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# Users' relevance criteria for video in leisure contexts

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## Users' Relevance Criteria for Video in Leisure Contexts

### **Abstract**

**Purpose-** The purpose of this paper is to understand how typical users of YouTube judge the relevance of videos in leisure contexts; what are the reasons users give when judging video material as relevant or not relevant?

**Design/methodology/approach-** A naturalistic diary was performed in which 30 participants completed diaries, providing details on their video relevance criteria. The analysis revealed 28 relevance criteria grouped into eight categories.

**Findings-** Twenty-eight relevance criteria were identified through the analyses of the diaries' content and they were grouped into 8 categories. The findings revealed that criteria related to the content of the video are the most dominant group of criteria with Topicality being the most dominant criterion. There is a considerable overlap between leisure relevance criteria and previous relevance criteria studies, but the importance of these criteria varies among different contexts. New criteria e.g. Habit emerged from the data which tend to be more related to leisure contexts.

**Research limitation/implication-** The decision to follow a naturalistic approach reduced the level of control on the study. A further limitation can be found in the participants' sample used in this study, all the participants of the main study were university or college students.

**Practical implication-** This study attempted to enrich the current literature by investigating users' video relevance criteria in leisure contexts. This investigation might have implications on the design of video search systems.

**Originality/value-** Previous relevance criteria studies focused on work contexts and the information judged was mainly in text format. This paper outlines new insights by investigating video relevance criteria in leisure context.

**Keywords** Relevance criteria, Casual leisure, Naturalistic diary study, Video retrieval

**Paper type** Research paper

## 1. Introduction

Relevance is a core concept in Information Retrieval. The ultimate goal of all Information Retrieval (IR) systems is to retrieve relevant documents that satisfy user information needs. Many studies have attempted to understand how people judge the relevancy of retrieved documents resulting in an enormous amount of work concerning user relevance judgment, behavior and factors affecting their relevance decisions. In the area of user relevance, researchers are especially interested in what reasons users give to judge documents as relevant or not relevant. In other words, what are the relevance criteria that users apply when making a relevance judgment decision? Although there is a rich literature on different aspects of relevance criteria, there are still open questions. For example, there is a lack of knowledge regarding how users apply relevance criteria in video relevance judgments. A few studies have focused on video relevance, such as Yang (2005), however, these studies are limited to work-related tasks.

The affordability of technology and the Internet facilitate the use of IR systems not just for work related tasks but also during leisure time (Elsweiler, Wilson, & Lunn, 2011; Hartel, 2003). Little, though is known about the relevance criteria that are important to users in leisure contexts and how these might be different from other contexts. Thus, we need research to fill in the gap of knowledge regarding video relevance criteria in leisure context.

The importance of this study lies in its attempt to enrich the current literature by investigating users' video relevance criteria in leisure contexts. By shedding light on this uncovered area of research, the IR community will gain a deeper understanding of how users make their relevance judgment decisions in a leisure context. Furthermore, the findings of this study will have implications on the design of IR systems. Retrieval systems designed for users with leisure needs might be different from those targeting users with work-related needs. In addition, the design of video retrieval systems may also be different from text retrieval systems. The comparisons of relevance criteria mentioned among these different media and situations will guide designers of different IR systems. As leisure users have different needs and motivations, investigating relevance criteria in leisure contexts will help in designing systems that address their needs.

This study was conducted to investigate the relevance criteria users apply when judging videos in a leisure context and to what extent do these criteria match the criteria mentioned in the previous literature of text retrieval and/or work task contexts?

## 2. Related Work

### *2.1 Relevance Criteria Studies*

Early research has significantly contributed to the user relevance criteria literature and has identified key criteria and synthesized them into different categories. Schamber (1991) mentioned 22 criteria classified into 10 categories gathered from 30 occupational users of weather information. In a similar work, Barry (1994) identified 23 criteria grouped into seven categories from faculty and student users. Later, Barry and Schamber (1998) combined and compared the results of their previous studies. The comparison yielded 10 criteria in common. The criteria are: depth/scope/specificity, accuracy/validity, clarity, currency, tangibility, quality of sources, accessibility, availability of information/sources of information based on their research, verification, and affectiveness.

Based on Barry and Schamber (1998), other studies emerged to cover different aspects of relevance criteria. For example, group of studies in relevance criteria literature (Wen, Ruthven & Borlund (2006); Tombros, Ruthven & Jose (2005); Balatsoukas & Ruthven (2012)) have focused on the factors that guide the relevance criteria selection process. Topic familiarity, searching task type and the ranking order of the result list are some of the factors that found to have an effect on the users' relevance criteria choices.

The findings of relevance criteria studies revealed a list of relevance criteria in text retrieval systems and encouraged researchers to examine whether the same criteria are applied in non-text retrieval systems. Studies have emerged to investigate user relevance criteria in different media, e.g., image retrieval, music retrieval and video retrieval. Laplante (2010) explored relevance judgments in the context of music retrieval for leisure purposes. The findings indicated that in the context of music retrieval, criteria related to the participant's beliefs and preferences have a significant influence on relevance judgment decision and topicality was not mentioned by the study participants. Choi and Rasmussen (2002) attempted to discover the relevance criteria that users employ when making relevance judgments of images. They reported that topicality dominates among other criteria. In addition, other criteria like image quality and clarity seems to be important to users. They also noticed differences in the priority of applying the criteria at different search stages with the importance of criteria such as appeal of information and accessibility increased as the search process progress whilst the importance of topicality decreases.

There were also limited studies that investigated relevance criteria in video retrieval. In her PhD study, Yang (2005) explored the criteria people applied when making video relevance judgments.

