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MARKETING RESEARCH

Review

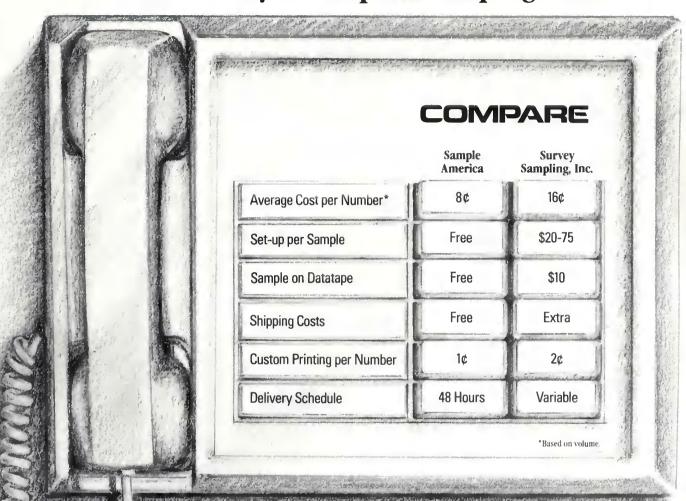


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December, 1988



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Vol II, No. 9

December, 1988

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Cover

Our third annual focus group research issue features an expanded editorial section and a new and larger focus group research facilities directory. Cover photo courtesy of Focus Suites of Philadelphia.

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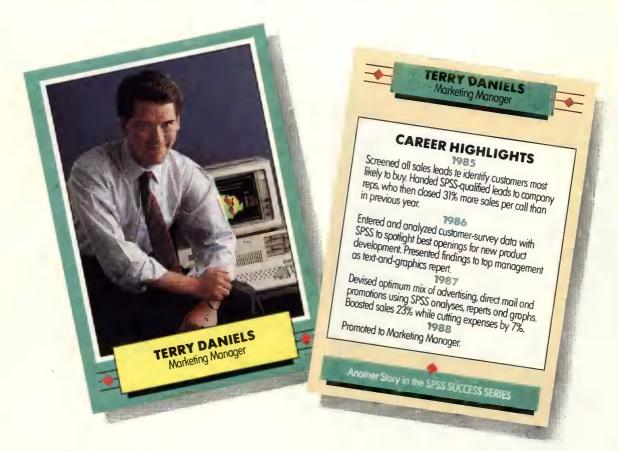
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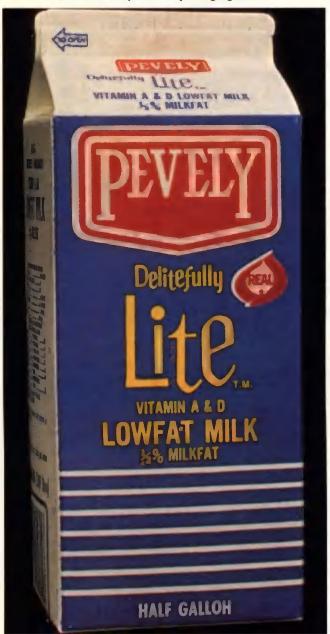
Focus groups guide

By Beth E. Hoffman

evely Dairy Co.'s shift from a production to a marketing orientation has dramatically improved the awareness and image of the company's products in the two years since new brand image and packaging changes were implemented.

"Our brand image had become stagnant," says Jay Ritzen, director of brand marketing and general sales manager at Pevely.

"We also needed to update our packaging and make it more



Changing the carton design of Pevely Lite milk...



consistent. When you looked at our products on the grocery shelf, it was a real mishmash. Our logo had been pulled and stretched. The products needed a face-lift."

Pevely implemented the changes in response to increased product competition on the grocery shelf, along with the company's desire to broaden its geographic distribution and attract more younger users. By developing a positioning statement - "The Good Taste of Good Health" - and unifying the contemporary new packaging image among all the company's brands, Pevely enhanced its niche in the overcrowded dairy market.

For 101 years, the family-owned, fully-lined St. Louis-based dairy company has been providing area residents with products such as milk, cottage cheese, yogurt, ice milk and ice cream. In recent years, it also started producing several other products such as Calcium 100, a calcium-fortified milk; Fruit-N-Cottage, a fruit and cottage cheese product much like yogurt and fruit; and an ice cream line packaged in a square, resealable container called Country Classic. Besides Missouri, all Pevely products are now also available in parts of Illinois, Kentucky, Arkansas and Tennessee.

Braud evolutiou

Pevely commissioned Overlock Howe Consulting Group, Inc., a brand and corporate image development firm in St. Louis, to conduct pertinent research which achieved product

"Our brand image had become stagnant. We also needed to update our packaging and make it more consistent. When you looked at our products on the grocery shelf, it was a real mishmash. The products needed a facelift."

Jay Ritzen

image and packaging improvements. Richard Overlock Howe, president of Overlock Howe, asserts that Pevely products have undergone a brand evolution.

"It's more than a design change, it's a brand evolution because packaging on a product is constantly changing," says Howe. "While the visual image is part of the brand evolutionary process, it also takes into consideration a product's positioning and brand name. Until these elements are united, marketers may not fully realize a product's prospects for success."

Howe explained his company's system for "synergizing" the

brand positioning

three key factors - visual image, positioning and brand name - that make up a brand. Before implementing expensive promotional campaigns, he advises consumer product marketers and advertising agencies to "carefully look at the brand itself."

"Brands are absolutely the most valuable assets a company owns," says Howe. "A brand identifies and positions a product,

"Many companies implement ad campaigns before thoroughly understanding their brand's positioning attributes and this is one of the major reasons why 80% of all new products fail."

R. Overlock Howe

setting it apart from similar offerings in crowded markets. Brand positioning is the foundation for all product promotions, advertising and other marketing strategies. But many companies implement ad campaigns before thoroughly understanding their brand's positioning attributes and this is one of the major reasons why 80% of all new products fail."

Advice to marketers

Howe's advice to marketers is to evaluate brand positioning options, execute brand refinements, then gauge consumer reactions to tested options before implementing costly advertising or promotional campaigns. Otherwise, advertising or promotional campaigns may be off target.

"Brand positioning - strategic marketing focus - is established after studying all attributes of the brand itself, then evaluating these attributes and developing options for brand refinement," notes Howe. "The options should be tested and brand refinement prototypes should be created, then evaluated, before the final brand image is developed.

"All elements of the brand positioning mix - including logotypes, product nomenclature, packaging, copy statements, and other key elements - must work together for the product to enjoy a strong identity. The entire marketing, advertising and promotional process should be based on strategic brand positioning," says Howe.

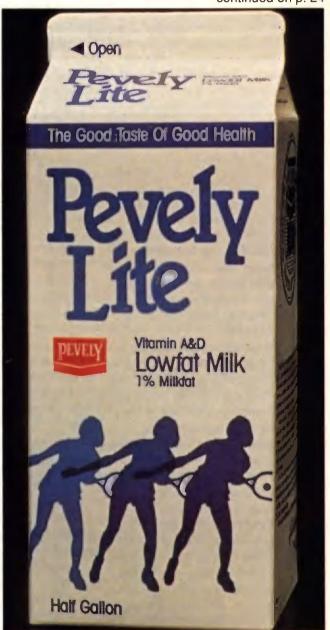
"The visible result of brand positioning - a brand package - is the final strategic message and the very embodiment of the product being offered for sale to consumers."

According to Howe, "A well-conceived package is the product because it incorporates the positive elements of the brand's positioning as determined through research before the brand hits retail shelves and advertising and promotional support begins.

"The Pevely study shows the importance of utilizing packaging to support a brand's broad marketing strategy, but only after brand positioning alternatives have been thoroughly researched to weed out inappropriate concepts."

Focus groups

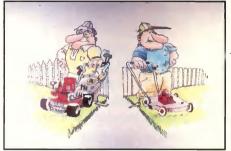
For the Pevely study, three focus groups were conducted in continued on p. 24



...led to a new look that sent sales soaring.

December, 1988 '

Survey defines lawn mower purchasing habits



t's not often that a company fighting to retain its lead in the market designates nearly a quarter of a million dollars for a project that does not directly add to its profit sheet. However, that's exactly what Briggs & Stratton Corporation did when it commissioned the research division of the Cramer-Krasselt Co. to do an unprecedented \$225,000, two-year national lawn mower buyership study.

Briggs & Stratton's decision to embark on the lawn mower study is interesting because the company produces no end products. However, as the world's leading manufacturer of small air-cooled gasoline engines, Briggs & Stratton supplies the power source for many lawn mowers built by original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) such as Murray, Snapper, Lawn Boy, Wheel Horse, Toro, and Sears Craftsman.

When James Champley, vice president-marketing research with Milwaukee-based Cramer-Krasselt, initiated the study for Briggs & Stratton, he did so with the intention of developing personality profiles of the types of people who purchase lawn mowers, while also detailing the various outlets at which these individuals make their purchase.

"With this information in hand, Briggs & Stratton can go to Sears, for instance, and tell them who buys their product and how to communicate with them," says Champley. "The study is designed to give the OEMs to which Briggs & Stratton sells engines a feel for their customers in a qualitative sense. The results will give the OEMs a psychographic profile of their customers which goes beyond simple

age and income statistics."

Beyond that, Cramer-Krasselt's research is viewed by Briggs & Stratton as a valuable sales tool in that it enhances the engine manufacturer's status as an industry leader and also positions the company as a consultant to its OEMs.



The value of the research also stems greatly from the exclusivity of the information it provides, says Alison Murphy, account research manager at Cramer-Krasselt.

"Prior to our study, the information we've obtained just did not exist in the lawn and garden industry," Murphy says. "It is the most comprehensive study ever conducted on this topic."

Be that as it may, the motivation behind the research was simple as far as Briggs & Stratton is concerned: Help OEMs sell more mowers and Briggs & Stratton helps itself sell more engines.

In order to physically execute the buyership study, the Cramer-Krasselt research department recruited respondents through the Market Facts Consumer Mail Panel. In 1987, 120,000 households were screened to determine the purchase of a new walk-behind lawn mower, riding lawn mower or garden tractor over a oneyear period.

Panel members who reported a mower purchase were then mailed a 12-page questionnaire covering brand of equipment purchased, specific features, outlets shopped, purchase experience, prices paid, and attitudes toward yard and garden maintenance.

A number of questions on the survey involved lawn mower purchasing attitudinal statements. Responses to the statements enabled Cramer-Krasselt to use cluster analysis to categorize segments of walk-behind mower purchasers. Four clearly defined groups emanated from the research. These groups were assigned descriptive names paralleling the overriding characteristic of each group's members.

The four were: Outlet-Oriented Conservatives, Price Fueled, Feature Fanatics and Confident Brand Buyers. Detailed analysis of how various elements affect the decision-making process of individuals shopping for a lawn mower was established from the research for each group.

Outlet-oriented conservatives

In general, the Outlet-Oriented Conservatives (OOCs) are drawn strongly to outlets where they have bought mowers before. They reduce the risk involved in the purchase of a new mower by selecting one that has a known and trusted brand name. They are often influenced by recommendations from friends and relatives who have had experience with the brands.

OOCs are non-discriminating with re-

continued on p. 28

COMPUTER INTERVIEWING EXPERIENCES

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The Plastics Group of the Dow Chemical Company is expanding into specialty markets, where higher payback can be earned by satisfying unique customer needs.

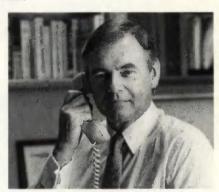
Several years ago Dow began work with Rovel, a "weatherable" plastic that we thought could replace both fiberglass and aluminum in the manufacture of pleasure boat hulls. Aluminum has the advantages of being lighter, more durable, and less expensive than fiberglass, but its appearance gives it a poor image. Rovel has all the advantages of aluminum, and its appearance is more like that of fiberglass.

We were reasonably sure there was a market for Rovel, but we needed to estimate our likely share of the market to decide whether or not to enter it. Also, if our decision on Rovel was a "go," we needed to know which advantages to stress in selling the product, and we needed information for informing boat manufacturers about Rovel's advantages.

A MORE EFFICIENT METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The information we needed called for a trade-off study. A "traditional" trade-off study conducted by a full-service research firm would have cost about \$100,000, prohibitively expensive for this application. Instead, we decided to use a microcomputer-based system that would let us conduct the interviews and analyze the data ourselves. We made plans to handle our own field work and do the analysis in-house.

We decided to do our data collection at boat shows, with respondents who were actively considering boat purchases. Our interviews were conducted using personal computers. The efficiency of the computer-interactive interviews made them shorter than conventional interviews would have been, and respondents found them interesting.



Richard Siemer, Dow Chemical Company

This combination of low-cost field work and our "do-it-yourself" approach let us conduct our study for less than a quarter of the originally quoted \$100,000 fee.

Faster turnaround

We found that low cost was not the only advantage of using computer interviewing for our study. Since the data were collected by computer, consistency checks were made and logical errors were eliminated during the interviews. We were able to begin our analysis as soon as the last interview was done. In fact, our first recommendations were ready just three weeks after data collection was completed.

As a result of our research, Dow decided to introduce Rovel to the marine market. Our research helped us develop an effective and successful strategy for rolling-out Rovel.

Since Rovel, we've continued to use computer interviewing for research on other products and in other markets. It helps us gather high-quality data, produce rapid results, and keep our costs down.

Richard H. Siemer Manager of Marketing Research, Plastics The Dow Chemical Company

For more information about computer interviewing, contact: Sawtooth Software, 1007 Church St., Evanston, IL 60201 312/866-0870

Marketing research strikes American Bowling

he AmericanBowling Congress, the world's largest sports organization, conducted marketing research among its 3 1/2 million members last year to find out their attitudes toward ABC and its current and new service opportunities. Bruce Noren, marketing department manager for the 93-year-old organization, says the sport of bowling is "just beginning to wake up to research."

"We haven't done a lot of research in the past," says Noren. "We realized that we're too big of an organization not to do it, to find out what our members and nonmembers think about us and our programs."

The purpose of ABC's qualitative (focus groups) and quantitative (mail questionnaires) research was to understand the needs of its current members in order to gain insight and direction for both retaining members and attracting new ones. The Goldring Co., Chicago, was commissioned to conduct the study. The basic objectives were to evaluate overall attitudes toward ABC, determine the importance of current ABC programs and services and measure the level of acceptance of proposed new programs and services. Other specific areas of investigation included: ABC's meaningfulness to its members; awareness of current ABC services; attitudes toward ABC communication; topics of specific interest to members and methods of communication; attitudes toward promotional ideas, instructional services and ABC's added value programs and the likelihood of taking advantage of each service/program; perceptions of the ABC awards program and awareness of awards offered; extent of agreement/disagreement with statements about the bowling center and league; bowling background of members and demographic questions.

In August, 1987, four focus groups were conducted in Chicago among ABC league secretaries (persons who are in



charge of keeping records and collecting dues), members and team captains. The purpose was to develop and fine-tune potential new services that ABC could offer, and provide more specific direction for the enhancement of services currently offered. Noren said information obtained from these groups was further evaluated in the quantitative research stage and was used to assist in working out the wording of the questionnaire.

