

# MEASURING SEARCH BEHAVIORS: CURRENT AND PROPOSED METHODS

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"On Measurements in User Studies"

## **Group Session 1: Which variables do we need to study?**

### Questions for discussion:

- Which variables need to be studied in order to make progress in understanding how people seek and use information?
- For which variables do we already have agreed-upon definitions? What are those definitions?
- For which variables do we need to develop definitions? How might those variables be defined?
- Are there any theories or models (e.g., diffusion theory or social cognitive theory) that provide a basis for variable definition?

## **Group Session 2: How can we measure the variables of interest to us?**

### Questions for discussion:

- Given a particular set of data collection methods, how might the variables of interest be observed/measured?
- What compromises, in terms of measurement validity, might be necessary to make these measurement methods practical? Scaleable?
- What methodological work needs to be done in order to improve these measurement methods?