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3 New criteria such as cinematography and scene-level information were identified with topicality  
4 remaining the most dominant criterion.  
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8 Another attempt to explore everyday video seeking behavior and video information needs is the work  
9 of Cunningham and Nichols (2008). This study mentions briefly some elements of the video retrieval  
10 system that are used in relevance judgment decision such as comments, thumbnails and number of  
11 views. However, it says nothing about other aspects of personal criteria such as novelty and authority.  
12 Moreover, the study focused on the behavior of locating videos in everyday life rather than decisions  
13 of selecting and watching videos (which is our study focus).  
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## 16 17 *2.2 Leisure*

18 Stebbins pioneered in proposing the serious leisure perspective (SLP), a theoretic framework that  
19 bridges and synthesizes three forms of leisure: serious, casual and project-based. The definitions of  
20 the three types of leisure as defined by Stebbins are listed below:  
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- 22 • Serious leisure: "the systematic pursuit of an amateur, hobbyist, or volunteer core activity that  
23 people find so substantial, interesting, and fulfilling that, in the typical case, they launch themselves  
24 on a (leisure) career centered on acquiring and expressing a combination of its special skills,  
25 knowledge, and experience."  
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- 27 • Casual leisure: "an immediately, intrinsically rewarding, relatively short lived pleasurable core  
28 activity, requiring little or no special training to enjoy it."  
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- 30 • Project-based leisure: "a short-term, moderately complicated, either one-shot or occasional, though  
31 infrequent, creative undertaking carried out in free time. It requires considerable planning, effort, and  
32 sometimes skill or knowledge, but for all that is neither serious leisure nor intended by the participant  
33 to develop into such". (Stebbins 2009, p. 622).  
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37 Leisure is worth investigating in order to examine whether the qualities of information change when  
38 moving from task-based scenarios in work contexts to leisure contexts. Later, researchers in the  
39 information behavior and seeking field start to draw more attention towards contexts other than  
40 professional and academic. Hartel, as an example, investigated the information needs and seeking  
41 aspects of serious leisure activities such as cooking gourmet (Hartel, 2006).  
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47 Elswailer, Wilson & Lunn (2011) explored the information behavior of two different casual leisure  
48 scenarios. The first focuses on the information behavior relating to use of television and the second  
49 was the casual information behavior of Twitter users. The result revealed variety of needs with  
50 different level of complexities. It also found that a lot of motivations provided by the participants are  
51 less dependent on finding certain information, the experience itself was the main concern of the  
52 participants. Similar findings were reported in the second study.  
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3 More similar to our study, Yeh (2016) explored casual-leisure information behaviors when searching  
4 video online. Data was collected using diaries followed by semi structured and in depth interviews.  
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6 The study proposed a framework of casual-leisure video viewing processes and information  
7 behaviors. The framework divided the process of viewing videos online into three phases according to  
8 time: pre-viewing, viewing, and post-viewing. Information behaviors in each phase were included in  
9 the framework. Although the main goal of the casual-leisure search is to satisfy hedonic needs, the  
10 videos viewed in this context trigger information needs that encourage the participant to search for  
11 further relevant information. While Yeh's study share similarities with our study in terms of the  
12 methods and the context (casual leisure video viewing), the focus is different. Yeh's study investigated  
13 the motivations that trigger casual leisure video search and the information behavior activities while  
14 viewing videos. In contrast, our study focuses on the relevance criteria applied when judging videos in  
15 leisure context.  
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### 22 23 *2.3 YouTube*

24 According to Cisco, video content will dominate the internet in the coming years. In particular, video  
25 traffic acquired 73 percent of all consumer internet traffic in 2016 and this percent is expected to be  
26 82 by 2020 (Cisco, 2017). Among different video search engines, YouTube is the most popular and  
27 widely use site which is ranked second globally after Google. (Alexa, 2017). Thus, studies emerged  
28 to discover different aspects of users' behaviors on YouTube. For example, Madden, Ruthven and  
29 McMenemy (2012) conducted a content analysis to the users' comments on YouTube in order to  
30 examine and classify various types of comments. The study identified ten main labels with 58 sub-  
31 labels which indicated a wide range of uses of the YouTube comments feature.  
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38 Halvey and Keane (2007) investigated users' search behaviors when searching videos on YouTube  
39 with the ultimate goal of comparing these behaviors to text searching. To achieve this goal, a sample  
40 of YouTube videos were built using a web crawler. The findings showed that users intend to benefit  
41 and interact with the services provided by the search engine and that tagging and textual descriptions  
42 contribute positively in making some videos more popular than others. As a result, researchers could  
43 benefit from text analysis techniques in video retrieval context.  
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48 Another group of studies has focused on the intentions for viewing and sharing videos on YouTube.  
49 Hanson and Haridakis (2008) surveyed 251 college students in order to explore view and sharing  
50 behaviors for news content on YouTube. In specific, the study focused on the factors influencing  
51 viewing and sharing news videos and the motives that stimulate such activities. The findings revealed  
52 different motives for different types of news-related content. Yang, Hsu and Tan (2010) examined  
53 users' motivations for sharing their own videos on YouTube. The authors went one step further by  
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3 examining gender differences in sharing behaviors. They found that female users' intention is related  
4 to usefulness and social norms, while male users' intention is influenced by interpersonal norms.  
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### 7 8 *2.4 Literature Summary*

9 Previous related studies in leisure or YouTube contexts explored the information seeking of people  
10 with more focus on the users' needs and motivations rather than relevance criteria. Furthermore, the  
11 relevance criteria literature clearly show how previous works in relevance criteria have focused on  
12 work-related tasks and more specifically in academic or professional context. In addition, the vast  
13 body of relevance criteria literature were on searching for textual information rather than audio or  
14 visual information. Therefore, our study attempts to shed the light on video relevance criteria in  
15 leisure contexts in order to fill in this knowledge gap.  
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## 20 21 **3. Diary Study**

