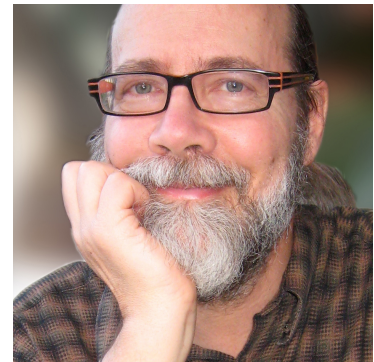


# Reflections and Three Issues

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## **1. Material context and conditions play a key role in making PIM effective or not**

Example: A spectrum of PIM use ranging from those who focused effort on re-finding information (hunters) to those who focus most effort on collecting it and (re-)organizing it for subsequent use (gatherers).



## **2. PIM, although sometimes construed as a solitary activity, is strongly shaped by social influences.**

Example: A study of accountants who were interested in a proposed 'library' of collected information not because of the information itself, but because it provided an index to people they could tap for connections and 'secret' knowledge.

## **3. The 'prime dogma' of PIM: The way in which personal information is managed shapes the ways in which it is used, which in turn shapes its management.**

Example: An information notebook in which the addition of the capability of easily emailing notes changed the way in which notes were written, which in turn made them both more sharable and more useful as notes