

- Bossaller, J. S., Paul, A., Hill, H., Wang, J., & Erdelez, S. (2008). Conferences as information grounds: Web site evaluation with a mobile usability laboratory. *Journal of Web Librarianship*, 2(2), 247-261. doi:10.1080/19322900802190712

This article presented a loose application of the information grounds concept in a previously unconsidered area: usability evaluation. The authors conducted usability testing of a state library consortium Web site using the think-aloud protocol, using a professional conference attended by consortium members and many Web site users as the setting. They conceptualized this conference as an information ground, drawing on the college student study by Fisher, Landry, and Naumer (2007) to consider it as “a place where people congregate with the specific purpose of sharing information” and with the purpose of creating “connections between people who might not otherwise see each other” (p. 251). Thus, they felt that “locating an information-seeking event, such as a usability study, at [the] conference” would draw participants in and create discussion and excitement around the study and project (p. 251). The authors found the conference to be a successful information ground and to work well, barring a few logistical issues, for the mobile usability study; enthusiasm was definitely generated amongst participants and usability testers alike. The study is significant for its unusual application of information grounds, albeit not drawing on any of the theoretical propositions and indeed perhaps flouting a couple of them; for example, is a conference organized for a primary purpose other than information sharing and exchange?

- Chatman, E. A. (1992). *The information world of retired women*. New York, NY: Greenwood Press.

- Chatman, E. A. (1996). The impoverished life-world of outsiders. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, 47(3), 193-206. doi:10.1002/(SICI)1097-4571(199603)47:3<193::AID-ASI3>3.0.CO;2-T

- Burnett, G., Besant, M., & Chatman, E. A. (2001). Small worlds: Normative behavior in virtual communities and feminist bookselling. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 52(7), 536-547. doi:10.1002/asi.1102

Chatman's theory of normative behavior, and her earlier conception of small worlds that have “a specific context that serves a particular population to permit its members to conduct their business in a routine, expected manner” (Burnett, Besant, & Chatman, 2001, p. 536), are drawn upon in many studies using Fisher's theory of information grounds. Her theories of information poverty and normative behavior have been significant influences on Fisher, on information grounds, and on their use in research. In addition, Chatman's approach to theory development and ethnographic research, as well as her choice of impoverished populations, also influenced Fisher in developing and refining her theory and in conducting her early studies of the information behavior of seniors and immigrants. The article on normative behavior has proven the most influential on continuing information grounds research, however, and is perhaps the best distillation of Chatman's thinking and theorizing in this area.

Counts, S., & Fisher, K. E. (2008). Mobile social networking: An information grounds perspective. In R. H. Sprague (Ed.), *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences*. Los Alamitos, CA: IEEE Computer Society. doi:10.1109/HICSS.2008.320

Counts, S., & Fisher, K. E. (2010). Mobile social networking as information ground: A case study. *Library and Information Science Research*, 32(2), 98-115. doi:10.1016/j.lisr.2009.10.003

These papers reported on a study of Slam, a social messaging system for cell phones (SMS or a Windows Mobile app). Counts and Fisher (2008) was an earlier version of Counts and Fisher (2010). The purpose of the study was to see if Slam served as an information ground and to examine its “social and informational impact[s]” on long-term users (p. 98). The study was the first known to apply the theory of information grounds to virtual / online settings. The literature review in Counts and Fisher (2010) also provided an excellent summary of the theory of information grounds and much of the research that had been completed on it so far, although other sources are more detailed and thorough for some of the earlier (pre-2006) research. While Slam did act as an information ground and met most of the propositions of the theory, the authors found that two of the propositions needed adjusting to fit online settings. This was because Slam was often used for targeted information sharing and information flow was a primary activity. They proposed that, in online information grounds, social coordination is more important than other forms of information sharing and information flow facilitates social interaction. The latter is almost a reversal of the proposition as originally stated in Fisher, Durrance, and Hinton (2004). The authors also discussed the nature of information sharing using Slam (particularly in Counts & Fisher, 2008) and introduced the notion of information capital, the participants of Slam having both high information capital and high social capital. Further research was suggested into online information grounds (using the updated propositions), their relation with offline information grounds, the disconnection between online and offline identities in information grounds, the lifecycle of information grounds, the role of social types in information flow, and the role of information capital.

