

Understanding Parents Today: A Study of the Information Behaviour of Parents in Favor of Extra-Curricular Activities for Infants and Toddlers

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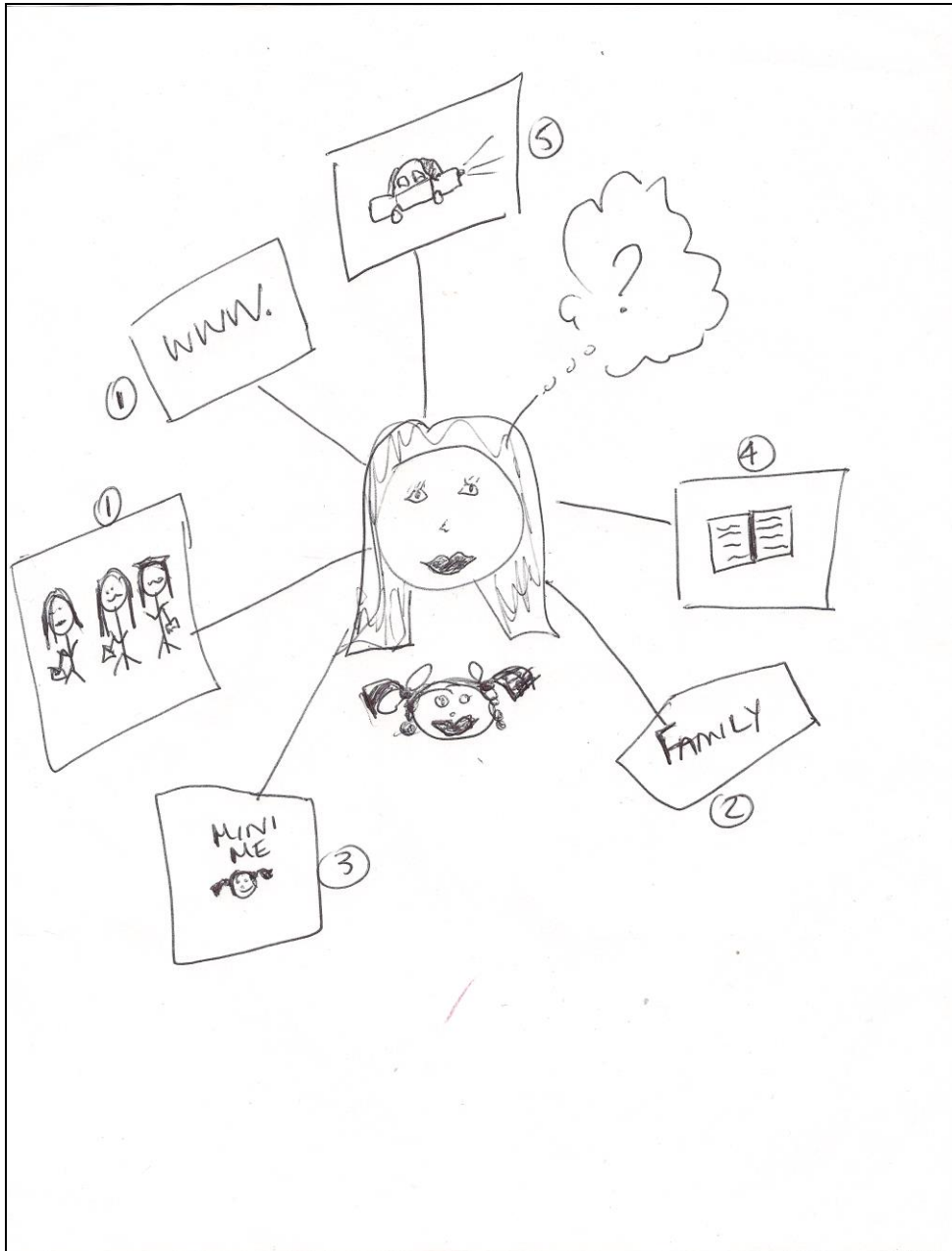
Abstract

This paper outlines and analyzes key findings from an Information Horizon Interview study (Sonnenwald 1999) conducted in November 2017 to determine the information behaviour of parents as they select and enroll their children, aged 4 months to 3 years old, in extra-curricular programs. Using Carol Vincent and Stephen J. Ball's (2007) study on the popularity of "under threes" activities in middle-class families as a starting point, and employing two information practice models – Ander Hektor's (2001) Model of Information Behaviour and Carol Kulthau's (1988) Information Search Process Model – as a framework, the author proposes that this population's practices can be classified into three primary categories: information seeking, information sharing, and information encountering. Furthermore, she suggests that the population's information behaviours and decisions are both influenced and guided by affective forces. The paper concludes with a discussion on how LIS professionals can draw from these findings to better understand the information needs – and to fill the information gaps – of the communities they serve.