### 22 *3.1 Overview*

23 With the aim of investigating video relevance criteria in leisure context, we selected a naturalistic  
24 diary method as the main data collection method. As leisure is known to be an everyday life activity,  
25 we needed an instrument which could collect data in a more natural and realistic way.  
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30 A diary is a natural self-reported instrument which is capable of collecting data in the users' real  
31 environments without the influence of an observer (Elsweiler, Ruthven and Jones, 2007). Therefore, it  
32 is a good research instrument choice for research that aims to understand the "why" aspects of user  
33 behaviors, in our case: why the user selects a specific video to watch. Unlike interviews, diaries  
34 overcome recall problems by minimizing the time between recording the event and the event itself  
35 (Corti, 1993).  
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40 Although there are a number of advantages of diaries over other data collection techniques, diaries  
41 have some limitations. First, filling a diary can be a time-consuming task that needs an effort from the  
42 participants. Therefore, the diary period needs careful consideration. In addition, a successful diary  
43 study needs good commitment from the participants who should be convinced to complete the diaries  
44 (Pickard, 2013). Another issue is that participants might miss valuable input because they thought it is  
45 not sufficiently interesting to record it. Thus, the level of detail required has to be clarified to  
46 participants at the beginning of the study (Palen & Salzman, 2002).  
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52 To minimize the limitations of the diary method, we designed the diary in a way that would minimize  
53 the time and effort needed to complete it. A semi-structured diary was designed which enabled the  
54 participants to provide their inputs to pre-defined fields for a period of one week. Two pilot studies  
55 preceded the main diary study to ensure the validity of the diary design and improve it. To help the  
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3 participants understand the type of information they should record and the level of details, a sample of  
4 diary entries were provided as part of the diary. The final version of the diary is shown in the  
5 Appendix. This study was granted approval from the Departmental Ethics Committee.  
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### 8 9 *3.2 Participants and Recruitment*

10 Thirty YouTube users participated in the main diary study. Twenty of the participants were female  
11 and 10 male. Participants were young adults between 17 and 35 with average age of 23. Among the  
12 participants 18 were undergraduate students, 5 PhD students, 3 Masters students, 2 college students  
13 and 2 unemployed graduate students. They were studying different disciplines at various universities.  
14 In general, participants acknowledge themselves as heavy YouTube users. Twenty participants  
15 reported that they search YouTube daily and the remaining search YouTube one to four times a week.  
16 As the design of the diary did not change a lot between the pilots and the main study, the data  
17 collected from 8 participants (6 females and 2 males) from the previous pilot studies were also  
18 included in the analysis. Participants were recruited through emails and flyers distributed at different  
19 universities and college. The recruitment took place in the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia. £5  
20 shopping vouchers were offered to the participants.  
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### 28 *3.3 Procedure*

29 We first asked participants to complete a demographic form that collects information such as age,  
30 gender, profession and the frequency of searching YouTube for leisure or entertainment. Then, a link  
31 to a Google document was sent to each participant. Each participant had his own Google document to  
32 record entries in, and this was shared with the first author only. We also offered a Word diary or  
33 printed diary as an alternative to Google documents, 11 participants chose the Word version, 19 the  
34 Google document and none of them chose a printed diary. Google documents were used because of its  
35 ease of use and we had a live access to the participants' diaries, so we could contact them when  
36 something going wrong. Using Google documents was useful to help increase the response rate, as  
37 one does not have to wait until the end of the week to get the data back and one can always get  
38 fragments of the data in case of uncompleted diaries. Participants were asked to keep recording in  
39 their diaries for a duration of one week and to make sure that they recorded the information while they  
40 searching YouTube or soon after to avoid any memory lapses. YouTube was chosen as the video  
41 retrieval system in this study because it is the most popular system widely used by over a billion users  
42 and with huge variety of videos. During the process, we kept in touch with the participants via email  
43 to answer their questions, and encourage them to keep going with the work. After completing the  
44 diaries we contacted the participants to set a time to meet and have a post-diary discussion where we  
45 could clarify any ambiguities appeared in the diaries and to get the feedback of the participants and  
46 provide them with the compensation.  
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#### 4. Data Analysis

Preliminary analysis of participants' diaries took place at early stages of the data collection process by careful reading of the diaries. Each utterance in the 'reasons' fields of the diaries was considered as a unit of analysis and assigned a code (relevance criterion). We split utterances that touched on more than one relevance criterion. For example, the utterance "It was in the suggesting video column and had over 2 million views. I had not heard the song before" was split into three text fragments and assigned a relevance criterion to each: recommended video ("It was in the suggesting video column"), popularity ("had over 2 million views") and novelty ("I had not heard the song before").

The coding process followed an a priori coding approach because of the previous rich literature on relevance criteria. Following this approach, coding schemes from previous relevance criteria studies including (Balatsoukas & Ruthven, 2012; Barry, 1994; Barry & Schamber, 1998; Savolainen & Kari, 2006; Yang, 2005) were grouped together, and the selection of potential codes assigned to utterances was based on this derived scheme. Codes or codes' definitions from different studies that share similarities with each other were compared and aggregated. For example, the Coverage criterion in our study was based on the codes in Table 1 which were mentioned in previous studies.

"Insert Table # 1 here."

Each utterance was assigned a preliminary code from the pre-mentioned relevance criteria list where possible. The initial coding scheme derived from the literature was revised iteratively during the coding of the data. Relevance criteria that found to be not applicable to video leisure retrieval context were eliminated. For example, criteria such as 'consensus within the field' (Barry, 1994) or 'affiliation' (Crystal and Greenberg, 2006) which have an effect on relevance judgment in academic context but did not apply in leisure context. Moreover, some of the criteria mentioned in previous coding scheme have different labels but with the same meaning such as 'genre' and 'resource type'; 'layout' and 'presentation'; 'audience', 'intended use' and 'orientation/level'. So we eliminate the duplicated codes. Some codes were merged together into one criterion such as 'reliability' and 'reputation' are merged to form one criterion 'quality of source'. During the coding process, additional codes were added to the coding scheme as they emerges from the inductive content analysis of the diaries. For example, 'recommended video', 'People in the video' and 'habit' were new codes added to the scheme.

