as well as several lifestyle and health monitoring technologies, like the fitbit. These make this discussion relevant for growing movements within Personal Informatics such as the Quantified Self. As we adopt these tools we will equally take on the work of caring for them. Making sure they are powered to fulfill their purpose will certainly be one central concern. While it may be more exciting and inspiring to focus on and discuss their potential, we must complement that discussion with how these power-hungry mobile and wearable technologies will fit in context. We must understand how we can design these devices, not just as isolated artifacts, but within a growing ecosystem and a necessary infrastructure for ensuring their batteries are properly cared for.

These technologies will compete for space on our bodies [9] and in our lives, as well as our attention and ability to care for them. They will also, as we saw with some of our participants, complement each other through shared functionality, such as tablets allowing for messaging if the phone is out, and infrastructure, in its simplest form of similar chargers that can be shared. We hope that our work will serve as inspiration for how these technologies and their ecosystems are designed, as well as studied and understood in context, within this rapidly changing landscape of data-rich, ever connected, battery powered and care-needing technologies.

CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have argued for a holistic and context-driven approach to understanding battery care, rather than one focused on individuals and their personal devices as independent units of analysis. This shift is relevant for the study of mobile phones, as well as the myriad other battery-powered everyday devices that enrich our lives through collecting personal data, providing recommendations, and keeping us connected. By shifting the concern to the broader material context and practices, we are able to move some of the focus of HBI toward addressing ad-hoc infrastructures as well as the social context of battery care.

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