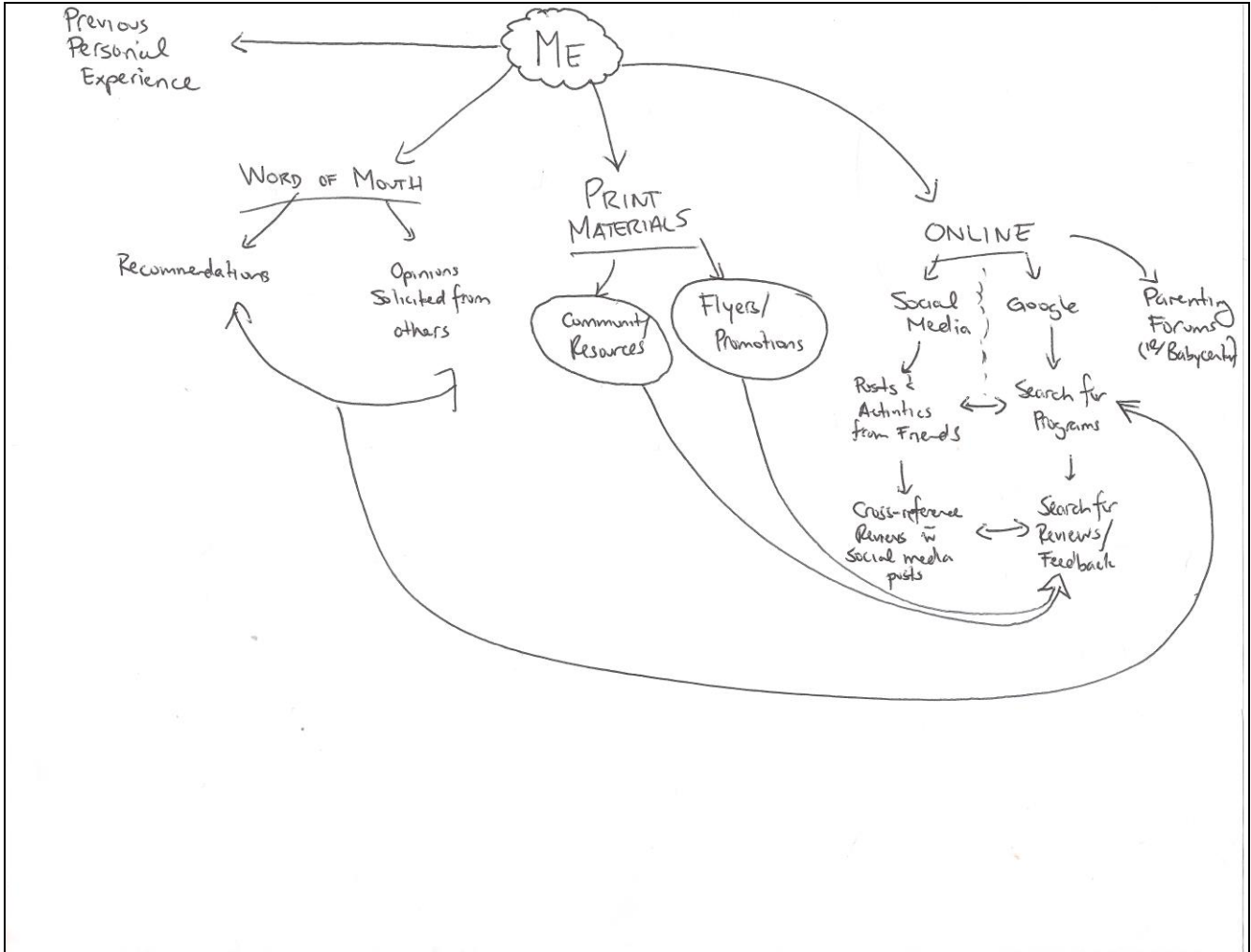
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AUTHOR'S BIO

