits are in part distinct from casual leisure by a “need study of the hobby of being a serious fan of a particular football team. Amateur wrestling, boxing, and bowling also appear to be of this genre. The recreational specialization framework stands as an important contribution to the theory of leisure motivation, by explaining how some people continue their participation in a complex form of leisure. This theoretical exercise not only gives recreational specialization a home in a broader conceptual perspective, but also contributes to building general leisure theory. As for the students who wrote to me, I am most grateful to them for encouraging me to clarify the relationship between the two perspectives. Documents Similar To Serious Leisure. Carousel Previous Carousel Next. 2003. Managing documents at home for serious leisure: a case study of the hobby of gourmet cooking. J Hartel. Journal of documentation, 2010. 135. 2010. Information and higher things in life: Addressing the pleasurable and the profound in information science. J Kari, J Hartel. Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology 58 (8 ..., 2007. 127. 2007. Information activities and resources in an episode of gourmet cooking. J Hartel. An arts-informed study of information using the draw-and-write technique. J Hartel. Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology 65 (7 ..., 2014. 63. 2014. Information activities, resources, and spaces in the hobby of gourmet cooking, JK Hartel. University of California, Los Angeles, 2007. 59. 2007. The Everyday Gourmet: Rediscovering the Lost Art of Cooking is a course of 24 highly visual and instructional lessons in which you'll learn about and build all the foundational culinary skills you need to turn out delicious and impressive meals. He'll also give you tips on managing the mess that cooking can sometimes make, preparing your ingredients in advance, and much more. Explore a Range of Cooking Methods. From there, you'll explore in depth each of the major cooking techniques any chef must know. You'll follow Chef Brava as he explains what makes each technique so different and how it can have a dramatic impact on the look and taste of your food. In each instance, you'll make a range of delicious dishes and gain the skills to practice cooking on your own.