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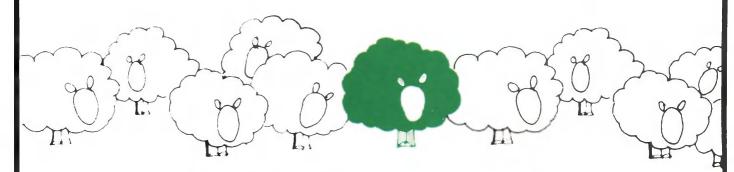


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MARKETING RESEARCH

Review

Vol III, No. 10

December, 1989

Cover

Our fourth annual focus group research issue features the most up-to-date focus group facility listing available. Photo courtesy of Probe Research, Dallas.



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The rules change when conducting focus groups for business to business research

by Nicholas G. Calo

sing a "people are people" rationale, some researchers might contend that the same strategies can be used in conducting focus groups in the consumer and business to business settings. But experience suggests that some of the rules and practices used in consumer focus groups cannot readily be translated to business sessions. The following article offers strategies and issues to consider when conducting groups among business purchasers.

The unacceptability of "playing dumb." In conducting consumer focus groups, it is common for moderators to intentionally convey a sense of incomplete understanding. This is often referred to as "sophisticated naivete" in textbooks; "playing dumb" in the vernacular.

In the business to business setting, playing dumb is generally not a viable strategy. The respondents believe that they have entered a group setting among peers, moderated by someone who understands the subject being discussed. They anticipate that this person can understand their language and they will speak more openly to a person who demonstrates an understanding of what they say than to one who does not.

The moderator can still demonstrate a level of incomplete understanding that requires additional information. He or she cannot, however, demonstrate such an ignorance of the subject matter that the participants are deterred from volunteer-

ing information. An example should help to clarify this distinction.

If a respondent in a group on electronic data transmission says, "I don't think that 2400 baud is fast enough for this application," a moderator who responds with, "I'm not sure what you mean by baud rate" will sacrifice the confidence of the group. The moderator has demonstrated a lack of understanding of the subject being discussed. An acceptable demonstration of incomplete understanding,



Nicholas G. Calo is president of Cincinnati-based Calo Research Services. He has spoken on copy testing and package testing issues at national conventions of the Advertising Research Foundation and American Marketing Association, and has published in major trade periodicals. He holds Master's degrees in marketing and psychology.

however, would be: "I'm not sure why you feel that 2400 baud is not fast enough." This question says, "I understand you, but I still need more information." The previous question says, "I don't know what you people are talking about."

Waiving the "no client in the group room" rule. In consumer research, most moderators prohibit clients from being in the group room, because the client might inadvertently affect consumer responses by laughing in response to a remark, enthusiastically taking notes when the "important information" arises, looking disinterested, or in some other way shaping the comments of the participants. In many group situations, even the appearance of the client might affect participant statements.

In contrast, many business to business groups can benefit from the presence of a client in the room. Most frequently, this involves the presence of a technical expert, who can respond to participant questions and resolve any misunderstandings that occur in a business to business group. Importantly, this technical expert is not present to influence attitudes. Instead, the technical expert exists to clarify inaccuracies concerning product characteristics or other statements of fact.

Some guidelines apply in using these experts. The expert must be controlled by the moderator, responding only to the moderator's questions, not to questions

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We do it

Research helps Boy Scouts of America communicate an active, adventurous image by Joseph Rydholm / managing editor

hough overall participation in Boy Scouts of America programs has grown aggressively over the past several years, one segment hasn't quite kept up the pace.

Since 1979, the total youth membership in scouting programs, such as Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouts, has increased by 33%, while membership in the Boy Scout segment has hovered around the same level, according to Lee Sneath, national spokesperson for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

Cub Scouting, which is tailored to the needs of 8 to 10 year old boys, is a homecentered program designed to build skills while emphasizing family and social involvement. Boy Scouting is more outdoor- and activity-oriented, emphasizing the 10-1/2 to 17 year old boy's growing desire for independence and interaction with peers.

"We have found that traditionally we lose a lot of boys who come out of Cub Scouting and simply don't make the transition to Boy Scouting," Sneath says.

David Palmer, national direc-





For example, membership audits and follow-up surveys found that some boys drop out of the Cub Scout program early, because of a family move, for example, while others quit because they no longer feel challenged.

we understood how that product was being used and perceived, then it was necessary

to understand what our basic problems

were," Palmer says.

an understanding of trial

and repeat by product line, so

to speak, was a very necessary element of the whole process. Once

"After a couple of years, the Cub Scouting activities were still fun, but they weren't as challenging in the third or fourth year as they were in the first and second, so the boys would move on to other activities."

(Scouting isn't the only organized activity that boys choose to leave early. Palmer says that retention studies with boys in the same age group who participate in league sports show a similar two-year involvement cycle. "All of a sudden

Lift This
And Watch The World
Of Boy Scouts
Open Before Your Eyes.

Boy Scouts of America
We Do It.

This backpack shaped direct mail piece was sent to ex-Cub Scouts to interest them in rejoining the Scouting program as Boy Scouts.

when they get to age 10 or 11, they leave whatever it was they were into," he says.)

When re-contacted a few years later to see if they were interested in joining Boy Scouts, many of these ex-Cub Scouts expressed confusion, Palmer says. Unable to discern between the two programs, they thought they had already been in Boy Scouts.

"They perceived themselves as past users, but they were past users of a different product," Palmer says.

Increase awareness

To increase awareness that Boy Scouting is an activity-oriented program that differs in many respects from Cub Scouting, BSA began working with Salt Lake City-based Bonneville Media Communications on a multi-pronged marketing campaign.

To begin with, says Jeff Hilton, vice president of marketing and account manager for Bonneville Media Communications, ex-Cub Scouts between the ages of 9 and 12 were identified as the target audience.

"We really felt that boys who were Cubs at one point were the most familiar with it and had the best feel for what Scouting could offer," Hilton says.

Focus groups

Focus groups were held last May in Los Angeles, Kansas City, and Minneapolis to gain greater understanding of how these boys, who were labeled "tryerrejectors," viewed Scouting,

The boys were shown concept statements that emphasized different aspects of Boy Scouting, such as the fact that it offers new experiences, and that it is different than Cub Scouting. Another statement dealt with the concept of fun, claiming that Boy Scouting represents a chance to have a good time and interact with other boys of the same age. These statements were presented in a discussion

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DATA USE

Predicting housing value from income: a simple example of the logit response model

by C. Ying Li

C. Ying Li is a market research analyst with the New York State Electric and Gas Corp.

ome-ownership has always been an important element of the American economy. The housing industry has grown tremendously in the 1980s. Prices for homes in some areas have more than doubled since the last census. The 1980 Census collected housing data for the entire housing stock (including old and new, for-sale and not-for-sale homes) for different geographic areas. However, only the National Association of Realtors regularly collects home-buying data for the post-censal period. Geographic coverage is limited to only selected metropolitan areas. As a result, researchers still rely on the 1980 Census housing data for the full picture. It would be desirable to work with data having the same breadth and depth as in the census, but reflecting more recent changes.

This article describes a way to analyze the table of households cross-classified by housing value and housing income from the 1980 Census by using the logit response model. The estimates so obtained can be used to approximate a more current table. The table for El Paso, Tex. (Table 1) from the 1980 Census serves as an example. In this table, there are seven row categories for household-income and 13 column categories for household-income and 13 column categories for household-income and 13 column categories.

ing value. The housing units are defined as owner-occupied, single-family homes.

The logit response model is based on least squares regression. First, frequency data must be transformed because the regression method requires continuous and normally distributed data. The frequency data are transformed into "logits" by a logit function (natural logarithm of the probability ratio). Then the variance of the logits is weighted to achieve asymptomatic normality. The specific regression technique applied to the set of logit data is weighted covariance analysis. Final logit estimates can be converted to cell probabilities for prediction.

A prerequisite for the logit response model is that there be a causal relationship between the two variables being analyzed. In the present case, the income variable is the "cause" (or the explanatory variable) and the housing value the "effect" (or the response variable). The income variable must be ordinal.

If the logits or converted probabilities from the fitted model match the original data closely, researchers can then use them for short-term forecasting, assuming that the short-term relationship between income and housing value remains constant. Long-term projection is not advisable because this relationship may change over time.

TABLE 1 1980 Table of Income by Housing Value MSA= El Paso, TX														
Inc	<10k	10-15k	15-20k	20-25k	25-30k	30-35k	35-40k	40-50k	50-80k	80-100k	100-150k	150-200k	200k+	Total
<15k	1177	1317	2608	3806	4121	4115	3155	3575	2469	285	185	18	16	26847
15-20k	169	316	554	1144	1550	1830	1663	2412	1913	166	97	22	19	11855
20-30k	112	257	607	1063	1563	2287	2139	3712	5573	690	370	74	39	18486
30-40k	38	69	180	322	376	658	669	1498	3242	897	408	63	36	8456
40-50k	13	14	52	72	139	215	225	509	1469	610	378	114	39	3849
50-75k	0	4	8	10	41	66	44	273	736	442	444	124	50	2242
75k+	0	0	8	0	24	17	30	87	165	183	392	184	126	1216
Total	1509	1977	4017	6417	7814	9188	7925	12066	15567	3273	2274	599	325	72951

Data transformation

Counts are transformed into logits by the logit function. The logit function is the natural logarithm of the odds function. Therefore, logits are equivalent to "log odds." The first thing to do is to take the ratio of any two non-zero probabilities to produce odds. The odds are a positive value between zero and infinity. If I order all the odds derived from a table from the smallest to the largest, then plot them on a straight line, there would be a cloud of random points stretched out at the upper tail toward positive infinity, and bunched in at the lower tail near zero. However, by taking logarithms over these odds, the upper tail of the points can be shortened and the lower tail lengthened, making the data more compact and evenly distributed for modelling.

A small 2x3 table will be used to illustrate the logit function in detail. Suppose that this table is population cross-classified by income and education, as in Table 2:

	TAE	BLE 2		
Frequency (Probability)	Elementary School	High School	Callege	Row Total
Income <=\$10.000	5 (0.5)	3 (0.3)	2 (0.2)	10 (1)
Income >\$10.000	4 (0.2)	5 (0.25)	11 (0.55)	20 (1)

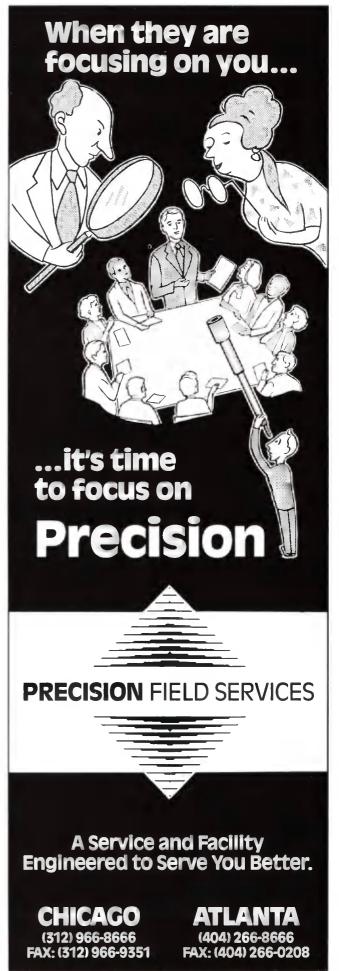
There are two numbers in each cell: (1) the number of people, and (2) the probability relative to the row total. Each row category is treated as a separate population, and the response probabilities of individual cells are calculated by dividing the cell counts by the corresponding row total. The two populations in Table 2 are: (1) the 10 people with income less than \$10,000, and (2) the 20 people with income more than \$10,000. To calculate the odds, I contrast each cell response probability with that for the last response category. There are a total of four odds for this table: 2.5, 1.5, 0.36, and 0.45. The two odds in row 1, 2.5 and 0.36, can be interpreted as: the numbers of ">=\$10,000 income" category are 2.5 times more likely to have an elementary school education than to have a college education, and 1.5 times more likely to have a high school education than to have a college education. The total odds for a population should always be one less than the total response (column) categories.

