**Oh, E. (2004). Learning styles and information seeking behaviors in online information retrieval environments: focusing on the use of online library catalogs and electronic databases. In C. Crawford et al. (Eds.), *Proceedings of Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education International Conference 2004* (pp. 1324-1329). Chesapeake, VA: AACE.**

Keywords: Information retrieval, online information retrieval

Oh (2004) explores the relationship between individuals’ cognitive styles and how they think and process information in online information retrieval (IR) environments. The author posits that some individuals possess the requisite skills to use online catalogs and databases while others do not. Additionally, the author explains how cognitive styles, competency in using computer technology, and online search experience influence users’ search performance and choice of navigational tools in online retrieval environments.

Oh (2004) contends that despite the development of techniques for IR for online environments, the online library systems may not accommodate the needs of users with certain cognitive styles. The author examines the following questions in the study:

1. Are there individual differences in the use of library systems and information seeking

behaviors based on learning styles? What individual variables are correlated with

information seeking behaviors?

1. How do the patterns of information retrieval activities in online environments compared

to the Ellis’ model?

1. How do students perceive and evaluate online library retrieval systems?

The author reports that the research did not find a correlation between individuals’ cognitive styles and their information seeking behaviors. However, the author postulates that the research was able to detect the individual differences in using the IR systems. Additionally, the author reports that students felt that IR systems were unfriendly and were designed to better serve students who possess excellent IR skills.