

Relevance

Definition: *Relevance* refers to the **degree to which information, data, or arguments are directly related to the specific topic, question, or problem at hand**, contributing meaningfully to understanding, decision-making, or action.

Characteristics

- Directly connected to the objective or context.
- Enhances clarity, focus, or impact.
- Avoids digressions or unrelated detail.
- Often judged by **contextual appropriateness** and **timeliness**.

Usage Contexts

- In research: Does the study address a meaningful question or gap?
- In clinical practice: Does this intervention apply to the patient population?
- In education: Does the content support the learning objectives?
- In publishing: Does the article contribute new, significant insight to the field?

Related Concepts

- Applicability
- Significance
- Utility
- Validity
- Contextual fit

Opposite Term

- Irrelevance – information that is unrelated, distracting, or off-topic.

Application Example

- An article about the early history of neurosurgery may be of low **relevance** to current clinical decision-making unless it provides critical insight into the evolution of techniques or training systems.

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