

## Information Needs and Behaviors of User Groups: Methods and Results of Previous Research

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### **Keynote Abstract**

The field of Information Science has a long history of the study of the information needs, uses and behaviors of people, as individuals, but especially as groups or communities. In this talk, I give an overview of the history of this line of research, with particular emphasis on the methods that have been used to study user groups, some results concerning behaviors of different groups, and on the possible applicability of the methods, and the relevance of the general results, to the study of user groups in the Web searching environment.

### **About the speaker**

Nicholas J. Belkin is a professor at School of Communication, Information and Library Studies at Rutgers University. Among the main themes of his research are digital libraries; information-seeking behaviors; and interaction between humans and information retrieval systems. Belkin is best known for his work on human-centered Information Retrieval and the hypothesis of Anomalous State of Knowledge (ASK).

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