Finally, the criteria were clustered into categories based on similarity. The analysis process was iterative between developing the coding scheme and assigning codes to participants' responses. Then responses with the same code label were grouped together and checked again weather the code label

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3 fit them properly. In many cases, we needed to examine the exact video on YouTube to understand  
4 the content or discover names of YouTube channels, people or events.  
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8 In order to increase the reliability of the data analysis process, another coder were asked to code a  
9 subset (10%) of the data chosen randomly. The Kappa coefficient of inter coder agreement of the two  
10 coders found to be 0.70 which is considered as a good level of agreement.  
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## 13 14 **5. Results**

15 In total, the participants provided 234 search sessions with an average of six sessions per participant  
16 (S.D. 2.7 min 1 max 10). The total number of videos recorded in the diaries was 579 with an average  
17 of 15 videos per participant (S.D. 8.2 min 2 max 30). The results reported in this section includes  
18 responses from the pilot studies.  
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23 Ten search sessions were excluded because they did not meet the requirement of the research (such as  
24 searches related to course assignments). There were also cases (48) where relevance criteria could not  
25 be extracted from the reasons participants mentioned for selecting their videos, e.g. "no reason",  
26 "Auto play" these responses were necessarily omitted from the analyses. After cleaning the data, a  
27 total of 787 instances of relevance criteria was extracted from the diaries.  
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32 The participants most often watched YouTube on mobiles (87 sessions), laptops (71 sessions),  
33 desktop (44 sessions) and tablets (seven sessions). The majority of leisure search sessions were  
34 performed at home (180 sessions) the remaining were at work (21 sessions), university (16 sessions),  
35 transportation e.g. bus and car (seven sessions), restaurants and coffee shops (five sessions) other  
36 places such as a friend's house, beauty salon and gym (three sessions). In terms of the time of the day,  
37 leisure search sessions usually occurred in the evening time (105 sessions) followed by afternoon (71  
38 sessions). The fewest number of sessions was in night time (55 sessions). There were some missing  
39 data because of the cases where participants did not complete these fields.  
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### 46 *5.1 Relevance Criteria*

