

# Research Advances of Indoor Navigation for Blind People: A Brief Review of Technological Instrumentation

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Blind persons need electronic traveling aid (ETA) solutions for better orientation and navigation in unfamiliar indoor environments, with embedded detection and recognition of both obstacles and destinations such as rooms, staircases, and elevators. The use of GPS for locational references is impractical, the development of such navigation systems is complex and requires a systematic review and evaluation of technological approaches. Using the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) method, we evaluated and compared current solutions that deal with the prototyping of assistive devices (visual sensory perception substitution with audio signals) for blind and visually impaired persons. We conducted an instructional assessment of selected indoor navigation prototypes using three main criteria: navigation algorithms, sensors, and computer vision approaches. For each category, we conducted a separate systematic review, as this research area primarily specializes in software

compare existing solutions and technologies. This paper is dedicated to that purpose. We performed a systematic review of indoor ETA instrumentation as applied in existing developed research prototypes. We hope it will provide value-added knowledge regarding instrumentation and measurement for researchers and developers in this field.

We found that the number of new publications related to search into, and development of, ETA solutions for blind and VI people has been growing over the past five years. However, the publications provide information about different types of assistive devices. A significant portion of the research involves detecting obstacles and solving orientation and navigation issues.

Although many advanced solutions for orientation and navigation are currently available, only a few systematic review articles were discovered [5], [6], as very few studies provide systematized, structured, and tested information about the technology, functionality, and end-user ratings of existing solutions. For instance, we can find a systematized s