Dervin, B. (1977). Useful theory for librarianship: Communication, not information. *Drexel Library Quarterly*, 13(3), 16–32.

Dervin, B. (1992). From the mind's eye of the user: The sense-making qualitative-quantitative methodology. In J. D. Glazier & R. R. Powell (Eds.), *Qualitative research in information management* (pp. 61-84). Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited.

Dervin, B. (1997). Given a context by any other name: Methodological tools for taming the unruly beast. In P. Vakkari, R. Savolainen, & B. Dervin (Eds.), *Information seeking in context: Proceedings of an international conference on research in information needs, seeking and use in different contexts* (pp. 13-38). Los Angeles, CA: Taylor Graham. Retrieved from http://informationr.net/isic/ISIC1996/96_Dervin.pdf

Dervin, B., & Nilan, M. (1986). Information needs and uses. *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology*, 21, 3-33.

The combined works of Dervin have been influential on the theory of information grounds, just as they have been highly influential on the information science field

as a whole and on information behavior research in particular. Besides the influence Dervin thus had on Fisher as she completed her doctoral degree, Dervin also influenced Tuominen and Savolainen's (1997) view of social constructionism and directly influenced Fisher's work as well; she has specifically called out Dervin's view of information as communication, her sensemaking approach and the timeline interviews developed along with it, and her discussion of information as context. In addition, Dervin and Nilan's seminal review of the literature, cited by Fisher in her earliest study (Pettigrew, 1999), must also be considered an influence on Fisher and her theory of information grounds. (A full summary of Dervin's work, even if restricted to the articles above, is of course beyond the scope of this bibliography.)

- Fisher, K. E. (2005). Information grounds. In K. E. Fisher, S. Erdelez, & L. (E. F.) McKechnie (Eds.), *Theories of information behavior* (pp. 185-189). Medford, NJ: Information Today. This book chapter summarizes the theory of information grounds, in particular presenting a readable summary and overview for the purposes of those who were not already familiar with it and/or with previous articles presenting it. The chapter drew primarily from Pettigrew (1999) and Fisher, Durrance, and Hinton (2004) in providing this explanation and overview. Fisher also included a long list of settings (p. 188) that she claimed information grounds had been shown to occur in, and the chapter hinted at future work on a typology that was eventually presented in Fisher et al. (2007). The chapter is significant in showing the theory had become influential enough to be included in a book of information behavior theories (albeit one that Fisher herself co-edited!)
- Fisher, K. E., Durrance, J. C., & Hinton, M. B. (2004). Information grounds and the use of need-based services by immigrants in Queens, New York: A context-based, outcome evaluation approach. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 55(8), 754-766. doi:10.1002/asi.20019
Presented a study of immigrants' use of literacy and coping skills programs run by the Queens Borough Public Library. Information grounds theory was used to inform an outcome-based study examining how immigrants use and benefit from these programs, what role context plays in shaping outcomes, and in what ways these programs qualified as information grounds under the theory. Interviews were used to collect data; it appears many were fairly structured in nature, but others were relatively unstructured. This article introduced information grounds to a broader audience, explaining the theory in the context of information behavior research, particularly that of a social nature. It also appears to be the first explication of the key propositions of the theory of information grounds. In addition, it could be considered the first study to violate at least one of those propositions: the QBPL programs arguably have a primary purpose of sharing information, albeit in a softer sense than an actual public library branch.
- Fisher, K. E., & Landry, C. F. (2007). Understanding the information behavior of stay-at-home mothers through affect. In D. Nahl & D. Bilal (Eds.), *Information and emotion: The*

emergent affective paradigm in information behavior research and theory (pp. 211-233). Medford, NJ: Information Today.