In February and March, 1988, an eightpage questionnaire was mailed to league secretaries and members. The members' sample was provided by ABC from league secretaries of these geographic regions: East - New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey; Midwest - Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio; South - Florida and Texas; and West - Washington, Colorado and California. The secretaries' sample was obtained directly from ABC files and covered the same geographic regions as the members' sample with the additions of Virginia and Minnesota. The outgo sample size was reduced so as not to delay the mailing procedure. In all, 2,900 questionnaires (2,100 to members; 800 to secretaries) were mailed. Of those, 742 (35%) member and 379 (47%) secretary questionnaires were returned and tabulated.

Each mailing included a one dollar incentive and postage-paid return envelope. One week prior to the mailings, an introductory letter outlining the purpose and importance of participating in the study was sent to members and secretaries.

Observations, recommendations

Overall, bowlers said they were unclear about their league affiliations and what those affiliations mean to them as bowlers. This finding showed that ABC's member communication was lacking. Among bowlers who were currently receiving communication from ABC, almost half said they would like more, while three-quarters of those who weren't receiving any indicated an interest. Bowlers said they also wanted ABC to be more active in promoting the sport of bowling as a whole as well as provide its members with more benefits. The study showed that specific groups of bowlers (high average, older, team captains, beginners) have specialized needs and wants.

Study findings

The following were the major findings from the study:

• Bowling history. Secretaries and team captains are more active bowlers than are the basic members. Specifically,

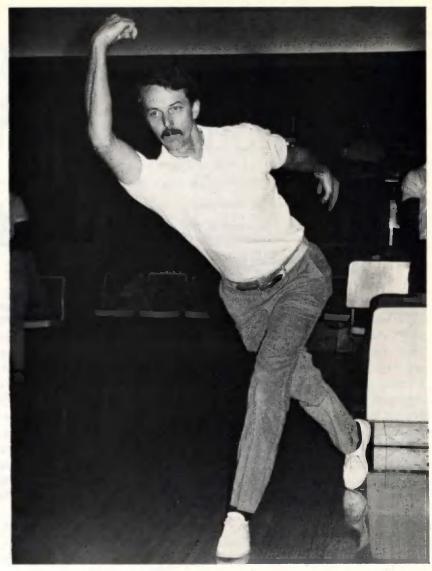
Congress

secretaries and team captains are more likely than other members to have participated in league bowling for a longer number of years (approximately 18 vs. 14 for members) and bowl in more than one league (approximately 35% of secretaries and team captains bowl in two leagues vs. 25% of members).

Composition of leagues varies between all male and mixed leagues. Among those who bowl in one league, slightly more than one-half (53%) bowl in a mixed league. Overall, regardless of the number of leagues bowled in, three in five (63%) bowl in a mixed league either exclusively or in addition to an all male league and one in two (52%) report their team has a sponsor. The average bowling score is 169 with team captains and secretary/team captains having averages somewhat higher than secretaries and members.

- Awareness of affiliation. Although bowlers are all aware of ABC, awareness of state and local associations is low (57% for state and 69% for local). This may indicate that bowlers are unclear of the hierarchy of affiliation leading up to a league belonging to ABC.
- Attitudes toward ABC communication. On average, ABC's communication is given a slightly less than good grade by bowlers. This rating is higher among secretaries and secretary/team captains, probably as a function of receiving more information in general from ABC than members.

Almost one-half received some type of written communication from ABC. Although ABC sends information to all league secretaries, just one of 10 mention



not receiving anything. Among those bowlers currently receiving communication, slightly more than half (53%) are satisfied with the amount they receive while the other half (46%) indicate a desire to receive more. Additionally, among bowlers not currently receiving any ABC communication, three-quarters indicate wanting to receive some. Ideally, bowlers want information sent to them about once a month in a newsletter or magazine format. Almost one-half indicate a willingness to pay higher dues or an additional fee to receive these types of publications (46% for a magazine, 41% for a newsletter). Enforcing members' desire for some kind of communication from ABC is their willingness to pay extra for the privilege.

• Publication information. There are various types of information which bowlers believe ABC should provide in its publication, such as notification of rule change (89%) and bowling tips

(81%). Of secondary importance is information about: new bowling equipment (63%); consumer reports on bowling equipment (59%); how to run a better league (57%) and local bowling news (57%).

The kinds of topics bowlers would most like ABC to include in a publication are also the topics bowlers would be most likely to read about such as notification of rule changes (84%) and bowling tips (84%).

Of secondary reading interest are pieces of information which could aid bowlers in their game, such as: information about new bowling equipment (62%), consumer reports on bowling equipment, local bowling news (58%) and articles about how to run a better league (56%).

Although some topics may not be considered as appropriate or important for ABC to include in a publication,

continued on p. 20

The \$olid gold focus group

by Harold C. Daume, Jr.



ocus groups have enjoyed various degrees of success and come under various levels of both attack and praise since their inception. Recently, a new problem has arisen: cost escalation. The cost of focus groups today is at least one-third greater than four or five years ago. This article discusses the facts that have led to rising costs and offers the focus group user 12 practical ways to reduce these costs and increase the utility of focus groups.

"So, a \$10,000 budget for my focus groups," says the marketing director. "I guess that's okay. When are the four groups scheduled for?"

"Well," you explain, "that's not for four groups, it's for two."

And that's when the trouble begins.

"How," she wants to know, "can a focus group cost five grand? I can remember when they didn't cost more than \$2,000."

The cold fact is, that's what they're costing these days, depending, of course, on your particular requirements. The questions are: Why has this happened, and what can be done about it? Not too many years ago, general consumer focus groups were running only about \$2,000; business groups about \$3,000. Today, costs have shot up by a third or more. Why has this happened? There are a number of interwoven factors. Back in the mid-60s, focus groups (they were called group discussions then), cost less than \$1,000, often much less. We would convene a panel of people, loosely de-

fined, and pay them \$5 or maybe \$10 to come to, say, a church meeting room where we'd use a portable recorder and sit behind an accordion room divider to listen in and take notes. We ate, if we did at all, the observer's standard fare: ham on rye with mustard and a Coke. Even by the early to mid-70s, this hadn't changed much. But, by the 80s, focus groups were a major business venture, and like other research methodologies, had developed their own unique infrastructure. There emerged:

- 1. The moderator (or research company with resident moderator),
- 2. The focus group facility, and in some areas of the country,
- 3. The panelist recruiter. Each operation or function became more or less discrete. The client hired the moderator (or research company) who in turn hired the focus group facility, which then hired the recruiter.

More luxury

With this came the demise of church meeting rooms. Now, the facilities became more and more luxurious for two reasons: Panelist comfort and observer comfort. Facilities also became more electronically sophisticated. Gone were the recorders sitting in the middle of the table, replaced by installed sound systems for both recording and monitoring. Then came one-way mirrors, for on-thespot observing. All of this, of course, costs money. And it's all passed through. Next came videocassettes, and the ability to video-record focus groups. Certainly, this is a benefit to the client company or advertising agency, particularly when

visual stimuli are used. But, again, there's an inherent cost factor. The next thing that changed has to do with panelist qualifications. No longer could one "make do" with people who, say, used mouthwash. Now, they had to use a particular brand, or use mouthwash at least twice a day. The more refined the requirements, the more it costs to find the "right" people. Coupled with tighter screening requirements came increased honorariums or incentives or co-op's. The more difficult the screening requirements, the more the recruiter wants to offer those who qualify in order to make the job easier and so as to lose fewer no-shows.

Artifacts of inflation

Increased honorariums also came about as purely artifacts of inflation. In the late 60s, the typical household income scale stopped at \$12,000 or more. Today, scales topping out at \$70,000 plus are not uncommon. Think what this does when you ask a person to drive to a facility, for a two-hour meeting, at 8 o'clock at night. Finally, there are the observer's amenities. We have, today, graduated from sandwiches and soft drinks to much more exotic menus: chicken cordon bleu, sushi and sashimi, veal picatta, and more, usually accompanied by bottled mineral water, or occasionally, Corona and/or a dry Chardonnay. This is not to suggest that this isn't appropriate. After all, the moderator's being paid for his/her work from 4 p.m. to about 11 p.m. but all the observers get is a longer work-day. A decent dinner is certainly not out of line. Add it all up, and you can see the escalacontinued on p. 18

"Thank You. .!"

"I was concerned that too much theory would be involved. To [Dr. Bhalla's] credit, there wasn't"

- "... very thorough, clear, comprehensive, and fun."
- "...maintains a good energy level. He does a very good job of getting audience participation."
- "Explains things in English—enthusiastic—helps keep me interested."
- "Very knowledgeable hut humble. As a result, he was able to communicate bis message."
- "...good, real life examples..."
- "...extremely knowledgeable, articulate, great teaching skills..."
- "Dr. Bhalla is an excellent presenter and explains things clearly and accurately without oversimplifying concepts. He has a solid grasp of the complex and very real problems we deal with every day."
- "Keep up the excellent work!"
- "I can use [the material] in my day-to-day work.

- "Thank you..."
- "...neatly eliminated jargon without sacrificing understanding of key concepts,"
- "He gets a lot of information across in a short period of time and it is information that can be put to practical use."
- "I really enjoyed this one."
- "Very well done, very helpful, thorough, interesting, useful!"
- "I expected too much "Technical/Statistical" emphasis and/or a boring speaker. Neither one was true."
- "The speaker makes you think and gets participants involved in discussions. Real, live examples keep the seminar interesting."
- "relevant to my job."
- "...not only stimulating intellectually, but refreshing,"
- "Real-world applications. Not just theory!"
- "great snacks!"

Thank You! We think you are terrific, too.

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Natural group interviewing

by David J. Pagnucco and Robert P. Quinn, Ph.D.

ince motivational research has its roots in psychology, it isn't surprising that it concentrates on individual perceptions, preferences and motives. Accordingly, the ways we assess consumer preferences, such as in questionnaires and one-on-one interviews, focus exclusively on individual purchasing situations. But what is most common is not necessarily universal. Under certain circumstances, the appropriate unit of analysis may be a group of individuals.

The term "focus group" suggests superficially that we already have a methodology for dealing with group purchasing decisions. A focus group is a group in the sense that it develops a structure, goals and norms. In spite of this, it remains ephemeral and artificial. A focus group lacks two properties of a "natural" group: a continuing history and influence over the lives of its members.

Natural groups

Regarding consumer behavior, the most obvious natural group is the family. While most household purchases end up in the hands of an individual, the family may become more salient where purchases involve large amounts of money or major changes in lifestyles. For example, almost half (49%) of car purchase decisions are made with at least one other person, and in 25% of the purchases, the joint decision-maker is the spouse (1987 Newsweek/Maritz Marketing Research Study).

Even a corporate purchaser doesn't necessarily operate independently. Although a single manager may be charged with concluding a contract for a fleet of trucks, the actual decision to buy is likely to be made by a group, each member of

which has a stake in the purchase. Such corporate groups are usually ad hoc, their membership changing depending on the nature of the purchase.

Therefore, whenever the appropriate unit of analysis is a group rather than an individual, traditional data collection methods must be supplemented. It is risky to infer a group's preference from the isolated preferences of its members. Simple statistical averaging of individual preferences fails to consider power differentials among group members. It also fails to account for the negotiations, compromises and tradeoffs that take place when group members initially disagree.

Sometimes, a decision that appears to be wholly an individual one really isn't. Not every decision affecting group members is made jointly because it would be too time consuming. Instead, the final decision is delegated to a specific individual, and other group members participate only in the sense that they make their general preferences known. Family members, for example, rarely discuss, the details of a grocery shopping list. Rather, the person actually doing the shopping is trusted to take into account the likes and dislikes of all family members.

Identifying and investigating

The occurrence of natural groups is certainly widespread, but difficult to investigate empirically. The preferences of group members are likely to be communicated to the "delegate" in subtle ways, often over an extended period of time. They may even be internally inconsistent and unstable. More approachable empirically is the less frequent situation wherein all group members participate actively in the final purchasing decision.

The first step in investigating joint decision-making is to identify the situations in which is occurs. The most likely candidates are those having a major impact on the home lives and jobs of group members. For example, decisions which involve considerable cost (financial or otherwise) will probably be made jointly since they entail serious personal consequences if made incorrectly. With the range of decision situations thus narrowed, intuition and keen observation can restrict the field still further. Occasionally, one will have harder data to work with, such as that cited in the above study. Focus groups can also provide clues. Finally, the identification of "true" natural group decision situations can be attacked frontally. Individuals being screened for participation in surveys can be asked directly about the extent to which others will take an active part in the final purchasing decision.

Since the impact of natural group decision-making on major buying decisions continues to be an empirical desert, we are currently considering studying it in a three-pronged methodological investigation. The purposes of this investigation are:

- 1. To assess how joint preferences and evaluations of natural groups differ from "average" preferences and evaluations of separate group members;
- 2. To investigate the interpersonal dynamics through which individual preferences become consolidated into group buying preferences, and ultimately, group behavior; and,
- 3. To fine tune methods of collecting data from natural groups, rather than from individuals or focus groups.

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Three studies

The one-on-one study. This study concentrates on people who intend to buy cars. As part of our customary screening procedures, a subsample of couples who indicate their car buying decisions are largely joint ones is selected. Both members of each are asked to come to a central interviewing facility at the same time. Each one is isolated from the other and is asked to evaluate various features of a prototype vehicle. A separate evaluation questionnaire is then given to each

member of the couple. The couple is never asked to make a joint evaluation.

Additional qualitative information is obtained by a semi-structured, one-on-one interview conducted with each member. The projected joint evaluations of the couple are estimated simply by averaging their separately collected evaluations.

The one-on-two study. This study differs from the one-on-one study in several ways. Rather than being given separate questionnaires to fill out independently, the couple is shown the same prototype at the same time, and is asked to discuss its attributes between themselves. They

record their final "group" evaluation on their joint questionnaire. It is left completely up to the couple to resolve any differences that may emerge. The couple's deliberations are observed directly and videotaped. Additional qualitative information is obtained by a semi-structured, on-on-two interview conducted with both members of the couple at the same time. The joint evaluations of the couple are obtained directly from the joint questionnaire they complete.

The final joint evaluations, as inferred in the one-on-one study and obtained directly in the one-on-two study, are then compared. This indicates 1) to what extent and 2) in what ways inferred group evaluations (i.e. statistically manufactured) differ from actual group evaluations. But, even if such differences are evident, these two proposed studies tell us little about how such differences arise.

The combined study. To understand how individual preferences combine to generate group preferences and decisions, a more complicated study design is needed. This study begins like the first one-on-one study in which the evaluations of both members are obtained separately. Following this, each party is presented with both his or her own evaluations and those of his or her partner. The couple is then required to consolidate their initial evaluations into a single, final joint evaluation. Their deliberations in doing so are observed and videotaped. A semi-structured one-on-two interview is then used to discover how the couple resolved disagreements.

Natural group interviewing cannot be substituted for either one-on-one interviewing or focus groups, nor is it intended to do so. Its application extends to a limited number of, but nevertheless real, decision-making situations. MRR

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tion. Table I shows actual comparisons taken from our own records:

In this same time period, the costs for

TABLE	LI
	% Cost Increase 1983 to 1988
Facility rental:	20%
Recruiting fee:	70%
Panelist honorariums:	50%
Observer refresbments:	50%
Videotaping:	75%

moderating and analysis have gone up as well. Moderating has increased by 10% in the past five years and analytical costs have risen by nearly 20% in our company. Of course, there are always loopholes. Take the focus group facility that five years ago hired a videotape cameraman and his equipment for \$125 per group, and charged \$250. Today, the outside cameraman and his equipment have been replaced by a \$10 per hour employee and a facility-owned camera, changing the gross profit per group, for videotaping,

from \$125 to over \$300.