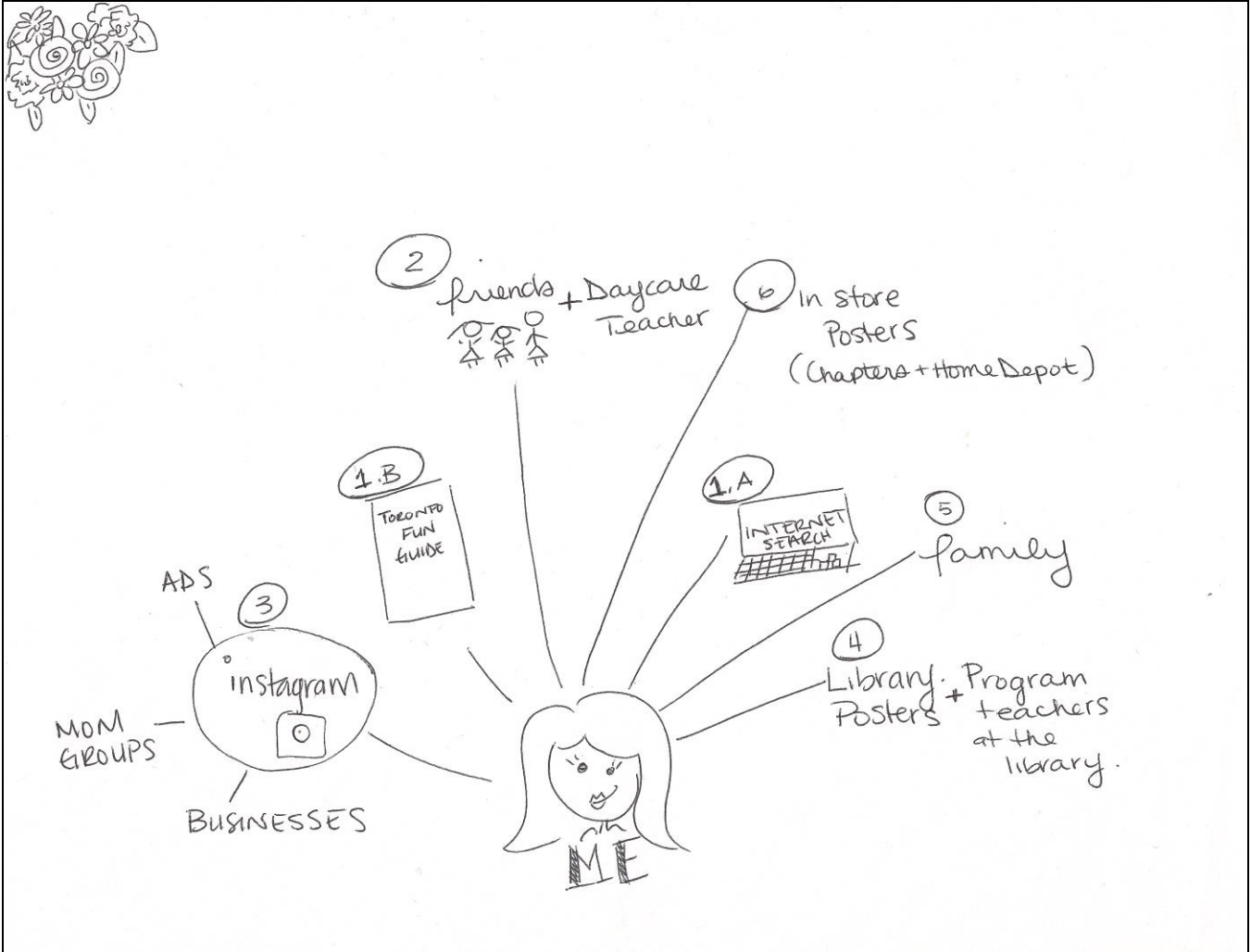
Leah Fiore (leah.fiore@mail.utoronto.ca) is a student in the Master of Information program at the University of Toronto. An aspiring public librarian, she is interested in studying the information behaviours of library users in Canada and abroad. Her academic background is in English Literature and Film and Media Studies.