47 Twenty-eight relevance criteria were identified through the analyses of the diaries' content and they  
48 were grouped into eight categories as follow: (a) criteria related to the information content of the  
49 video; (b) criteria related to the participants' previous experience and background; (c) criteria related  
50 to the participant's beliefs and preferences or their situation; (d) criteria related to the quality aspects  
51 of the video or the source providing the video; (e) criteria related to audio/visual features of the video;  
52 (f) criteria related to the accessibility of the video; (g) criteria related to other information within the  
53 environment; (h) criteria related to other people's opinions or YouTube's recommendations. These are  
54 discussed in turn below.  
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4 **Criteria related to the information content of the video.** This group of criteria focus mainly on the  
5 information content of the video and was the biggest single category of criteria with 40% of instances  
6 of relevance criteria in this category.  
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10 **Coverage (depth, scope, specificity, variety).** This is defined as the extent to which information  
11 gained from the video is detailed and has sufficient depth, specific to the participant's needs, provides  
12 a summary, or provides a sufficient variety or volume of information such as "he's giving too much  
13 details". Moreover, responses related to the targeted audience of the video are also coded under depth  
14 code, for example "the title seemed appropriate for beginners". Responses related to the scope of the  
15 information include "I stopped because I got enough information". Specificity examples include "I did  
16 not saw it all because it's presented a lot of products and I am interesting in certain product, so I only  
17 saw the part that I am interesting in". Responses related to variety include "I chose this one in  
18 particular as it seemed to cover a fair range of topics". Some responses related to the thumbnail of the  
19 video such as "the picture was showing a before & after makeup, which I liked, so I got to see the  
20 result before watching the whole video" counted in this category because the thumbnail gives a  
21 summary of the video.  
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30 **Topicality** is defined as the extent to which information provided in the video matches the  
31 participant's search topic or interest. This was the category with the largest number of mentions in our  
32 data. A typical response demonstrating the matching between the video's information and the  
33 participant's search topic is "That's what I was searching for". Other responses mentioned a topic that  
34 the participant wants to know more about e.g. "Trying to find a way to successfully install Rei's  
35 Minimap Mod for the latest version of Minecraft". Responses that describe the content or the  
36 aboutness of the video were also coded as topicality, e.g. "Do pranks to his guests and also for the  
37 viewers, criticizing the reality of the society". In some cases, participants were predicting the video  
38 was going to match his/her interest such as "the title is interesting".  
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45 **Recency** is defined as the extent to which the video is recent and this is important to the user.  
46 Responses such as "uploaded recently", "looks new" and "the newest video" are coded as Recency  
47 unless there is an indication that it is the Novelty (see below), rather than Recency, of the video is the  
48 basis of the relevance decision. For example "the newest episode I have not watched it yet" is coded  
49 as Novelty rather than Recency because the main reason for selecting the video is that the participant  
50 has not seen it before.  
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55 **Genre** is defined as the extent to which the genre of the video (e.g. anime, historical, comedy) is a  
56 factor in the relevance judgment. An example of responses coded as Genre include "I like rap music".  
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3 Genre does not necessarily match the YouTube classification of the video which seems to be more  
4 general than Genre as it appears in our data.  
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8 **Length** is defined as the extent to which video length (duration) is a factor in the participant's  
9 judgment such as "Too long 10 min". Another criterion, strongly related to Length is Time Constraint  
10 (see below).  
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13 **People in the video.** The extent to which the participant's judgment is influenced by people appearing  
14 in the video (TV host, singer, actor, band, YouTuber or guest etc.). For example, "David Dobrik is a  
15 funny guy". In some responses, participants assume an acceptable level of quality based on the  
16 existence of known people in the video (e.g. YouTuber). This type of responses was coded as Quality  
17 of Source (see below). For example, "I was aware this YouTuber was one for providing practical  
18 instructions and tips". The reason behind counting such responses under Quality of Source is that  
19 people in these responses are treated as a source providing the information and the participant's  
20 judgment decision was not simply influenced by their appearance in the video, however, their  
21 appearance in the video indicates some level of quality.  
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29 **Criteria related to the participants' previous experience and background.** This group of criteria  
30 are related to how the participant approaches the video with respect to her previous experience and  
31 knowledge. More specifically, what the participant knows about the general topic of the video,  
32 whether she has seen the video before or how familiar she is with the source providing the video.  
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37 **Background/ experience or personal memories** is defined as the degree of knowledge with which the  
38 participant approaches the video, as indicated by mentions of background or experience or personal  
39 memories, such as "I chose this video knowing very little of the subject, in fact, I knew nothing at all  
40 about whatever the 'dark net' was", "Memories of my own hamsters made me want to watch".  
41 Background/experience means that participant is familiar with the topic of the video or has personal  
42 memories around it. This is different from the criterion Familiarity (below) where the participant is  
43 familiar with the exact or similar video or the source providing the video.  
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49 **Novelty** is defined as the extent to which the video or the information presented in the video is novel  
50 to the participant, which means it is new based on previous interests, examples including "Never  
51 heard of this song before so I want to listen to" and "I think there is nothing new, I know all what she  
52 said".  
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56 **Familiarity** is defined as the extent to which the participant is familiar with the exact video or similar  
57 videos or is familiar with the source providing the videos. Examples include "I just really like this  
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3 song”, “Uploaded by a channel I subscribe to, I chose this video because I always enjoy their videos”.  
4 When the familiarity with the source providing the video leads to an assumption of quality, the  
5 utterance is coded as Quality of Source.  
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9 **Criteria related to the participant's beliefs and preferences or situation.** This group of criteria are  
10 not related to the participant's background experience; rather they are related to her preferences,  
11 emotions or situation.  
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15 *Affectiveness* is defined as “the extent to which the participant exhibits an affective or emotional  
16 response to video; the video provides the participant with pleasure, enjoyment or entertainment or  
17 alternatively disappointment or other negative experiences” taking the criterion from (Savolainen and  
18 Kari, 2006). Responses that included mentions of emotions such as boring, cute, humor, laugh, funny,  
19 not interested, happy, exciting are assigned this code. Examples from the diaries include “Funny, and  
20 has a great sense of humor”, “I found the song boring, didn't match my taste in music”. This was the  
21 criterion with the second largest number of mentions in our data.  
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28 *Serendipity/Curiosity* is defined as the extent to which selecting the video is dependent on personal  
29 curiosity without having a previous interest in the topic or depending on accidental discovery of  
30 useful or interested information while searching for other information. This is different from Novelty  
31 where selecting the video is mainly based on it being new but also based on previous interest. Some  
32 responses mentioned curiosity or being ‘curious’ literally, for example, “curious to hear the song that  
33 everybody is singing at the University”. In other cases, curiosity could be understood from the  
34 meaning and the context of the utterance, for example, “another video from the same YouTube  
35 channel. Just checking what kind of entertainment this channel provides”. In some cases, participants  
36 become curious about a video from the video thumbnail. For example, “the video picture was of man  
37 and woman with covered face, so I wanted to know why they covered their faces”. Examples of  
38 discovering relevant information by chance include “I was seeking for Meghan Trainor's new single  
39 video clip 'No' but it was not released yet, then by chance from the resulting videos I found out that  
40 she had released a single 4 months ago which is 'Better when I am dancing’”.  
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49 *Habit* is defined as the extent to which the participant is familiar with the video and watches it in a  
50 repetitive manner or as part of another habit. Responses classified under this code are similar to  
51 Familiarity responses in that participants selected familiar videos. What distinguishes it from  
52 Familiarity is the mention of repetitively watching the video For example, “I commonly watch this  
53 YouTuber and entertainment” or watching the video as a part of another habit “Continued to fill out  
54 some applications and enjoyed listening to music as I worked”.  
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3 **Time constraint.** Defined as the extent to which time constraint is a factor in participant's judgment.  
4 This category is strongly related to Length. Responses which simply mentioned the length (duration)  
5 of the video (too long or short) are coded as Length whereas responses which indicate that the  
6 participant's situation is a factor are counted under Time constraint. An example of these responses  
7 include "I'd watch it till the end if I have time". So the reason behind the relevance judgment decision  
8 is more than just the length of the video, it is mainly based on the participant situation and time that he  
9 could afford "I cannot afford to spend that much time".  
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15 **Criteria related to the quality aspects of the video or the source providing the video.** This group  
16 of criteria is mainly focused on the video's perceived quality, either content quality, technical quality  
17 or the quality of the source providing the video.  
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21 **Quality of Source.** Defined as the extent to which participant's judgment of the quality of the  
22 information is influenced by the source providing the video and whether the source is well known or  
23 trusted. Examples of responses counted under this category include "I stopped watching because I  
24 can't make judgment on fast food just from watching that. I need a more reliable source/s". As  
25 mentioned before, when quality is assumed based on the familiarity with the source providing the  
26 video, the response is coded as Quality of Source not Familiarity, e.g. "I chose this video based on my  
27 familiarity with the channel, and it's high production value, this therefore led me to believe this video  
28 would be like the others in terms of quality". When the video has many versions and the participant  
29 chooses the one provided by the official channel, these responses are coded under Quality of Source  
30 rather than Version (see below) e.g. "It was not the music video therefore it would be the studio  
31 version with no interruptions". In some cases, the source providing the information is a YouTuber or  
32 author, and certain level of quality could be assumed based on those sources. For example, "the video  
33 was uploaded by a YouTuber that I know upload high-quality Video Game Music".  
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42 **Content Quality** is defined as the extent to which the video content is perceived to be of good quality.  
43 Responses related to the content rather than technical or source quality are classified under this code,  
44 e.g. "so I was interested to see if it was any good".  
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48 **Technical Quality** is defined as the extent to which image and sound are perceived to be of good  
49 quality, for example, "The image and voice quality in the video is quite acceptable". When the video  
50 has many versions and the participant choose a High Definition version, these responses are coded as  
51 Technical Quality rather than Version.  
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56 **Criteria related to audio/visual features of the video.** This group of criteria are more focused on the  
57 aesthetic characteristics of the audio/ visual content rather than the quality aspects of the video.  
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5 *Cinematography* is defined as “the extent to which the video contained any specific film techniques  
6 the participant was interested in, such as camera movement, color, editing, camera framing, special  
7 effects, and lighting” (Yang, 2005). An example of responses coded for Cinematography include  
8 “what’s more, despite being a vlog, it looks well shot (in terms of headroom, lighting etc.)”.

