

Care as a Motive for Parents' Information Work

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ABSTRACT

This work in progress poster presents the results of a pilot study performed with a small group of parents of transgender and nonbinary youth of various ages. Data were collected in semi-structured interviews and revealed that while parents found their child's gender identity disclosure challenging, acceptance grew when families prioritized their shared humanity and focused on caring for their trans/nonbinary loved ones. Care was an important motive for information behavior that influenced parents' (1) attribution of cognitive authority and source selection; (2) their decisions to take on roles as information mediaries; and (3) their continued scanning of information related to transgender issues. Care also inspired the creation of information objects that mediated information exchanges between parents, children, and extended family members.

Beyond illuminating the information needs of transgender and nonbinary young people and their supporters, this project seeks to examine the potential that feminist care ethics offer as a LIS research framework. There are several challenges. The study sample was small and lacked meaningful diversity. Consequently, it is unknown what environmental or social circumstances affect information-seeking in the service of care. Can care as an information motive be transposed to other non-family contexts? What constitutes an appropriate unit of analysis? How can dissertation research be designed to capture evidence of care?

ALISE RESEARCH TAXONOMY TOPICS

information seeking; information use; information needs.

AUTHOR KEYWORDS

Care ethics; transgender youth; nonbinary youth; families; collaborative information behavior;.