The bottom line is this: We have seen an across-the-board budget increase of some 33% in just the past five years. Translate this into a corporation that commissions, say, 100 focus groups a year, and it's likely that they're spending at least \$100,000 more today than five years ago.

Holding costs down

The big issue, of course, is: What can be done to keep focus group costs from further escalating? Here are 12 suggestions for holding back costs and increasing the utility of focus groups today.

1. Consider smaller rather than larger groups, such as six to eight panelists instead of the historic 10-12. With 12 panelists, it's been calculated that, after removing the time it takes to "warm up" (usually about three minutes), and the moderator's questions and probes, the "average" panelist in a 90-minute focus group has some three minutes of actual talking time. Cut the number of panelists and you'll increase their ability to speak. You'll actually increase the utility of your moderator, too. Instead of conducting a group survey, he or she can actually begin to get more inside the panelists. Cutting

the number of panelists recruited from 14, for 10 to 12 to show, to 10, for six to eight to show, can save up to \$400 per group in recruiting fees and honorariums.

- 2. Never conduct an odd number of groups unless they can somehow be bundled into three groups in a day. The odd group on a subsequent evening will cost you at least 10% more than if it were one of a pair. When focus groups cost \$3,000 and more, this can add up very quickly.
- 3. Consider contracting for a volume of work, and not just by project or brand. One focus group facility we work with offers a 10% discount for a commitment of five or more focus groups in a 12-month period. Of course, this has to be paid in advance, so the time-value of money needs to be taken into account. But this does serve to demonstrate that buys are still available.
- 4. Think about restricting the discussion topics to the issues actually at hand. This will save in discussion guide development costs, reward you with more germane discussions and hold down analysis costs. Parenthetically, many focus groups, as moderators frequently observe, often become the "community

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Christmas tree," everyone wants to hang his or her own ornament on them. Holding the line on the variety of topics covered can save incremental development, moderating and analytical costs.

- 5. When you need purely background information from panelists, use a prediscussion questionnaire. This can cover occupation, buying habits, and household income, all of which information needed for analysts, without using up valuable discussion time.
- 6. Get the facility to have the 6 p.m. panelists arrive between 5:30 and 5:45 instead of the usual 5:45-6:00 p.m. and then don't let the facility feed the 6 o'clock panelists in the discussion room. This may seem like a minor point, but here's what happens: The panelists arrive closer to 6 than 5:45. They're checked in. They wait a few minutes, then they go into the discussion room and begin to make their sandwiches. By the time they've eaten and the moderator can actually begin, it's now close to 6:10 or 6:15. Effectively, you've just lost up to 15% of your total discussion time or you back yourself into the second group, with no time in between to de-brief with your people or the moderator. In this same regard, don't waste time with a deli platter for the panelists. Deli platters may look nice, but they use up the precious time you're paying for. Get those sandwiches premade.
- 7. Don't use a videotape merely as a record. If that's all you'll use it for, skip it. If you do videotape, then don't bring an army of observers. Let them watch the tape the next day when you can fast forward to the parts that are critical, and offer running commentary.
- 8. When you're traveling out-of-town, buy a package of airline tickets and hotel rooms. You can often get discounts that would not be available if everyone traveling (including the moderator) booked their reservations individually. Take care of the moderator's travel arrangements along with your own. This will alleviate the moderator or research company from having to add a charge for the administrative costs of making arrangements and also assures that you'll all travel together.
- 9. Realize that most research companies and independent moderators have to include in their project budgeting a factor for selling time. Instead of using the competitive bid method for focus groups,

select whom you wish to work with, and tell your designee that they've got your business. You'll certainly be rewarded with leaner budgets, even if you still buy by project.

10. Plan ahead, geographically, when running out-of-town groups. If your company is West coast-based, don't start out in New York. It takes a full day's travel to just get there. This means you and your moderator have to budget for an extra day. Instead, where possible, go to the Midwest on the first day (you can get to, say, Chicago, and run groups on the same day), reserving East coast groups for the second day. If you are East coastbased with groups to be scheduled across the country, consider doing your West coast groups first, and then picking up the remaining groups as you travel back East. When you do this, however, be sure to let your moderator relax on the West-bound air leg. Don't expect him/her to be "up" on the flight and then pull off two discussions that night. While the first leg may be the toughest, it gets easier when you're East-bound because, although you lose time, you're running the groups earlier in your day, based on the time-zone of the city you awoke in. Time-zones work against you when you're West-bound for focus groups.

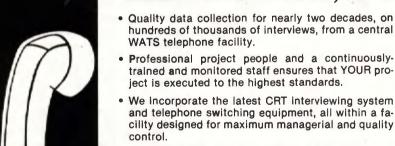
11. Consider whether or not you really need a full, formal report. If its use is more archival in nature than actionable, drop it. Instead, have your moderator prepare a one- or two-page summary of each discussion, highlighting those aspects which are critical to you and dispensing with a recitation of each and every thing that was discussed, whether truly germane or not.

12. Make your focus groups evolutionary, not confirmatory. Don't repeat, wordfor-word, the same discussion guide each time. Use each prior group as a springboard for new learning. This, while not saving dollars in a budgetary sense, will vastly increase the utility of what you set out to accomplish in the first place. Of course, not all suggestions will apply to each organization or each focus group project. Use what you can, as you can. Continue to look for ways to either hold costs back in a realistic way while simultaneously finding new ways to enhance the utility of focus groups. MRR

Harold C. Daume, Jr., is president and co-founder of Daume/Swenson, Inc., a full-service marketing research firm based in southern California. Daume's marketing research career spans over 20 years and includes major qualitative and quantitative research assignments for over half of the top 100 national advertisers and 20 of the top 50 advertising agencies. He has spoken at major conferences throughout the U.S. on a variety of marketing and research topics.

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bowlers nonetheless indicate interest in reading articles such as bowling humor (44%), bowling trivia (30%) and human interest stories (30%).

• Attitudes towards programs, services. ABC's role as the governing body over bowling is supported by the types of programs and services bowlers are most aware of; standardized rules for leagues and tournaments (95%); awards for

bowling leagues (92%); league supplies (85%); lane inspection and certification (84%); bonding protection for leagues (77%); a national bowling tournament (74%) and disciplinary measures for not following rules/regulations (73%).

Overall, members are the least aware of programs and services offered by ABC and secretaries and secretary/team captains are the most aware.

Newcomers to league bowling (1-5 years) are significantly less aware that ABC offers various programs and services than bowlers who have participated

in league bowling six or more years. It appears the longer bowlers have been involved in league bowling the more informed and knowledgeable they are about ABC. Similarly, older bowlers (45 plus) who most likely have been involved in league bowling for more than 10 years, are more aware of current ABC programs and services than bowlers under 35 years old. Additionally, higher average bowlers (over 170), who probably participate more in tournament play, are more aware of ABC programs and services which relate to rules/regulations, awards and tournaments.

ABC's function as a governing body is further supported by the high level of importance bowlers place on the programs and services of which they are most aware. These include providing: standardized rules for leagues and tournaments (91%); lane inspection and certification (82%); league supplies (77%); bonding protection for leagues (74%) and disciplinary measures for failure to follow rules/regulations (73%).

A pattern seems to occur between the number of years a bowler has participated in league bowling and the level of importance they place on ABC offering various programs and services. In particular, bowlers involved in league bowling for six or more years are more likely to feel it especially important for ABC to provide standardized rules for league and tournaments, lane inspection and certification, bonding protection for leagues, league supplies and awards for bowling leagues.

Although ABC's added value program and accessories program generate little interest as a whole among bowlers, they appear to be more enticing to bowlers who are new to league bowling (1-5 years).

Higher average bowlers (over 170) on the other hand, are more likely to value programs and services such as a test center for bowling equipment, awards for bowling leagues, disciplinary measures for failure to follow rules/regulations and a national bowling tournament.

However, lower average bowlers (170 or less) place more importance on ABC providing how-to-bowl guides and pamphlets.

• Attitudes toward seminars, clinics. Overall, bowlers feel that it is important for ABC as an organization to offer these seminars and clinics: instructional clinics for youth bowlers (64%); clinics for

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beginning bowlers and senior citizens (56% and 45%, respectively); bowling classes offered through a local school (40%); bowling instruction on video for home use (38%) and a bowling camp for youths (38%).

The majority of seminars and clinics bowlers feel to be beneficial for ABC to offer are very age specific, (i.e., for youths and new bowlers) and therefore, are not necessarily the types of services in which bowlers would be most likely to participate.

The seminars and clinics generating the greatest likelihood of participation among bowlers are: bowling instruction on video for home use (35%); seminars on rules and regulations conducted by an ABC representative (27%); clinics for advanced and youth bowlers (26% and 25%, respectively); clinics conducted by Hall of Fame members (26%) and instructional clinics organized by bowling averages (25%).

In general, members show the least interest overall in using instructional oriented services. Older aged bowlers (60 plus), however, indicate a strong interest in clinics designed specifically for bowlers their age as well as a desire for seminars on rules and regulations.

Additionally, several differences occur between age groups; 35-44 year-olds are most likely to participate in instructional clinics for youth bowlers, bowling classes offered through a local school or park district and a bowling camp for youths. Bowlers 45 or older are more likely than bowlers under 35 to participate in seminars on bowling rules and regulations conducted by an ABC representative.

- Products and services ABC should discount. In total, bowlers are most likely to agree that ABC should offer discounts on products and services which relate to bowling equipment and game prices. Specifically, these include: discounts on bowling equipment (78%); open bowling for senior citizens (71%); open bowling for children (69%) and specials on open bowling (61%). Discounts on non-bowling related items such as cars, tools and other sports equipment are not seen as particularly appropriate for ABC to offer.
- Likelihood of using discounts. Offering discounts to specific target groups such as beginner bowlers, senior citizens and children allow ABC to perhaps attract groups of bowlers who might not

think about picking up the game or continuing to play as they get older. Although bowlers surveyed are not inclined to use these discounts, nonetheless, they still feel they are important for ABC to offer.

However, the types of discounts bowlers indicate being most likely to use themselves are: discounts on bowling equipment (68%); discounts on practice games (58%) and specials on open bowling (64%).

Bowlers who have been involved in bowling for one to five years are most likely to take advantage of discounts on products as opposed to game price discounts. Specifically, these include discounts on bowling clinics or seminars, bowling video tapes, clothing, tools and non-bowling related sports equipment. Bowlers under 35 years are most interested in participating in discount offers on bowling equipment, open bowling, practice games and clothing.

Finally, bowlers with a higher average (over 170), who probably travel to tournaments more often than lower average

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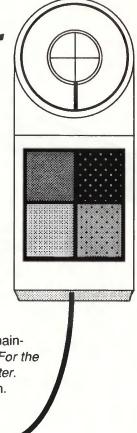
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bowlers, are more likely to use hotel and car rental discounts.

• Likelihood of taking advantage of promotional ideas. In total, bowlers are most likely to utilize coupons for reduced game prices (63%) and bowling equipment (62%).

Other promotional ideas most likely to be taken advantage of by bowlers include: free game with product purchase (47%); ABC certified bowling balls (43%); major bank credit card with no annual fee (42%) and TV bowling shows (40%).

• Attitudes toward ABC awards program. ABC's awards program does not receive particularly high marks from bowlers. Specifically, slightly less than one in three bowlers (31%) agree that overall, ABC does a good job with its awards program and that it is prompt in delivering awards. Furthermore, only one in four bowlers agree that the types of awards ABC gives to bowlers are high quality awards.

While the majority of bowlers (65%) don't feel the awards program as a whole should be expanded, the types of awards they do want reflect a desire for more bowler recognition. Specifically, bowlers feel that ABC should: give awards to the most improved bowler in each league (61%); have a display of all ABC awards at the bowling center (51%); give awards to the best team in the league (40%); publish a list of major award winners (39%); and have regional tournaments (38%).

• Attitudes toward the total bowling experience. Slightly less than one-half (47%) of all bowlers surveyed rate their total bowling experience as superior or excellent.

As bowling averages increase, however, bowlers feel more positive about their total bowling experience. Similarly, bowlers who have participated in league bowling for 11 or more years are significantly more satisfied as well.

• Attitudes toward the bowling center. On average, bowlers rate their bowling center as good and one in three feel their center is superior or excellent.

In particular, bowlers who have par-

ticipated in a league for 21 or more years are significantly more likely, on average, to give their bowling center a higher grade. Similarly, bowlers with an average of 200 or more and older bowlers (60 or older) rate their center higher on an overall measure.

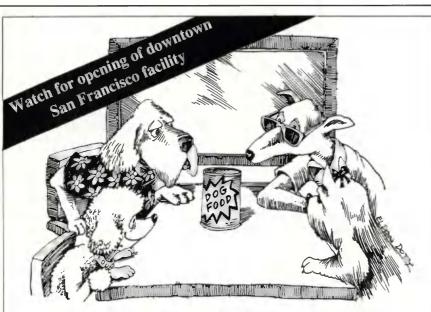
 Ratings on specific attributes. A proprietor has certain responsibilities to uphold as the owner of the bowling center. These responsibilities involve maintaining cleanliness of the center, enforcing starting times and keeping equipment running smoothly. However, bowlers are quick to criticize their bowling centers' performance in these areas. The percent of bowlers who agree completely that their bowling center does a good job in these areas is as follows: maintains a clean appearance (46%); enforces starting times (37%); fixes broken equipment (32%); replaces bad/broken equipment (31%) and tests equipment regularly (18%).

Chauges uuderway

While the results of the study only recently have been made available, Noren says many changes are already underway. To improve communications, the membership magazine is being upgraded to reflect more of a consumer type magazine. Target marketing is also being improved. Instead of targeting logoed products to league secretaries, ABC is now targeting them among new league bowlers. Research showed that new league bowlers, not league secretaries, are the ones most interested in these items. The ABC is also adding more educational programs such as how to improve one's game and how to run better leagues for league secretaries.

A multi-tiered membership is also being considered for ABC members. Under this system, members, not the ABC, will be able to decide what programs to take advantage of, based on their interest and skill level.

Noren predicts it will take about one year to implement the recommended programs. In two years, a follow up study is planned. At that time, more focus groups will be conducted in selected markets among ABC members and nonmember league bowlers to find out if ABC is improving its image and services. MRR



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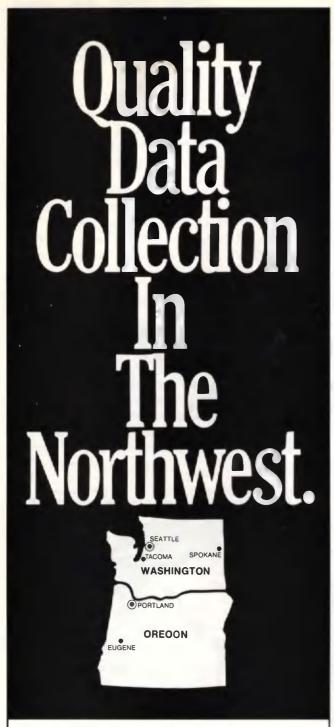
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PEVELY

continued from p. 7

the St. Louis area; Pevely product users, nonusers, local residents and out-of-towners were tested. Overlock Howe researchers probed consumer reactions to eight positioning options developed for Pevely products, including "contemporary," "healthful," "old-fashioned," "taste-appeal," and "premium quality." Each was depicted in brand prototypes with different visual images.