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12 *Visual appeal* is defined as the extent to which the thumbnail was appealing to the participant such as  
13 “the thumbnail was colorful”. Responses related to people presented in the thumbnail were not  
14 counted in this category, instead such responses counted under the People in the video category  
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18 *Sound/voice* is defined as the extent to which the participant likes the sound/voice content of the  
19 video. Examples of responses coded for this category include “I stopped the video early as I found  
20 the narrator’s voice irritating”, “have to watch the subtitles, because there is no talk only background  
21 music”. When the response mentioned the sound quality it is coded as Technical Quality.  
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26 **Criteria related to the accessibility of the video.** This group of criteria is related to how accessible  
27 the video is in terms of its cost, language or version.  
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30 *Cost* is defined as the extent to which some cost will be involved to obtain a video, for example “to  
31 enjoy really good songs without having to pay for them”.  
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35 *Language/subtitle* is defined as the extent to which the language that was spoken in the video is  
36 understandable by the participant, and if it was in a foreign language, whether there were subtitles  
37 shown in the video, e.g. “it is in German” and “have subtitles”.  
38  
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41 *Version* is defined as the extent to which different versions exist and judgments are based on the  
42 version of the video, e.g. “A different version of the art with the same actor and actress with the 1st  
43 video”.  
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47 **Criteria related to other information within the environment.** This group of criteria is related to  
48 the relationship between the information provided in the video to other information provided  
49 elsewhere.  
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53 *Availability* is defined as the extent to which a number of videos that cover the same topic are  
54 available and judgments are based on this aspect. This is not to be confused with Unusualness (below)  
55 which indicates that the video provides unusual information. The information provided by the video  
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3 based on Availability criterion might not be distinctive but the video was chosen because few videos  
4 are available about the topic, e.g. “few videos that cover desk decoration from this aspect”.

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7 **Verification** is defined as the extent to which information provided in the video is consistent with or  
8 supported by other information or the extent to which the participant agrees with the information  
9 presented, such as “and I just couldn't believe that a 3 years old would actually do that, so I had to  
10 check it out”.

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13 **Unusualness** is defined as the extent to which a video provides unique, weird or distinctive  
14 information comparing to other videos, for example “This video was chosen based on the unique  
15 recipe it featured”.

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18 **Criteria related to other people's opinions or YouTube's recommendations.** This group of criteria  
19 related to being influenced by other people's preferences or YouTube's recommendations.

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22 **Rank order.** Defined as the extent to which participant's decision to select a video is influenced by its  
23 position in the ranked list. For example “one of the first video to come up”.

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26 **Popularity.** Defined as the extent to which the video has a large number of views or likes. Examples  
27 “It has a large number of views”, “it has 270K likes, so it might be good”. It could be noticed from  
28 some responses that participants predict some level of video's quality based on its popularity. For  
29 example, “it had over 2 million views so I could safely assume it was a reliable link”.

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32 **Recommended Video** is defined as the extent to which a participant's judgment was influenced by  
33 recommendations provided by friends, YouTube, web pages or social media sites. Examples include  
34 “my friend suggested to see this video”, “The suggested video to watch next”, “someone  
35 recommended the video on Twitter”.

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38 Table 2 shows the frequency with which each criterion was used. Criteria related to the information  
39 content of the video were the most dominant category. Of the individual criteria, Topicality,  
40 Affectiveness and Recommended Video were used more frequently in relevance judgments.

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43 “Insert Table #2 here.”

## 44 45 46 **5.2 Topics and Motivations**

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48 Participants provided various search topics when answering the 'What are you looking for?' diary  
49 question. In many cases, the related 'Why you start this search?' question, helped in clarifying the  
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3 topic by giving more details of the context and motivation of the search. For example, the reason for  
4 searching the topic "derma roller" was clarified in the motivation field by this statement "to know  
5 about it before buy it".  
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9 In our study, 62% of leisure searches began with a specific information need (topic). The remaining  
10 search sessions lack the mention of specific topics and were triggered by various motivations. The  
11 main topics mentioned in the diaries are summarized in Table 3. The topics mentioned in our study  
12 overlap with the topics mentioned in previous studies of video retrieval (Chung & Yoon, 2012;  
13 Cunningham & Nichols, 2008; Lux, Lagger & Marques, 2011; Yeh, 2016).  
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18 "Insert Table #3 here."  
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20 Similarly, the motivations of leisure searches is summarized in Table 4. The motivations for searching  
21 videos in leisure time mentioned in our study, are in line with previous studies. Cunningham and  
22 Nichols (2008) classified the motivations for searching videos into eight categories: mental status,  
23 visual, audio, learning, social, mainstream media, temporal and other. Despite the differences in the  
24 labels, 'mental status' description (which is 'explicit reference to subjects emotional state/ mood') and  
25 the examples provided matched examples classified under 'pass time', change mood' and  
26 'entertainment' in our study. 'Learning' category is also common in both studies. In addition, 'social'  
27 motivation includes examples of users who look for videos because it was recommended or to share it  
28 with others. In our study, such responses were classified as 'recommendations' and 'other' respectively.  
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35 "Insert Table #4 here."  
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38 The motivations that stimulated participants to initiate their searches in our diary study are also in  
39 agreement with the findings of Yeh (2016) who divided participant's search session into three stages:  
40 pre-viewing, viewing and post-viewing. The author differentiated between two ways participants  
41 approach the information of the video in the pre-viewing phase: actively by searching for information  
42 or passively by being triggered by other information. Accordingly, motivations could be divided to  
43 motivation for active search (passing time, search out of boredom) and motivation of passive search  
44 (recommendations by peers, information encountering).  
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50 Previous studies in casual leisure information behaviors (Elsweiler, Wilson, & Lunn, 2011) argued  
51 that information needs are absent in casual leisure scenarios and the success of these searches is not  
52 related to finding relevant information. Our data provided examples for both cases. Some of the casual  
53 search sessions initiated with precise information needs while others were simply triggered by  
54 hedonic motivations.  
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## 6. Discussion

