

Exploring Doctoral Student Mothers' Mobile Device Use for Studying and Parenting: Mixed Methods Research Using the Concurrent Triangulation Approach

Anisah Herdiyanti

School of Information, Florida State University, USA

aherdiyanti@fsu.edu

ABSTRACT

One in five U.S. college students is a student parent, of which roughly 2.7 million are student mothers. Student mothers' success in academic pursuits was at a higher risk of attrition than almost any other group of U.S. students. This situation raises the need for discretionary educational policies among traditional and nontraditional students. Mothers pursuing doctoral degrees, in particular, face challenges in their dual roles as academic scholars and primary caretakers. Researching doctoral student mothers' mobile device use is important, considering this group is likely to be in their peak childbearing years and in response to the increasing use of mobile devices in studying and parenting.

This study aims to explore LIS doctoral student mothers' perceptions, experiences, and mobile device use for studying and parenting by applying the concurrent triangulation approach in mixed methods research. Twelve transcripts from the results of online interviews with twelve doctoral student mothers were cleaned and analyzed using NVivo 15, resulting in seven themes: *motivation and persistence, support systems, perception of use, academic use, use in parenting, key challenges and benefits*. Furthermore, 49 pings were signalled on each student mother's mobile device, resulting in 316 completed surveys (53,74% response rate). After removing personal identifiable information, the survey results were analyzed using the Airtable platform to create a dashboard to present four common attributes found in an ESM study, including *context, social, activity and experience (as they occur)*. The study contributes to promoting research involving human-computer interaction on an everyday basis to bring further application of the experience sampling method into the LIS discipline.

ALISE RESEARCH TAXONOMY TOPICS

Mobile systems; Students; Education programs/schools; Research methods.

AUTHOR KEYWORDS

Mobile device use; Studying; Parenting; Domestication theory; Online interviews; Experience sampling method.

Copyright 2025 by the authors. Published under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.alise.2025.2099>

REFERENCES

- Bhatti, N., Kotut, L., Haqq, D., Stelter, T. L., Saaty, M., Kelliher, A., & Mccrickard, D. S. (2021). Parenting, studying and working at home in a foreign country: How international student mothers in the US use screen media for and with their young children. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 5(CSCW2), 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3479584>
- Cruse, L. R., Holtzman, T., Gault, B., Croom, D., & Polk, P. (2019). *Parents in college by the numbers*. Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR). <https://iwpr.org/iwpr-issues/student-parent-success-initiative/parents-in-college-by-the-numbers/>
- Gross, M., Constantino, C., Latham, D., Randolph, K., Preshia, E., & Rooney, M. (2021). Examining the information communication technology use of rural child welfare workers using the experience sampling method. *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, 63(1), 94-114. <https://doi.org/10.3138/jelis-2020-0012>
- Gross, T., & Malzhacker, T. (2023). The experience sampling method and its tools: A review for developers, study administrators, and participants. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 7(EICS), 1-29. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3593234>