The Use of Virtual Reality for the Real Estate and Hospitality Industries

Huei Lee, Ph.D.

Professor of CIS

Department of Accounting, Finance, and Information Systems

Eastern Michigan University

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Introduction

- For entrepreneurs and small businesses, technology is one way to gain competitive advantages.
- Virtual reality (VR), artificial intelligence (AI), business analytics, electronic vehicles are examples of these popular technologies right now.

What is Virtual Reality?

- It is a "simulated experience that can be similar to or completely different from the real world."
- www.entrepreneur.com lists 12 amazing uses of virtual reality.



Virtual Reality in Real Estate/Hospitality Industries

- A customer can wear a headset and feels that he is in a real environment.
- It allows customer to narrow down the right real estate properties he wanted.
- VR can help a customer make a hotel reservation.
- A gaming-like feature can be added to the virtual reality so that he can interact with the simulated system to know what he expects.
- Combined with AI, VR will have a significant value not only to marketing but also to employee training.

Virtual Realty Home Tour



Source: https://visengine.com/virtual-reality-for-real-estate/

The Purpose of this Research

- The research is to build a virtual reality marketing and training system for the real estate and hospitality industries (VRMTS-RH).
- Explore the effectiveness and efficiency use of virtual realty for real estate and hospitality industries.

Literature Review

- There is moderate discussion of virtual reality in literature but VR applications in marketing in real estate or hospitality industries are rare.
- There are a lot of discussion of virtual reality in teaching/training but there are only a few related to employee training in real estate and hospitality industries.
- In addition, the combination of AI and VR for data analytics is an emerging area for entrepreneurship practices.
- 12 Amazing Uses of Virtual Reality, https://www.entrepreneur.com/sciencetechnology/12-amazing-uses-of-virtual-reality/281073
- Hu-Au* & Lee (2018), Virtual reality in education: a tool for learning in the experience age
- Surf Inc., (2017), Demonstrating network function virtualization (NFV) with virtual reality

Objectives

This research has the following objectives:

- Compare the performance of different use of marketing/training media
 - 1. Picture (such as a printed picture in the web or paper ad)
 - 2. Video
 - 3. Virtual Realty with 360 degree
- Explore the use of VR in Real Estate/Hospitality Industries:
 - A 360-degree camera will be used to capture instruction by the instructor and graduate assistants.
 - A headset will be used by a student/customer to view the video created by 360-degree camera.
 - A sample of an interactive VR gaming system for instruction will be developed will be built to train employees.
 - Explore VR for other business applications.

Virtual Reality Marketing and Training system (VRMTS-RH) Model Building

- The VRMTS systems, which will be developed and implemented by the investigator, is a virtually reality infrastructure that helps customers in real estate and hospitality industries in
 - 1) View real estate properties/motels before purchasing/reserve them
 - 2) Create game-like features for interaction with customers

Equipment to Building VR Systems:

O VR Headsets:

- Meta Quest 2 (initially sold as Oculus Quest 2) is a virtual reality (VR) headset developed by Meta Platforms (formerly Facebook, Inc.).
- It was released in October 2020.
- IT is standalone. It does not require PC.

O 3D Camera:



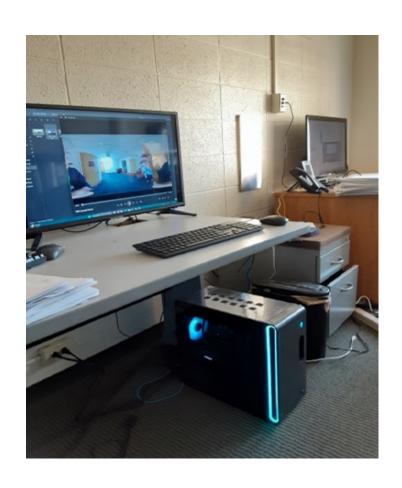
Hardware

- A Powerful Gaming PC was used to develop the VR systems with the following Graphic Cards:
 - The minimum requirements for the graphics card are an NVIDIA GeForce GTX 1070Ti or an AMD Radeon RX Vega 64.
 - Meta (Oculus) Quest 2: a standalone VR headset that doesn't require a gaming PC.





Computer for the VR Project



Traditional Marketing Methods Picture in the Ad





The difference between 360 degree's Video and Video

- The 360 degree's Video cannot be viewed on a normal computer.
- You must use the VR headset to view 360 degree's Video.

