Older Adults as Digital Content Producers

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Social Isolation & Loneliness
lack of interaction with others
low sense of community belonging
limited connection to wider society

Ageing

can exacerbate social isolation
reduced social networks
bereavement, health problems
age discrimination
Enmesh

ENgagement through MEdia SHaring

iPad application
create photographs
create messages
connect with peers (strangers)
connect with carers (familiar)
shared display
  semi-random;
  common items seen more frequently
synchronous movement of items
creating a sense of presence and connection
Field Study

Participants
n=7 (71-92 years)
"older old" (five participants > 85)
identified as being "socially isolated"
on CACP program (>65 & in need of care)
did not know each other

Socio-technical System
Prototype iPad app (Enmesh)
Aged care service provider
Three social events (wk 2, 6, 10)

Procedure
Used iPad for 10 weeks
Shared photos and messages
Three interviews
Lynne’s “diabolical day”...

A diabolical day. X-rays show broken vertebrae. Sorry no pics except bed in turmoil.

Bed after struggle to climb out
Digital storytelling

Don't feel like food tonight. Too painful.

Hunger pangs set in after all
Key Findings

Sharing personal information helped build rapport & find common interests

Shared display helped create a sense of community

Consideration of audience: sharing information with peers/strangers

Capacity for older adults to be creative digital content producers
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