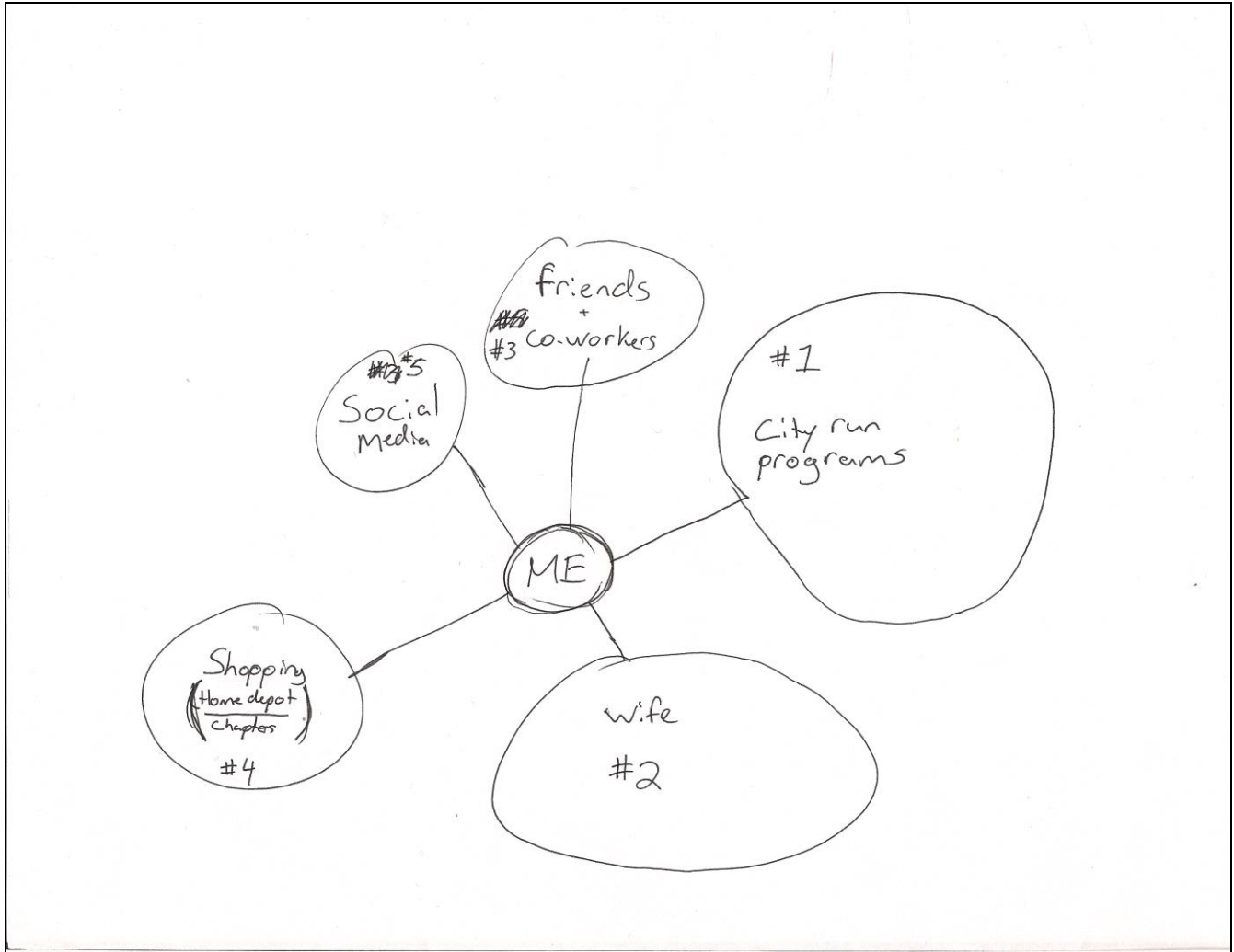
Mom One's Information Horizon Graph.



Dad One's Information Horizon Graph.



Mom Two's Information Horizon Graph.



Dad Two's Information Horizon Graph.