"Consumers were not told that these were 'brand positionings,' or why the package images looked different," says Howe. "Rather, consumer reactions to what they actually saw in the prototypes were evaluated. We used these reactions to interpret which images would be most promising for the new brand positioning.

"We learned that 'taste appeal' and 'healthful' were the most

"By broadening this image to extend across all Pevely product lines, we were able to establish a new company image for successfully launching new and existing company brands."

R. Overlock Howe

important messages the Pevely brand could offer consumers. To successfully communicate these messages, we developed a positioning statement: 'The Good Taste of Good Health.'" This was linked to a fresh, clean and uncluttered packaging image of a tranquil, but modern stylized farm scene.

The farm scene appealed to both old and new Pevely customers, combining their product interests to promote broad customer appeal, says Howe. "By broadening this image to extend across all Pevely product lines, we were able to establish a new company image for successfully launching new and existing company brands."

The Pevely name was also modified into a "controlled shape," says Howe. The "look" proved very satisfying to new customers and current users alike.

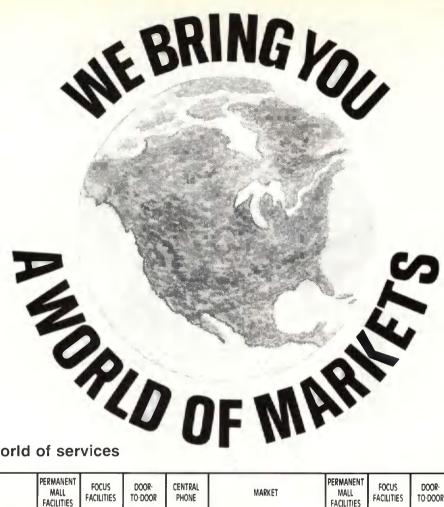
No radical changes

Ritzen says the company learned two important lessons from the focus groups: Don't make radical changes to the logo or mix drastic color combinations.

"Radical changes to the logo would have caused a loss of persona for the consumers," says Ritzen. "That's because consumers have a fixed image in their mind of what the logo should look like. We found we shouldn't stray too much from the traditional or get too wild or bizarre."

Consumers felt the Pevely logo looked best in red, even though the researchers felt the color was too warm, too harsh and too over-used on dairy product packaging. Nevertheless, that's the color of the logo on all of the products.

continued on p. 26



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MARKET	PERMANENT MALL FACILITIES	FOCUS FACILITIES	DOOR- TO-DOOR	CENTRAL PHONE	MARKET	PERMANENT MALL FACILITIES	FOCUS FACILITIES	DOOR- TO-DOOR	CENTRAL PHONE
APPLETON/GREEN BAY MILWAUKEE, WI	Х	х	х	х	MONTEREY/ SALINAS, CA	х	Х	х	х
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA/ OMAHA, NE	Х		х	х	PINE BLUFF/ LITTLE ROCK, AR	х	х	х	х
EAU CLAIRE, WIS./ MINNEAPOLIS, MIN.	Х		х	х	SAN RAFAEL/ SAN FRANCISCO, CA	х	Х		х
BOULDER, CO.	Х	Х		Х	SEATTLE/	Х			
DENVER, CO	Х	Х	Х	Х	X TACOMA, WA		Х	Х	X
DES MOINES, IA	Х	Х	Х	х	NEW ORLEANS, LA	Х	Х	Х	х
DETROIT, MI	Х	Х	Х	* X	PHOENIX, AZ	Х	Х	Х	** X
EUREKA, CA	Х		Х	Х	SALT LAKE CITY, UT	х	Х	Х	х
JACKSON, MS	Х	Х		х	TALLAHASSEE, FL	х	Х	Х	х
MEMPHIS, TN	Х	Х	Х	Х	TULSA, OK	х	Х	Х	х
MIDDLETOWN, NY	Х		Х	Х	WESTCHESTER, NY	х	Х		х
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continued from p. 24

In general, consumers who were tested favored conservative color combinations such as white, red and blue. "We found these to be the most popular," says Ritzen. Pastel colors were tested on prototypes but popular opinion on these was thumbs down.

Not even Pevely's dairy trucks got by without a makeover. The old cream and red colors were replaced by a white background with the stylized farm scene.

Sales soared

When the revamped products hit the grocery shelves in mid-1987, most customers liked what they saw, says Ritzen. Sales took a temporary dip for traditional Pevely products among long-time Pevely customers, but specialty product sales soared among younger consumers. For example, the Pevely Lite 1% fat milk product - appealing to the active, healthy lifestyle by showing women playing tennis - has been extremely successful among Pevely's traditionally weakest market, women aged 25-40. A similar contemporary look was also created for the ice milk product, says Ritzen, incorporating the new logo and brand system. As a result, this product has also achieved dramatic sales increases.

Proof of Pevely's success in its brand evolution is well-documented at grocers' check out lanes: Both consumers and retailers have received the new changes favorably. Overlock Howe's study results are evidence that Pevely, a long-established and well-respected company, will continue to offer the "cream of the dairy crop" for years to come. MRR

Richard Overlock Howe is founder and president of Overlock Howe Consulting Group, Inc., developers of brands for new and restaged products, services and corporations. Founded in 1959 in St. Louis, OHCG serves a national and international clientele, including Ralston

Purina, General Mills, Gerber Products, and Southwestern Bell Telephone.

Howe began his career at Colgate-Palmolive in New York in 1950 as a package designer of internationally marketed products. He also worked in Detroit with New Yorkbased Lippincott & Mar-



gulies on the development of the Chrysler International Identification System.

Howe studied at Bradley University, the Art Students League and Washington University. He also taught brand imagery development at Washington University. He is a former board member of the Package Design Council.

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continued from p. 8

gard to the specific motives for buying a lawn mower. Relative to other groups, their purchases of a particular mower are not guided by any specific characteristic. This is probably because they do not seek purchase information from the broad variety of sources other segments use. They need a mower and allow themselves to be guided to the purchase by those they trust. With the exception of the importance of engine brand, there does not appear to be anything the OOCs seek in the way of specific attributes and features in a new mower.

Price fueled

As is implicit in the name, price is important to this segment. They agree very strongly that the price of a mower is its most important attribute. Furthermore, they feel they would buy any mower if the price is right. In 1987, the Price Fueled segment reported spending on average

\$163 for a new walk-behind mower.

This is significantly less than other segments paid for their mowers. These purchasers are also more likely than other segments to report making their purchase "on sale," as nearly four out of five buy that way.

Price Fueled most often make purchases because their old mower isn't working. While the selection of the mower purchased is frequently determined on the basis of price, engine brand and specific engine attributes are often the next most important considerations. Being able to purchase a mower on credit is disproportionately more important to this segment than the others, although a majority of Price Fueled purchasers do pay cash. The Price Fueled are also attentive to advertising. While they're in the market for a new mower, they pay very close attention to newspaper advertising. Correspondingly, Price Fueled purchasers are much less likely than other segments to talk with friends, relatives, or dealers or rely on prior brand experience when selecting a new mower.



Feature fanatics firmly believe the more features on a mower, the better. They also tend to be fanatics in the way they go about purchasing a new mower, doing a lot of homework and consulting such sources as Consumer Reports.

Feature Fanatics spend on average about \$268 for new mowers, the second highest average reported, and are more likely to purchase a premium brand lawn mower such as Toro, Snapper, or Lawn

Feature fanatics don't ignore price, but they place a variety of other considerations ahead of price. For instance, they are more likely than other segments to seek quality and sturdy construction. They also study the aspects of the mower's design and its range of power and safety features. These people also take into account a number of criteria they feel differentiate one retailer from another. Particularly important is the reputation of the retailer and its area of specialization. Also important is knowledgeable sales help, product demonstrations and the availability of warranty service.



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Finally, a characteristic that separates Feature Fanatics from other groups is their use of a variety of sources of information. They rely most heavily on dealers for information, but also turn to friends and relatives, catalogs, brochures, and both broadcast and print advertising.

Confident brand buyers

Confident brand buyers (CBBs) buy only brand name mowers and seek mowers with engine brands they know and trust. Their process of shopping for a new mower differs from other segments in that they begin establishing a list of features that they want and then use the shopping process to locate that mower.

More so than the other segments, CBBs buy a new mower in order to obtain one that is easier to use, that is perceived to do a better job and has more of different features from the mower they currently own. CBBs are less motivated than other segments to buy a mower on sale or to purchase a new mower to replace one that isn't working.

When naming the elements that contributed to their purchase decision, this segment more than any other is inclined to place price last on the list. Instead, they seek features, quality construction, perceived ease of use, the availability of service from the dealer, and the warranty from the manufacturer.

According to Champley, the biggest news coming out of the buyership study may very well be the increasing participation of women in the shopping and decision-making involved with the purchase of a lawn mower.

"If this trend holds true, it will mean significant changes in the way lawn mower manufacturers market their products," Champley says.

Armed with the information provided by the study, Judith Knight and Pat Reardon of Briggs & Stratton's marketing department are now presenting the results of the buyership study to their customers. And so far, it has been a success.

Briggs & Stratton can now help them determine:

- 1. Which lawn mower features are driving sales.
- 2. Which other brands are in their competitive set and of those, which are being considered or rejected.
- 3. What sources of information their purchasers used during the shopping proc-

ess and, of those, which were most important.

4. Where consumers are purchasing lawn mowers and with what frequency.

Also, Briggs & Stratton can now help validate market share data their customers may have internally.

"Our customers are obviously very pleased to be able to go through the study with us," Knight says. "They're extremely enthusiastic about the results because at this time, anything they can get in the way of research is a great plus to them."

MRR

Cramer-Krasselt, which also carries out the advertising, promotion and public relations for Briggs & Stratton, is the fourth oldest marketing communications firm in the U.S. In addition to its Milwaukee head-quarters, Cramer-Krasselt has offices in Chicago and Phoenix, as well as an affiliate relationship with Woolams, Moira, Gaskin and O'Malley, London, England.

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December, 1988 Circle No. 720 on Reader Card

TA USE DATA U

Correspondence analysis offers easy sophistication

by Betsy Goodnow

Dr. Betsy Goodnow is president of Market ACTION Research Software Inc., a developer and publisher of statistical software and a supplier of research since 1984. In September, Market ACTION released a perceptual mapping package for both correspondence analysis and dual scaling called MAPWISE. Clients include Fortune 500 corporations and leading universitiies, advertising agencies, and research firms around the world. Betsy has taught graduate level marketing research, worked for research suppliers, and published several articles on research techniques.

he purpose of this article is to demonstrate how to apply correspondence analysis to most research projects. It will explain how correspondence analysis is applicable to any type of table or set of tables, and demonstrate the applicability of correspondence analysis to competitive positioning, brand image tracking, and market segmentation through a simple example. The article also presents other possible applications and closes with an evaluation of correspondence analysis.

"Easy Sophistication" sounds like the title of the latest pop song, but it actually describes the latest research technique --correspondence analysis. Recently most marketing research conferences have offered sessions, tutorials, and/or exhibits on this innovative statistical technique for perceptual mapping, but few researchers know how to apply it to "run- of-the-

mill" research projects.

They don't realize that correspondence analysis can simultaneously reduce their work load and increase their sophistication. If you, like most researchers, feel overworked and under appreciated, read on and discover for yourself the practical benefits of correspondence analysis.

Background

The Frenchman Jean Paul Benzecri developed correspondence analysis in 1969 as a geometric display of dual scaling. Although this nonparametric technique is taught to French children, correspondence analysis has been neglected outside of Europe until recently because explanations of the technique were translated into math rather than into English.

The purpose of this statistical technique is to summarize and describe on a perceptual map the correlations among row and column categories in one or more data tables. In other words, correspondence analysis reconciles row and column percentages by weighing categories so their row and column percentages best correspond.

A correspondence analysis map is easier to interpret than other types of multidimensional scaling, now that the algorithm has been refined. Researchers no longer need to name axes or to draw vectors. They can now measure with a ruler or compass the actual distances between each row and/or column category to determine the strength of their correlation.

For example, if the joint occurrence of two categories in a table is much higher than expected, the categories are positioned nearby on the perceptual map and have a strong positive correlation. In contrast, if their joint occurrence is much lower than expected, they are positioned far apart and have a strong negative correlation.

(Sophisticated software for correspondence analysis now reports the correlations among each pair of categories on the first three axes with six digit accuracy.)

Correspondence analysis is bivariate if the categories of only two variables are correlated by their positions on a perceptual map. However, the technique is called multiple correspondence and is multivariate if the categories of more than two variables are correlated.

Data Requirements

The data in the set of tables being analyzed may be nominal (categorical), ordinal (ranking), or equal interval (rating), categorized metric (numeric), or a mixture of the above. "Brands" and "Images" are examples of nominal data. Ordinal data includes such responses as "Strongly Agree," "Agree," "Neither Agree Nor Disagree," "Disagree," and "Strongly Disagree." Equal interval data includes attribute scales, whereas categorized metric data includes income levels and age groups.

In contrast to other types of multidimensional scaling, correspondence analysis does not require ranking or rating data. However, the response categories should represent all possible positive and negative choices. Since correspondence analysis analyzes any type of data, surveys may be quite simple, as shown in

continued on p. 32

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Data use

continued from p. 30

Example I.

In this simplified example using 210 respondents, our research objective is to

row category is a supplemental stub of the same banner. Each passive category must be cross- tabulated with categories of an active variable.

We demonstrate multiple correspon-

among all the categories. Thus a correspondence map best summarizes on two axes the correlations among all the categories in the data.

In contrast to other types of multidimensional scaling, the axes do not distinguish dimensions for discriminating categories. In direct and derived multidimensional scaling, the more distant from the origin, the stronger (more significant) the attribute. However, in correspondence analysis, such vector analysis is no longer relevant.

In correspondence analysis, the closer to the attribute, the more correlated. Axes need not be named in correspondence analysis because they do not accentuate distinctions between categories as do the axes in other types of multidimensional scaling.

Correspondence analysis of the data in Example II produced the correspondence map in Example III. The horizontal axis explains 90% and the vertical axis explains 10% of the variance (distances or correlations) among the categories.

In all correspondence analysis maps, each axis best summarizes the remaining correlations among brands and images. When the axes and the map are significant, they distinguish correlations among categories of the active variables.

Interpretation

Correspondence analysis is an effec-

Before the promotion, the resp	ondents are aske	d:	
What automobile do you own? What best describes your car? What TV show do you prefer? What descibes an ideal car?	— Mercedes — Quality — 60 Minutes — Quality	— Hyundai — Economy — <i>Cheers</i> — Economy	Porsche Power LA Law Power
After the promotion, the respond Now what best describes your c		Economy	Power

evaluate the impact of a promotional campaign on the image of Mercedes-Benz and to determine the television show preferences of the target market. We assume that the respondents are representative and that all possible choices are included in the survey.

The data tables being analyzed may cross-tabulate subgroups, markets, brands, or respondents with such attributes as images, features, and demographics. Since the row and column categories are treated equally, both can be either objects or attributes.

The responses to the pre- and postpromotional surveys in Example I are cross- tabulated as shown in Example II. The data are frequency counts which tally the joint occurrences of each row and column category in the table.

The data in the table or tables may be frequency counts, percentages, probabilities, or the results of any statistical analysis. However, mean scores on attribute ratings are only meaningful if you assume that the responses to each question are normally distributed. Some programs for correspondence analysis compensate for missing data and also permit multiple responses.