When I must divide numbers to obtain odds, the results are no longer linear (or additive). Nonlinearity causes the odds to fluctuate wildly. After taking logarithms of these odds, they become "linearized." The linearized logits (or log odds) are additive and manageable in size. Table 3 lists the odds and logits for my data:

TABLE 3						
Odds (Logit)	First logit group	Second logit group				
Income <=\$10.000	2.5 (0.916)	1.5 (0.405)				
Income >\$10,000	0.36 (-1.012)	0.45 (-0.788)				

There are two numbers in each cell: (1) the odds, and (2) the associated logits in parentheses. The linearity property of the logarithmic function is embodied in the minus signs of the expressions in the third column of Table 4.

After the logit transformation, the old column (education) categories are no longer meaningful for the new columns. I assign a new variable, the "logit group," to the two new



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columns. The data in each logit group can be modelled separately. There are two logits for each logit group, allowing me to fit a linear equation. I can conceivably fit a polynomial equation

		TABLE 4	1	
Logit group	Logi	= log (probability 1/prob2)	=	log(prob 1)- log(prob2)
1	(1)	$0.916 = \log(0.5/0.2)$	=	log(0.5) - log(0.2)
1	(2)	-1.012 = log(0.2/0.55)	=	log(0.2)- log (0.55)
2	(3)	0.405 = log(0.3/0.2)	=	log(0.3)- log(0.2)
2	(4)	-0.788 = log(0.25/0.55)	=	log(0.25) - log (0.55)

if there are more than two logits. The single mathematical expression for the two linear equations is:

$$Logit_{ij} = b0_{i} + (b1_{i} * x_{i}) + e_{ij}$$

where i=1, 2 logit group; j=1, 2 income level; b0 i, b1 i are the intercept and slope parameters to be estimated; and the random

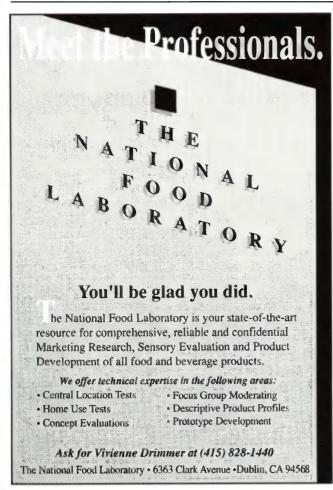
component e ij . x j is the explanatory income variable. The two sets of logits available for modelling the two equations are:

	TABI	_E 5	
Logit	group 1	Logit gro	up 2
Logit	×	Logit_	х
0.916	\$5000 (*)	0 405	\$5000
-1.012	\$18,000 (**)	-0.788	\$10.000

Note: (*) \$5000 is the middle value of the "<=\$10,000 income" category, (**) \$18,000 is an arbitrary income value assigned to the open-ended ">\$10,000 income" category.

For my original example of the income-by-housing-value table (dimension: 7x13), there should be a total of 84 logits (see Table 6). Within each of the seven income populations, there

				1980 -	Table of In	NBLE 6 come by l El Paso, T	₋ogit Grou _l X	0				
NLogit												
Inc	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<15k	4.27	4.38	5.06	5.44	5.52	5.52	5.25	5.38	5.01	2.85	2.42	0.11
15-20k	2.16	2.79	3.35	4.07	4.38	4.54	4.45	4.82	4.59	2.14	1.61	0.14
20-30k	1.05	1.87	2.73	3.29	3.68	4.06	3.99	4.54	4.95	2.86	2.24	0.63
30-40k	0.05	0.64	1.60	2.18	2.33	2.89	2.91	3.71	4.49	3.20	2.42	0.55
40-50k	-1.07	-1.00	0.28	0.61	1.26	1.70	1.74	2.56	3.62	2.74	2.26	1.06
50-75k	-4.62	-2.42	-1.78	-1.57	-0.20	0.28	-0.13	1.69	2.68	2.17	2.17	0.90
75k+	-5.53	-5.53	-2.70	-5.53	-1.64	-1.98	-1.42	-0.37	0.27	0.37	1.13	0.38



are 12 linearly independent logits; that is, their values are not dependent on each other. This independence allows me to develop models for the 12 logit groups separately, with the assurance that the probabilities derived later add up to unity for a population. This is not possible if I use the I3 response probabilities directly for modelling.

Unfortunately, taking logarithms does not generate logits with equal variance. The logits are usually not distributed normally at every income fevel. In the following sections, I will discuss ways to correct these two conditions to meet the assumption for ordinary least-squares regression.

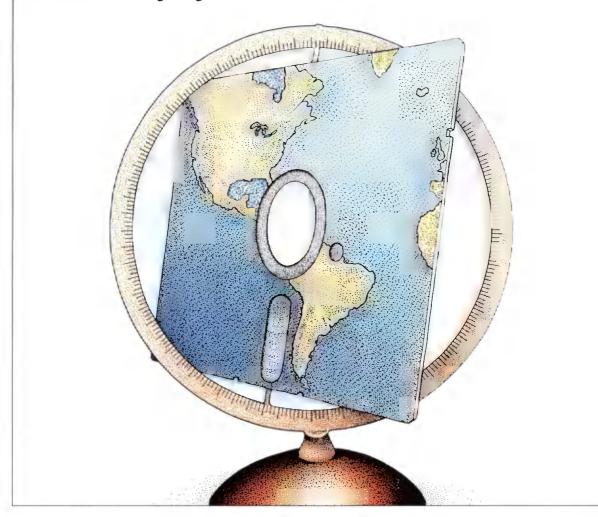
Some distributional considerations of logits

Logits, continuous but non-normal, are based on frequency data that are multinomially distributed. When the sample population from a multinomial distribution is large, the continuous normal distribution can be used to approximate the discrete multinomial distribution. A multinomial population of size n with probability of p for level 1, and q for level 2, can be approximated by a normal distribution with mean n*p, and variance n*p*q.

When researchers must choose between parameter estimates from a regression model, the estimates with smaller variance (even if they are biased) are always preferred to those unbiased ones with larger variance because the former provide better confidence in prediction. The ordinary method of least squares can produce the optimal estimates only when the data have equal variance. With unequal variance in the data, one must rely on weighted least squares to minimize the size of modelling error, maximize the significance of the model, and conse-

continued on p. 36

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Setting a new

Focus groups tell Standard Register



The comments of focus group participants shaped the content of these

n an industry that is perceived by most consumers as a commodity market, how does a company distinguish itself from its competitors? Research found that the customers of business forms giant Standard Register had a simple, one word answer to that question; service.

Through customer focus groups, Standard Register, which supplies a full line of forms, forms programs and equipment to business, industry, institutions, and governments, learned that more than any other attribute, service was most important. As a result, the company has released an ad campaign to carry the message to targeted markets and implemented a company-wide commitment to service.

Prior to the focus groups with Standard Register customers, focus groups of another sort were conducted with the company's management by its adagency, the Martin Agency, Richmond, Va.

As a part of a technique it calls "benefit testing," the Martin Agency sat down with Standard Register representatives to determine what they saw as the company's strengths and main selling points.

"(Benefit testing) allows us to distill from a variety of sources within an advertiser's organization, all of whom have their own points of view, how a company feels its products or services ought to be advertised. It enables the people within an organization to lay their ideas on the table, to say, for example, 'We ought to market ourselves on the basis of price,' or 'We ought to market ourselves on the basis of functional superiority,'" says John Adams, executive vice president of the Martin Agency.

These ideas are then converted into selling propositions and placed on "benefit boards," which are presented to the

company's clients in a focus group setting.

The most important selling points identified by Standard Register management were the company's size and stature within the industry, its blue chip client base and its product excellence.

16 sessions

The customer focus groups were held in Chicago, Denver, Philadelphia, and Atlanta in 16 sessions, four sessions in each of four key market segments: health care, financial, hospitality/travel industry, and manufacturing. The participants were representatives of large and medium-sized companies who were involved in forms purchasing/management for their respective companies.

The respondents weren't initially told who was sponsoring the groups. The respondents were asked traditional questions about what they look for in a forms manufacturer. They were also questioned about their thoughts on Standard Register and its key competitors to help gauge how they were predisposed.

Once it was revealed who was sponsoring the group, the respondents were shown 12 boards, each of which featured one selling point pertaining to products, service, company attitude, company size, client list, cost savings, sales staff training, etc. presented in a manner similar to an advertisement, with graphics, images, and clearly stated copy.

For example, one board promoted the idea that companies should do business with Standard Register because it is the largest manufacturer of forms in the U.S. Another cited Standard Register's fist of Fortune 500 clients.

Adams says that the result of the groups is a specific rank order of the benefits that are most meaningful to respondents.

"You often find that within the first few groups that you do, you begin to pick up the threads. By the time you've done your tenth focus group you're confirming what you heard in your first three. While it is not and doesn't pretend to be quantifiable research it is nevertheless highly predictive and highly dependable in our experience," Adams says.

standard

that service is most important



unconventional ads, which emphasize Standard Register's commitment to service.

Little difference

The respondents said repeatedly that whether or not the business forms manufacturers chose to accept it, they saw little difference between the major competitors.

"When we did the groups and presented different selling ideas, the message that came out loud and clear was that the business forms industry was a commodity business. And in a business where everybody was perceived as being the same, the only differentiator that was meaningful to the customers was service. The respondents said 'What I can't deal with is when I can't get the forms on time, when I run out of them and you have promised that you would maintain my inventory for me,' "Adams says.

Further, the focus group participants provided a definition of what service meant to them, what components it had to have to meet their needs. To them, service included things like knowledgeable, personable sales representatives and attention to a client's particular needs,

Kip Brown, vice president of the Mar-

tin Agency, says five adjectives describing the necessary attributes of a serviceoriented company staff emerged repeatedly from the responses to the boards: honest, competent, smart, responsive, and insightful.

"(The respondents) said to us, 'You give me a person like that, that's looking out for my needs, and I'm going to deal with that company,' " Brown says.

Helps creative process

Brown says the benefit testing technique helps the creative process because it functions like a pre-test of advertising concepts. Since the messages on the boards are presented in a manner similar to ads they elicit responses to execution as well as content.

"It allows us to get people focused on single ideas to determine how those ideas are going to play in the marketplace. We get a reaction to not only the idea, but also to executional themes as well. Compared to creative testing, where you present a completed ad to someone, this is far better, because you understand before you go into the creative process exactly what's

going to work and what isn't going to work. It allows us to make sure that the work we do is keenly focused on where the market is."