- Landry, C. F., & Fisher, K. E. (2007). The missing piece: Affect and the information behavior of stay-at-home mothers. *Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 43. doi:10.1002/meet.14504301219

This chapter and paper presented a study—part of the same NSF grant as the tweens study (Meyers, Fisher, & Marcoux, 2009)—of the information behavior of 20 stay-at-home mothers from New Jersey, Iowa, and Washington state, taking an affective approach to examining their information worlds using observations and interviews. Multiple theories were used to inform methodology and analysis, including Chatman's theories of information poverty and normative behavior, Harris and Dewdney's (1994) principles of information behavior, Wilson's revised information behavior model from 1997, and Fisher's theory of information grounds; the use of multiple theories is a significant turning point in studies using information grounds. The book chapter focuses on the findings drawn from the latter and on discussion of the different affect experiences (empowered, trusting, unhappiness, frustration, etc.) of the mothers. Common information grounds were structured children's activities (e.g. dance, swimming, soccer, etc.), stores, community centers, and parks; those most favored as the "best" place for encountering information" (p. 226) were schools, parenting groups and classes, and playgroups. Of the three categories of factors identified by Fisher, Landry, and Naumer (2007), people were deemed both the most liked and the most important for obtaining information, for trustworthiness, common experiences, and making social connections amongst other affective reasons. The authors concluded that further research was required with a broader population and employing other related theoretical frameworks, but that the study already showed the importance of considering affective factors in the design and offering of information systems and services to support information behavior. Note that this study was also presented by Fisher as part of a panel titled "Emotional design II: Affective information behavior research with adult and child populations" at ASIST 2005 (doi:10.1002/meet.14504201110).

- Fisher, K. E., Landry, C. F., & Naumer, C. M. (2007). Social spaces, causal interactions, meaningful exchanges: 'Information ground' characteristics based on the college student experience. *Information Research*, 12(2). Retrieved from <http://informationr.net/ir/12-2/paper291.html>

Presented findings from survey interviews of 729 college students, guided by questions as to what information grounds students visited, what types of information they obtained there, and why they provided for good information flow. The major contribution of the study was development of a typology of categorical factors or attributes of information grounds, which was also partly based on previous information ground studies. These factors were broken into three categories: people, place, and information-based. Each factor was discussed briefly in the context of the study and previous research, albeit with some focused on more in-depth than others. A few factors were presented as possible directions for future research: roles and social types, motivation, and location and

permanence required further study per the authors. Other factors from the typology also serve well as research directions, even if not suggested for further research in the article, and the survey and typology were used to guide future studies. In this study, information-related factors were most important in determining whether an information ground was “best” for the students and for making information easier to share, while people and place were close to tied for second in both cases. The researchers concluded by suggesting further research on the variety of information grounds, their life cycle, social exchange and construction of information, and affective factors, as well as a debate over nomenclature (space, place, setting, context, etc.)

Fisher, K. E., Marcoux, E., Miller, L. S., Sánchez, A., & Ramirez Cunningham, E. (2004). Information behaviour of migrant Hispanic farm workers and their families in the Pacific Northwest. *Information Research*, 10(1). Retrieved from <http://informationr.net/ir/10-1/paper199.html>