Correlations among categories of the two most important variables (active variables) define the axes of the initial map. At least three active categories are required for each active variable. These active categories are usually positioned in the upper left corner of a banner table.

In multiple correspondence analysis, at least one supplemental category is passively superimposed on the initial map. A passive column category is a supplemental banner point whereas a passive

dence analysis in this article because we correlate more than two variables. Our variables are "Brands," "Ideal Brand," "Prior Images," "New Images," and "Television Show Preferences." The active variables in Example 11 are "Brands" and "Prior Images." The passive column categories are "New Images" and "Television Show Preferences," whereas the passive row category is "Ideal Brand."

Axes

The axes in correspondence analysis do not represent variables as in hypothetical diagrams. In sophisticated pro-

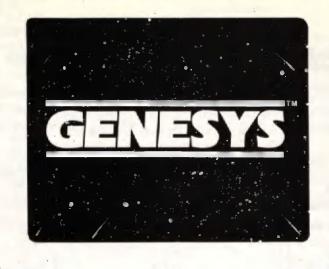
	Example 11: Prior Images (Before Promotion)		N	Research Banner Table New Images (After Promotion)			TV Show Preferences			
	Qual	. Econ	. Power	r Qua	l. Econ	. Power	(60 Min. I	LA Law	Cheers
Active Rows	Activ	e Colu	mns	Pass	ive Co	lumns		Passiv	e Colun	nns
Mercedes	30	10	30	30	30	10		40	20	10
Hyundai	20	35	15	10	40	20		20	20	30
Porsche	15	0	55	20	10	40		20	50	0
Passive Row										
Ideal Brand	105	60	45	0	0	0		0	0	0

grams for correspondence analysis, each axis best explains the remaining variance (distances or correlations) among the categories.

Each axis minimizes the distance of each category from the origin. According to a theorem by Pythagoras, this simultaneously minimizes the distances tive tool for competitive positioning because brand images are evident from the proximity of brands and images. Since relationships are mutual in correspondence analysis, the map also shows the brands associated with each image.

The images of the three automobiles included in this study are quite distinct.

continued on p. 34



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Data use

continued from p. 32

The proximity of Mercedes-Benz and Quality means that Mercedes-Benz has a quality image. The map reveals that Hyundai has an economical image and that Porsche has a power image. Conversely, quality is associated with Mercedes-Benz, economy with Hyundai, and power with Porsche.

Multiple correspondence analysis lets you track the impact of an advertising campaign over time. You merely compare the positions of images relative to

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the brands both before and after a promotional campaign.

For example, after the promotion, the buyers now perceive Mercedes-Benz as being more economical, Hyundai as being less economical, and Porsche as being less powerful than before the campaign. Thus the promotion by Mercedes-Benz is highly effective and should be continued.

You may enrich the value of your map by analyzing data on the demographic, lifestyle, and buying characteristics of each market segment.

For example, the proximity of televi-

alizes correlations among categories in any type of table or set of tables. For example, secondary research can often be enriched through correspondence Other popular applications analysis. include relating:

1. Corporations and their images for competitive positioning.

2. Advertisements and their rank to evaluate advertising copy.

3. Features preferred by industrial buyers in a focus group to develop new product ideas.

4. Reasons for a purchase and the pur-

Example III: Image Tracking Of Automobile Brands +100 Variance Explained: X axis = .90 Y axis + .10 Z axis + .00

60 Minutes Ideal Brand! +Now Quality WAS QUALITY~ *MERCEDES-BENZ +NOW ECONOMY #Cheers *HYUNDAI ~WAS POWER ~WAS ECONOMY *PORSCHE #LA Law +Now Power

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6500 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55423 StatPac is a registered trademark of Walonick Associates, Inc. sion show preferences to brands discloses that Mercedes-Benz buyers prefer 60 Minutes, Hyundai buyers prefer Cheers, and Porsche buyers prefer LA Law. Assuming that only three media possibilities are available for promoting Mercedes-Benz, we conclude that the most effective media for reaching the target market for Mercedes-Benz is the television show 60 Min-

You can reposition your brand as more ideal by revising its image to match the image of the ideal brand.

The ideal brand is apparently more similar to Mercedes-Benz than to the other automobiles in the study. However, Mercedes-Benz can become more ideal by gaining a more economical image. Other Applications

This example demonstrated the application of correspondence analysis to competitive positioning, brand image tracking and market segmentation. However, correspondence analysis visuchase decision

to disclose purchase motivations.

- 5. Purchases over time and influences on their purchase behavior to track purchase behavior.
- 6. Marketing expenditures and revenues to evaluate marketing effectiveness.
- 7. Brands, features, benefits, and values to reveal purchase motivations.
- 8. Product sales in markets over time.to identify market opportunities.

Other applications of correspondence analysis are only limited by the imagination of the researcher.

Evaluation

The latest generation of correspondence analysis software is so sophisticated it's easy - easy to apply, easy to use, easy to understand, and easy to believe.

The software is easy to apply because the data requirements are quite flexible. The program is applicable to any level of

continued on p. 38



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1.	What are the primary p when conducting surveys Data entry Elapsed time Data accuracy Cost Labor staffing Coding Peaks and valleys Other	S? (Fill in all that apply) Questionnaire preparation Last minute changes Flexibility Aesthetics Complex designs Assembling	4. How do you enter your data? Key entry minicomputer PC with key entry software CRT interviewing system Other 5. How do you prepare your Questionnaires Word processing Computer software product
2.	What is your typical number survey? Less than 200 201-500 501-1,000 1,001-2,000	2,001-5,000 5,001-10,000 10,001-20,000 Over 20,000	6. Would you consider using the SURVEY NETWORK system for your operation assuming you can reduce costs and it solves the problems you marked in the first question? Yes No Need more information
3.	How many surveys do ye month? 1-2 3-5 6-10	ou conduct per	Name Title Company Address Phone

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Data use

continued from p. 34

data, reads any type of numbers, compensates for multiple responses and missing data, and handles both raw and aggregated data.

However, correspondence analysis is only applicable to tables with up to 100 row and 100 column categories. This limitation is only theoretical because a perceptual map with more than two hundred categories boggles the human mind. Thus correspondence analysis is

applicable to virtually any table or set of tables.

Recently a correspondence analysis program has been developed which is easy to use. Jean-Paul Benzecri has long recognized the need for a user-friendly program for micro computers. Now software is available which is designed for marketing executives, rather than FOR-TRAN-literate statisticians. This new software guides the user through the program, prevents mistakes from occurring, and creates presentation graphics.

However, this software has sacrificed

speed for the sake of scientific accuracy. The program compensates for this by being able to read up to 10,000 numbers in any ASCII data file, to calculate the significance, to weigh the sizes of subgroups, and to create presentation graphics compatible with most word processing programs.

A perceptual map must also be easy to understand. Executives balk at subjectively naming axes and interpreting vectors. The latest enhancements in correspondence analysis allow the perceptual map to be interpreted at face value. The closer the categories on the map, the more correlated. Now executives can correlate categories in tables by comparing their distances on a map with a ruler or compass and by comparing their numeric correlations relative to the top three axes.

However, researchers steeped in multidimensional scaling often confuse the two techniques. Since they assume that a correspondence map is interpreted like other perceptual maps, they think that the axes are important to understand its meaning. To prevent such an interpretation, the most sophisticated program does not provide a measure of a category's correlation or contribution to the axes.

The results of a statistical technique must be easy to believe. The credibility of a correspondence map can be established by evaluating its significance and the validity of the position of each category on the map. Now correspondence analysis has this capability.

Correspondence analysis is a powerful new technique for describing correlations among categories in table data. Many software packages are now available for micro computer, but they vary widely in the quality. In this article, we've discussed the features and benefits of the Mercedes-Benz of software for multiple correspondence analysis. Now correspondence analysis is so sophisticated, it's easy. MRR

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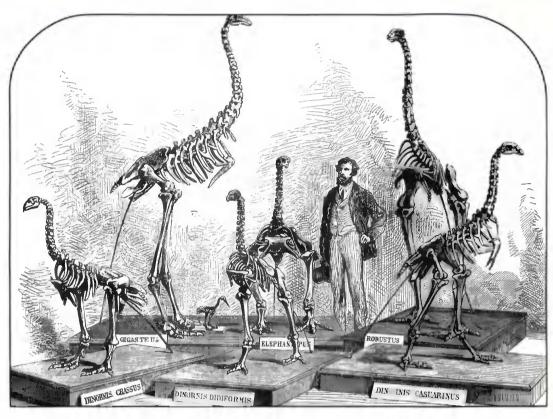
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Correction:

In last month's Data use column, the first line at the top of page 22 ("...sional plot. This puts correspondence...") should have been the first line at the top of page 18. We apologize for this error.

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Trade News

Cost of births is increasing

Like most things these days, the cost of becoming a parent is rising. According to a survey by the Health Insurance Association of America, the total cost of a normal delivery in a hospital delivery room averaged \$2,560 in January, 1986. For an uncomplicated Caesarean delivery, the cost was \$4,270. More than one woman in five in the U.S. has a Caesarean these days. Based on the association's last survey in 1982, these figures reflect a cost increase of 28% for Caesareans and 25% for normal deliveries.

Older Americans prefer U.S. cars

Older Americans prefer domestic car models like Lincolns or Buicks, while younger, more educated and affluent Americans opt for foreign makes like Subarus, Acuras or Saabs. Those where two of the findings from a recent J.D. Power & Associates survey of 25,000 U.S. car buyers in 1987. The Agoura

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Hills, Cal., firm found:

- Buyers of domestic cars are 12 years older than buyers of Asian imports and 11 years older than buyers of European cars.
- Only one-third of the buyers of domestic cars are professionals or executives, compared with at least 40% of import buyers.
- About 60% of the buyers of European cars have college degrees, compared with 50% of those who buy Asian imports, and

40% of those who buy domestic cars.

- Saab owners are usually college graduates; Yugo and Volkswagen drivers are the youngest; Jaguar and Mercedes-Benz buyers have the highest median household incomes; many Porsche and Alfa Romeo owners are corporate executives.
- Peugeots, Volkswagens and Volvos are preferred by female drivers. The median price paid by new car buyers last year

continued on p.58



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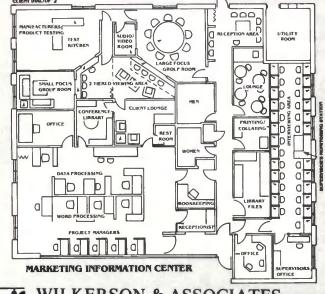
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Start-ups, Changes, Mergers and Acquisitions

Editor's note: Because of the volume of notices QMRR receives regarding business openings, closings, mergers, and other changes, this month we introduce a new department devoted to listing this information.

Effective January 1, 1989, McGraw-Hill Research will eliminate its services to non-McGraw-Hill organizations. The group will be working only with McGraw-Hill units. David P. Forsyth, vice president, research, will supervise the transi-

Equifax Inc. announces that its marketing research affiliate, Quick Test Opinion Centers, has acquired Field Facts,

Starch INRA Hooper, Inc. has acquired E. Friedman Marketing Services, Inc.

Robin H. McClure has opened Dallas Focus, a full-service marketing research company. For more information, call 214-988-0260.

The New York Conference Center, a marketing research facility that conducts focus groups and one-on-one in-depth interviews, has moved to new quarters at 240 Madison Ave.

Stephanie Tudor announces the opening of Stephanie Tudor Transcriptions, a New York City-based service specializing in transcriptions of focus group and one-on-one interviews. References available upon request. For more information, call 212-979-2800.

Bloomfield, New Jersey-based Estelle Swerdlow Interviewing Services has merged with All-Ways Advertising Co., to become All-Ways/ESI. The phone number will remain 215-332-9000.

Smith Medical Market Research announces the opening of their new office. at 1121-P Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, 1L, (phone: 312-948-0040), featuring three focus rooms.

Precision Field Services announces the completed expansion to 30 interviewing stations at the Chicago office telephone division. The company also recently celebrated the first anniversary of the opening of its Atlanta office.

Meadowlands Consumer Center, a qualitative research facility located in Secaucus, New Jersey, announces the formation of a new division, MCC Fielding Services.

3 New Types of Multidimensional Scaling

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- Adjusted Analysis to weigh subgroups

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QUALITY • INTEGRITY • SERVICE

Using focus groups to collect quantitative data

By James M. Leiman, Ph.D.

Editor's note: There has been considerable controversy surrounding the collection of quantitative data while conducting focus groups. One individual who believes it is possible is Dr. James M. Leiman, who reports on his methodology below in a TrendFacts Research copyrighted article.

ecause focus groups do not employ rigorous sampling plans and do not interview large numbers of respondents, they generally do not present an appropriate setting for collecting quantitative data. However this does not mean that it is never appropriate to collect quantitative data as part of a focus group. One can collect quantitative data in a focus group setting in support of a number of different quantitative research objectives. This is especially true when the focus group research is examining the attitudes and opinions of members of low incidence groups which are too difficult or costly to study using traditional quantitative research designs.

From one perspective the focus group setting is ideal for collecting quantitative data. Complex stimulus materials can be easily presented in a focus group setting. Also, data collection tasks which are difficult to do over the telephone can be easily done in a focus group. Perceptual mapping studies involving several attribute ratings on a number of objects or products are a good example. Multidimensional scaling projects requiring a large number of similarity or dissimilarity judgments are an-

The collection of quantitative data can also actually serve to facilitate group discussions. Many moderators use facilitation techniques involving paper and pencil tasks. Quantitative data collection tasks can be used in the same way. For example, by having participants make product attribute importance ratings they are forced to reflect on the dimensions of a particular product or service. A skillful moderator can stimulate discussion by having participants share their ratings. The use of focus groups for collecting quantitative data, therefore, should not be rejected out of hand. Rather, we need to examine what the requirements and limitations are for using focus groups to collect such data.

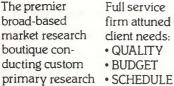
Two areas of concern must be addressed if one wants to use a focus group to collect quantitative data. The first is the lack of a random sampling plan used for the recruitment of participants. The second is the relatively small sample sizes involved in focus group research.

The fact that participants are not randomly sampled is a serious problem when working with many consumer groups. However, much focus group research is conducted with mem-

continued on p. 62

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NAMES OF NOTE

Interviewing Service of America announces the following staff additions/ changes: Kimherly Gates has joined as director of field operations. Jeanne Haskell has joined as a CfMC Survent CRT SpecWriter. Alice Strauss has been promoted to field coordinator, and Joseph Lierl will be responsible for CRT programming.

Thomas Daniels has joined Rockwood Research, St. Paul, MN, as an account executive. Previously he was an investment executive with Paine, Webber, Jackson, and Curtis in Minneapolis.







Beyer

Judy Beyer has become project manager at Westport, Connecticut-Based Rudick Research.

Ronald L. Cohn has joined R.H. Bruskin Assoc., New Brunswick, NJ, as vice president, client services. Previously he was vice president, client services at Market Facts. New York.

Bill Yulman has joined International Communications Research, Media, PA, as an account executive. Previously he was president of Teleservice Research.

Kapuler Marketing Research, Arlington Heights, IL, announces the promotion of Nancy Fletcher and Ilene Lanin-Kettering to vice president, and Ty Albert to associate vice president.

Wayne Hintze, Ph.D. has joined SDR, Inc., Atlanta, GA, as director of statistical services. Previously he was an instructor at Brigham Young University and a senior project director for the Research and Evaluation Division of the LDS (Mormon) church.

