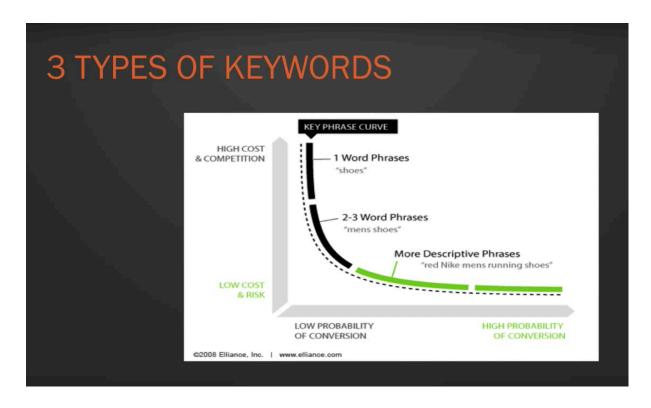


# The Influence of Social Signals for SEO - An overview

Social signals represent the human relations metrics on various social media platforms like Twitter Facebook, Reddit LinkedIn and many others. Shares, dislikes, views, pins as well as votes are some of the common instances of social signals. These signals are useful in SEO as they help in showcasing affinity and popularity of any particular content. Here is an overview of the kind of influence that social signals have for SEO:



# Social SEO Signals

For a long time now, SEO experts have been actively engaged in the debate on whether social signals actually influence the rankings on search engines. A number of studies have been conducted to establish whether indeed social signals play a part in the whole SEO rankings. There are various avenues that should be addressed in this area of social signals as it is growing and improving with time. It is therefore essential for websites and their respective owners to exploit this area fully in order to benefit from its full potential.



# How do they Help in Improving a Website's Rankings

Social signals can be construed to have direct and indirect impact on a website's organic rankings on a search engine. Direct impact often stems from the people who like your brand on a site such as Facebook. The number of followers that a brand has on Twitter, number of Facebook shares number of people who have added you on Google+ help your website rank highly on social media platforms. Indirect impact on the other hand comes from an increase in positive reviews citations and inbound links thanks to brand awareness/better online visibility and reduced bounce rate. The decreased bounce rate ensures that clients spend more time on your site thereby guaranteeing you of a high number of repeat customers.

Social media is an extension of any company's customer service department. When your website gets more positive reviews, it is down to the way you treat and maintain to keep them happy. Customers can tweet about a company and expect to have a response. This closeness makes customers feel appreciated and their bond and loyalty to your brand grows tenfold.

# What does the Future Hold for Social Signals?

In the next few years, companies that will not have invested wisely in their social strategies will find themselves losing great deals and clients to those that will develop a robust social strategy. This is for the simple reason that social signals are slowly but steadily becoming the fresh link in terms of being vital in the website ranking algorithm.

## Reasons

The world is turning social and most people will be spending more time on their social networks hence ensuring customers get to interact with all their favorite brands. A high number of people is also highly likely to believe and trust in a certain website especially if it was recommended to them by a person whom they trust. This will make websites with a stronger social presence to become more accessible and shareable. This will also increase the chances of users recommending their favorite sites. When a website has a stronger social presence, it leads to a higher brand loyalty and conversion rate which in turn will drive up the sales.

## Conclusion

Social signals have been climbing their way up over the course of the last two years in as far as ranking of websites by search engines is concerned. Social signals have changed the



game of SEO and any company wishing to succeed in future ought to embrace social search for more success. Embracing social media leads to higher conversion rates word of mouth referrals and brand loyalty.

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