Obtaining a clear definition of service from the respondents was critical, Brown says, because it provided the Martin Agency with a unifying attitude to emphasize in the ads.

Currently running in trade publications in the health care, financial, and hospitality/travelindustries, the ads (often humorously) emphasize that Standard Register is prepared to do whatever it takes to meet its customers' needs, from donning tennis shoes to go the extra mile, to intercepting a shipment of forms at the airport to speed delivery.

"There's an honesty in those ads, an admittance that, anyone can talk about service, but we're committed to it and we're going to work hard. That tone came right out of what we learned in the research. We had to find an attitude to project. You can't just say, 'We're a service company,' and make it work. You have to back it up with action," Brown says.

Service emphasis attractive

From a positioning standpoint, the service emphasis was attractive because no other company in the industry had adopted that emphasis in its marketing.

"We wanted to offer something that nobody else was associated with. The service emphasis was unique in the industry and it provided us with an opportunity to not only say something that people wanted to hear, but also to capitalize on it and own it," Brown says.

"Mission Service"

Standard Register has taken the research to heart, introducing a company-wide

continued on p. 32

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December, 1989

Customer observation: procedures, results, and implications

by Harry F. Krueckeberg

ho would believe that a researcher could be on the leading edge of marketing research with two eyes, one pencil and a ream of paper? Presumably a person on the leading edge of technology in marketing research would have to have two million bytes, one programmer and a ream of dollars.

But not only have qualitative research procedures made it back to the big time during the past few years, now even the eyeball is being recognized again as a substitute for the electronic scanner. What justifies the use of observation in an electronic age? Of what value can observation data be to the marketing planner?

The bag of qualitative research tools contains several frequently used methods, including the focus group session, projective techniques and observation, all procedures which are useful in generating data for management decision making.

The goals of this article are: to develop an awareness of observation as a research tool; to improve the level of skill in implementing observation; and to demonstrate its value for management information development.

To meet these goals, I will describe:

- a) how to perform customer observation research:
- b) the procedure's strengths and weaknesses, and;
- c) the information and other benefits that observation can provide a business enterprise.

To illustrate, 1 will use a customer

observation scenario in which 100 customers were observed in one retail food store dairy department over a 30 day period.

Observation defined

Observation is a means of describing the actions customers take in a realistic situation. More importantly, observation research data can assist in the effective planning of marketing strategies and in the monitoring of strategic marketing decisions.

It can shed light on questions such as: What can be done to enhance the sales of



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a product or a retail store department? What factors are apparently deterring the customer from making a decision to purchase an item? What important and feasible decisions can be made to enhance the customer's shopping trip?

Observation procedures involve:

- 1. Using observers trained to recognize shopper characteristics such as dress and age.
- 2. Using unobtrusive markers in aisles and on display cases, to make sure distinct locations can be recognized.
- 3. Requiring observers to be familiar with all displays, product placement and other meaningful locations which can easily be identified.
- 4. Making sure that displays and other characteristics of the location remain consistent during the project—holding off changes until the project is complete.
- 5. Monitoring each observer to identify any specific tendencies by an observer, such as the observation of males more often than females.
- 6. Close adherence to the form used for recording observations.
- 7. Debriefing observers periodically (daily if possible) for any unusual occurrences they have observed or heard that might have influenced the observations they were making.

Observation involves several alternative techniques. The project described in this article involved the following:

- 1. The observations were conducted in a natural store setting and shopping situation (versus a reactive or artificial setting).
- 2. The observer was unobtrusive and maintained a very passive role (versus taking an obtrusive, active role).
- 3. The observation was structured—a prescribed set of actions and characteris-

tics were to be observed and recorded (versus an unstructured technique).

4. Data were the result of direct observation (versus indirect) by a human observer (versus a mechanical one).

Observation justified

Observation can be justified in terms of time and cost. Retail food store management needs and wants to conduct research in a timely and effective fashion, and while there are advantages to simplifying the collection of research data, there is also a need to maintain a level of validity in the research results.

Employees can be trained to conduct observation research. Depending on the intended use of the data, sophisticated analysis or simple tallies can be made. The investment of time and money is worthwhile because each observation can provide valuable information which management can use to determine shopping patterns, describe shoppers, profile market segments, and gain insight into the effectiveness of store layout, advertising and promotional strategies.

What observation can provide

Observation can be used to reinforce, monitor and or modify three broad strategic marketing decisions by retail store managers. These decisions involve the:

•improvement of facilities such as aisle width and display location,

•elimination or reduction of barriers to customer transactions, such as stocking carts and special displays that are dangerous or too high,

•identification and description of customer market segments, such as males, females, shopping cart users, etc.

Observation is also a means of establishing communication with the customer. In retail food stores, customers react to many factors, such as price, quality, and service. Their reactions, which can be recorded by observation, "communicate" a great deal to store management. And in turn, management can communicate with the customers by reacting to their observed actions.

Strengths of the observation method

The strength of observation lies in what it is: a detailed record of actions taken by persons in a realistic setting. It can be a complete record of actions taken during a period of time.

Observation data are not a result of

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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.J.

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recall and interpretation. The person observed is not required to recall actions by answering a questionnaire or completing a personal interview. Likewise, the observer is not in a position to interpret a response by an interviewee. Action is recorded, not interpretation.

The process of observing, the recording of observable actions, the data processing, and the analysis each individually and all collectively create potential for management information development.

Weaknesses of the method

Some people feel that a method that generates action data exclusively is methodologically weak. This reflects excessive expectations of the method and an attempt to stretch the capabilities of observation as a research method.

Do not attempt to create more information or greater value of the information than is valid.

One of the weaknesses often referred to is the inability to explain the cause or reason for an action taken. This is not the intent of observation. Explanation can be determined through a personal interview.

An interview could be performed upon completion of the observation without compromising the observed data. Unanswered questions can be resolved directly.

Do not attempt to conclude anything about the motives or intentions of the persons observed.

Observation data can be biased, just as any other data can be biased, if unacceptable procedures are used to carry out the observation method. Bias is minimized by providing every moment of a time frame and every unit of the customer population equal access to the observer. As applied to a supermarket, if a department is being observed, all shoppers during shopping hours should have a equal chance of being observed.

Do not attempt to project the data to the total store clientele unless a probability sample of customers has been observed.

Likewise, it is difficult to control variables involved in comparable situations, i.e. two stores or two different time periods.

Regarding results

The scenario used in this article reflects some of the actions of retail food store customers and indicates how they shopped one store's dairy department. The physical and demographic characteristics of the customers were observed along with their shopping actions. This data enabled the description and the development of associations between characteristics and actions.

1. Market segment profiles were identified and described using characteristics and actions. 2. Similarities and differences between and among market segments were observable and determinable.

Implications for marketing are logical results of observation. For example, the level of use of a shopping list and a shopping cart indicate that management could take possible marketing actions. The clustered location of product selection instances implies possible improvements in product relocation. In addition, the results imply that departmental efficiency and productivity could be improved in certain areas.

Are the implications correct? Making the improvements and monitoring the results through observation will provide the necessary follow up.

In addition, market segment influences on product selection can be deter-

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mined. This type of data presents implications and points to conclusions regarding advertising strategies and product promotion.

Observing the customer

A permanent record was generated during the observation of each shopper (Figure 1). Using a clip board and a standard form for each observation did not detract from the unobtrusive nature of the observation. The record controlled the prerogatives that the observer had in recording observations. All actions and characteristics to be observed were prescribed (a structured observation) and recorded directly on the form provided. Shoppers were randomly "picked up" by the observer at either end of the dairy department or in mid-department. Customers were observed regardless of whether or not interest in dairy was apparent or whether they seemed to only be passing through. All persons, once picked up, were observed, documented and included in the analysis even if no purchase was made.

A note of interest: The interpretation of the observations should be influenced by several situational factors noted during the observation process.

The following situations should be noted:

- 1. Weather (rain, snow, etc.)
- 2. Location of store
- 3. Street or construction obstructions
- 4. Time of week (end of the week)
- 5. Time of month (payday, etc.)
- 6. Time of year (holidays, etc.)

What can you observe?

Observation can result in quite a list of results. Given a computer and a little imagination, the list of beneficial infor-

mation can be quite long.

The results include such information as:

- 1. A description of the individuals observed.
- 2. Customer traffic patterns; department ingress and egress.
- 3. Profiles of the distribution of purchases and product inspections horizontally and vertically in the display cases.
- 4. Number of sections of display equipment from which purchases were made.
- 5. Number of sections which were shopped but from which no items were selected.

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- 6. The shelves from which items were selected.
 - 7. Relationships of customer charac-

Table 1: Descriptive cha the parties observed	racteristics of
Party Composition	Percent
Individual female	21
Individual male	30
Mixed adult couple	14
Female with children	21
Others	13
Total	100

teristics and the location of a purchase in the display case.

8. Implications for improvements in a) Facility arrangements b) Barriers to

Table 2: Number of shopping parties observed with accompanying children

<u>Children</u>	Percent
No children observed	73
One or more	27
Total	100

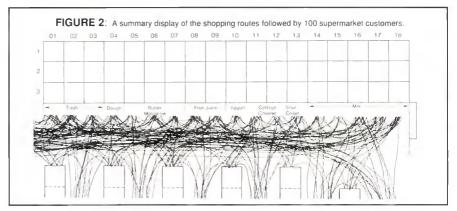
buying products ϵ) Customer satisfac-

9. A description of the shoppers, such

Table 3: The number of estimated age classifications	
Age estimate Under 24 years 25-34 35-49 50 and over	<u>Percent</u> 28 43 17 12
Total	100
Weighted Average Ag Median Age Mode	e 33 years 25-34 25-34

as: sex, estimated age, mix of adults, mix of adults and children, ethnicity.

- 10. The use of shopping aids such as: the newspaper, coupons, a shopping cart, a shopping basket, a shopping list.
- 11. Requests for assistance such as: asked for service--rang bell etc., asked for assistance of employee nearby, went to back room for product or service.
- 12. Other shopping characteristics: number of items purchased, number of items inspected but not purchased, amount of time spent in the department, shopping cart content, time of day.
- 13. Employee interactions with: customers, other employees.



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Tables 1, 2, and 3 illustrate three of the ways that the 100 observed parties were described; party composition, number of children, and estimated age of the primary shopper. The customer characteristics—were determined for descriptive purposes and for association with product selection actions.

Customer traffic patterns

Customer traffic patterns imply possible improvements in store layout, department layout and product shelf placement. Figure 2 reflects the distribution of stops throughout the department as well as the ingress and egress pattern of the observed customers.

Figure 3 illustrates more precisely where customers entered and exited the department. Depending on management's objectives, this flow may be satisfactory. But, obviously few customers traveled the entire length of the dairy department.

The number of units purchased and the location of the purchase are presented in Figure 4. Several "hot" or busy sections and shelves can be determined from Figure 4. Do these locations demand a disproportionate amount of employee re-

stocking? Do these locations realize an abnormal rate of out-of-stock?

Ingress and egress characteristics

The placement of products in a department influences the route to and through a department. The route will be influenced by the customer's planned next purchase, a knowledge of the items next in the shopping sequence, and other factors.

