EUN KYOUNG CHOE Ph.D @ iSchool

TANGIBLE MEMORIES AND ELDERS
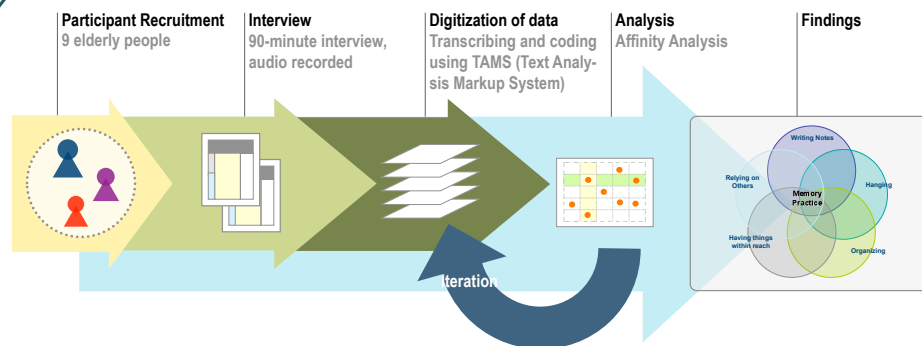## Ethnographic study of how elderly people remember things

PROBLEM STATEMENT

People remember things, and they forget them as time goes by. There are precious moments that people want to keep and there are useful information that people need to remember. To hold these memories and information, people have various practices and objects in their everyday life. The main purpose of this study is to gather data about elderly people's memory objects and practices as the first step to design a memory aid in the future.

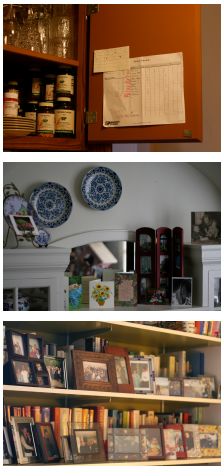What do elderly people want to remember? What do they need to remember?

How do they capture, keep, and recall meaningful memories in their everyday life?

What triggers memory?

METHODOLOGY

Participant Recruitment
9 elderly people

Interview
90-minute interview, audio recorded

Digitization of data
Transcribing and coding using TAMS (Text Analysis Markup System)

Analysis
Affinity Analysis

Findings

Iteration

FINDINGS

Two memory types were identified: informational memory and personal memory. Personal memories and informational memories were embedded or represented in various forms of memory objects such as tangible memory objects and intangible memory objects.

These memories were remembered and recalled using the following memory practices: 1) writing notes, 2) hanging, 3) organizing, 4) having things within reach and 5) relying on other's memory. Memory practices often involved tangible objects as instruments, which are tools to capture memories.

Elderly people were less fond of using an electronic device for memory purposes because the interface was complicated and there was little motivation to learn a new interface. These two findings should be carefully incorporated in the design of memory aid for the elderly to avoid creating a device that do not reflect how they interact with technology.

AIM *research group*
accessibility · interaction · mobility

dub
design:
use:
build:
university of washington