Lisa Becker has joined Rudick Research, Westport, CT, as project manager. Previously, she has held supervisory positions in the marketing divisions of 3M, Europe and Loreal, Boston.





Howe

Devon O. Howe joins Overlock Howe Consulting Group as an account supervisor. Previously he worked in product management at Ralston Purina Co.

Lee T. Alexander has been promoted to director of marketing and operations of the ConsumerViews division of Cincinnati-based Burgoyne Information Services. Previously he was an account executive at MARC in Dallas and Walker Research in Indianapolis.

Ronald A. Hoxter has been promoted to senior vice president, Book Publishing and Research of Chilton Company. Previously he was v.p. and general manager







of Chilton Research Services. Succeeding him in that position is Marjorie Michitti, who has been with Chilton since 1976, serving as study director, account executive, and, since 1982, as v.p. and group manager.

Michael McDonald has joined SDR, Inc., Atlanta, GA, as manager of the newly formed Sampling Services Division. Previously he was with Southeast Telecom, where he assisted in the development of their sales division.

Leslie R. Chikahisa has been named senior consultant at the West Coast Group, an Irvine, CA-based strategic marketing consulting firm. Previously she was vice president and manager of Security Pacific National Bank's Quality Assurance Program for Security Pacific Retail Bank.

Felicia Lassk has been promoted to researcher/account executive at the Orlando, Florida-based Datafax Co. The company also announces the arrival of



Lassk

Taylor



Allison Taylor, who will be coordinator of qualitative research.

The West Coast Group also named Mary Pat Blake to the position of senior consultant. Previously she was director of product development and marketing, director of established products and marketing, and national marketing manager for PepsiCo, Inc.'s Taco Bell Division.

Nielsen Marketing Research, Northbrook, IL, announces the appointment of Ron Stube as vice president, Trade Services. Previously he was vice president, director of Trade Relations at SAMI/ Burke.

Ellen Cohen, head of the Custom Media Studies Division of Simmons Market Research Bureau Inc., New York, NY, has been given responsibility for the company's newly consolidated media research activities. As such, she has been named president of Simmons' Media

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WE ALWAYS GET OUR GROUP.

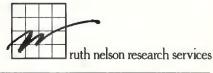
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professional respondents. SHERLOCK knows the name and telephone number of every person who has been in our focus groups in the last 5 years. It knows the subject of the group they were in and when the group was conducted. It is our electronic safeguard against human error, and your guarantee of a "focused" group.

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QUALITATIVE RESEARCH/FOCUSGROUP MODERATORS

Listed below are names of companies specializing in focus groups. Included are contact personnel, addresses and phone numbers. Companies are listed alphabetically and are also classified by state and specialty for your convenience. Contact publisher for rates: Quirk's Marketing Research Review, P.O. Box 23536, Minneapolis, MN 55423. 612/861-8051.

Alpha Research Associates, Inc. P.O. Box 28497, North Station Providence, RI 02908 401/521-6660 Contact: Victor L. Profughi FullSvcQual/Quan.Analysis./ Consltg&MktRes/Since 1976

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215/387-5300 Contact:Kathy Hammersla, Ph.D. 25 Years Service in Industry. Qual/ Quant Ad Hoc Research.

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Brand Consulting Group 17117 W.Nine Mile Rd/Ste 1020 Southfield, MI 48075 313/559-2100 Contact: Milton Brand Consumer, Advertising Strategy, New Product Strategy Research

Burke Marketing Research, Inc. 800 Broadway Cincinnati, OH 45202 513/852-3789 Contact: Norman Ussher Natl Network of Moderators:Hi-Tech/Finance/Child/Older Adult

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Creative Marketing Solutions, Inc. P.O. Box 568 Langhorne, PA 19047 215/357-3655 Contact: Larry Schwarz Experienced Specialists in Qualitative Research Techniques

The Datafax Company 2600 Maitland Ctr Pkwy/Ste 170 Maitland, FL 32751 305/660-8878 Contact: Nancy McAleer Consumers, Physicians, Tourists, Executives, Ads, 13 Yrs. Exp.

The Data Group/IRI 2260 Butler Pike Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 215/834-2080 Contact: Maria Krieger, Ph.D. Expertise In Qual. Res. Design, Implementation & Analysis

Datatactics, Inc. 555 Presidential Blvd. Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 215/668-1660 Contact: Phyllis Rosenberg Prof & Cons Segments, incl. Doctors. Applied Psych. Meth.

Decision Research 33 Hayden Avenue Lexington, MA 02173 617/861-7350 Contact: Peg Marrkand One-way Mirror Conf. Rm. Sty. Obser. Rm. 15X17(15-20 viewers)

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First Market Research Corp. 121 Beach Street Boston,MA 02111 617/482-9080 Contact: James R. Heiman High Tech,Publishing, Bus-To-Bus, Colleges

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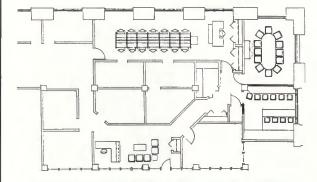
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A method for finding "virgin" respondents

by Virginia Smith

espite warnings of growing consumer resistance to telephone and mail surveys, and growing concern about overuse of respondents in focus groups, an eight month tracking study of a direct mail campaign to enlist participants for focus groups reveals that the majority of responses come from those who have never attended such a session

The "Get Paid For Your Opinions" direct mail effort, conducted by Smith Research, Inc., is one of the first recruiting studies to combine information about life-time experience in focus groups with reasons for wanting to participate and demographic data. The results contrast sharply with reports of overuse of respondents and bode well for the continued use of this research tool.

"We usually ask how recently people have attended a discussion group in our screeners," says Kevin Smith, president of Smith Research. "Increasingly, we have been asking about lifetime participation in groups, as well as recent involvement in mall or telephone interviews. As one of the first recruiting specialists in the Chicago area to operate a respondent database, we have consistently tracked past participation in our groups. In 1987, we changed our format to record the total number of groups each respondent has attended in their lifetime.

"We had experimented sporadically with direct mailings before we committed to a one-year program of monthly mailings. We decided to track our results to provide ourselves and the marketing research community with a broader understanding of the public's response to this approach."

Size and method

The mail sample varied from 20,000 to 50,000 a month. A sample of 2200 responses was selected from returns covering four mailings that equally represented Chicago, the near north and near west suburbs. A card, provided and designed by Smith Research (figure 1), was inserted in a packet of coupons for

various products and services sent out monthly to selected areas in Chicago by a direct mail company.

Though there was no option to select specific zip codes or areas within a mailing, Smith Research selected areas that were within reasonable geographic access to one of their two focus group facilities. Racial groups could not be specifically targeted, but could be culled from the responses.

Responses came in the mail and by phone. All were handled with the same questionnaire. The study was divided into four major areas: demographic information (age, sex, race and marital status), past participation in any group interview, which facility they would attend (downtown Chicago or suburban Deerfield), and their reasons for being interested in groups.

"We knew when the mailing was targeted to arrive in the selected households," Smith explains. "We could plan on phone calls starting in two to three days and lasting for about 10 days, then it would slow to a few a day. The mail responses began to arrive within five days and about two-thirds of them came in the first two weeks. Of the remaining third, most arrived within a month."

Age, sex, race aud marital status

Ages were recorded by year of birth and sorted by decade of birth year, i.e. 1950, 1960, etc. This was translated to age by subtracting their birth year from Jan. 1, 1988. Hence, the age groups are listed as 19-28, 29-38, etc.

White, Hispanic, Black, and Asian were the four categories for race. There were three categories under marital status: 1-married (including those who were living together), 2-single, and 3-widowed, divorced or separated.

Results

Regardless of the location of the group, or sex of the respondents, more people under the age of 38 were willing to attend than those who were older, with the most responses falling in the 29-38 age group. Those in the 19-28 group are the next age

continued on p. 52

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Seeing the doctor

Thirty-five percent of surveyed adults visit a doctor once a year, according to a recent Epcot Poll. Sixteen percent go twice a year, 23% go three or more times, 13% never visit a doctor, and 13% gave no response.

Retirees stay put

Unlike our feathered friends, older Americans are not migrating south or to any other warm climate during the winter months or any time, Census Bureau figures show. People aged 65 years and older, it appears, are not changing their geographic location. According to the Census Bureau, fewer than 5% of this age group are moving. What's happening is that more older Americans are living in the Midwest, the Great Lakes region and parts of the Northeast more so than most of the Sun Belt. Younger people, on the other hand, are moving out of these states to seek better opportunities. In 1986, 19 states had at least 12.5% of their population aged 65 or older. Only one, Florida, is a genuine Sun Belt representative with 18% of its population 65 years plus. Besides Florida, the Frost Belt has the oldest population of any state with a median age of 36.

Vacationing? Food's foremost

Food is the most important factor after weather and scenery in planning a vacation, according to those responding to a survey by Food & Wine magazine. The first choice among the respondents was California, followed by New York, France, Italy, New Orleans, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Hong Kong and Scandinavia. The travelers choose cruise lines according to their reputation for fine food as

much as for their ports of call, the survey also showed. They feel that foreign airlines serve better food than major domestic carriers and they use food magazines for vacation planning seven times more than other people.

U.S. children fatter

Compared to youth of two decades ago, the nation's children are fatter, are not getting the right kinds of exercise and spend more time watching TV than in physical activity, a federal government survey shows. Those findings by the U.S. Public Health Service were based on a survey of 4,678 children aged 6-9. Nearly all early elementary schoolchildren take physical education, the survey's replies from teachers and parents found, but only a third do so daily and the programs emphasize sports rather than health exercise

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"The transcriptions of the four focus groups were excellent - well-presented, carefully checked and more thorough than we expected given the language difficulties with some of the participants. You met our deadline with a very high quality product and we are most pleased." B.S.F. **CALL TODAY**

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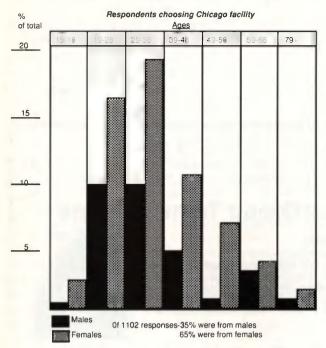
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group most willing to take part.

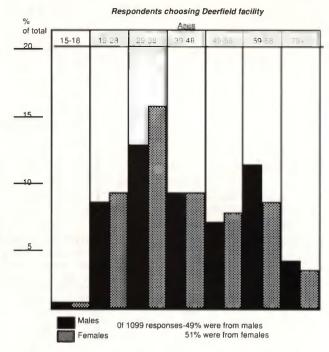
"I didn't expect to get responses from teen-agers or from

Fortunately, we've had some need for teens recently and also for senior citizens so we were able to use some of these new people."

Of the group choosing to attend the downtown Chicago



those in their 70s and even 80s," Smith says. "Because we most frequently look for people between the ages of 21 and 55, I guess I thought that those people would be the ones to respond.

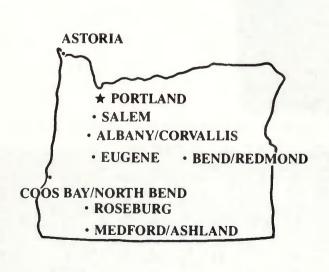


facility, 65% were female and 35% were male, while the breakdown for the Deerfield facility was 51% female and 49% male.

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Respondents

continued from p. 52

One of the most significant findings of the poll is that the number of men willing to attend was almost equal to the number of women, when the location of the group was at the facility in

Where they		Numbers of groups ever attended						
would attend	0	1	2-3	4-5	6+	10+		
Deerfield	74%	15%	7%	2%	1%	1%	100%	
Chicago	66%	18%	10%	2%	2%	2%	100%	
Both	62%	19%	13%	2%	2%	2%	100%	
Overall	67%	17%	10%	2%	2%	2%	100%	

Deerfield, a primarily white-collar, upper middle-income northern suburb. This may be due in part to the company's experience that men are more willing than women to travel greater distances to attend events, possibly because women are concerned with driving alone at night.

This is contrary to the results of telephone and in-person interviews, where more women agree to participate than men. Two possible reasons for the growth of men's interest may be 1) the increased number of business groups that pay well and deal with topics relating to men's careers, and 2) an increase in information about focus groups through education, the media and business experience. It is viewed as a research tool, an interesting experience, and as an easy way to earn money.

Because the communities selected for the mail sample were primarily white middle- to upper middle-income areas, the responses came predominantly from whites.

Responses varied by marital status between Chicago and the suburbs. More single people (64%) were willing to go to the Chicago location. As would be expected, more married people (78%) preferred to go to the suburban location.

"The number of married people who both agree to come is also fairly small," Smith says. "Most frequently, we have either the husband or the wife respond individually. Wives are more likely to volunteer their husbands than the other way around." Past participation

A surprising two-thirds or more of the respondents had never been to a group. The percentage of "virgins" was higher among those who would attend the suburban facility (74%).

Participants were divided into three groups according to the location of the facility which they were willing to go to (Deerfield, Chicago, and those willing to go to either facility).

"In general, those with the longer histories of group experi-

Virginia Smith is the founder of Smith Research, Inc., a Chicagobased data collection agency with focus group facilities in Chicago and Deerfield. Smith Research has specialized in recruiting for over 23 years. She is also founder of Smith Medical Market Research, a division of Smith Research that recruits personnel within medical specialties for focus groups and individual interviews nationwide.



ence had accumulated it over a period of 10 to 20 years," Smith says. "They were now in their forties and fifties or older.

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Usually the connection with their contact person or company had been lost and they eagerly responded to our mailer, ready to begin participating again. Often there had been a five- or more year gap since their last group, which they were eager to point out to us.

"They also mentioned that they had been to other groups, even occasionally in other parts of the country, but not at our facility, as though this past experience 'didn't count' since it was elsewhere. These former attendees, though usually not qualified to attend groups, can be a potential source of 'virgin' respondents via their relatives, friends, or co-workers."

Reasons for wanting to participate

"We get responses from a lot of people who are what I call 'in transition,' "Smith says. "They've lost their job, or are in between assignments, or between an educational program and getting full-time employment, or they have just retired. They are reaching out for new experiences, and the cash looks attractive at the time.

"Getting paid for your opinions also sounds good to those who aren't in transition. Often they have heard about such groups and know second-hand that they are legitimate. Overall, roughly one-third of the responses come from those who have participated before and the rest from those who are interested in the idea of getting paid for their opinions.

"We estimate that each return costs us about \$5.00. That is before the data entry cost or the time we spend on the phone getting the basic demographic information. Our goal is to provide fresh respondents for our clients and this method has enabled us to do that. It has been especially helpful in allowing us to rapidly build up a database of respondents for our new Chicago facility. I would recommend this method to others who want to rapidly increase their supply of new respondents."

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Vicky Stevens, Director of Field Services Allison Taylor, Coordinator of Qualitative Research

Names of Note

continued from p. 44

Studies Division. Cohen will assume the duties of Kay Wall, who has moved to MRB Group, the parent company of Simmons, to implement the transfer of research products and technologies to other companies of the worldwide group.

Simmons also announces the promotion of Warren Dobbs to executive vice president of Simmons Syndicated Division. Previously he was senior vice president, heading the Division's Agency/ Advertiser unit as general sales manager and manager of the Chicago office.

Myrna Garcia Gross will head the new Spanish-Speaking Research and Telephone Data Collection Division of Albertson, New York-based Sheer Communications.