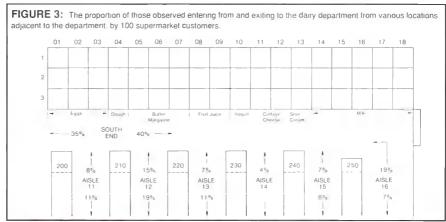
No predominant pattern was established. Forty (40) percent ingressed from the south end, following the periphery of the store, but seven percent egressed along

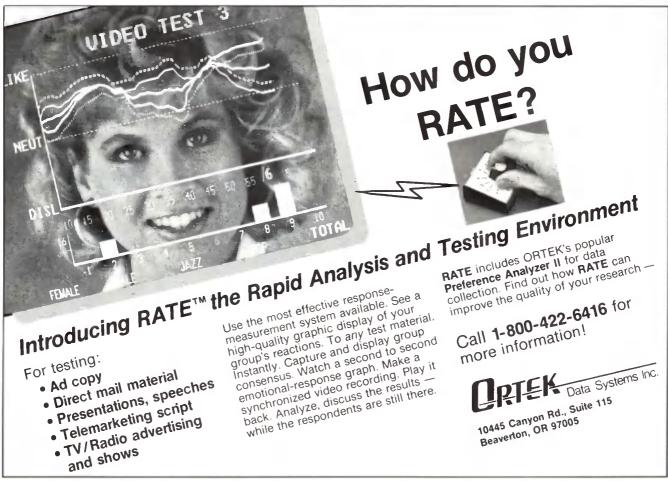
the periphery (Figure 3). Forty-one (41) percent ingressed the dairy department from mid-department aisles.

Persons entering the department from a mid-department aisle shopped an average of nine sections of the dairy case while those entering from either end shopped an average of 14 sections.

Persons ingressing from the south end purchased an average of 3.1 units of product while those ingressing from the north end purchased an average of 1.5 units

continued on p. 42





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TRADE NEWS



Despite risk, smokers vow to keep puffing

Despite a nearly universal view among smokers that they will develop serious lung problems if they continue smoking, they continue to light up. 83% of American smokers interviewed in a national survey by the Wirthlin Group believe they are at risk from emphysema and chronic bronchitis, and two-thirds of them consider themselves addicted to smoking.

The survey showed that only 18 percent of smokers said they would seek medical help when trying to quit. It also revealed Americans' fatalism about smoking: 44 percent of current smokers, and 52% of heavy smokers (more than a pack a day) believe they have already damaged their lungs as a result of smoking.

"Clearly smokers know and feel the harmful effects of cigarettes," said Sharon Jaycox, manager of Smoking and Health Programs at the American Lung Association. "The real challenge is not only to motivate more smokers to quit, but also to encourage those who have made an unsuccessful quit attempt to try again."

Home buyers rate importance of energy efficiency

A telephone survey among 163 recent home buyers indicates that the concept of energy efficiency becomes relevant only after people have lived in their own homes, reports *The Sampler*, the Response Analysis newsletter.

The research was conducted for Public Service Electric and Gas Company of New Jersey. According to Frederick A. Lynk, energy conservation manager of the utility, previous homeowners were more than four times as likely to say that energy efficiency was a very important factor in selecting a home than were first-time home buyers.

"First-time buyers in today's market

look upon their first home purchase as a 'starter' and are more concerned about down payments and financing than ongoing operation costs," Lynk explained. "Those buyers who are seeking to establish a more permanent residence are more

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December, 1989 25

NAMES OF NOTE

Catberine Page and Todd Kibler have joined St. Paul-based Rockwood Research as spec writers.

C.B. (Jack) Rogers, Jr. has been elected chief executive officer of Equifax, Inc. by the Equifax board of directors. Formerly president and chief operating officer of Equifax, Rogers will remain president and succeed J.V. White as chief executive officer.

Larry A. Constantineau has been named market research services director of the U.S. Consumer Products Division of SC Johnson Wax, Racine, WI.

James Figura has been named vice president, consumer research & insights for Colgate-Palmolive, Co., New York,

Jacqueline D. Bunnell has been named vice president of Media, PA-based ICR Survey Research Group.

Chicago-based Market Facts, Inc. has named **Frank R.** Griffiths senior vice president.

Barbara L. Zack has been named account manager in the Los Angeles office of Maritz Marketing Research, Inc. In addition, Bonnie Breslauer has been named account manager in Maritz' Atlanta office.

Robert Bohn has joined *Forbes* magazine as research director. Previously he was marketing manager for *People* magazine.

Salvatore DeBenedetto has been promoted to corporate field director with Englewood Cliffs, NJ-based Ehrhart-Babic Group.

Simmons Market Research Bureau, New York, has named **Tom Murphy** vice president, sales and marketing, syndicated division.

Robert F. Ampthor has been appointed vice president-marketing for the Toledo Marketing Group of Greenwich, CT-based NFO Research, Inc. Prior to



Ampthor

joining NFO's Eastern Region Marketing Group in 1987, he was with the BASES Division of SAMI/Burke.

Howard Kamin has been promoted to senior vice president, electronic media sales, with Mediamark Research, New York,

Robert L. McCann, Jr. has joined Information Resources, Inc. as executive vice president, sales and marketing for VideOcart, a new position located at IR1's Chicago headquarters.

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START UPS, CHANGES, MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS



Fleischman Field Research recently opened a suburban office in Walnut Creek, CA. The office includes full kitchen, focus group facility, and phone room. Linda Lemon, vice president of FFR, will manage the office. Telephone 415-398-4140.

Beta Research West has opened a new focus group facility in the Los Ange-

les/Orange County area at 14747 Artesia Blvd., La Mirada, CA, 90638. The facility includes two focus group rooms, each with their own observation rooms. For more information contact Jay Zelinka at 714-994-1206.

A \$4 million gift from Arthur C. Nielsen, Jr. and his mother, Gertrude will provide the resources for a new Center for Marketing Research and Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Nielsen is the retired chairman of the board of A.C. Nielsen Co.

Richard Kurtz has formed a new market research consultancy, **Kurtz & Associates**, at 11 Penn Plaza, Suite 932, New York, NY, 10001. Telephone 212-268-8161.

Strategic Locations Planning, Inc. has changed its name to **Strategic Mapping**, **Inc.**

Decision Research Corp., Lexington, MA, has opened an office at 3303 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 430, Los Angeles, CA, 90010. Telephone 213-736-8563.

D/R/S HealthCare Consultants has moved its headquarters from New Fairfield, CT, to 3127 Eastway Drive, Suite 105, Charlotte, NC, 28205. Telephone 704-532-5856. The company performs marketing research for marketers of health care products and services.

Conversational Voice Technologies Corp., Gurnee, IL, has opened its Con-ServIT Response Center. CVTC now has redundant data entry systems and expanded square footage for operators and equipment.

Gargan & Associates has opened a new focus group facility at 2705 E. Burnside, Suite 200, Portland, OR, 97214. Telephone 503-234-7111. Fax 503-233-3865.



Circle No. 119 on Reader Card

PRODUCT AND SERVICE UPDATE



System pre-tests advertising

Ortek Data Systems introduces its new Rapid Analysis and Testing Environment (RATE) system, designed to pre-test and evaluate print and broadcast advertising. In conjunction with Ortek's Preference Analyzer II, the RATE system measures the responses of more than 100 focus group respondents at a time and then graphs the results, which may be displayed and recorded on video media.

Respondents register their reactions to any audio/visual presentation using a hand-held Responder. Changes in the respondents' feelings are measured and displayed by the RATE system. For more information, contact James Strelchun at 800-422-6416.

Conjoint and correspondence analysis from SPSS

SPSS Inc. has released new software designed to help researchers with new product and packaging design and analysis of products, markets, population groups and competitors. SPSS/PC+ Categories is an MD-DOS-based system for personal computers. It provides both conjoint and correspondence analysis. The software includes seven statistical procedures and provides tools for design and production of the research plan, hypothetical product analysis, and analysis of market and survey data. For more information, call 312-329-2400.

New version of Data Desk

Odesta Corp. announces a new version of Data Desk, the company's exploratory data analysis and statistics program for the Apple Macintosh. Data Desk version 3.0 provides a graphical interface to general linear model (GLM) designs and offers enhanced plots and tables, and increased performance. For more information, call 312-498-5615.

Map display product

TerraLogics has just released TerraView, a map display product for build-

ing custom cartographic applications. The product features high performance display speed of maps and user data, mathematically accurate display of geographic data at all levels of zoom, programmer-defined color symbols, legends, and control panels, arbitrary angle of rotation map with no loss of display speed, continuous zoom capability, and programmer-defined map key information: legends, grid, scale, and compass. TerraView is supported on the MS-DOS, UNIX, and VAX/VMS operating systems. For more information, call 603-889-1800.

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Standard Register

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program called "Mission Service" which will be a permanent part of the firm's operations.

"If you're going to advertise that service is your focus, you have to be certain that your organization is structured properly to produce that service. Based on that, we've begun a very aggressive internal program," says Jerry Chadwick, vice president of marketing, Standard Register.

The program includes, for example, training seminars for the sales staff to keep them well-informed and up-to-date on the trends and needs of the industries they serve. In addition to applications outside the company, Mission Service is also designed to develop the service concept inside Standard Register, emphasizing that an employee's next "customer" might be someone within the company.

"This isn't just a slogan. If you say you're going to provide service, you better deliver. The Japanese have said they think that the United States has forgotten about the customer. We don't plan to do that," Chadwick says.

Trade News

continued from p. 25

energy conscious.

"The buyer who's already owned a home has had more experience with utility bills and is more aware of energy costs," Lynk continued. "People are usually willing to invest in energy-saving features the second time around because they expect to realize a pay-back."

The concept of pay-back, Lynk pointed out, deserves consideration by all homeowners because it can result in substantial savings over time.

"Optimum energy efficiency really pays off for the homeowner in terms of energy dollars saved, and it pays off for all of us in terms of conserving our natural resources."

Let's eat out

According to a recent TeleNation poll of 1,000 people, 60% said they had made purchases at a fast food restaurant within the last week. On average, respondents said two trips were made during that week.

65% of these fast food fans are male, 45% are female. They also tend to be

younger: 67% are under 45 years of age, 57% are over 45. Lunch was the most popular meal (57%), followed by dinner at 44%.

Just over half of those responding said they took their meal out with them; 45% said they dined in. Those choosing to dine in were more likely to be older; 69% of those 65+ years of age ate in, while 64% of those 25-34 years of age took out.

About one-third of the people went to the fast food restaurant alone. Men were more likely to dine alone than women by about 17%. Looked at geographically, the Midwest had the largest share of solo diners; 43% ate by themselves. The average group size of those who didn't eat alone was three people. TeleNation is a service of Market Facts, Inc.

Pete Rose: fair or foul?

As part of an OmniTel study, R.H. Bruskin Associates interviewed 500 baseball fans shortly after the decision to ban Pete Rose from America's pastime was announced, to get their feelings on the matter. 52% felt the decision was fair, while 42% disagreed. 6% had no opinion.

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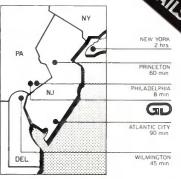
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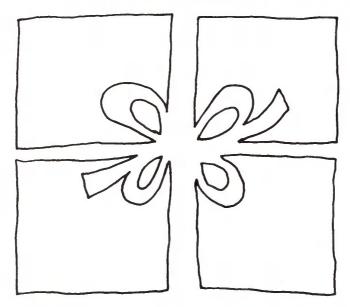




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Marketing Systems Group Scott Plaza II ● Suite 630 ● Phila. PA 19113 continued from p.9

sion format; the boys were asked to provide their reactions to each and draw comparisons between them.

