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Mobile Phones and Children in the UK
The Changing Social Practices of a Group of Children Aged 11-16 from 2004 to 2007

In this paper I examine the findings from two research studies I conducted for the DWRC (Digital World Research Centre Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences University of Surrey, www.dwrc.surrey.ac.uk) during 2004 (Vincent 2004) and 2007 (Haddon & Vincent 2007) with over two hundred children aged 11 - 16 mostly from the same schools in the south of England and using the same qualitative research methods. The second study was carried out with Dr Leslie Haddon and both were funded by Vodafone who were seeking to learn more about the social practices of this age group. The studies explored how the mobile phone featured in the everyday lives of these children and how they incorporated it with their other information communications technologies (ICTs). Over the course of both studies some of the social practices of mobile phone users changed and this was particularly so for these children who, by 2007, had learned to make use of convergent services to combine their communications repertoire across their mobile phone, fixed phone and home computer as well as music players and cameras.

REFERENCES

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Jane VINCENT has been a Research Fellow with the Digital World Research Centre at the University of Surrey since 2001 where she researches the social practices of mobile communications users. Prior to her academic career she worked with British Telecom and O2 in the UK for over 20 years. Jane's research includes studies for industry organisations on the social shaping of mobile communications, young people's use of mobiles, and articles that examine the emotional attachment some people have to their mobile phones. This latter topic is the subject of her PhD research scholarship with the University of Surrey's Department of Sociology. For more information see www.dwrc.surrey.ac.uk.

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