

"My cell phone, I guess, I think it was in high school when I first got it. I didn't get my laptop until I graduated actually so I had a couple years with a cell phone, which was really the first thing I had aside from games, which were pretty much all my brothers' anyway. But, yeah I suppose that would really be it. And I was pretty reluctant to actually use it, for awhile, I didn't want one, 'cause I thought they were annoying. Everyone was using them in my classes and I'd always just get mad at them anyway. And I didn't want to lose control of using it when I wasn't supposed to, things like that, cuz I just thought it was annoying."

"My cell phone. Everyone had one and I really wanted one. And then um, I mean the computer was a family computer it was in the living room, but the cell phone was MINE (emphasis). So that was pretty cool."

What was the first piece of technology that really felt like "yours?"

"Well, I actually got a pretty sophisticated MP3 player, um, before they were, like when they were kind of a unique thing. Nowadays you can get a really cheap one that's really small and does everything. But I actually got a pretty nice one and I was excited about that. And it actually had factory issues and I just ended up returning it. But, for a while it was pretty cool. So that was like my first personal piece of technology."

"Um, oh, a long time ago my mom got me this thing, or it was my dad, actually. I was like either just getting out of middle school or just getting into high school and it was this electronic pad with a little pencil with it. I can't remember what they called them, they had a word for them, but like they were here and then gone, 'cause they were not, um it was like your own personal, personal, um personal, they had a name for them, I just can't remember what it's called now."

"I think my laptop felt like it was mine, cause laptops aren't really cheap, they are like a big investment you are going to have for a long time... It was like going to be for me only, I didn't have to share, like when we had a desktop, our whole family shared. This was gonna be like my own."

"The cell phone, (my first year here at college)"

6 students, 6 iPads, 60 photos:

A Qualitative Study of Undergraduate Information Practices in the Mobile Landscape

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What is photo elicitation?

“Photo elicitation is based on the simple idea of inserting a photograph into a research interview.” (Harper 2002)

Why use photo elicitation?

- ♦To “see” things you couldn’t otherwise see.
- ♦To bridge gaps of culture or experience.
- ♦To give research subjects a voice in the research process.

Themes

- ♦Mobility is more complex than “mobile.”
- ♦Flow/ wifi.
- ♦Just Google it.
- ♦Email isn’t just for old folks.
- ♦I have a personal assistant.

How to use photo-elicitation

1. Initial interview (pre-photos) focused on your research questions.
2. Subjects given a camera and instruction/ materials about how many photos to take, about what, etc.
3. Subjects may write up a short description of the photos they will bring to the next interview.
4. Interview - this one should focus on the photos.
5. Interview data and photos are coded and analyzed.
6. Finished research (usually focuses on the the data from the interviews more than the photos themselves)

--- from Rose (2007).

Further reading

Gillian Rose (2007). Visual Methodologies: An Introduction to the Interpretation of Visual Materials. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Douglas Harper (2002). “Talking About Pictures: A Case for Photo Elicitation.” *Visual Studies*, 17:1.
<http://www.nyu.edu/classes/bkg/methods/harper.pdf>.