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What does current research tell us about why drivers engage with technological distractions: A Review

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Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council



Driving & Technological development



Current driver distraction research



Aim

What does current research tell us about why drivers engage with technological distractions?

Literature Review:

- Methodologies
- Types of technologies
- Key Findings
- Recommendations

Method

- **Document Analysis**
- Inclusion criteria:
 - ✓ Peer reviewed articles published in last 10 years
 - ✓ Methods that obtain the drivers subjective perspective
 - ✓ Distraction references technology as a competitive source of attention, detracting from the safe monitoring of the driving task (Lee et al, 2008)

Method

Procedure:

- 'Web of science' (Timulak, 2009)
- Snowballing method (Greenhalgh & Peacock, 2005; Wohlin, 2014).
- Point of saturation



Results

- 31 articles met the inclusion criteria
- 14,304 participants
- 8 countries

Appendix

÷	Table	6. Articles	meeting	inclusion	criteria	and	included	in tl	he review.	

				Participants		
Reference	Author(s)	Year	Methodology	(N)	Country	Technology type
	Atchley, Hadlock,		Survey (in-			
[41]	& Lane	2012	person)	160	America (Kansas)	Mobile phone (General)
	Atchley, Atwood,					
[42]	& Boulton	2011	Survey (online)	401	America	Mobile phone (Texting)
	Axon, Speake, &		Survey (in-			
[27]	Crawford	2012	person)	46	UK	Navigation system
	Donmez, Boyle,				America (Iowa and	Range of technology and non-technology
[43]	Lee, et al	2006	Focus Group	N/A	Seattle)	distractions
	Eshiörnsson.					

Results: Methodologies



Results: Technology type





Mobile phones disproportionately focused on.

- Caird et al (2008): High importance of phone use in distraction research has lowered the threshold for acceptance for publication. OR Disproportionate focus in research suggests it to be more important?
- 440 accidents caused by mobile phones
 2,930 accidents caused by other in-vehicle distractions (UK. DfT, 2015)

Results: Key Variables/Themes

Thematic analysis of the variables and themes that the subjective studies observed was conducted



Results: Age effects



20 out of the 31 studies looked into age effects on technology use by drivers.

- 15 specifically set out to investigate age
 - 4 compared age groups
 - 1 focused on older drivers only
 - 10 focused on young drivers only
- 5 looked at age as a secondary variable
 ...but with mixed findings.

Limitations:

- Sampling bias
 - Older samples required participants to be present
 - Young samples employed online survey's
- Variable age categories

Results: Recommendations

Future recommendations could be split into 4 main themes:



Theory of Planned Behaviour (Ajzen, 1991)



Conclusions

Current research tells us the following about *why* driver engage with technological distractions:

- Limited qualitative/subjective research
- Disproportionate focus on mobile phones
- Methodological bias across ages
- Inconsistent age classifications
- Future recommendations suggest social change

Thank you for listening

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