

# Personal Relationship with Online Databases: Passion, Contact, Affection

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# The speaker presents some introductory remarks

- This would really be the **story** (and it should be regarded as a story, not as a report on research) of **personal** experience;
- This personal experience using databases might be compared to the experience of personal relationship;
- Therefore, the experience of using databases has three phases:
  - Passion;
  - Contact;
  - Affection.

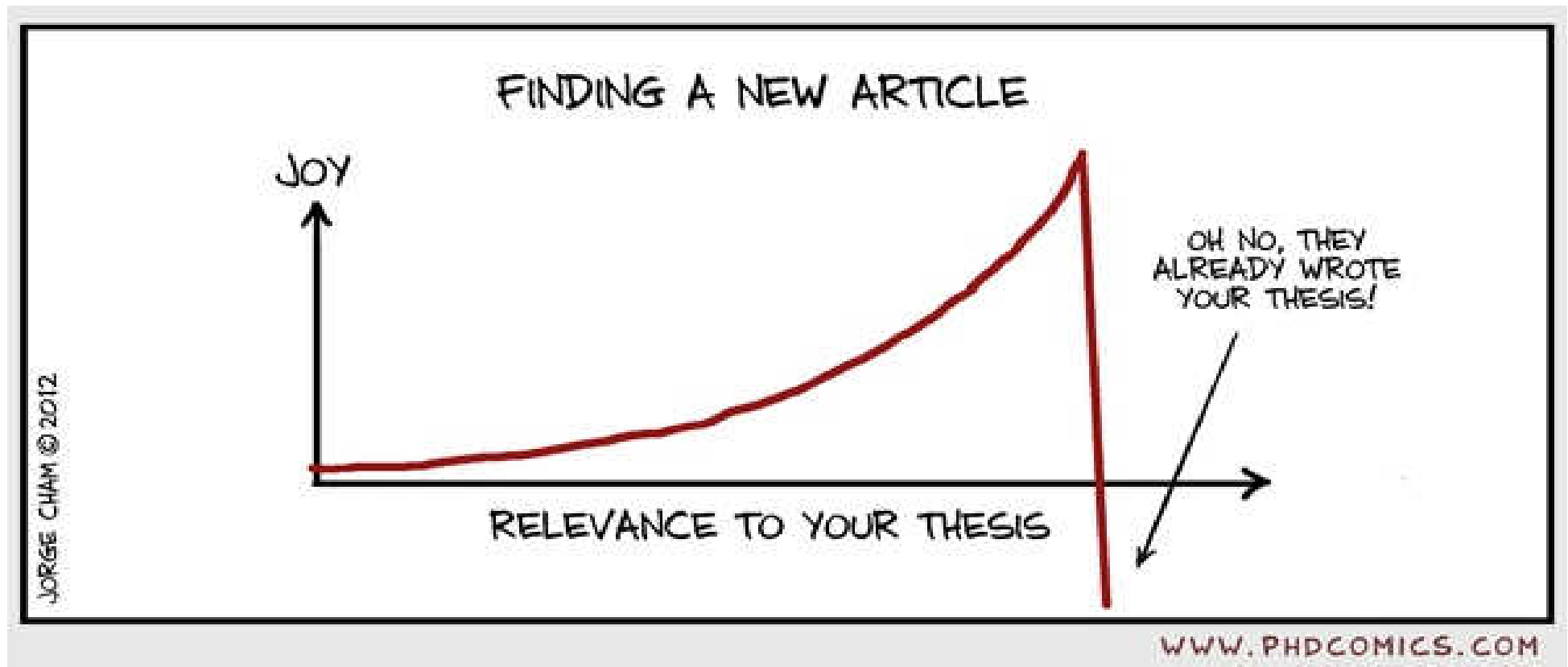
The speaker confesses that he does not know, why some ideas/research themes are more attractive than others.



However, when you have the idea the **Passion** begins and one starts looking for satisfaction

- In humanities (and because of his background the speaker focuses on humanities) ideas dwell in texts, and falling in love with idea means falling in love with texts about it.
- The first attempts to find the proper texts (Google or any other search engine) usually are full of bypaths and dead-ends.
- The first experience with EBSCO or Jstor is not satisfactory either.
- And then, in Lithuanian humanities the strong „cult of books“ still exists (hence the popularity of Google Books and their shortcomings).
- Despite all that, one passionately downloads lots of texts.
- And then one begins to read them...

The speaker suddenly remembers that he is a scholar and that it is time to show a graph!



Further the speaker laments over various obstacles to satisfaction of the passion for ideas which appear during the **Contact** phase:

- No matter how many texts one downloads some will always be missing;
- No matter how many texts one downloads or has an access to, one will never read them all;
- DIGRESSION: besides, official documents declare the priority of Lithuanian Studies...

However, at the end one enters the phase of  
**Affection...**

...where through all the trials and errors one has already found his/her particular way to use the databases and to have a more or less satisfactory relationship with them and with the ideas that dwell here...

The speaker ends his story with the quotation from the „Life after God“ by Douglas Coupland

She says: „First there is love, then there is disenchantment and then there is the rest of your life.“

And I say, „But what *about* the rest of your life – what about all the time that remains?“

And she says, „Oh – there is friendship.  
Or at least familiarity. And there's safety.  
And after that there's sleep“.

