

803 Data Analysis and Report Writing

Project 2: Primary Sources

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I chose to explore interviews from women who worked for companies in the Tech Industry. Several themes emerged from the stories regarding the women's work and their lifestyles. All of the jobs were creative. Most of them managed productivity in similar ways although each used different tools to manage productivity (there was some overlap). Workspaces were not fixed. Work was managed throughout the day from more than one location. The interviews read as if work and life were interchangeable. There were no clear distinctions between the end of one and the beginning of the other. All had advice that was profound and each was encouraged by the advice. Additionally, most of the women recharged by adding physical activity to their day.

Creativity was one of the themes that ran through each of the interviews. All of the women were creating technology, or they were creating media to share technology features and functions or they were creating uses for technology tools. They discussed collaboration and coordination among several teams or several inputs as they compiled the work for process or presentation. Microsoft Researcher Danah Boyd "has been watching the internet through an academic lens, studying how society interacts with technology. Her recent book, *It's Complicated*, looks at how teenagers, born into an online world, are navigating social media and whether they're better off for it." (Orin, A. 2014, "I'm Danah Boyd" para. 1 ). Game Designer, Jane McGonigal "brings an academic perspective to gaming and looks at how games can improve our lives and solve real problems" (Orin. A., 2015, "I'm Jane McGonigal" para. 1).

Managing productivity was another theme each woman discussed. Most used technology tools to manage electronic messages by filing or flagging messages as they prioritized daily actions. Timesaving tools included tools that saved internet articles so they could be read later, to post-its and journals to manage to do lists. CNET podcast and video producer Veronica Belmont uses apps to save time on tasks such as dry cleaning, groceries and even lunch. (Orin, A. 2015, "I'm Veronica Belmont" para. 9).

Surprisingly all the women except for one were Iphone and Macbook users so many of the tools used to manage time and tasks were Apple products. Some of the women created technologies for other platforms so their productivity tools included apps and related software that could be used on other platforms even if their go to was Apple.

Flexible workspaces were a common theme. Most of the women had workspaces at home or workspace at home and at a brick and mortar location. The bedroom, dining room, living room couch or even the coffee bar at Whole Foods were popular working spaces. Work time and place was flexible, while balance was created by taking time for sleep, reading or other activities with family and friends. Each described work as if it were an extension of them...something that did not end when they moved from location to location. This is the best tribute that can be made for the joy, stimulation, challenge and contribution, the women experience from the work that they do. Even with jobs as demanding as they are, all the women found time to read on a regular basis for enjoyment as well as to keep up with their related industries.

I did find it interesting that all the women made time for physical activity. All of the women are in agreement that movement keeps the mind and body sharp and that physical activity is the best remedy for managing stress. Several were avid runners. Hiking was a popular activity for one of the women and the others participated in yoga or ballet dancing to de-stress. Jane McGonigal explains “in my own experience- and in the scientific literature! - it’s clear that we get more energy by expending energy, not trying to save it, and more motivation by doing something that’s hard for us, not by enjoying some easy-going activity.” (Orin, A., 2015. “I’m Jane McGonigal”, para. 8).

All the women used the advice that was given to them as they navigated their careers. Each shared these wisdoms. I gained much by reading the guidance that was provided for them. The themes from the advice were all grounded in leadership even if leadership was not in title, but was in how the women collaborated and communicated with others in addition to how conflict might be managed or concerns and suggestions raised.

The women in the articles are each working in a position that allows them to explore their passions. The positions complement the intention they want to fulfill in the world. Some of them are fulfilling social purposes with the technology they use, explore and share with the public. The words they use to describe their work are all adjectives that bring energy “exuberantly” (Orin, A. 2015, “I’m Jane McGonigal”), “frantically” (Orin, A. 2015, “I’m Veronica Belmont”), “furiously”, (Orin, A. 2015, “I’m Monoush Zomorodi”), “passionately” (Orin, A. 2015, “I’m Yoelle Maarek”), “intensely”, (Orin, A. 2014, “I’m Danah Boyd”), “adventurously” (Orin, A. 2014, “I’m Kathryn Minshew”). The words they choose

are exciting and inviting. These women are all making in difference for others as they contribute to quality of life for humanity.

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