As expected, many of the boys couldn't distinguish between the two programs; they felt that Boy Scouting was a continuation of Cub Scouting, with the same activities and structure. The new experiences concept was very important to them, but they also felt that the social aspect, being able to be with boys their own age, was significant. In addition, some were skeptical that Scouting would deliver the attributes mentioned in the concept statements.

Hilton says that the boys' reactions provided valuable guidance on the approach the marketing campaign should take.

"We knew we had to jolt the boys out of their chairs and say to them, 'Hey! Boy Scouting is not Cub Scouting. It's different. It's designed to meet your active needs, with camping, hiking, fishing, skiing.' We really had to be persuasive in terms of saying, 'We do these things, we don't just talk about them,' which became part of our creative line.

"It really came down to selling the benefits of Scouting to these boys in an aggressive way. We knew we had a product that they'd be interested in if we could just convince them that that's what the product was."

Mothers play significant role

Previous research had indicated that mothers play a significant support role in the activities of boys in the target 9 to 12 age range, so focus groups were also held with mothers of the boys who participated in the focus groups.

They too were shown concept statements, which listed some of the potential benefits Scouting offered their sons, such as a positive alternative to potentially destructive influences, and a chance to develop character- and self-esteem-building skills and habits.

"We found that mothers were most interested in what Scouting could do for their boys in terms of personal development, as opposed to the boys, who just want to go out and have a good time and do alf the activities. Mothers wanted to know 'What will it do for my boy? How will it help him develop?' "Hilton says.

Thus, the research indicated that the

content of certain elements of the marketing campaign—the television spots, magazine ads—would have to be specifically tailored to the mothers and sons.

Like their sons, the mothers had an unclear picture of what went on in the Boy Scouts program. "Mothers didn't have an understanding of what Boy Scouting was, particularly what it offered that was different from what their boys had already experienced in Cub Scouts," Hilton says.

More groups held

In late July, more focus groups were held in the same markets with another set of tryer/rejector boys and their mothers, testing the eampaign's components with



Hilton

animatics of the television ads, mock-ups of print ads, and versions of the poster, tshirt, and direct mail piece.

Based on reactions of the focus group participants, several changes were made, including the elimination of some print ads and a redesign of the t-shirt.

"The research really helped us to refine our creative approach and come up with a much more effective campaign. Based on that second set of groups, we were able to make pretty dramatic changes."

"We Do It"

The campaign, which emphasizes the theme "We Do It," was unveiled in October in six test markets. The television spots aimed at the boys accent activity and social interaction, showing Scout troops engaging in many activities, such as fishing, hiking, climbing. At the end, the youthful narrator invites the boys to pick up a free t-shirt by calling a toll-free number for more information.

The ads aimed at the mothers use similar footage but to a different effect. To emphasize the Scouting program's char-

acter-building potential, the spots intersperse lines from an inspirational Robert Frost poem with added scenes of Scouts at work building a bridge, setting up a campsite.

An activity-packed poster showing Boy Scouts hiking, water skiing, and fishing, for example, has been distributed to schools and the direct mail piece—which is shaped like a backpack—will be mailed to tryer/rejectors identified from BSA mailing lists to supplement the other promotional efforts.

"We had mass vehicles in place, but we really wanted to target those boys with a very focused medium, and direct mail seemed to make a lot of sense," Hilton says.

Tracking research

To monitor the effectiveness of the marketing efforts, two ongoing tracking research projects are in use. A cross-sectional tracking study will be performed with mothers and boys four times during a one-year period to monitor changing attitudes about scouting and leisure time activities for boys. In addition, a panel study will follow attitudes of a group of boys and their mothers in similar areas. BSA's David Palmer says that overall, the awareness program has two basic goals:

"To understand our market, and to use proven marketing tools and techniques to increase the usage of our Boy Scout program, so that boys have the opportunity to join us and benefit from what we have to offer.

"What you have here is the epitome of marketing and marketing research at use. You have a successful organization that is using market research to find bottlenecks that have kept it from growing as fast as it could, and then applying marketing tools to alleviate those bottlenecks," he says.

"We want to reach as broad a spectrum of boys in that age group as we can," says BSA spokesperson Lee Sneath. "We want to keep the boys that are coming out of Cub Scouts actively involved in the Scout program by moving them into Boy Scouts. We also want to attract boys with no Cub Scouting experience to give Scouting a try, because we feel that we have absolutely the finest youth development program on the market."

Qualities of a Master Moderator

by Naomi R. Henderson

s a trainer of moderators, I have observed a variety of moderator styles and experience levels. New moderators frequently give their attention to writing appropriate questions and managing the myriad key elements of group dynamics while probing for important information. Skilled moderators focus more on probing for second and third level information beyond "top of mind" responses as well as finding more creative ways to encourage respondents to deliver behavioral information rather than just conceptual expressions.

This article focuses on qualities of "Master Moderators," defined as those who have mastered the key skills and techniques that lead to effective group interactions. Additionally, Master Moderators use the rich body of oral information collected and analyze and report that data in appropriate ways to support the decision-making needs of clients.

General qualities of a Master Moderator

There is a phrase among airline pilots that says, "There are bold pilots and there are old pilots, but there are no old, bold pilots."

That maxim does not hold true for moderators! A Master Moderator is by nature both bold and old (if not in years, then in number of groups conducted).

However, simply leading hundreds of groups over 10 or 15 years doesn't automatically qualify one as a Master Moderator if new skills have not been acquired and adapted to the ever-changing conditions in the world of qualitative research. In general, the following elements make a Master Moderator:

•willingness to take risks and stretch conventional research boundaries,

•continuous search for training and

learning opportunities from other related disciplines,

•constant acquisition of new ways to interact with groups of individuals in qualitative settings,

•development of more efficient methods to collect data in the 90 minutes allotted in standard two-hour focus group sessions

•offering clients variations on classic focus group formats (e.g. supergroups, creativity sessions, piggyback groups, etc.).



Naomi R. Henderson is founder and president of RIVA (Research in Values and Attitudes), a qualitative research and training services company in Chevy Chase, Md. She holds a B.A. and a M.Ed. in education. She is an adjunct professor at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Specific qualities of a Master Moderator

I have identified 25 distinct skills that make a Master Moderator. This list is by no means compete and I would welcome hearing from senior moderators who have additions. Since the focus group approach is less than 50 years old and little opportunity exists for moderators to see each other's work, this list is based both on personal experience and on the styles of

students observed in RIVA's Moderator Training School since 1981.

A Master Moderator:

1. Maintains research objectivity. The moderator has no investment in the outcome of the study beyond doing complete and thorough work and does not have his/her ego tied to the act of moderating or presenting findings.

2. Establishes research objectives. The moderator supports and/or direct clients in developing appropriate and attainable research objectives and recommends the appropriate research tools to meet those objectives.

3. Understands the foundations/applications of market research. The moderator understands clearly the role of qualitative market research and its applications and limitations as well as all of the steps (From client request to final presentation) of classic focus group research projects.

4. Recommends appropriate methodologies. The moderator recommends appropriate research methodologies to clients to achieve study purposes and sticks to his/her guns to insure that an appropriate environment can be created with respondents to elicit the fullest range of information. This includes a willingness to recommend against qualitative research when appropriate, even at the loss of personal or corporate revenues.

5. Practices unconditional positive regard. The moderator possesses a superior ability to listen to all comments from respondents and clients that may range from logical to aberrant as long as responses relate to the research topic. This skill includes presenting an empathetic but neutral face and voice tone while hearing comments and responses that may range from dull to bizarre to exceptional.

continued on p. 44

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Data Use

continued from p. 12

quently yield estimates with smallest variance. The weight appropriate to my regression is the variance of the logits, npq. The calculated weights indicate the relative accuracy of the data: more importance is attached to the logits with larger probabilities, and less importance to the logits with smaller probabilities. They are proportional to the reciprocals of the variance of the individual logits. Therefore, an original variance of, say, v would be v/(npq) after weighting.

Method of least squares regression

The specific method of least squares regression is weighted covariance analysis. Covariance analysis is a way to combine both regression and analysis-of-variance techniques. The idea is to regress logits on income separately for the 12 logit groups, and then use the results for determining the income effect. For each regression equation, I have seven logit responses for the seven income levels. Polynomials are usually the model for characterizing the income-logit relationships. All 12 polynomial regressions for the 12 logit groups should have the same degree of power. A covariance analysis can estimate the regression coefficients and test the hypothesis that the coefficients (be they linear or quadratic) are constant across all logit groups. If the test indicates any difference, then there is an interaction between the logit groups and incomes.

An SAS program that produces a weighted covariance analysis of the logit data for El Paso is shown in Table 7:

TABLE 7: SAS Codes to Run a Weighted Covariance Analysis

TITLE "Weighted analysis of covariance"
PROC GLM DATA=inchouse
CLASS nlogit
MODEL RESPONSE=nlogit income*nlogit income2*nlogit
WEIGHT w

With a few statements, SAS is able to fit 12 quadratic regressions for the 12 logit groups simultaneously. In this program, "inchouse" is the name of the dataset that contains the logits; "income" is the income variable; "w" is the weighting variable. Since income is the explanatory variable, its values must be continuous. For all levels except the highest openended category, I choose the middle values to represent the income categories. For the open-ended (the over \$75,000) category, I merely choose a reasonable income value for regression

The regression statistics from running the SAS program are shown in Table 8.

This model has a high overall statistical significance of 0.99 R-square. The overall covariance of variation (root mean square divided by response mean) is moderately high at 19.35%. Type I sums of squares measure the contribution to the model by individual model components. The amount from the NLOGIT source is the contribution due to the different logit groups; the amount from the INCOME*NLOGIT source is the additional sum of squares due to the different "linear" regression coefficients (as specified by the NLOGIT variable); the amount from the INCOME2*NLOGIT source is the contribution from the different "quadratic" coefficients. The associated tests confirm that all components are highly significant to the overall model (the probability of seeing nonsignificance is 0.001—virtually zero). Therefore, I have correctly specified the logit-income

relationships by fitting quadratic equations.

Figure 1 is a sample plot of logits against income for one of the logit groups. In the plot, I overlay the actual logits over those most demographic data suppliers.

1 first divide the total count of the 1980 I X H table by that of the 1980 I table to obtain a percentage that represents the

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Dependent Va Weight: W	ariable: RE	SPONSE									
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Source NLOGIT INCOME*NLO INCOME2*NL	-	DF 11 12 12	Type 1 S 226.48 771.38 30.36	<u>SS</u>	F Value 106.55 332.64 13.09		PR>F 0.0001 0.0001 0.0001				

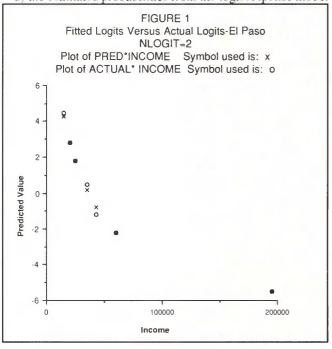
predicted to demonstrate the close fit. (The symbol for actual logits is "o", and "x" for the predicted logits). SAS automatically converts the estimated logits to probabilities. These probability estimates will be used for prediction.

