Bringing digital libraries into view on an individual’s information horizon

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Let’s begin with a story....

...about an engineer
Jane’s information horizon

Other engineers in her firm

WES colleagues

The firm’s tech reports

Her work team

Personal library

Database

Firm library
Jane in another situation...

...recently diagnosed with breast cancer
Jane’s information horizon

- Her aunt, a breast cancer survivor
- Her mother
- Her husband
- Her family physician
- Her oncologist
- Her brother
- Her public library
- Emma, her best friend
- WES colleagues
The place of [digital] libraries on Jane’s information horizon

• For sense-making in her role as engineer
• For sense-making in her situation as cancer patient
Should we try to influence Jane’s view of her information horizon?

YES  YES  YES  NO  NO

YES  YES  NO  NO  NO

IT DEPENDS  IT DEPENDS  IT DEPENDS  IT DEPENDS  IT DEPENDS
Jane’s information horizon (revised)

- The firm’s tech reports
- Jane
- Her work team
- Personal library
- Firm library
- WES colleagues
- Database
- Other engineers in her firm
Jane’s information horizon (revised)

- Her mother
- Her husband
- Her aunt, a breast cancer survivor
- Her father
- Her brother
- Emma, her best friend
- Her oncologist
- Her family physician
- Her pubic library
- WES colleagues

Jane

MedlinePlus
Trusted Health Information for You

PubMed
National Library of Medicine

WebMD
How can we bring about these changes?

Move beyond helping people FIND information...

...to helping people USE information
Library services supporting more effective information use

- Services supporting re-use of existing information
- Services supporting the creation of new information objects
- Services supporting learning
- Services supporting people helping people
Re-use of existing information: open-video.org
Creation of new information objects

NC State University, Digital Media Lab

Video and audio editing equipment
Florida State University Library
Digital Media Lab

Lab used for the creation of an online herbarium
University of Virginia, Brown Science & Engineering Library

Music technology lab
Griffith University, Queensland
Learning

Group learning through instruction

A context for individual learning

One-on-one learning assistance
People helping people

Learning Commons, NC State University Library

Access Grid, NCeSS (UK)

Collaboration Center
Health Sciences Library, UNC-CH
More ideas?

Comments? Suggestions?

Questions?
References

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