360 Video

See the video show if we have time.

Hypotheses

- H1: There is no difference in end user's performance among different methods: picture, video, and video with 360 in satisfaction in end users.
- H2: There is no difference in end user's performance between VR method and traditional marketing method (picture) in satisfaction in end users.
- H3: There is no difference in end user's performance between VR with 360 degree's Video and traditional method (picture) systems in satisfaction in end users.
- H4: There is no difference in performance between Video with 360 degree in VR and Video without 360 in the VR.

Experiment Design

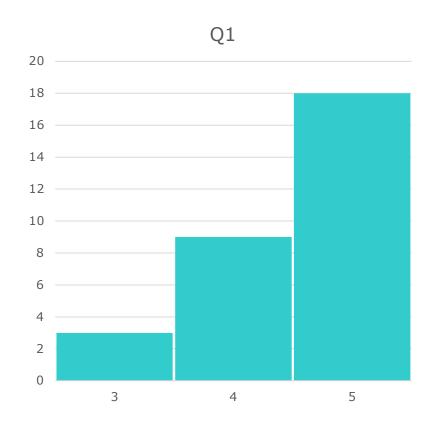
- Compare three different methods:
 - A) Picture
 - B) Video in the VR set
 - C) Video 360 in the VR set
- Sample:
 - 30 students (for training) from IS
 350/650, IS 427/627, and IS 380/645.
 - Students are asked to watch VR both in Video and 360 Video for 25 minutes and then answer the questionnaire.

Experimental Results

Response for Q1

Virtual Reality (VR) video is a better choice than a picture for showing a hotel or a real estate property so that what you see is close to a real environment.

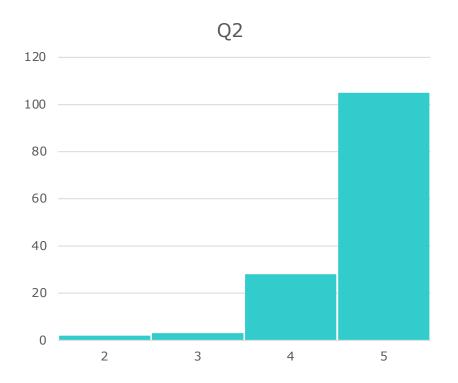
- 5 Strong Agree
- 4 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 2 Disagree
- 1 Strong Disagree



Response for Q2

Virtual Reality (VR) with 360 degrees is a better choice than a Virtual Reality (VR) without 360 degrees for showing a hotel or a real estate property so that what you see is close to a real environment.

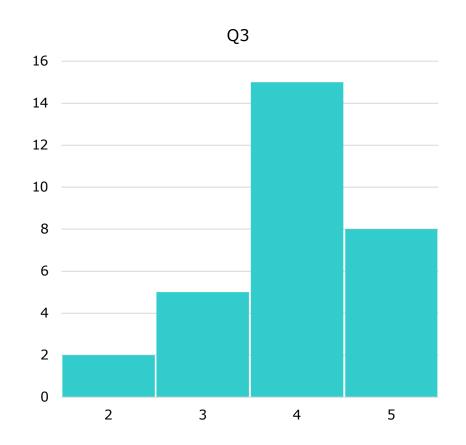
- 5 Strong Agree
- 4 Agree
- 3 Neutral
- 2 Disagree
- 1 Strong Disagree



Q3

The VR device is easy to use.

- 5Strong Agree
- 4Agree
- 3Neutral
- ₂Disagree
- 1 Strong Disagree



Q4-a

For three different ways to view a hotel or a real estate property.

Provide a score for each method:

Picture

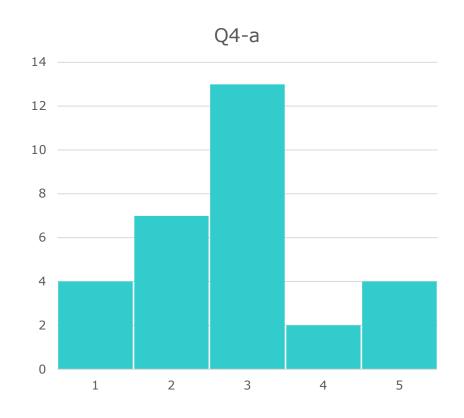
5Best

4

3

2

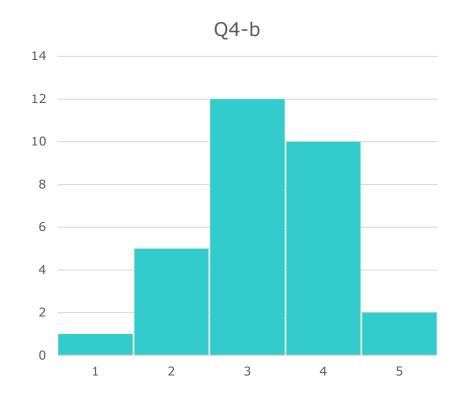
1 Worse



Q4-b

For three different ways to view a hotel or a real estate property. Provide a score for each method:

VR without 360



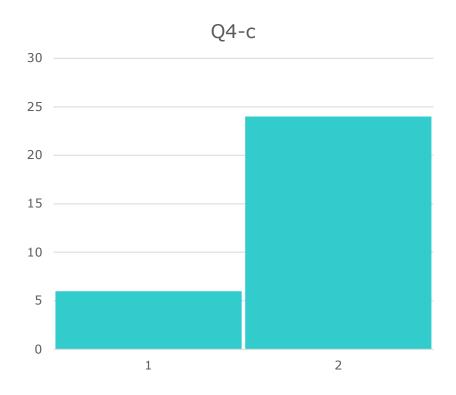
Q4-c

For three different ways to view a hotel or a real estate property. Provide a score for each method:

VR with 360

5Best 4 3

1 Worse



Q5

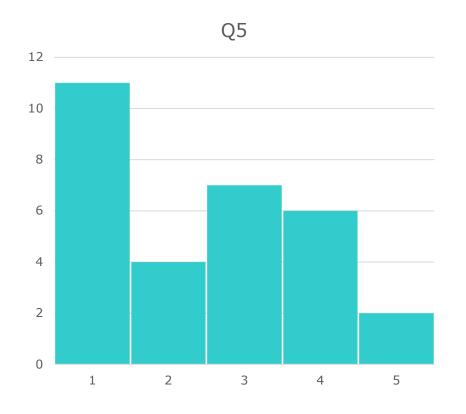
I have VR experience before.

⁵Play a VR device very often

4

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Never use a VR device before



ANOVA test

```
Df Sum Sq Mean Sq F value Pr(>F)
x 2 60.71 30.356 36.68 3.55e-12 ***
Residuals 84 69.52 0.828
---
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' '1
```

ANOVA test

o result	list [13] (S3: aov, lm)	List of length 13
coefficients	double [3]	4.79 -1.93 -1.55
residuals	double [87]	-1.862 -1.862 -1.862 0.138 0.138 2.138
effects	double [87]	-33.879 5.079 -5.909 0.521 0.521 2.521
rank	integer [1]	3
fitted.values	double [87]	2.86 2.86 2.86 2.86 2.86 2.86
assign	integer [3]	011
O qr	list [5] (S3: qr)	List of length 5
df.residual	integer [1]	84
contrasts	list [1]	List of length 1
xlevels	list [1]	List of length 1
O call	language	aov(formula = $y \sim x$, data = data2)
1 terms	formula	y ~ x
model	list [87 x 2] (S3: data.frame)	A data frame with 87 rows and 2 columns

T-test Picture & VR without 360

Paired t-test

```
data: data$Q4Pic and data$Q4Video
t = -1.2495, df = 28, p-value = 0.2218
alternative hypothesis: true mean difference is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
   -1.001137   0.242516
sample estimates:
mean difference
   -0.3793103
```

T-test Picture & VR with 360 Video

Paired t-test

```
data: data$Q4Pic and data$`Q4-360V`
t = -7.9538, df = 28, p-value = 1.159e-08
alternative hypothesis: true mean difference is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
    -2.428352 -1.433717
sample estimates:
mean difference
    -1.931034
```

T-test VR with 360 & VR without 360

Paired t-test

```
data: data$Q4video and data$`Q4-360v`
t = -8.8131, df = 28, p-value = 1.449e-09
alternative hypothesis: true mean difference is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
   -1.912386 -1.191062
sample estimates:
mean difference
   -1.551724
```

Conclusions

- 360 Video is clearly best than other choices. Video is the second choice. Picture is the last one.
- A small business should try to put a video into their web site.
- While VR set with 360 video is the best one, the implementation of VR should be improved and make it as user friendly as possible.

Question?