The main contribution of this study is to investigate the use of relevance criteria when searching for videos in leisure context. Previous studies in the area of relevance criteria focused mainly on academic or work related contexts and the information judged was mainly in text format. Thus, this study attempted to fill in the gap of how people assess videos to watch for leisure purposes. It has always been challenging to compare the findings of relevance criteria studies for several reasons. One reason behind this difficulty is that different studies have various labels and definitions for similar relevance criteria and the grouping/ categorization of the findings also varied among different studies. Bales and Wang (2006) attempted to synthesize relevance criteria from 16 relevance studies, however, the work covered only limited number of studies. Another challenge in comparing relevance criteria studies is that various methodologies have been applied in relevance criteria literature (Maglaughlin and Sonnenwald, 2002; Savolainen and Kari, 2006).

Our study revealed that many relevance criteria mentioned in the academic or work related contexts can be used in leisure contexts too. As was mentioned previously, the coding scheme used in this study inherited many labels from the previous literature. Thus, there is an overlap between the relevance criteria mentioned in this study and the previous studies with new criteria emerged from the data analysis of the diaries.

The study showed that criteria related to the information content of the videos are the most popular category of criteria, with Topicality being the most dominant criterion that contained almost 20% of the overall mentions of relevance criteria. This is in alignment with previous literature which also found it to be a dominant criterion. Thus, Topicality retains its position as a core and dominant criterion even when moving among contexts, in specific, moving from academic/ work related contexts to leisure contexts we also found Topicality an essential criterion. And we were able to expand the scope of Topicality. The definition of Topicality in our study exceed the limited definition of the match between participant's query and the retrieved videos to include responses where the video match the participant's interest as well.

Within the criteria related the information content category, People in the video is a new code emerged from the analysis of the diaries. Previous studies (Barry, 1994; Yang, 2005) mentioned the author or the participant's relationship with the author as criterion in making relevance judgment decisions. As video retrieval is different than text and it is hard to identify the author of a video, we found author code not suitable in our case and a more general definition is needed which include not only the author but also persons appeared in the video (TV host, singer, actor, band, YouTuber or guest etc.)

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3 The second most mentioned category of relevance criteria were those related to the participants'  
4 beliefs or preferences. The increase of importance of this group of criteria are mainly because of the  
5 change in the studies' contexts. Moving from academic or work related context to leisure context has  
6 affected the importance of those criteria that used to play a marginal role in the participant's relevance  
7 judgment decision in the former context. For example, criterion such as Affectiveness played an  
8 essential role in relevance judgment in leisure context while it had low frequencies of use in previous  
9 literature such as Barry and Schamber (1998).

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15 Within this category of relevance criteria, Habit was a new code that can be considered as a sub-label  
16 to Familiarity but with the restriction of mentioning watching a video in a repetitive manner or as part  
17 of another habit. This code could not be applicable in previous academic or work related relevance  
18 criteria studies.

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23 Criteria related to other people's opinions or YouTube recommendations was the third top mentioned  
24 category of criteria, including Recommended Video which is a partially new code. Some previous  
25 studies such as Westman and Oittinen (2006) have a "recommendation from other" criterion in their  
26 study, however, Recommended Video in our study has a more broad meaning. In addition to  
27 recommendation provided by friends, participants also mentioned recommendations by YouTube,  
28 web pages, advertisements in public places and other social media sites (Twitter, Instagram).

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33 There were a group of relevance criteria from previous studies in academic context which did not  
34 appear in our data. Examples of these criteria include: Affiliation "relating a document to a particular  
35 organization, event, or initiative" (Fulton and Vondracek, 2009), Authority which is a judgement  
36 based on references or citations and literature "whether the video has related literature". These criteria  
37 tend to be more specific to academic context and could not be applied in other contexts such as  
38 leisure.

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43 Moving from text retrieval to video retrieval, criteria related to audio/visual features of the video  
44 emerged such as, Cinematography, Visual Appeal, Sound/Voice in addition to Technical Quality.

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49 To conclude, there is a considerable overlap between leisure relevance criteria and previous relevance  
50 criteria studies with the importance of the criteria (indicated by the amount of mentions) varying  
51 among different contexts. New criteria emerged which tend to be more related to leisure context.

## 52 53 54 **7. Limitations**

55 The decision to follow a naturalistic approach reduced the level of control on the study. First, the  
56 diary method depends on the participant's commitment in keep filling out the diary, thus the data  
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collected from each participant did not necessarily capture all the search sessions conducted during the one week diary study. Moreover, the participants might be selective in recording their sessions and avoid reporting sessions which seems personal or embarrassing. Second, the instructions provided to participants stated that participants should record their leisure sessions while or soon after they conduct the search to avoid memory lapses, but this is not guaranteed to happen and participants might forget to do so. Third, a limitation of the methodology can be found in the subjective nature of the analysis of qualitative data. The content analysis was mainly based on what participants say in their diaries. Participants' ability to express their relevance criteria applied in the relevance judgment process varies from one to another and the information provided by the participants were on varied levels of details. In case of brief diaries, the researcher's interpretations of the participant's inputs might not totally in line with what the participant intended to say. A further limitation can be found in the participants' sample used in this study, all the participants were university or college students.

