Grandparent-Grandchild Virtual Communication Study

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Difficult for Distanced Grandparents/Grandkids to Curate Memories Together

- Distance limits how often grandparents can see their grandchildren
- No current virtual method of communication that provides grandparents with the same value they get from being in person
- Genuine virtual interaction and memory making will allow them to sustain and strengthen their relationship no matter the distance
Current Technology Doesn’t Work for All Ages

Products/devices like the ones above tend to be designed for the public or specific aged grandchildren, so grandparents cannot continuously use one application to revisit old and create new memories with their grandchildren.


Objectives of the Study

Rather than studying the effectiveness of a particular device in promoting connection between grandparents and their x-aged grandchildren or focusing on communication modality preferences, I aim to:

- Understand what grandparents value in the communication they have with their grandchildren
- How they keep and value artifacts and memories of these communications

to guide the design of a device for grandparents and grandchildren of all ages
Gathering Grandparent Needs through Semi-Structured Interviews

• 30-60 minute semi-structured interviews
  • Topics: interactions, making/saving memories, and artifacts they keep of and with their grandchildren

• 18 participants
  • 4 men, 14 women
  • Range of ages of grandchildren ($M = 15.29, SD = 6.85$)
Thematic Analysis using Affinity Diagramming

Iteratively grouped interview notes based on how they intersect and created a hierarchy of titles based on overlapping themes and needs.
On-going Analysis

- Continue analyzing the rest of the interviews
- Determine the needs of grandparents based on the analysis themes
Future Goals: Drawing Implications

To support future work of designing a device that encapsulates:

- the interactions grandparents would like to have with their grandchildren
- ability for them to save the memories they make while interacting online virtually

based on the uncovered grandparents’ needs
Thank you