A study of the information habits (Harris and Dewdney) and information grounds (Fisher) of new and recent immigrants from Mexico working as migrant farm workers in the Pacific Northwest’s Yakima Valley area. The researchers were guided by Harris and Dewdney’s principles of information behavior—particularly the sixth (interpersonal sources are usually favored over institutions or organizations) and fourth (one’s own experience is reviewed first, followed by people like oneself)—as well as by Fisher’s information grounds. The authors asked three research questions: “what role does interpersonal information-seeking play in the lives of migrant Hispanic farm workers and their families? ... what are [their] information grounds...? [and in] what types of situations do [they] share information [and] using what media?” (“Theoretical framework” section, para. 3) The research setting were two Community Technology Centers (CTCs); observations of farm workers, interviews with farm workers and CTC staff, and CTC reports were used to collect quantitative and qualitative data (with a clear emphasis on the latter). The study found significant barriers to the migrants’ information seeking in everyday life, many drawing from social types. While findings on information grounds were limited, the article is significant for its findings on social types and its incorporation of information grounds and habits into one study, the earliest study to explicitly include information grounds alongside other theories and concepts (other than the use of weak ties in Fisher’s original dissertation; see Pettigrew, 1999). The authors suggested also including a variation on Bates’ berrypicking framework in future studies of the role of social types in immigrants’ information behavior and use of information grounds, with the goal of “facilitating everyday information flow” (“Future research” section, para. 6).

Fisher, K. E., & Naumer, C. M. (2006). Information grounds: Theoretical basis and empirical findings on information flow in social settings. In A. Spink & C. Cole (Eds.), *New directions in human information behavior* (pp. 93-111). Amsterdam, Netherlands: Springer.

A useful overview of Fisher's information grounds research up through 2006. Many of the influences on the theory are identified in the beginning, although unfortunately it is not made clear which are original influences and which have been identified and incorporated later. Discussed the foot clinic (Pettigrew, 1999), QBPL (Fisher, Durrance, & Hinton, 2004), United Way (Fisher, Marcoux, et al., 2004), public settings (not directly cited), and college student (to come in Fisher, Landry, & Naumer, 2007) studies in some detail; for the latter this chapter discussed more of the results, but provided less analysis and the typology was still in development. In the concluding discussion, the authors argue for research into the relation between information worlds and cognate areas—including Oldenburg's third places, Chatman's small worlds, the wisdom of crowds / the "tipping point" (Surowiecki, Gladwell), and Savolainen's everyday life information seeking—as well as the life cycles of information grounds and people's perceptions of and participation in them. This is indicative of how studies of information grounds were beginning to incorporate other theories and concepts, and was clearly a call for more of this. A brief presentation of other studies under way—most at the University of Washington—was also made; unfortunately some of these (mostly those by students) appear to have gone unpublished. As noted above, the main contribution of this is to provide a useful summary of the research conducted up until that point and a view into the authors' thinking at this stage in the theory's life.

Fisher, K. E., Naumer, C. M., Durrance, J. C., Stromski, L., & Christiansen, T. (2005).

Something old, something new: Preliminary findings from an exploratory study about people's information habits and information grounds. *Information Research*, 10(2).

Retrieved from <http://informationr.net/ir/10-2/paper223.html>

Presented preliminary results of a survey / structured telephone interview of 612 residents from the east side of King County, Washington, via a partnership with the United Way. Included were eight questions on information habits (drawing from Harris and Dewdney) and information grounds (drawing from Fisher); the former were primarily quantitative in nature, the latter primarily qualitative (see figure 2 in the article). The study is significant because it is the first study to test information grounds with a large population, and the first known to use a survey / structured interview methodology to ask about information grounds. It also includes the integration of both information habits and information grounds concepts and theories, building on Fisher, Marcoux, et al. (2004). Results indicated the most popular information grounds by gender (no significant differences) and income (places of worship more common for lower income respondents, workplaces more common for higher income respondents). A few respondents mentioned online information grounds, but the authors did not explore this further (yet, at least). Respondents found information grounds to be most useful due to the people they brought together, the "diversity in the social situation" (Information grounds section, para. 4), and "the quality of the experience" (para. 5). The authors concluded by suggesting the development of an information grounds typology in future research (this was done in Fisher, Landry, & Naumer, 2007).

