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**Subject: Information behaviour of users of personal papers**

information behaviour – Natalya Godbold – personal papers – users of archival materials

**SUMMARY**

This dissertation examines the information behaviour of users of personal papers from the perspective of information science. The aim of the study is to understand and explain how users of personal papers seek information in archives within the context of a problem-solving situation.

The dissertation consists of preface, five chapters and conclusions. In the theoretical part of the dissertation, personal papers, as sources of information were characterized, typologies of actual and potential users of archival materials and personal papers were presented and existing research on the information behaviour of users of archives was discussed. Then selected methods and theories of human information behaviour – important from the point of view of the conducted research study – were presented. As a theoretical framework for the study the model of information behaviour presented by Natalya Godbold was used. The model was adapted by the author to the qualitative research study. To adjust the model to the research study, conclusions were drawn from the theoretical chapters of the dissertation and literature on historical research methods.

The second part of the dissertation reports on a qualitative research study conducted by the author. The grounded theory, ethnography and Brenda Dervin *sense-making* methodology were applied for designing techniques of data collection, analysis, and presentation of results. The individual semi-structured interviews were conducted with users of personal papers. The maximum variation sampling strategy was used to select the respondents. Qualitative content analysis was used for data analysis.

This dissertation shows the new theoretical and methodological approach for research on information behaviour of users of personal papers. Firstly, from the interviews conducted with the participants, different types of information behaviour of users of personal papers were described. Secondly, the behaviour of interviewees were explained from the point of view of the model by Natalya Godbold. The study provides in-depth insight into the information behaviour of users of personal papers. The results can be used by scholars

interested in human information behaviour as well as librarians and archivists to improve access policy to personal papers collections.