*(Interviewee: Man (56y), Norwegian, University professor)*

**When you need to go somewhere you have not been previously, or do not know exactly where is located, how do you proceed?**

I usually check the map on my phone in advance, there I can also easily see how long time it will take me to get there using car, walking or public transport. If the place is located near to somewhere I already know I usually just go there and then use my maps from there until I’ve reached my destination, or I see if there’s a quicker route that I didn’t know of in advance.

**So, you don’t necessarily plan the entire route ahead, like you would need to with a paper map?**

No, I don’t. I guess You become less dependent on remembering everything, and also on paying attention to street names and such, because you always have the chance to check your phone if you feel lost. Then again, with an old map you wouldn’t need to memorize the entire route, you would just need to be able to navigate in a different matter that involves your surroundings more. But it’s certainly less practical and specially in the city it’s so easy and accessible to use the phone.

**How do you find it easy?**

First of all, the map application on iPhone is very simple in use and you can put both an address or a restaurant name in your search and it will pin it on the map. Also, it’s comfortable because the map also always shows your position so you can know how far away or close you are to something. I also like how the location-function shows which way you are facing, that makes deciding for example what direction to walk in much easier.

**Are there other features you like?**

Yes, I like the planning element of everything. For example, if there are multiple ways to walk to a place the app will show them all and also how long each one will take, If you are driving it will show the traffic or toll stations

You can also use the map for public transport to see what lines, when and where to take them. I specially like this when I am travelling and don’t have the local app like *Ruterappen* (Norwegian public transport application). On my app you can also save your places which makes planning very easy.

**Do you rely more on the map than asking for directions when travelling?**

Usually yes. I feel that after we got all the apps for directions, we rather consult them than asking strangers for directions. In a way you rely more on your own ability to find your way than a stranger to explain it to you. But I don’t mind asking for help if I’m actually struggling, for example while driving my car. You risk driving for a long time before you realize you had it wrong, and then it’s better to ask.

**But do you trust the app blindly?**

(Laughs) I think I do. I usually follow the blue dot that is me along a blue line, to the red dot that is my destination, and that’s all I need to do. If my phone got shut off mid walking I probably wouldn’t know where to go, nor where I am. I try to pay a bit attention to my surroundings, especially if I’ve been there earlier, but sometimes you want to shut your brain of and just follow the map.

**What application(s) do you use? And how often?**

I mostly use the apple maps app on iPhone. But I have also downloaded the google maps app because I sometimes thinks it’s easier to see for example restaurants reviews on it. How often depends on where I am. I don’t need my map to get to work or my home, but if I’m visiting friends or a new place, I might use it. When I travel, I use it all the time, like multiple times a day.

**So, you use the apps beyond the sole purpose of the map?**

Yes, I like how its connected to everything and that you can see reviews and opening hours for shops and cafés.

**How did you experience changing from a paper map to a digital one?**

The practical part of course was a bit of an adjustment, but so was everything smartphone related, and now I use it as easily as I use my mail and camera on my phone.

Yet I think the transition on an idea level has changed a way we relate to our surroundings. For example, there’s a lot of knowledge that we no longer need to remember like I said, street names for example, and also the ability to give directions to strangers. I believe my children wouldn’t be able to give directions as well as I could when I was their age.

**Do you think it makes us less aware?**

No, I think it just gives us different insights as to moving around. Having a map and the entire internet right there in your pocket calls for way less planning and way more spontaneous fun, because you can rely on getting anywhere with your map. And it’s clearly more effective.

**So even though you might have answered this already, do you like paper or digital maps more?**

No surprises I like digital maps better. I think they are very accurate, they have good features like the public transport system and they are obviously always available.

I still use paper maps for long car drives or for hiking. It’s good to know how to use a map and a compass because your internet access isn’t always available, but most of the time the app is the best option.