

People:	Deborah Barreau, Jane Greenberg, Abe Crystal, and Anuj Sharma	Affiliation:	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Information and Library Science
Project:	<i>Personal Information Management in a Learning Context</i>		

What?

- Explore student interaction with PIM technology that is designed to help them manage course-related information.
- Identify contextual elements and system features that aid reminding.
- Can automatic capture of contextual elements assist reminding?

Results so far:

- Data from the pilot support the concept, but reveal limitations of the technology (quality of images, lack of view finder in camera)
- Familiar look of aspects of the software (search box, thumbnail views) reduces the learning curve
- System is “helpful in remembering information and experiences in the field”

Why?

- To get a better understanding of how people use information in the context of their work.
- To improve both PIM and educational technologies.
- We may learn something about how to stimulate critical thinking and improve learning.

M2 and local flora in MyLifeBits:

How?

- Students will use M² hardware and MyLifeBits software in the context of a botany class to document their field experiences.
- Field observations, structured tasks, follow-up questions and interviews will assess ability to recall events, achieve objectives, and reflect on experiences compared with students who do not have the technology.