Donald E. Siebert has joined eTc Institute, a Kansas City area management consulting and marketing research firm, as executive vice president. Also joining eTc is Clifford B. Tatham, as chief executive officer.

Consumer Pulse announces the appointment of Betty Collins as manager of their Charlotte, NC facility in the Eastland Mall. Also, Nancy Nichols has been promoted to manager of their Milwaukee, Wis. facility at the Grand Avenue Mall.

Stephen J. Cook has joined Custom Research Inc. as senior vice president to head CRI's east coast office in Union. New Jersey. Previously he was vice president, Copy Testing Services, for SAMI/ Burke in Westport, CT.

JRP Marketing Research Services, Inc., a Media, Pennsylvania-based marketing research agency, has named John R. **Trumbore** as vice president, managing director. Previously he was director of research and corporate planning at Lewis, Gilman and Kynett.





Trumbore

Beard Hnnt

Karen Beard Hnnt has joined Norwalk, Connecticut-based AB Research Associates, Inc., as director of field operations.

Anna Marie Sorriso and Linda Gibbs have joined San Diego-based Directions in Research as senior project directors and marketing consultants. Prior to joining DIR, Ms. Sorriso was a marketingmanager for San Diego Gas and Electric. Ms. Gibbs was a director of marketing and national product manager with Joseph Seagram & Sons.

With the merger of All-Ways Advertising Co. and Estelle Swerdlow Interviewing Services, Fredda Rossin of All-Ways joins the ESI management team.

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Trade news

continued from p. 40

was \$12,850, up \$1,650 from the \$11,200 car buyers paid in 1985, the survey also found.

Innovation hindered

More than half of 36 surveyed managers believe their corporations hinder rather than help innovation within the company, consultant United Research Coreports. Just a third considered them help-

ful and the remainder showed mixed feelings that appeared to indicate little corporate dedication to chaning the status quo. The roadblocks to improvement, suggests studies by Standard & Associates, an industrial-psychology firm, are immediate line supervisors. Workers overwhelmingly believe top managers support efforts to boost quality and productivity and the workers themselves believe it. However, less than half of the workers think their immediate line supervisors are as committed as the CEO to doing things right.

Bare facts

Researchers at Gillette Safety Razor Co. say that during an average lifetime a man will remove about 27ft. of whiskers from his face through shaving. About 3,350 hours would be needed to remove the whiskers and if a man never shaved the beard would be almost 30 ft. long.

Comic readers

Thirty-nine percent of adults are regular comic readers, a survey by TeleNation shows. Readership is highest in the Midwest and lowest in the West. Only 25% of those aged 25-34 are funny page readers; otherwise it is fairly constant across age groups, across income categories, and by sex. Forty-four percent of those with a post-graduate education are regular comic readers. Their two favorites are Garfield and Peanuts. TeleNation, an operation of Market Facts, Inc., Chicago, is a service that delivers a national cross-section sample of 1,000 interviews every weekend.

Employee owners emphasize quality

Workers at employee-owned companies work harder and pay more attention to quality than workers at non-employee owned firms, according to a recent nationwide public opinion poll conducted by R.H. Bruskin Associates, New Brunswick, N.J. Furthermore, more than half of the workers say they are willing to trade their next wage hike for a share of ownership in their firm. The poll was commissioned by the Bureau of National Affairs, Inc., (BNA), and the National Center for Employee Ownership. The poll found that 80% of respondents thought workers at employee-owned companies paid more attention to quality than workers at non-employee owned firms; 7% disagreed. Sixty-nine percent thought workers at employee-owned firms work harder; 18% disagreed. Of all workers surveyed, 51% said they would be willing to trade their next wage increase for a share of company ownership; 30% said they would not make the trade. The BNA-Bruskin study was based on 1,001 telephone interviews with adults throughout the U.S.

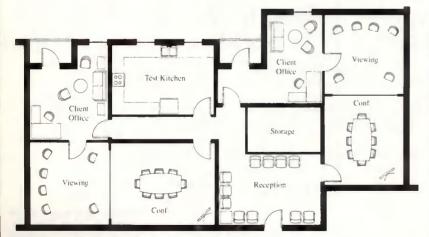
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Focus Groups

continued fron p. 42

bers of relatively small subgroups. For example, cardiologists may be recruited to discuss a new medication or architects may be recruited to discuss certain types of building materials. Such groups are nearly impossible to randomly sample. Any research conducted with them always involves non-random sampling. However, through the use of quota and controlled sampling techniques one can at least recruit participants with profiles similar to known group characteristics.

The problems presented by the lack of a random sampling procedure for such groups is offset by the fact that many projects focus on a limited set of issues of consequence only to members of the subgroup. Such groups tend to exhibit a greater homogeneity of response compared to consumer groups recruited to discuss more general types of issues. The greater homogeneity of response of professional groups has direct implications for the second area of concern: sample size. As the homogeneity of response increases, sampling variance decreases and the sample sizes required to establish acceptable levels of reliability get smaller.

In order to illustrate the potential focus groups offer for collecting quantitative data, let us discuss a recently completed project. Ten groups of professionals from the office furniture and design community were conducted in two cities. After the normal introductions the moderator had participants make importance ratings on a questionnaire for a set of attributes. Following the paper and pencil ratings, the moderator used the rating as a vehicle for getting participants into a general discus-

sion of the product area. Next, some actual product was presented including prototypes as well as competitive product. Participants were required to rate the products using the same set of attributes as before.

Following the product ratings, a "standard" focus group discussion took place for approximately one hour. Then, the participants were asked to consider just one of the products on display (the prototype). Various product "packages" were presented consisting of different options and prices. The participants were asked to say whether they would consider purchasing the prototype given the package. The different packages happened to be factorially generated as part of a conjoint analysis design. The quantitative analyses yielded by the ten groups included tabulations of importance and product ratings, as well as a modeling of purchase consideration as a function of product attributes and price. Price elasticities were easily calculated using these models.

The outline above could be modified to accommodate a variety of quantitative objectives. The important point is that the introduction of the quantitative tasks did not detract from the groups and, in fact, added an additional dimension to the analysis. The quantitative objectives of the research will dictate the number of groups required when focus groups are used to collect quantitative data. At times, more groups will need to be conducted than one would normally conduct if they only had qualitative objectives. In such cases, abbreviated "mini-groups" can be conducted along with other groups. The mini-groups would typically take less time and would consist of all of the

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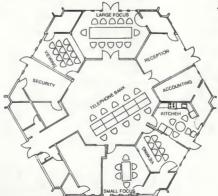
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Focus Groups

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quantitative data collection tasks as the other groups, but the moderator would use an abbreviated discussion outline.

Focus group research will never serve as a substitute for well-designed survey research, not when the primary goal of the research is the collection of certain types of quantitative data. However, there are situations where survey research becomes too difficult or costly to justify. This is especially true when a low incidence group of highly homogeneous respondents needs to be studied. The scope of focus group research should be expanded to allow for the collection of quantitative data in such situations. MRR

James M. Leiman, Ph.D. is vice president of TrendFacts Research/The Creative Group, Inc., a full-service marketing research firm located in Farmington Hills, Michigan. He received his Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology and Measurement from Wayne State University. Besides being an experienced focus group moderator, Dr. Leiman's areas of expertise include survey sample design, multivariate statistical analysis, and the measurement and modeling of consumer preference and choice. Prior to joining Trend-Facts Research he worked for Market Opinion Research and Wayne State University in Detroit.



Gourmet pet food

Consumers are buying premium and gourmet products not just for themselves but for their pets, too. Upscale pet food is claiming a bigger share of the total pet food market, a poll of retailers by Supermarket News shows. While premium or gourmet pet foods claim to have fewer fillers and by-products than regular brands, they can cost from 50-100% more than regular brands. Retailers said consumers were interested in the appearance of the pet food (does it look and smell like something you'd eat yourself?) as well as the nutritional value and convenience of new packaging.

When workers quit

What effect does turnover in the workplace have on the workers who remain? According to a study by Joel Brockner, a Columbia University business school professor, workers' job satisfaction and commitment to their companies declined when they felt a co-worker left for a better job. Lateral or "downwardly mobile" job switches made remaining workers feel better or the same about their jobs. Prof. Brockner said a variety of factors affect those reactions. For example, employees with low selfesteem who are typically more easily influenced by others, were unhappier than more secure workers when a colleague left for a better job. There are a number of things a manager can do to change the feelings of the remaining employees. One is deflate the stature of the new job without bad-mouthing the departing employee. Or, the manager might mention that if the employee does well, there are plenty of places to advance within the company.

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Valleywide Research, Inc. 1107 S. Gilbert, Ste. 110 Mesa, AZ 85204 602-963-1953 1,3,4,6,7A

Walker Data Source 4655 S. Lakeshore Dr. Ten: , a, AZ 85283 602-831-2971 1,3,4,6,7B

TUCSON

Arizona Field Research, Inc. The Tucson Mall 4500 N. Oracle, Box 360 Tucson, AZ 85705 602-887-3502 1,3,4,6,7A

Field Market Research 6045 E. Grant Road Tucson, AZ 85712 602-886-5548 1,3,4,5,6,7B

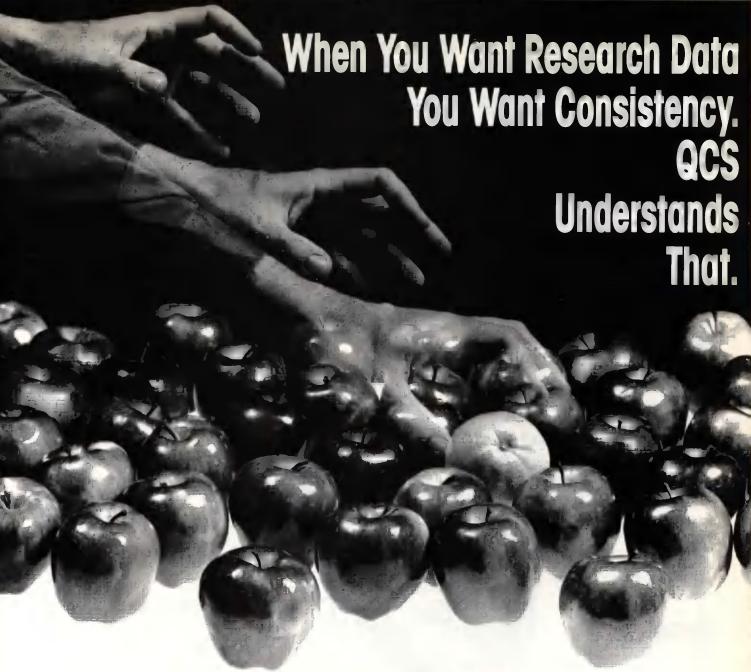
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Bedell Incorporated P.O. Box 1028 Ft. Smith, AR 72902 501-782-8261 1,6,7B

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Bartels Research 130 West Shaw Clovis, CA 93612 209-298-7557 1,3,4,6,7B

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Adept Consumer Testing/Los Angeles 17323 Ventura Blvd., Suite 308 Encino, CA 91316 818-905-1525 1,3,4,6,7B See Advertisement P.70

Car-Lene Research, Inc. 13350 E. Telegraph Rd. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 213-946-2176 1,3,4,5,6,7A

Car-Lene Research Indian Hill Mall 1460 E. Holt Pomona, CA 91767 714-623-4844 1,3,4,6,7A

Cole, Green Groups

25835 Narbonne Ave. Lomita, CA 90717 213-534-2000 1,3,4,6,7B

Consumer Pulse of Los Angeles

Galleria at South Bay #269 Redondo Beach, CA 90278 213-371-5578 1,3,4,5,6,7A See Advertisement P.75

Creative Data, Inc. 7136 Haskell Ave., Suite 101 Van Nuys, CA 91406-4198 818-988-5411 1,2,3,4,6,7B

Davis Market Research Services 23801 Calabasas Road Calabasas, CA 91302 818-888-2408 1,3,4,6,7B

Facts 'N Figures Panorama Mall, Suite 78B Panorama City, CA 91402 818-891-6779 1,3,4,6,7A

Field Dynamics, Marketing Research 17547 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 308 Encino, CA 91316 818-783-2502 1,2,3,4,6,7B See Advertisement P.71

Focus One 202 S. Stanley Dr. Beverly Hills, CA 90211 213-659-4843 1,3,6,7C

Fox Research 852 S. Lucerne Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90005 213-934-8628 1,2,3,4,5,6,7B

Garsen Research Inc. 5711 Rawlings Ave. Woodland Hills, CA 91367 818-888-8600 1,3,7C

Girard & Girard Creative Concepts 22260 Parthenia St. West Hills, CA 91304 818-716-8333 1,3,6,7B

House of Marketing 3446 Madera Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90039 213-661-1109 1,2,3,4,6,7D

House of Marketing 95 N. Marengo Ave. Pasadena, CA 91101 818-792-5959 1,3,4,6,7B

Integrity Research 20201 Sherman Way, Suite 109 Canoga Park, CA 91306 818-700-1002 1,3,4,6,7B

Juarez and Associates 12139 National Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90064 213-478-0826 1,3,7C

L and J Research 2029 Century Park East, Suite 520 Los Angeles, CA 90067 213-553-8526 1,3,6,7B

Los Angeles Marketing Research Assoc. 5712 Lankershim Blvd.
N. Hollywood, CA 91601 818-506-5544 1,3,6,7B

Meczka Research 8825 A South Sepulveda Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90045 213-670-4824 1,3,4,6,7B

MSI International 11911 Artesia, #206 Cerritos, CA 90701 213-924-8303 1,3,6,7C

National Mktg. Research of California 347 S. Ogden Dr., Suite 203 Los Angeles, CA 90036 213-937-5110 1,3,6,7B Nichols Research 7777 Epingen Ave., #201 Huntington Beach, CA 92647 714-891-2440 1,3,4,6,7A

PKM Marketing Research Services 15618 B East Whittwood Lane Whittier, CA 90604 213-694-5634 1,3,4,6,7A

Plog Research, Inc. 18631 Sherman Way Reseda, CA 91335 818-345-7363 1,3,4,6,7C

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Quality Controlled Services 3565 Torrance Blvd. Torrance, CA 90505 213-316-9011 1,3,4,6,7C See Advertisement P.69

Quick Test Opinion Center 519 Fashion Plaza West Covina, CA 91790 818-960-8547 1,3,4,6,7A See Advertisement P.3



Southern California Interviewing Service 17200 Ventura Blvd., Suite 120 Encino, CA 91316 818-783-7700 1,3,4,6,7A

Suburban Associates of Los Angeles 2001 S. Barrington, Suite 109 Los Angeles, CA 90025 213-478-2565 1,3,4,5,6,7B

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United States Testing Company 2157 Montclair Plaza Lane Montclair, CA 91763 714-624-1244 1,3,4,6,7A See Advertisement P. 38

Wade West 5430 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 102 Van Nuys, CA 91401 818-995-1400 1,2,3,4,6,7B

Wade West/Long Beach Long Beach Plaza 369 Long Beach Blvd. Long Beach, CA 90802 213-435-0888 1,3,4,6,7A Earl Wilson and Associates 6490 Ellenview Avenue West Hills, CA 91307 818-340-6201 2,6,7C

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Market Trends Research, Inc. 1262 E. Katella Avenue Anaheim, CA 92805 714-938-0700 1,3,4,6,7B See Advertisement P.103 The Question Shop, Inc. 1500 E. Lincoln Ave. Orange, CA 92665 714-974-8020 1,3.4.6,7A

