

COMP 2044 Human Computer Interaction

Workshop 6 - Ethnography and the Practice of Scientific Writing

Group 7

Group Member

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Haotao Wang | 20517820 |
| Zelin Xia | 20513999 |
| Qinghua Zhang | 20514001 |
| Yuyang Zhang | 20514470 |
| Yingcong Wei | 20413599 |
| Sihan Zhang | 20417195 |
| Yixuan Zhou | 20511652 |

Date:2025.3.29

Word Count: 249

Article Summary

In this article, focus on the concept of refrigerator surfaces as exclusive interactive zones within the domestic space. Swan and Taylor (2005) explain that the refrigerator surface has attractive qualities in terms of displaying regular household events or information. The study provides insights, using ethnographic research in 12 households, into how magnets are used to organize and restructure the information displayed on fridge surfaces. The magnets offer such flexibility that they make possible the quick rearrangements of items on the boards, and create an environment that promotes an explicit social interaction among the family members. The study found that the refrigerator has a lot of communal features and is also found at the center of household organization and communication, hence forming the key hub for organization and communication in the household. In addition to that, "the social dynamics within families" (as mentioned above) within families are shown within the broader social dynamics through the arrangement of the things on fridge surfaces. Distinct members of the family usually assign certain places in the fridge for personal use, while other areas are reserved for collective use, signifying responsibilities, happenings, or even emotional connections. This unformal ordering echoes the concept of

"collaborating around collections" (Crabtree et al., 2004), where the families operate both on digital and physical surfaces in an elastic manner in both organizing and sharing information. Sentimental value such as displaying a child's drawing or Christmas magnets on fridge surfaces accentuates their part in family coherence (Petrelli & Whittaker, 2010).

References:

1.Crabtree, A., Rodden, T., & Mariani, J.(2004). Collaborating around collections: Informing the continued development of photoware. In Proceedings of the 2004 ACM conference on Computer supported cooperative work (pp.396-405). ACM.

<https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/1031607.1031673>

2.Petrelli, D., & Whittaker, S. (2010). Family memories in the home: contrasting physical and digital mementos. *Personal and Ubiquitous Computing*, 14, 153-169.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00779-009-0279-7>