Harris, R. M., & Dewdney, P. (1994). Theory and research on information-seeking. In *Barriers to information: How formal help systems fail battered women* (pp. 7-34). Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

This chapter provided an overview of research in information seeking behavior. Specifically, pp. 19-27 discussed “principles of information-seeking” which are cited and used in a number of information grounds studies (particularly Fisher, Marcoux, et al., 2004, and Fisher, Naumer, et al., 2005). Dewdney was also Fisher’s chair and Harris part of her committee (per MPACT), so the authors clearly influenced her work on information grounds in other ways as well. The principles are “tentative generalizations about information-seeking behavior in the context of human-service information” (p. 19); each is presented and discussed in turn. They can be paraphrased as: (a) information needs are situational; (b) many factors enter into a decision whether to seek or not seek information and help; (c) the most easily accessible information tends to be sought (albeit with exceptions caused by complicated personal, social, and cultural factors); (d) interpersonal sources—especially those like the seeker—are favored over systems and other formalized sources; (e) emotional support is expected, and affective needs are important in information seeking; and (f) information seekers are creatures of habit and pattern. The authors also present a short section on “problems with the research” (pp. 28-30), in which can be seen some of the influences on Fisher’s research in general and information grounds in particular.

Kelder, J., & Lueg, C. (2009). *A “pink” key to information grounds*. Poster presented at the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIST) Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada, November 6-11, 2009. doi:10.1002/meet.2009.1450460311

The abstract for this poster discussed how breast cancer community education work relies on the color pink (and the associated pink ribbon) to establish dynamic, essentially ad-hoc information grounds for interested individuals to learn more about breast cancer. The authors based their discussion and arguments on an ethnographic case study—employing interviews and observations—of the information behavior “of a community education and recruitment officer working in breast cancer awareness information delivery” (“Introduction,” para. 2). The abstract cited Pettigrew’s original 1999 article and her 2005 chapter (as Fisher) in *Theories of Information Behavior* as their sources regarding information grounds, which they term a perspective. The pink color of the stalls, tables, booths etc. that the officer ran and staffed attracted those of the target audience to obtain information and awareness “that [was] not directly related to the primary purpose of [those who were] attending these locations” (“Information Grounds,” para. 5). While short on specifics—and the full paper cited as submitted for publication does not appear to have been published as of yet—this poster is still significant for its discussion of the ad-hoc nature of information grounds and how they may be established and advertised further.

Lin, P., Eisenberg, M. B., & Marino, J. (2010). Second Life as an information ground: Implications for collaborative information behavior. In M. R. Morris, G. Golovchinsky,

& J. Pickens (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 2nd international workshop on Collaborative Information Seeking*. Workshop held at the 2010 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW 2010). Retrieved from <http://workshops.fxpal.com/cscw2010cis/submissions/tmp1A.pdf>

The authors presented a brief analysis of collaborative information behavior, focusing on the environment of Second Life and how it shares many of the characteristics of an information ground. Based on discussions with health librarians and educators, the authors provided a scenario of Second Life's use as an information ground where an exchange of virtual goods led to a chance encounter with a "first life" health librarian, which then provided an opportunity to discuss and obtain information relating to a relative's chronic disease. The researchers cite Fisher's original IP&M article (Pettigrew, 1999) as their source, which means they do not discuss how the propositions later formulated (in Fisher et al., 2004) relate to Second Life. They do suggest using information grounds "as a context to discuss future research and design directions for" collaborative information behavior ("Using an Information Ground" section, para. 1), noting that new media like Second Life particularly need to address "awareness, common ground, and information fragmentation" issues ("Using a New Media" section, para. 1) that surround serendipitous information sharing. Although brief, this paper is significant for applying information grounds to a virtual, online environment and to scenario-based system design.

