



The Information World of Retired Women (New Directions in Information Management)

Elfreda A. Chatman

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Using the profiles of women living in a retirement community, the author explores the information and social worlds of aging women. The focus of the study is the effects of aging on help-seeking behaviors. The author examines ways in which older women search for information; she found several areas of need, including failing health, financial concerns, and loneliness. For many of the women, death was not a problematic area. The author also discovered that the most critical areas of need were not shared with others. In fact, the residents chose to conceal the most dire needs for assistance. Surprisingly, the retirement community played a major role in this process.

The relationships between help-seeking behaviors and information policy is extensively discussed. The role that information professionals can play in bringing information to populations such as the one examined here adds insight to the studies of information use and user needs.

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