## 8. Conclusion

This study was undertaken to investigate relevance criteria when searching videos in leisure context. Previous relevance criteria studies were mainly focus on text retrieval in academic or work-related context, thus, a study which investigate video relevance criteria in leisure context was needed. To address this goal a naturalistic diary study was applied and 30 participants filled out the diaries. The analysis revealed 28 video relevance criteria in leisure context. Criteria related to the information content of the video were the most dominant category. Of the individual criteria, Topicality, Affectiveness and Recommended Video were used more frequently in relevance judgments. As future work, we intend to identify how relevance criteria used during different stages of the search process. This investigation might provide insight of the dynamic aspects of the relevance judgment process.

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Search Session #1			
Date	Time(morning, afternoon, evening)	Location e.g. home,work	Device used e.g. desktop, tablet, mobile
What are you looking for? e.g. "muffin recipe" <b>note:</b> In case you are not looking for a certain topic skip this field		Why you start this search? e.g. kill the time, change my mood, I want a new dish for the dinner	
For <u>three</u> videos you choose to watch, please write the title of the videos and the reasons that make you select these videos			
Video # 1 Title		Reasons	
If you stopped watching this video and did not complete it until the end, please give the reasons for that.			
Video # 2 Title		Reasons	
If you stopped watching this video and did not complete it until the end, please give the reasons for that.			
Video # 3 Title		Reasons	
If you stopped watching this video and did not complete it until the end, please give the reasons for that.			

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Table 1  
Part of the merged coding scheme from previous literature

Criteria	Source	Description
Depth/Scope/Specificity	Barry & Schamber	The extent to which information is in depth or focused, is specific to the user's needs, has sufficient detail or depth, provides summary, interpretations, or explanation, provides a sufficient variety or volume
Specificity	Savolainen & Kari	The extent to which information is focused enough to match the needs of the user
Scope	Balatsoukas & Ruthven	For judgments about the depth, scope, completeness, or level of specificity of information.
Depth	Xie & Benoit	The extent to which detailed information is provided by the document.
Scope	Xie & Benoit	The extent to which information is covered.
Specificity	Xie & Benoit	The extent to which information covered by the document is focused to match the user needs.
Variety	Savolainen & Kari	The extent to which the source provides a sufficient variety of information
Coverage(Depth, Scope, Variety) Specificity,	This study	The extent to which information gained from the video is detailed and has sufficient depth, specific to the participant's needs, provides a summary, or provides a sufficient variety or volume of information

Table 2  
Number of mentions of relevance criteria

Category	Criteria	Mentions		Participant		Mentions By Category	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Criteria related to information content of the video	Coverage	46	5.8	20	52.6	316	40.2
	Topicality	160	20.3	34	89.5		
	Recency	13	1.7	6	15.8		
	Genre	14	1.8	10	26.3		
	Length	33	4.2	15	39.5		
	People in the Video	50	6.4	21	55.3		
Criteria related to participant's previous experience and background	Background/ experience	10	1.3	7	18.4	100	12.7
	Novelty	36	4.6	13	34.2		
	Familiarity	54	6.9	20	52.6		
Criteria related to the participant's beliefs and preferences or situation	Affectiveness	88	11.2	27	71.1	128	16.3
	Serendipity/Curiosity	21	2.7	9	23.7		
	Habit	14	1.8	6	15.8		
	Time Constraint	5	0.6	5	13.2		
Criteria related to the quality aspects of the video or the source providing the video	Quality of Source	36	4.6	13	34.2	67	8.5
	Content Quality	17	2.2	10	26.3		
	Technical Quality	14	1.8	7	18.4		
Criteria related to audio/visual features of the video	Cinematography	6	0.8	4	10.5	37	4.7
	Visual Appeal	11	1.4	5	13.2		
	Sound/Voice	20	2.5	10	26.3		
Criteria related to the accessibility of the video	Cost	1	0.1	1	2.6	11	1.4
	Language	7	0.9	4	10.5		
	Version	3	0.4	3	7.9		
Criteria related to other information within the environment	Availability	2	0.3	2	5.3	17	2.2
	Verification	8	1	5	13.2		
	Unusualness	7	0.9	5	13.2		
Criteria related to other people's opinions or YouTube's recommendations	Rank Order	17	2.2	9	23.7	111	14.1
	Popularity	22	2.8	9	23.7		
	Recommended Video	72	9.1	20	52.6		

Table 3  
Participants' topics for leisure searches

Topics	Examples	Count of mentions
Music	"Adele hello" "pop music"	36
Beauty	"Hairstyle tutorial" "how to take care of curly Hair"	18
Tv or YouTube shows	"best of the voice 2015" "The Ellen Show"	14
Movie trailers	"I know what you did last summer video" "movie snippets"	14
Celebrities	"Antony Robbins video"	7
Video games	"looking for a new game to play"	7
Drama series	"tv series"	7
Comedy clips	"funny videos"	6
Cooking	"Sweet potato recipe"	6
Animals and plants	"strange animal partnerships"	4
Decoration	"I was, in this case, in search of decoration ideas"	3
Sports	"to look at sports and people"	3
Travel and tourism	"Okun island"	3
Motivational speeches	"motivation video"	3
other	"Videos about US presidential race" "magic tricks"	13

Table 4  
Participants' motivations for leisure searches

Motivations	Examples	Count of mentions
Pass Time	"Getting something to watch during waiting time" "Kill the time"	44
Change Mood	"change my mood" "I was feeling bored and I wanted something to cheer me up"	27
Relaxation and Refreshment	"wanted to relax after a long day and before going to evening work" "Take a break and refresh my mind while working on a website"	19
Learning	"I want to learn how to make a natural look for everyday" "wanted to learn a new dish for dinner"	16
Background or Distraction	"my usual background when I am doing body exercise" "to block out building noises in my house which is having a loft extension"	13
Recommendations	"a friend recommended the band to me so I checked them out" "I would like to watch the trailer of the latest movies, because posters of some of new movies look quite interesting"	11
Entertainment	"for some laughs" "I went on YouTube purely seeking entertainment."	10
Other	"our teacher showed it to us and I want to show it to my sisters" "having trouble sleeping" "my daily habit of checking my subscriptions" "curious to hear the song that everybody is singing at the university"	13

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