Using the results from the model

If I wish to estimate the 1981 income-by-housing value table from the same table of 1980, I need:

1) the 1980 income-by-housing-value table (hereafter called "1980 I x H" table),

2) the estimated probabilities from the logit response model



based on the 1980 l x H table,

- 3) the 1980 household-income-distribution table (hereafter "1980 I" table), and
- 4) the 1981 estimated household-income-distribution table (hereafter "1981 1" table).

The 1980 I x H, 1980 I, and 1981 I tables are available from

proportion of households owning houses to all households. This percentage is assumed to be identical for all income levels, meaning that households at every income level have approximately the same probability of owning houses. To estimate the 1981 income-by-housing-value table, I then multiply this percentage by the seven marginal household counts (for the seven income levels) from the 1981 I table. The result becomes the seven marginal household counts estimates for the 1981 in-

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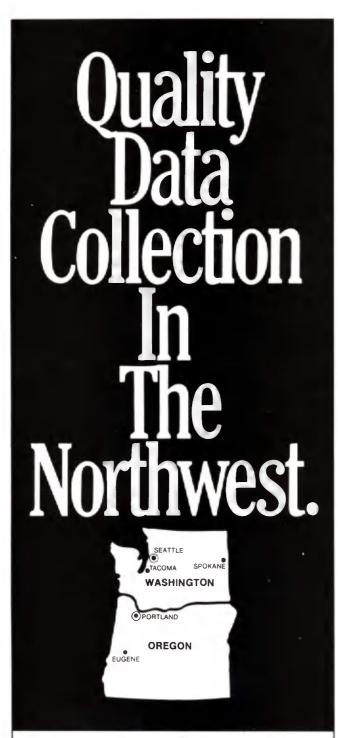
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Seattle (206) 726-5555 2324 Eastlake Ave. E., Ste. 300 Seattle, Washington 98102 Portland (503) 282-4551 5322 N.E. Irving Street Portland, Oregon 97213 come-by-housing-value table. Finally, I multiply these marginal counts by estimated cell probabilities to obtain the counts for individual housing-value levels.

This logit model for a two-dimensional table can be easily applied to a multi-dimensional table. The only difference is that I must specify one dimension to be the response variable, and the rest to be the explanatory variables. I can then build a large covariance analysis model, with as many regressors as the number of explanatory variables. Such an expanded model, if possible, would allow me to include more factors than income for predicting the housing-value distribution.

Discussion

Although the logit response model is an effective tool for analyzing large cross-classified tables, it has problems too: (1) the error of the original model before linearization may be larger than that of the linearized model, and (2) it does not work well with sparse tables with too many empty cells.

Before the logarithmic transformation, the original model is the "odds" model: odds=p/(1-p), where p is the probability, and has an unknown, multiplicative relationship with income. After computing the logarithms, the odds becomes the logits that has a linear relationship with income:

logit = log(odds) = log p - log(1-p) = b(0 + b1 * x1 + b2 * x2 + e

This logit model is linear in its parameters b0, b1, b2. However, it is not linear in the unknown parameters of the original odds model. For example, if the logarithmically transformed error, e, is normally distributed with mean zero and variance v, then the error term in the original odds model must have a much more complex distributional form. All that is known is that this distribution is a function of e, and is therefore likely to be larger than e. In other words, the original model may be statistically complicated enough to warrant further adjustment, although the transformed model has a simpler structure.

The logit response model is not suitable for analyzing sparse tables, especially those for small areas. Since the logarithm of a near-zero value is negative infinity, the covariance matrix for fitting the curves is likely to be singular and produces no solution for the parameters. If there are not too many empty cells, two things can be done to avoid the problem of singularity. (1) Replace the empty cells by 1/(r*n i) where r is the number of response levels, and ni is the row total that contains the empty cell(s). (2) Assign a reasonable yet small number, say, 0.5, to all empty cells before calculations. It is not advisable to eliminate empty cells by combining levels. Valuable information may be lost through such an approach.

fn conclusion, if a researcher is only interested in estimating a table for a fairly large area and for a year not far from 1980, the logit response model should serve his or her needs adequately.

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Rules

continued from p. 6

raised by the participants. Permitting them to respond to participant questions would risk a loss of control by the moderator.

To discourage interaction between the participants and the expert, the expert should not be seated in the visual focal point of the group. Above all, they must be restrained from debating technical issues with participants or attempting to sell the participants on the merits of the concept being discussed.

Anonymity cannot be guaranteed. In consumer research, most respondents are guaranteed anonymity. They are generally unknown to the viewers and contact between viewers and participants rarely occurs prior to or after group sessions.

In business to business research, however, a greater level of respondent-viewer interaction often exists. In a typical setting, key customers of a company might be seated around the table, while the marketing and sales executives of that company sit behind the glass. These executives have met the respondents before the sessions and they will see them again afterwards. Unless the client would be willing to allow the research company to conduct the sessions without client viewers, which would sacrifice one of the benefits of the group process, anonymity for these respondents cannot be guaranteed.

Eliminating this promise of anonymity, the moderator must do the next best thing: promise the participants that the information that they divulge will not be used against them in a safes setting. Of course, the client has to agree to this practice, keeping in mind that they will be jeopardizing their integrity if the promise is broken. A safes manager who repeats what he or she heard the customer say in a focus group setting will almost certainly risk the loss of that customer.

The elient's confidentiality is at risk.

The passing of information between respondents and clients in business to business focus groups is a two-way street. Just as the respondent often loses his or her anonymity, the client operating in the



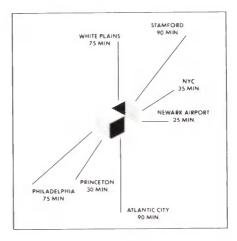
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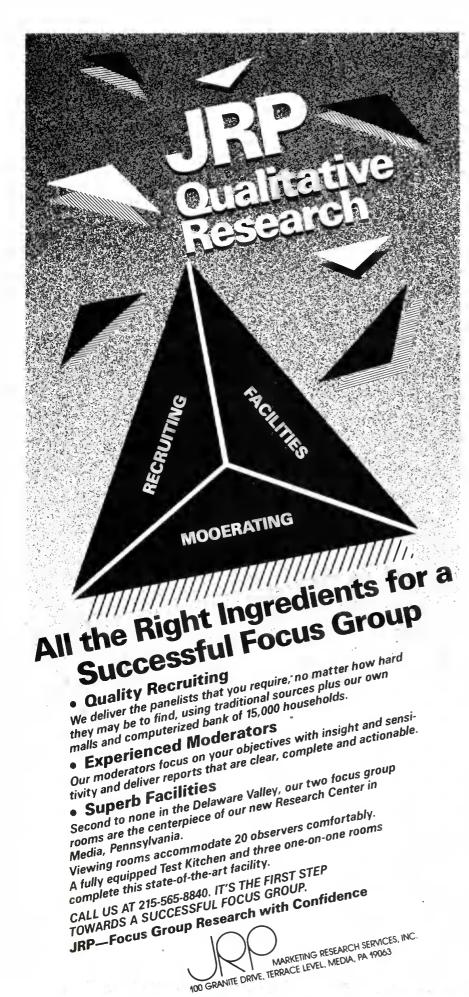
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business to business setting also loses confidentiality.

In consumer research, respondents are typically screened to ensure that they do not personally work, or have friends or relatives who work, in the researched market. In business to business research, the process is just the opposite: the respondent must work in the targeted industry to qualify for group participation.

Working in the targeted industry also says that they have contacts in that industry, which presents the opportunity for security leaks. The dealer who sells your company's plumbing supplies probably also sells your competitor's products, which means that they have contacts with representatives from that company, providing them with opportunities to pass on information learned as a participant in a research project.

While some researchers have asked respondents to sign nondisclosure agreements, the value of these documents is questionable. Provided that an attorney could produce an enforceable document, would a company want to sue its customers in the event of a disclosure? More important, it is likely that the document would have a biasing effect on the research. The nondisclosure agreement would scream to the respondent, "The product concept that you are about to see is new and different!" Even an existing product would seem special if preceded by a nondisclosure agreement.

As an alternative to a confidentiality statement, some researchers might provide bogus product attributes to camouflage the nature of the product. In essence, the product concept described to the respondents would be a modification of what might ultimately be produced.

This appears to be a rather futile exercise, since it will obscure the evaluation of the "real" product concept. Additionally, the risk still exists that the respondents will remember only those elements that your company considers most sacred, and pass them along to your competitors.

Since we cannot swear the respondents to confidentiality and attempts to camouflage the nature of the new product concept would be counterproductive, it is recommended that the user of business

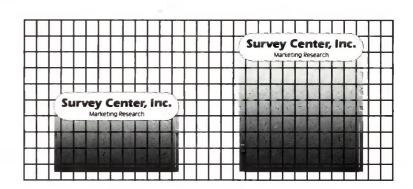
focus groups views this as a risk versus reward situation. The risk exists that in doing good research in the business setting, some confidential information might leak to a competitor. What the marketer must do is evaluate that risk against the benefits of acquiring new marketing information. If the potential benefits outweigh the risks, then the research is worth doing. If, however, the risk of advanced disclosure of a new product idea is too great to offset the potential rewards of the information to be acquired, then the research should not be conducted.

Quanitative follow-up might be impractical.

In consumer research, focus groups are so often followed by quantitative research that the focus group reports frequently close with a standard recommendation for a quantitative follow-up: "Of course, we recommend that this research be followed-up with a large sample, qualitative study."

In the business to business setting, a quantitative follow-up is often impossible or illogical. If you are conducting research among the chief financial officers from the 25 largest companies in a market, and you have selected the focus group as the most appropriate method, who will be available for a quantitative follow-up? After conducting two focus groups with a sample from this population, virtually no one would remain with whom you could conduct your follow-up research. Since business to business focus group research frequently targets these small markets, a quantitative follow-up is likely to be impractical.

In conclusion, there are enough differences between business to business and consumer focus groups to warrant a modification of strategies in moderating and a rethinking of some of the truths that are assumed in the consumer setting. One needs to consider issues related to moderator knowledge, the use of experts, and anonymity and confidentiality, to maximize the value of this tool for the business to business researcher.



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Observation

continued from p. 22

Distribution of purchases

Figure 5 illustrates the locations where shoppers just looked at products in the department. The data reveal a disproportionate distribution of "just browsing" instances compared to purchases observed in Figure 4. Are product turns too slow in the high browsing sections? Should product be redistributed to other locations to spread potential impulse pur-



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FIGURE 4: The number of items purchased from the various sections of the dairy department by 100 supermarket customers.

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	3	4	6	2	5	7	2	3	5	4	16	2	>	3	3	5	2	/
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Analysis revealed that there was not a significant variation in the distribution of purchases among the sections of the dairy department, though there was a significant variation in the location of browsing

Table 4: The use of shopping carts and shopping lists by 100 observed shopping parties

<u>Information</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Used a shopping cart	77
Did not use a cart	23
Used a shopping list	40
Did not use a list	60

by customers.

Browsing occurred in the mid-section of the department, in sections containing predominantly impulse items rather than staple or high demand items.

