

usability reviews and usability tests

reviews and tests are complementary rather than substitutes.

a usability review can uncover many usability issues without having to test any participant. it can quickly cover different sections of a website, scenarios and tasks. a usability review also helps where usability tests can't solve a particular set of problems. but...

a usability review doesn't actually tell you how usable a website is, just how usable it should be. a usability review is subjective and doesn't uncover all the issues. and it cannot provide the critical hard data to support design decisions as usability tests do.