Meyers, E. M., Fisher, K. E., & Marcoux, E. (2007). Studying the everyday information behavior of tweens: Notes from the field. *Library and Information Science Research*, 29(3), 310-331. doi:10.1016/j.lisr.2007.04.011

Meyers, E. M., Fisher, K. E., & Marcoux, E. (2009). Making sense of an information world: The everyday-life information behavior of preteens. *The Library Quarterly*, 79(3), 301-341. doi:10.1086/599125

Presented an integrative, but exploratory study of the everyday-life information behavior of "tweens" (youth between 9 and 13 years old). After presenting a review of existing literature on youth and everyday-life information seeking—one that notably stressed "the myth of the digital native" (Meyers, Fisher, & Marcoux, 2009, pp. 302-303)—the authors presented the theories and frameworks they used: Dervin's sense-making interview process, Chatman's normative behavior (and associated concepts), Fisher's information grounds, and "the principles of everyday information behavior" previously discussed by Harris, Dewdney, and Case. The incorporation and integration of these various theories and concepts is significant, particularly given the number used. They developed the "Tween Day" methodology, elaborated upon in the 2007 article, for the purposes of keeping tweens engaged and active while obtaining data through focus groups and interviews. The 2009 article painted a picture of the types of everyday information tweens feel they need, how they seek this information, the barriers they face to such information behavior, how they manage the information they obtain, the criteria they use to assess and share information, the role played by different social types in tweens' information behavior, and the role of information grounds in tweens' everyday lives. The researchers presented a number of

principles, based on their findings, intended as “a guiding framework” (p. 331) for youth services. The study showed the importance of social factors in tween information behavior, particularly exploring and describing the complex interaction of tweens, their information worlds (and associated contextual complexities), and the information grounds they visit. Thus, these articles and the study they report provide a significant contribution in attempting to integrate information grounds with numerous other theories of social and individual information behavior, and arguably succeeding in beginning to do so.

Pettigrew, K. E. (1999). Waiting for chiropody: Contextual results from an ethnographic study of the information behaviour among attendees at community clinics. *Information Processing and Management*, 35(6), 801-817. doi:10.1016/S0306-4573(99)00027-8

This was the original publication that Karen Fisher presented her theory of information grounds in, based on her (1998) dissertation study of community clinics. Notably, she does not call it a theory (rather a “notion,” concept, or model) and does not present the propositions that were generated later (in the 2004 JASIST article). Fisher (as Pettigrew) presented her study of information behavior as it occurred amongst nurses, the elderly, and others at community-based foot clinics, using ethnography and social network theory (particularly Granovetter’s strength of weak ties). Her particular focus was on the flow of what she termed human services information (HSI) at these clinics, from which she identified four contextual factors. These contextual factors led to an analysis drawing on social constructionism (particularly Tuominen and Savolainen’s work) and to the conception of information grounds, of which the foot clinics were the first example. Other examples were suggested, but not explored further here. The study and article is also significant in showing her influences, both within and outside of LIS. The former included Dervin (sense-making, information as communication, and context), Chatman (her work on small worlds, information poverty, and life in the round, as well as her approach to ethnography), Tuominen and Savolainen (social constructionism), and to a slight extent Kuhlthau (context). The latter included Granovetter; Edwards, Potter, and Wetherell (social constructionism in social psychology); and (to an extent) a number of researchers in health and human services.

Prigoda, E., & McKenzie, P. J. (2007). Purls of wisdom: A collectivist study of human information behaviour in a public library knitting group. *Journal of Documentation*, 63(1), 90-114. doi:10.1108/00220410710723902

The authors conducted participatory, naturalistic observation of a knitting group that met at a public library branch, examining the information behavior and collective “construction of meaning” of its members. Their theoretical framework was based in a collectivist perspective. This perspective—also called “social constructivism” (see Talja, Tuominen, & Savolainen, 2005, amongst others)—believes the world is socially constructed and focuses on information practices in social context; it is similar but apart from social constructionism’s focus on discourse and knowledge production practices. Information grounds—which the authors appear to consider a (cognitive) constructivist theory—were not used

specifically as a theoretical framework, but did inform the study and were used as a point of comparison for the framework applied and the results obtained. The study's significance is in this comparison, where the authors argue that the knitting group, its information practices, and "the complex context" mutually and simultaneously shaped each other and were "constituted by and constitutive of one another" (p. 110). In short, they believe studies of information grounds should go beyond surveys and taxonomies to exploring information behavior in socially constructed and constituted contexts.