The implications for communication strategies are at least three-fold. First, specials and coupons might reduce "looks" and increase purchases. Second, more advertising and promotion may increase awareness of the items and improve attitudes toward these products.

Third, in-store demonstrations may reduce looking, and increase purchases.

An analysis of customer traffic patterns will assist store managers in making improvements in product movement and

Table 5: Product group selection by parties with various characteristics, 100 supermarket observations

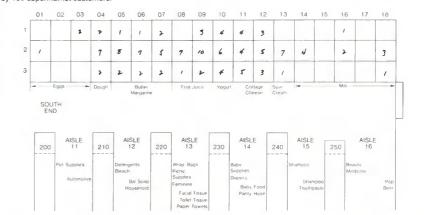
Product group	Customer characteristics
Eggs	Selected by all parties
Dough	Selected by all parties
Spreads	Selected less frequently
	by individual females
Juices	Fewer selections made
	by mixed adult parties
Yogurt	Selected more frequently by
	mixed adult parties
Cottage cheese	More frequently selected
	by females with a child
Sour cream	No selection observed
	by individual females

customer purchases. Relocating impulse items among demand items may increase sales.

Use of shopping carts and lists

The extensive use of a shopping cart (Table 4) implies a potential for increased unit purchases when compared to the results of using a shopping basket or no

FIGURE 5: The number of "just browsing" actions made by customers in the various sections of the dairy department by 100 supermarket customers.



earrying device of any kind. This information, coupled with the lack of a shopping list, implies a potential for impulse selling.

Additional information can be observed regarding the use of shopping aids. For example, monitoring the use of coupons

Table 6: The type of party observed and the shelf location from which products were selected, 100 supermarket observations

ODSETVATIONS	
Party observed	Location of item selection
Individual female	Fewer selections from lower shelves
Individual male	Fewer selections from lower shelves
Mixed adults	Fewer selections from lower shelves
Females with child/children	Selections from all shelves

and/or a newspaper, and requests for customer assistance can provide information useful in improving advertising, promotion, and customer service.

Customer characteristics and product selection

Customer characteristics can be asso-

Table 7: Number of units selected by various types of customer, 100 observed parties

Characteristic	<u>Units</u>
Mixed adult couples	4.00
Individual females	1.68
Cart users	3.20
Non-cart users	1.10
Shopping list users	3.60
Evening shoppers	4.30
Those entering from	
meat department	3.10

ciated with the types of products selected (Table 5) and the location of product selection. Can product selection be influenced by product relocation? Relating Tables 5 and 6, for example, would suggest that the location of eggs is satisfactory in the store involved--eggs were selected by all parties. Without debating cause and effect, one might suggest moving spreads that are particularly appealing to females to a middle shelf to take the pressure off lower or higher shelves.

Shopping and action profiles

The analysis resulted in a description of various "Target Market Profiles." These profiles were developed to answer a basic question: What actions and shop-

ping characteristics distinguished one market segment from another?

Profiles of two market segments observed are illustrated. These profiles permit a manager to determine the relationship between shoppers and their observed actions.

Individual Female

- 1. Accounted for 21 percent of the parties observed.
 - 2. 71 percent used a shopping cart.
 - 3. 33 percent used a shopping list.
- 4. 38 percent shopped in the morning and early afternoon and 38 percent shopped after 5 p.m.
 - 5. Estimated average age, 35.7 years.
- 6. Purchased an average of 1.68 units of products.

Shopping Cart Users

- 1.77 percent of those observed used a shopping cart.
- 2. The most frequent cart users were females with at least one child; 27 percent of all users.
- 3. 51 percent observed using a shopping cart also used a shopping list.
- 4. A greater percent of persons (from 67 percent to 83 percent) used shopping carts as the time of day became later.
- 5. 35 percent of those who used a shopping cart were observed with at least one child
- 6. 43 percent of cart users were age 25-34 years old.
- 7. The most infrequent cart users were individual males.
 - 8. Purchased an average of 3.2 units.

Table 7 reflects the rate that various market segments selected units of product. This information raises several questions:

- 1. Can the number of units selected be increased by influencing the ingress position of customers?
 - 2. What can be done to attract more:
 - a) Evening shoppers?
 - b) Mixed adult couples?
 - 3. What can be done to encourage more:
 - a) Shopping list use?
 - b) Shopping cart use?
- 4. What can be done to increase the number of units selected by:
 - a) Individual female shoppers?
 - b) Non-cart users?

And finally....

Observation documents customers' actions which can communicate alternative improvements in management and market planning. Observation enables changes to be made which can improve the shopping environment for both customers and employees. Once the changes are made, it is important to follow them up. For example, did sales improve? Observation is one way to measure the results.

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Master Moderator

continued from p. 35

The moderator recognizes that rich information, creative ideas, or "gold mines" (unexpected, rich lodes of comments from respondents) may come from unlikely sources which, on first hearing or observation, wouldn't appear to produce meaningful information.

- 6. Maintains good listening skills. The moderator has an exceptional ability to be attentive to both verbal and non-verbal behaviors and to avoid informing or educating respondents. This skill also encompasses the ability to hear whether the response is a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd level response (i.e., "top of mind" responses versus those from deeper thinking levels).
- 7. Remains observant. The moderator is able to "read" the room on many dimensions. These include:
- •seeing the room as a group of strangers vying for the approval of the moderator and new "peers,"
- •noting that individuals within a group have a behavior range that runs the gamut from dominant to withdrawn,
- •seeing when a participant wants to speak before a hand is raised and to "read" non-verbal clues appropriately.
- 8. Practices "invisible leadership" skills. The moderator possesses multiple skills necessary to lead a group discussion without falling into the trap of "leading the witness" or letting the room "run away with the conversation."

This includes the knowledge of when to stay with a topic and probe to allow for new information and when to close down a line of questioning that produces no "pay dirt."

The moderator is able to remain "in charge" without bullying or dominating respondents, to create rapport within six minutes of beginning a group and is able to re-create that rapport at any time.

9. *Moderates effectively*. A moderator has the ability to:

•create a safe environment for respondents to deliver their perceptions, opinions, beliefs, and attitudes,

•state the purpose of the session and provide clear ground rules for participation.

•relate to respondents without talking "up" or "down" to them,

•terminate topic areas and move on to new ones without the need for long setups or summaries,

•allow for diverse opinions within the group and live with the lack of consensus or closure,

•"come down hard" when the discussion gets out of hand or off track without losing group affinity,

•avoid serial interviewing but include everyone in the conversation, and,

•"read the room" and stay with the participants, not the papers.

- 10. Handles diverse opinions. The moderator anticipates and allows for diverse opinions without becoming confrontational, judgmental, evaluative or threatening and without allowing other respondents to act in these ways toward one another to the detriment of information-gathering opportunities.
- 11. Remains flexible. The moderator has multidimensional abilities to manage the variables contained in the qualitative research interactive process. Some of these abilities include: time management, logic tracking, linking, creative approaches to tired materials or concepts, suppressing dominators, inspiring reticent participants, probing, creating energy for dull groups, asking short questions to get long answers, and shifting unworkable situations into workable ones.
- 12. Conducts linking and logic tracking. The moderator recalls what was said earlier and by whom and links it to current conversation, maintaining a "logic path" that follows the thinking of respondents and does not slavishly adhere to the pre-developed guide.

13. Uses a variety of techniques. The

moderator elicits data using various models and or techniques (e.g. neurolinguistic programming, projections, devil's advocate, role playing, "board of directors," paper and pencil tasks, etc.) appropriate to the respondents' frames of reference.

14. Creates custom questions and custom guides. The moderator creates and writes effective questions in an organized guide or outline that follows a logical flow from the respondent's perspective and permits them to answer queries fully and appropriately. This includes reframing questions on the spot, both within the group and between groups.

15. Uses interventions. The moderator utilizes a variety of intervention techniques (from simple to complex) to support the flow of conversation and open new ideas of exploration.

Intervention: any appropriate activity (e.g. paper/pencil activity, dyads, stimuli, etc.) that interrupts the two-way conversation between moderator and respondents for the purpose of enriching the discussion or focusing on a specific issue.

16. Uses sophisticated naivete. The moderator is able to employ a form of "not knowing" to avoid leading respondents or to avoid having the moderator's personal viewpoint embedded in the flow of conversation.

17. Comfortable with uncertainty. The moderator can live with surprises, "gold mines" and abrupt changes in research design, without losing aplomb.

18. Thinks rapidly/makes appropriate decisions. The moderator thinks fast, responds quickly to shifts in conversation and reacts appropriately to situations without looking for endorsement or approval from clients or respondents. This includes an ability to quickly move a project along a foreshortened timeline without sacrificing quality.

19. Utilizes other paradigms. The moderator uses skills, techniques, and materials from other paradigms in an appropriate manner and applies them to qualitative research projects to create maximum results for clients.

Paradigm: A pattern, example, model, or overall concept accepted by most people in an intellectual community as a science because of its effectiveness in explaining a complex process, idea, or set of ideas.

20. Allows spontaneity in group process. The moderator allows spontaneity and bursts of conversation instead of suppressing the natural group process in favor of rigid research formats or oppressive group control measures.

continued on p. 50

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21. Uses accurate language and paraphrases. The moderator avoids secondguessing respondents by putting words in their mouths but provides accurate feedback to respondents using their terms and words and summarizes the discussion from time to time to:

a, demonstrate that respondents' comments are heard and understood,

b. validate that all comments on target to the discussion are valuable.

This includes monitoring his or her own language so that at the outset, the number of moderator words in a group discussion ranges from 80/20 (in favor of the moderator) at the outset to 20/80 (in favor of the respondents) by three quarters of the way through the focus group.

22. Analyzes qualitative data. The moderator analyzes subjective data with an objective viewpoint, draws trend lines across diverse levels of data and finds common themes. This includes choosing the right mix of summaries, conclusions, or recommendations to support the client in making the next decision step.

23. Markets services appropriately. The moderator presents his/her skills and qualifications for a fair price and in a pro-

fessional manner so that potential clients have a clear understanding of these unique services

24. *Manages all project aspects*. The moderator has equal abilities in managing:

research tasks (e.g. research design),field tasks (e.g. writing screeners,

tracking recruiting),

project tasks (e.g. flow of focus group),client politics (e.g. handling back-

room during focus group process),
•analysis tasks (e.g. production of subjective reports).

25. Remains human, not mechanical. The moderator must lead a group as an individual, a researcher, and an expert, but must not act overtly in any of those roles. At no time should the moderator suppress the natural flow of conversation or add any element of artificiality to the discussion. The moderator must be natural rather than contrived and must allow a full range of personal responses without losing control of the group or appearing

Summary

While the above list of qualities of a Master Moderator is by no means complete, it does encompass many of the factors that make successful moderators effective. Methods to strengthen one's skills and abilities in any of the above areas could include:

to be false or condescending.

•reading materials from related fields about group dynamics, questioning techniques, right/left brain operations, nonverbal behavior, role playing, etc.

•observing other moderators and discussing techniques

•being coached by a Master Moderator (via seminar, workshop, private one-onone sessions, or through review and written critique of submitted video tapes)

•taking courses, seminars, or workshops from various disciplines designed to strengthen particular skills.

A Master Moderator is made, not born, and in most cases is self-made. There is no magic number of groups completed that makes a Master Moderator and there is no one course that can deliver all the needed skills to clear up faults overnight.

