A Boundary-Centric Approach to Studying Mobile Information Sharing

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Mobile technology becoming increasingly ubiquitous
New contexts and environments
Boundary-Centric

• Boundaries between these contexts
• Individuals, groups span boundaries
• Role of boundary objects in bridging between, across
• Grounded, thorough, insightful
Boundary-Centric

- Boundaries between these contexts
- Individuals, groups span boundaries
- Role of boundary objects in bridging between, across
- Grounded, thorough, insightful
Physically
home, work, school
Physically
information grounds
mobile technology
Socially communities groupings ties
Physically and socially
Theoretical Lenses

- Social Worlds Perspective
- Theory of Information Worlds
- Boundary Object Theory
- Gatekeepers and Boundary Spanners
Theoretical Lenses

• Social Worlds Perspective
  (Strauss)
  – Sites
  – Technologies
  – Organizations
Theoretical Lenses

• **Theory of Information Worlds** (Burnett & Jaeger)
  – Social Norms
    • Normative Behavior (Chatman)
  – Social Types
    • Roles (explicit & implicit)
  – Information Value
Theoretical Lenses

- **Theory of Information Worlds** (Burnett & Jaeger)
  - Social Norms
    - Normative Behavior (Chatman)
  - Social Types
    - Roles (explicit & implicit)
  - Information Value
Theoretical Lenses

• Boundary Object Theory *(Star)*
  – *Translation* of meaning, understanding
  – *Coherence* between translations and communities
  – *Convergence* of new communities around objects
Theoretical Lenses

• **Boundary Object Theory** (Star)
  – *Translation* of meaning, understanding
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Theoretical Lenses

• Gatekeepers and Boundary Spanners (Knowledge Management)
  – How individuals facilitate information and knowledge sharing across community boundaries
Sites
Technologies
Organizations
Social Norms
Social Types
Information Value
Translation
Coherence
Convergence
Gatekeeper
Boundary Spanner

Tutor
Student
Tutor
Student
Sites
Technologies
Organizations
Social Norms
Social Types
Information Value

Translation
Coherence
Convergence
Gatekeeper

Boundary Spanner
Boundary-centric view of information sharing

- Social Worlds
- Information Worlds
- Boundary Objects
- Knowledge Management

- Sites
- Technologies
- Organizations
- Social Norms
- Social Types
- Information Value
- Translation
- Coherence
- Convergence
- Gatekeeper
- Boundary Spanner
Conclusion

• A boundary-centric view of information sharing “on the move” can lead to insight both in individual studies and for the body of information behavior research.