Savolainen, R. (2008). Motives for giving information in non-work contexts and the expectations of reciprocity: The case of environmental activists. *Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 44. doi:10.1002/meet.1450440210

This paper discussed a study of information giving—"provid[ing] information to other people, proactively or upon request" ("Introduction," para. 3)—in environmental activists' non-work settings, focusing on the aspect of reciprocity. The literature review did note information grounds as "particularly relevant for the study of information sharing, since these grounds serve as everyday contexts for this activity" ("Literature review," para. 7), but due to space limitations the author did not explore "the ways and contexts of information giving ... in terms of information grounds" ("Empirical data and analysis," para. 3). Nevertheless, the results showed that there were many different forms of information sharing in many different contexts. This thus supported the proposition of the theory of information grounds that they "can occur in any type of temporal setting and are predicated on the presence of individuals" ("Discussion and conclusions," para. 2). The study is significant thus as helping to confirm that proposition and in the potential it presents for further work that does explore the contexts and motivations for information giving in terms of information grounds, despite its relative lack of findings or discussion that relate directly to the theory.

Savolainen, R. (2009). Small world and information grounds as contexts of information seeking and sharing. *Library and Information Science Research*, 31(1), 38-45. doi:10.1016/j.lisr.2008.10.007

Discussed the relationships between Chatman's small world stream of research—including her theory of normative behavior—and Fisher's theory of information grounds, focusing on the spatial and social factors of each theory. The author argued that both theories require the intertwining of spatial and social factors, but that in small worlds they produce "a predominantly constraining context" while in information grounds they "produce contexts that invite the sharing of information with copresent people and seek it from them as well" (p. 44). Small worlds, he argued, are restricted by their conception based in the difference between insiders and outsiders, and "have lost much of [their] relevance because ... [it treats] contexts of everyday action in terms of little boxes ... characteristic of the traditional industrial society," rather than in terms of present-day society (p. 44). Information grounds are better suited to the study of broader, more "diffuse ... social networks" (p. 44), including online and networked settings. The concept of small worlds is still useful, according to the author, but is limited to the study of

relatively closed and localized communities. The article is significant because it compares one of Fisher's influences, and how it has evolved since, with her theory of information grounds and how *it* has evolved. Unfortunately, Burnett and Jaeger's expansion of Chatman's theory of normative behavior into their theory of information worlds—at least partially intended to move beyond the “little boxes” limitation of small worlds—is only briefly mentioned.

Srinivasan, R., & Pyati, A. (2007). Diasporic information environments: Reframing immigrant-focused information research. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 58(12), 1734-1744. doi:10.1002/asi.20658

This conceptual article presented a proposed model for the study of immigrants' information behavior, building upon the work of Appadurai and Bhabha's work as well as Fisher's information grounds “concept” (so termed by the authors, p. 1739). The model was intended to pull together local-focused studies with those taking a more global context, with the researchers arguing both were necessary as foci. They suggested that “locally and diasporically-mediated” information grounds used by immigrants should be studied as information environments; in their model these included community centers, public libraries, restaurants and shops, and diasporic websites and online communities (“chat rooms, news sites, social networking sites, etc.,” p. 1740). Proposed methodologies for such studies included reflexive ethnography, social network analysis, community-based information services research, and community-based action research (p. 1740). The authors then showed how their model could inform research in two case studies, one of Somali refugees in Boston and one of the Diwali (East) Indian festival. While the specific focus on immigrants and diaspora is not directly to information grounds, the article is still significant in its use of the theory and concept of information grounds within another information behavior model, showing the theory's greater acceptance and use.

