What do graduate students really do?

an ethnographic exploration of the research habits of PhD students

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BLC Networking Day
the study:

10 humanities PhD students

30 hours of ethnographic interviews
the world is their collection
It’s about following the conversation
people as navigators
people as access points

“The biggest resources have been people”

“My advisor is going to be familiar with the big names that are engaged in this discussion”

“He just listed off items, just 20 items on the spot, without a hesitation. It was amazing.”

“The professors are really good at handing me a bunch of stuff to read.”
they go everywhere

library catalog
Wikipedia
WorldCat
Amazon
faculty websites
library databases
scribd.com

Google Scholar
YouTube
Twitter
Google Books
finding aids
national library catalogs
SciHub

Google
Facebook
academia.edu
websites
blogs
archives
Hathi Trust
library access is too hard

"When I want to download something through BC's databases it takes like 6-7 steps. One click should be enough."

"It's not user friendly at all."

"It fails somewhere along the way and leads to a generic journal page."

"I could find the articles but then I couldn't actually read them."
illegal access is easy

"I see it on Google, get the link and copy and paste into SciHub and there's the article - that's it."

"so far there is nothing that I couldn't find there [on SciHub]"

The library should "Just do what SciHub does."
they love interlibrary loan

"ILL is just fantastic - everyone thinks that."

"I was really impressed that ILL was able to find two primary sources from Germany"

"Even that microfilm, which I thought was unfindable, they were able to come up with."

"Totally blew my mind - I would not have guessed that it was in Utah, but here it is!"