South Coast Research 10848 Katella Anaheim, CA 92804 714-539-9500 1,3,4,6,7A

Wade West/Orange County 18003 Sky Park South, Suite L Irvine, CA 92714 714-261-8800 1,3,4,6,7B

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Field Management Associates 3601 Riverside Plaza Riverside, CA 92506 714-369-0800 1,3,4,6,7A

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Analysis/Research, Ltd. Skylight Plaza, Suite 180 4655 Ruffner San Diego, CA 92111 619-268-4800 1,2,3,6,7B See Advertisement P.73

Bilingual Unlimited Research P.O. Box 20923 San Diego, CA 92119 619-583-6243 1,2,3,4,6,7B

Directions in Research, Inc. 5353 Mission Center Rd., Suite 219 San Diego, CA 92108 619-299-5883 1.3.4.6.7B

Fogerty Group 4915 Mercury San Diego, CA 92111 619-268-8505 1,3,4,5,6,7C

Hayes Marketing Research 7840 El Cajon Blvd., Suite 400 La Mesa, CA 92041 619-464-8611 1,3,6,7B

Intercontinental Marketing Investigations Inc. P.O. Box 2147 Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067 619-756-1765 1,3,6,7D

Jagorda Interviewing Services 3615 Kearny Villa Rd., Suite 111 San Diego, CA 92123 619-573-0330 1,2,3,4,6,7B

Luth Research, Inc. Plaza Bonita Mall 3030 Plaza Bonita Rd. National City, CA 92050 619-479-5891 1,3,4,6,7A

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- Large 11' x 12' Viewing Room
- Professional Audio and Video Systems
- Well Ventilated
- Food service area
- Excellent varied refreshments available
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- Large 17' x 12' Conference Room
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- Tack board, Easel
- Whiteboard
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- Additional available Track lights
- Back support moderator's chair
- Good ventilation
- Refreshment service area
- Group participants served in separate area

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San Diego Surveys, Inc. 4616 Mission Gorge Place San Diego, CA 92120 619-265-2361 1,3,4,6,7B

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619-299-6368
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Tertium Quid Ltd. 2611 South Highway 101 Cardiff, CA 92007 619-436-7756 1,3,6,7C

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Consumer Research Associates 111 Pine Street, 17th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111 415-392-6000 1,2,3,4,6,7B See Advertisement P.74

Corey Canapary and Galanis Penthouse North 447 Sutter St. San Francisco, CA 94108 415-397-1200 1,3,6,7B

Ecker & Associates

220 So. Spruce Ave, Ste. 100 So. San Francisco, CA 94080 415-871-6800 1,2,3,4,6,7B See Advertisement P.22

Elrick & Lavidge, Inc. 111 Maiden Lane, 6th Floor San Francisco, CA 94108 415-434-0536 1,3,4,6,7B

Far West Research, Inc. 1315 23rd Avenue San Francisco, CA 94122 415-564-8923 1,3,6,7B

Field Management Associates 309 El Cerito Plaza El Cerito, CA 94530 415-527-8030 1,3,4,6,7A

Fleischman Field Research, Inc. 120 Montgomery St., Ste. 1990 San Francisco, CA 94104 415-398-4140 1,2,3,6,7B See Advertisement P. 72

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Nichols Research 1820 Galindo, Ste. 3 Concord, CA 94520 415-687-9755 1,3,4,6,7B

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Quick Test Opinion Centers 203 Southland Mall Hayward, CA 94545 415-785-4650 1,3,4,6,7A See Advertisement P.3

Research and Decisions Corp. 369 Sutter St., Ste. 203 San Francisco, CA 94108 415-989-9020 1,3,6,7B

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Phase III Market Research 1150 N. First St., Ste. 211 San Jose, CA 95112 408-947-8661 1,3,4,6,7B

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Colorado Market Research Ruth Nelson Research Services

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Fieldwork Denver, Inc. At The Tivoli 901 Larimer St., Ste. 601 Denver, CO 80204 303-825-7788 1,3,4,5,6,7A

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Information Research, Inc. 1250 S. Hover Road, Ste. 51 Longmont, CO 80501 303-443-3548 1.3.4.6.7A

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Res-A-Vue 234 Broad Street Milford, CT 06460 203-878-0944 1,2,3,4,6,7B

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Research America, Inc. 488 Main Avenue Norwalk, CT 06851 203-849-1212 1,3,4,6,7B

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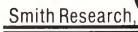
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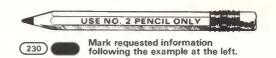
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Auditaire Management Reports 1510 W. Franklin Evansville, IN 47710 812-424-5170 1,3,6,7C

Gore Research and Associates Old Nat'l Bank Bldg., Ste. 1011 Evansville, IN 47708 812-422-3221 1,3,4,6,7B

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Herron Associates, Inc. Washington Square Mall Indianapolis, IN 46229 317-882-3800 1,3,4,6,7A

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Walker Data Source 8000 Knue Rd., Ste. 108 Indianapolis, IN 46250 317-843-3939 1,3,4,6,7B

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United States Testing Company Town West Square, Store 804 Wichita, KS 67209 316-943-1153 1,3,4,6,7A See Advertisement P.38

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Linden Research Services Corp. 197-504 Westbank Exp. Gretna, LA 70053 504-368-9825 1,3,4,6,7A

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CSI Qualitative Research Center Northshore Mall Peabody, MA 01960 203-797-0666 1,2,3,4,6,7A See Advertisement P.51

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National Qualitative Centers 545 Boylston St. Boston, MA 02116 617-424-8800 1,3,4,5,6,7B

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Detroit Marketing Services, Inc. 29755 Plymouth Rd. Livonia, MI 48150 313-427-5360 1,3,4,6,7A

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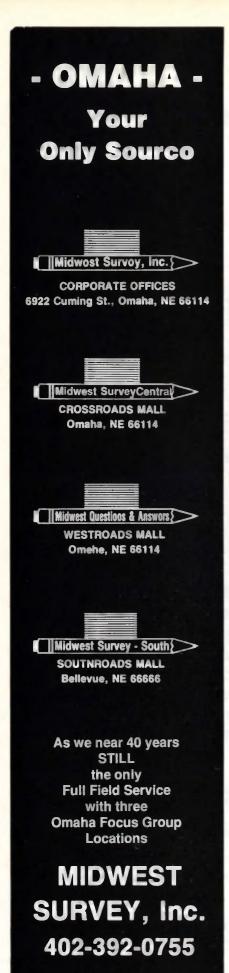
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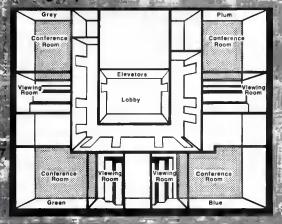
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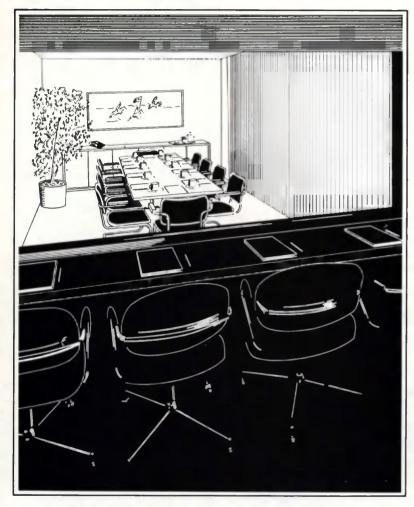
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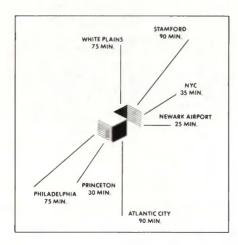
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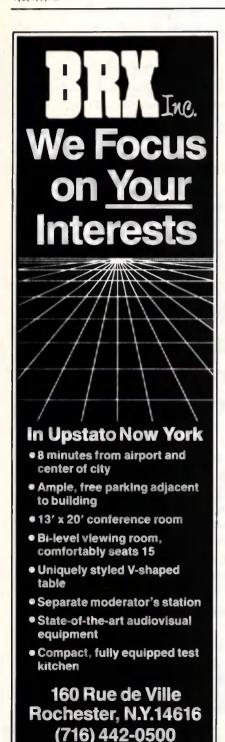
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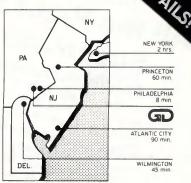
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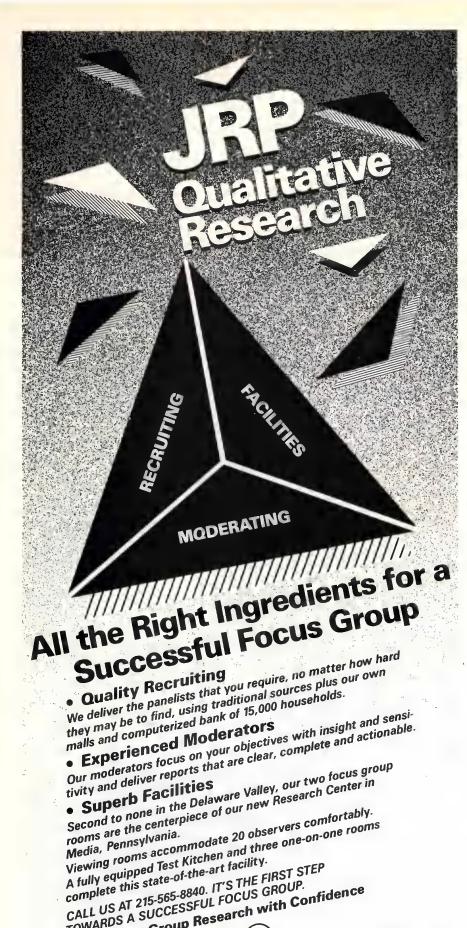




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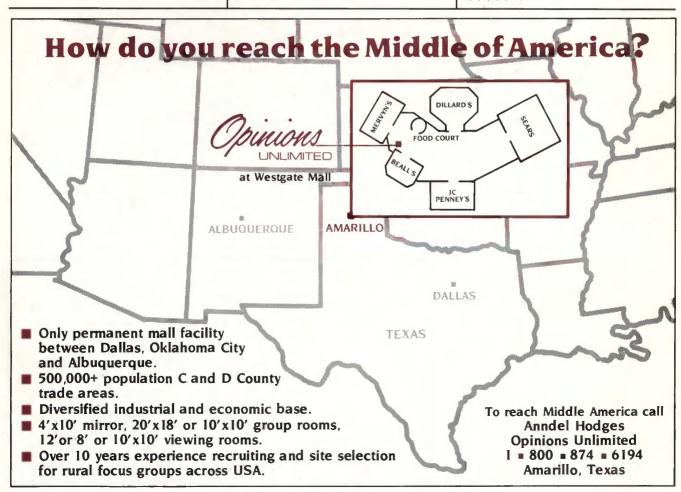
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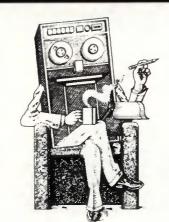
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Corrections

The following listing was inadvertently omitted from the 1988 Mall Research Facility directory.

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The following listing was inadvertently omitted from the 1988 Health Care Research Listing.

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Trade talk

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sciousness is surprisingly narrow at this time, limited almost entirely to automobiles and electronics among consumer products. European brands, on the other hand, are well-known across a broad range of product categories, and may become even stronger as European trade barriers are reduced in 1992.

- Numerous well-known brands have real or potential image problems: Their consumer esteem ranks well below what their recognition levels should support. Some leading examples are Playboy, Warner Bros., Greyhound and Weight Watchers.
- Several corporate name changes to acronyms (initials) and tacenyms (meaningless names) produced lower recognition and approval scores than names that preceded them. This was true of USX, NYNEX, and Unisys, among others. But meaningful names like Sara Lee and USAir improved on the scores of their predecessor names. Even taking into account that new names take time to build value, the study indicates that meaningless names are less efficient.

A powerful brand image derives its strength from one or more of the following factors, says director of LandorResearch, Stewart Owen:

- · Nature of product category: "Strong brands are often associated with high-involvement categories, like automobiles and credit cards," says Owen.
- Product quality: "Strong brands usually do what they do very well. Look at Windex."
- Brand longevity: "It takes time to establish a brand and the first strong brand in an area often builds a lasting lead. Sometimes, the leading brand becomes synonymous with the category itself, as in the case of Kleenex, Xerox or Levi's."
- Advertising and marketing communications: "Many strong brands tell their story both constantly and well; McDonald's and Coca-Cola are excellent examples. And many strong brands have made themselves into super-brands that cover a multitude of products."
- Brand personality: "The strongest brands stand for something; they have a distinctive, well-perceived identity in the consumer's mind. Think of Disney, or Marlboro, or Budweiser, for example." MRR

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TRADE TALK

By Beth E. Hoffman



Study uncovers America's most powerful brands

uestion: What do Coca-Cola, Campbell's, Pepsi-Cola, AT&T, McDonald's, American Express, Kellogg's, IBM, Levi's and Sears nave in common?

Answer: Wide recognition and high respectability, making them, in this order, the top 10 most powerful brands in America. A powerful brand is one that is widely recognized as well as highly regarded by those who recognize it, according to the Landor ImagePower Survey™. Conducted by Landor Research, the division of New York and San Francisco-based Landor Associates, the Landor ImagePower Survey™ identifies the 300 most respected brands in the U.S.

According to Landor Research, the ImagePower Survey™ is the first systematic comparative measurement of leading corporate, product and service brands in the U.S. The survey involved interviews with 1,000 American consumers to determine their awareness of, and attitude toward, 675 corporate and consumer brands.

Behind the top 10, here is a sampling of the next most powerful brands mentioned in the survey: Disney, Hershey's,

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"Corporate and brand images today are a matter of economics," says John M. Diefenbach, chief executive of Landor. "Consumers are drowning in product alternatives and media messages. Powerful images are essential to success in the American culture. These images have clear meanings. They reflect positive values. It's a matter of common sense: Consumers turn to familiar and comprehensible images; they reject images that are unrecognizable or incomprehensible."

Diefenbach adds that for more than 30 years, Landor clients have wanted the company to measure the strength of brand images on an industry-by-industry basis. "This quantitative input helps to define our clients' problems and to direct our solutions," says Diefenbach. "The Landor ImagePower SurveyTM represents the logical next step; using our expertise to create a 1988 benchmark against which the strength of all corporate and consumer brand images can be measured."

Diefenbach likens corporate and brand images to assets. "Like all assets, they must be consciously and conscientiously managed. The first step toward effective management is valuing those assets and their brand worth potential; that is where the research underlying our ongoing ImagePower SurveyTM is most useful to our clients."

Some of the other significant findings of the snrvey:

- Automobiles, television, soft drinks, fast food and credit cards have the highest shares of the American mind.
- Coca-Cola is not just the leading brand in the Landor survey, it is a truly dominant brand, in both recognition and approval. In the survey's ImagePower™ scores, the distance between Coca-Cola (No. 1) and Campbell's (No. 2) is as great a distance as that between Campbell's (No. 2) and Dole (No. 50).
- There is untapped imagepower in some grand old brands that showed sharply higher esteem scores than recognition scores. Not everyone knew them, but the ones who did liked them a lot. These brands include Rolls Royce, Hilton, Harley Davidson, Windex, Rolex, and Arm & Hammer.
 - The Japanese beachhead in the American consumer con-

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