Evaluating Relevance

Once you have established the purpose, authority, and accuracy of your source, you should also make sure that the information found there is relevant to your topic and your research assignment.

Here are some steps you should take when evaluating the relevance of a website:

1. Read through the article. Does the article answer one of your research questions? Does it add supporting detail to your main ideas?

2. The content does not have to agree with your thesis statement to be relevant! But it should relate to your topic.

3. Does the source focus on your topic? For example, if your research topic is related to technology, did it come from a technology- focused website, or a technology section of a newspaper?

SFGate

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Smartphone Maps Guide Users Through Billions of Miles Per Year

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According to one Google study, 95 percent of smartphone users have used their online map or GPS functions, and 75 percent rely on their navigation systems to consistently look up directions.

These new-age maps, in contrast to their predecessors, are so much more than a guide for getting from Point A to Point B. They can steer you, step-by-step, to any destination via car, bike, public transportation or footpath, avoiding traffic jams and construction zones along the way.

On the digital mapping landscape, there are three forefront competitors leading the way: Nokia, Apple and Google. With new smartphones hitting the market, including the iPhone5, Lumia810 and GalaxyS3, map features are steadily becoming more technologically advanced and user-involved.

Nokia was one of the earliest providers of digital mapping technology with the introduction of its Smart2Go application some five years back. The company's most recent mapping feat is highlighted in the Nokia Lumia 810 model—Nokia's first Windows 8 phone on the T-Mobile network. The Lumia 810 offers Here, formerly called Nokia Maps, which includes free and preloaded apps to enhance the digital mapping experience. Here employs satellite images, offline capabilities, public transit information, turn-by-turn directions, worldwide maps and voice prompts (with a selection of diverse downloadable accents and languages, no less). You can use Nokia Drive to set up custom speed alerts to let you know when

Home   News   Sports   **Business**   Entertainment
Technology | Markets | Real Estate | Mortgage Rates | Home

If your resource seems to be relevant, you should still consider these other factors:

Timeliness	Audience
Are there other sources out there that might be more relevant to your research? You should look at other sources just to be sure.	Who is the intended audience for this source? Is it too advanced or too simple? Take a look at the vocabulary used in the articles—this will help you tell whether or not this source is appropriate for your research.