Tuominen, K., & Savolainen, R. (1997). A social constructionist approach to the study of information use as discursive action. In P. Vakkari, R. Savolainen, & B. Dervin (Eds.), *Information seeking in context: Proceedings of an international conference on research in information needs, seeking and use in different contexts* (ISIC 1996, pp. 81-96). Los Angeles, CA: Taylor Graham. Retrieved from http://informationr.net/isic/ISIC1996/96_Tuominen.pdf

Discussed social constructionism as an approach to be used within information science to study information behavior and use in a discursive context. The chapter is significant for presenting one of the cited influences on Fisher as she formulated her theory of information grounds. The authors defined social constructionism as an approach that argues that “the primary human reality is persons in conversation” (p. 81, quoting Harré, 1983, p. 58), that talking and writing consist of production, organization, and construction of “our social reality” (p. 82). They believed this is a more appropriate approach to the study of information use than either the “Shannonian” (p. 83) or cognitive viewpoints. They noted such an approach would be consistent with the work of Taylor and Dervin in considering information as “a property of conversation” and as needing

to be “reconceptualized in communication terms,” respectively. After a presentation of discourse analysis and its application to studying information use, the authors compared their approach to those of Buckland (p. 90) and Dervin (pp. 91-92). It is in the latter that they stated most clearly a key belief of social constructionism: “social reality is created through conversational networks by using various argumentative resources and culturally developed tools to make some version [of events] factual” (p. 92). The influence of social constructionism, Tuominen and Savolainen’s construction of it, and the work of Dervin are clearly felt in Fisher’s information grounds research, especially early on.

Williamson, K., & Asla, T. (2009). Information behavior of people in the fourth age: Implications for the conceptualization of information literacy. *Library and Information Science Research*, 31(2), 76-83. doi:10.1016/j.lisr.2009.01.002

Discussed the information behavior, seeking, and needs of older people and the relationship between these and information literacy for older people. Focused on the “fourth age,” “characterized by illness, frailty, increasing dependence, and the imminence of death” (p. 77). The studies reported on were not “pure” information grounds studies, but the need for information grounds of those in the fourth age was stressed, “since information often needs to come to” them (p. 80). The authors argued that naturally occurring information grounds—such as beauty shops, coffee hours, and socialization with gatekeepers—need to be taken advantage of; in addition artificial social gatherings may be created to stimulate the sharing of information via artificial information grounds. The article is significant for expanding the reach of the concept and theory of information grounds, particularly beyond Fisher and her associates.

Williamson, K., & Roberts, J. (2010). Developing and sustaining a sense of place: The role of social information. *Library and Information Science Research*, 32(4), 281-287. doi:10.1016/j.lisr.2010.07.012

Presented a study of how people develop and sustain a sense of place and belonging, particularly focusing on the role information, information sharing, and information grounds play in this. The authors’ study was developed in the context of Moore’s model of social information needs in everyday life. The researchers were most interested in “the role that social information can play in assisting people to (a) begin life in a new place or (b) live a fulfilled life in a place that has been familiar” to them already (p. 282). They focused on the city of Darwin in northern Australia due to its relatively small size, high population turnover, remoteness, and other unique features. The authors discussed conceptualizations of place, environmental scanning, interpersonal sources, and information grounds (citing multiple Fisher articles, most notably Pettigrew, 1999 and Fisher et al., 2004) in their literature review, regarding Darwin’s Mindil Beach Market “as a natural information ground” (p. 283). Through a multi-phase study including surveys and interviews of Darwin residents, the authors found interpersonal information sources to be the most common source for information about Darwin, with newspapers and physical markers (plaques etc.) also used as sources. Mindil Beach Market and other (regular and special) events were commonly used “both

[as] a way of information exchange and ... a way of fostering community participation” (p. 285). Word-of-mouth and social networks were thus important in fostering information exchange and a sense of belonging. The authors suggested these processes could be enhanced by taking advantage of Darwin’s natural information grounds to distribute and promote information about the city and its community. The study is most significant in showing how information grounds are being applied by researchers not directly linked to Fisher and her colleagues at the University of Washington; secondarily it shows a continued focus on everyday-life information seeking and on information grounds as important places for satisfying social information needs and for social information sharing.