Continual self-examination, personal stretching of skills and abilities and a questing nature for better ways to handle individuals in the group setting are some of the steps to becoming a Master Moderator.

How close are you? □

(The author acknowledges contributions from Suzette de Vogelaere, Concepts & Strategies, San Francisco, and Jo Ann Hairston, VARI Market Research, St. Paul, in preparing this article.)

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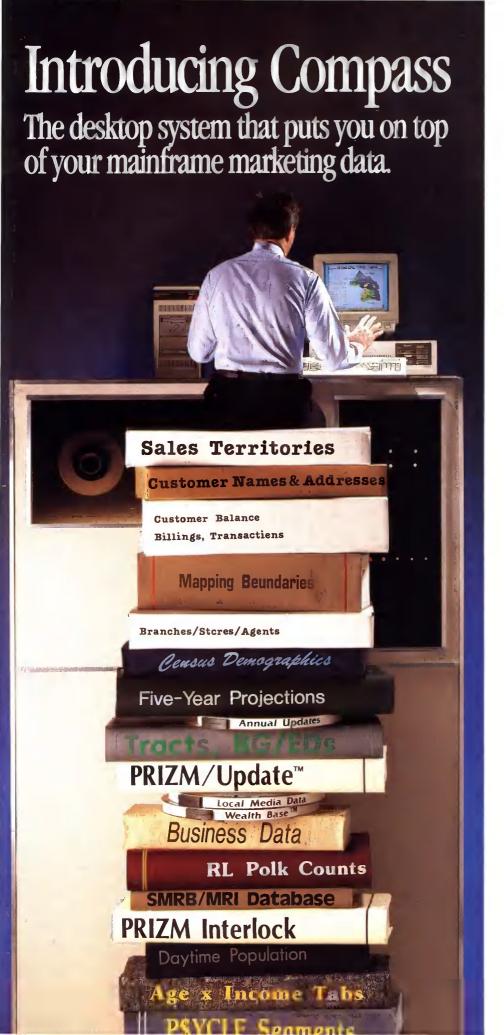
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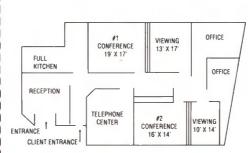
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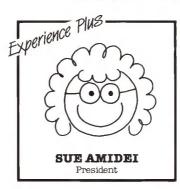
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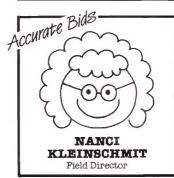
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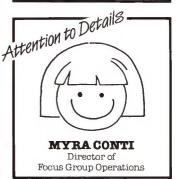
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Wade West/Orange County 18003 Sky Park South, Suite L Irvine, CA 92714 Ph. 714-261-8800 Fax 714-250-1160 1,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p.23)

RIVERSIDE

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

L.A. Research, Inc. 5222 Arlington Ave., #E Riverside, CA 92504 Ph. 714-358-0300 1,3,4,6,7A

SACRAMENTO

Heakin Research, Inc. Arden Fair Mall 1607 D Arden Way Sacramento, CA 95815 Ph. 916-920-1361 1,3,4,6,7A

Research Unlimited 1012 Second St. Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916-446-6064 Fax 916-448-2355 1,3,4,6,7C

Research Unlimited Country Club Centre 3382 El Camino Ave., Ste. 40 Sacramento, CA 95825 Ph. 916-484-0131 Fax 916-448-2355 1,3,4,6,7A

SAN DIEGO

Analysis/Research, Ltd. Market Place at The Grove San Diego, CA 92111 Ph. 619-268-4800 Fax 619-268-4892 1.3.6.7A

Analysis/Research, Ltd. Skylight Plaza, Suite 180 4655 Ruffner San Diego, CA 92111 Ph. 619-268-4800 Fax 619-268-4892 1,2,3,6,7B

Bilingual Unlimited Research 8287 Royal Gorge Drive San Diego, CA 92119 Ph. 619-583-6243 Fax 619-583-0767 1,2,3,4,6,7B

Directions in Research, Inc. 5353 Mission Center Rd., Suite 219 San Diego, CA 92108 Ph. 619-299-5883 1,3,4,6,7B

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

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

Intercontinental Marketing Investigations Inc. P.O. Box 2147 Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067 Ph. 619-756-1765 Fax 619-756-4605 1,3,6,7D

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

Luth Research, Inc. Plaza Bonita Mall, #2188 3030 Plaza Bonita Rd. National City, CA 92050 Ph. 619-479-5891 1,3,4,6,7A

Luth Research, Inc. 3456 Camino Del Rio No., #101 San Diego, CA 92108 Ph. 619-283-7333 1,3,4,6,7B

Luth Research, Inc. Mission Valley Center 1640 Camino Del Rio No., #1275 San Diego, CA 92108 Ph. 619-299-7487 1,3,4,6,7A

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Novick Ayres Research 2657 Vista Way, Suite 5 Oceanside, CA 92054 Ph. 619-967-1307 1,2,3,4,6,7A

San Diego Surveys, Inc. 4616 Mission Gorge Place San Diego, CA 92120 Ph. 619-265-2361 Fax 619-582-1562 1,3,4,6,7B

San Diego Surveys Point Loma Plaza 3675 Midway Drive, Ste. L San Diego, CA 92110 Ph. 619-224-3113 Fax 619-582-1562 1,3,4,6,7A

San Diego Surveys Escondido Village Mall 1351 E. Pennsylvania Ave. Escondido, CA 92027 Ph. 619-480-8440 Fax 619-582-1562 1,3,4,6,7A

Taylor Research 3990 Old Town Ave., #201A San Diego, CA 92110 Ph. 619-299-6368 1,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 63)

SAN FRANCISCO

Consumer Research Associates 111 Pine Street, 17th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111 Ph. 415-392-6000 Fax 415-392-7141 1,2,3,4,6,7B

Corey Canapary and Galanis Penthouse North 447 Sutter St. San Francisco, CA 94108 Ph. 415-397-1200 Fax 415-433-3809 1,3,6,7B

Ecker & Associates 220 So. Spruce Ave, Ste. 100 So. San Francisco, CA 94080 Ph. 415-871-6800 Fax 415-871-6815 1,2,3,4.6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 29)

Ecker & Associates 222 Front St., 3rd Floor San Francisco, CA 94111 Ph. 415-871-6800 Fax 415-871-6815 1,2,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 29)

Elrick & Lavidge, Inc. 111 Maiden Lane, 6th Floor San Francisco, CA 94108 Ph. 415-434-0536 Fax 415-391-0946 1,3,4,6,7B

Field Management Associates 309 El Cerito Plaza El Cerito, CA 94530 Ph. 415-527-8030 1,3,4,6.7A

Fleischman Field Research, Inc. 1655 No. Main Street, Ste. 320 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 Ph. 415-942-2600 Fax 415-989-4506 1.2,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 56) Fleischman Field Research 220 Bush St., Ste. 1212 San Francisco, CA 94104 Ph. 415-398-4140 Fax 415-989-4506 1,2,3,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 56)

Friedman Marketing/San Rafael 5800 Northgate Mall San Rafael, CA 94903 Ph. 415-472-5394 Fax 415-472-5477 1,3,4,6,7A

Heakin Research of California Bay Fair Mall 227 Bay Fair San Leandro, CA 94758 Ph. 415-278-2200 1.3.4.6.7A

MSI Hillsdale 14 Hillsdale Mall San Mateo, CA 94403 Ph.415-574-9044 Fax 415-574-0385 1.3.6.7A

Nichols Research 1155 Newpark Mall Newark. CA 94560 Ph. 408-773-8200 Fax 415-794-3471 1,3,4,6,7A

Nichols Research La Hacienda Shopping Mall 795 E. El Camino Real Sunnyvale, CA 94087 Ph. 408-773-8200 1.3.4.6.7A

Nichols Research 1820 Galindo, Ste. 3 Concord, CA 94520 Ph. 415-687-9755 Fax 415-686-1384 1,3,4,6,7B

Public Response Associates 601 Van Ness, Ste. 2056 San Francisco, CA 94102 Ph. 415-771-2525 1,3,6,7D Quality Research Associates 346 Lakeside Dr., Ste. B Foster City, CA 94404 Ph. 415-574-8825 1,3,6,7B

Q.E.D. Research 2815 Mitchell Dr., Ste. 118 Walnut Creek, CA 94598 Ph. 415-932-3202 Fax 415-932-0499 1,3,6,7B

Quick Test 203 Southland Mall Hayward, CA 94545 Ph. 415-785-4650 1,3,4.6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 3)

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

Tragon Corporation 365 Convention Way Redwood City, CA 94583 Ph. 415-365-1833 Fax 415-365-3737 1,3,4,6,7B

Wade West, San Francisco 8-D Serramonte Center Daly City, CA 94015 Ph. 415-992-9300 Fax 415-994-1902 1,3,4,5,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 23)

Margaret Yarbrough & Associate 934 Shorepoint Ct., Ste. 100 Alameda, CA 94501 Ph. 415-521-6900 Fax 415-521-2130 1,2,3,4,5,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 52)

SAN JOSE

Phase III Market Research 1150 N. First St., Ste. 211 San Jose, CA 95112 Ph. 408-947-8661 Fax 408-295-7699 1,3,4,6,7B



Quick Test

1268 Town Center Sunnyvale, CA 94086 Ph. 408-773-9777 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p.3)

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Brewer Research 1421 Delaware Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80909 Ph. 719-597-9869 1,3,4,5,6,7A

Consumer Pulse of Colorado Springs

750 Citadel Drive East Colorado Springs, CO 80909 Ph. 719-596-6933 Fax 719-480-0176 1,3,6,7D (See Advertisement on p. 65)

Barbara Prince Assoc., Inc. Mall of the Bluffs 3650 Austin Bluff Pkwy Ph. 719-594-9192 1,3,4,6,7A

United States Testing Company Chapel Hills Mall, Ste. 315 1710 Briargate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80918 Ph. 719-598-8070 1,3,4,6,7A

DENVER

Bernett Research, Inc. Aurora Mall 14200 Alameda Avenue Aurora, CO 80012 Ph. 303-341-1211 Fax 303-341-4469 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 77)

Colorado Market Research Ruth Nelson Research Services 2149 So. Grape St. Denver, CO 80222 Ph. 303-758-6424 Fax 303-756-6467 1,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 103)

Consumer Pulse of Denver Arapahoe East Center 6810 So. Dallas Way Englewood, CO 80112 Ph. 303-799-4849 Fax 719-480-0176 1,3,4,5,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 65)

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

Friedman Marketing/Boulder Crossroads Mall 1600 28th St., #277 Boulder, CO 80301 Ph. 303-449-4632 or 313-569-0444 Fax 303-449-1484 1,3,4,6,7A

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Information Research, Inc. 10650 E. Bethany Drive Aurora, CO 80014 Ph. 303-751-0190 1.3.4.6.7B

Information Research, Inc. 1250 S. Hover Road, Ste. 51 Longmont, CO 80501 Ph. 303-443-3548 1,3,4,6,7A

Information Research, Inc. 3100 So. Sheridan, #23 Denver, CO 80227 Ph. 303-936-3400 1,3,4,5,6,7A

Message Factors, Inc. 2620 So. Parker Road, Ste. 275 Aurora, CO 80014 Ph. 303-750-5005 1,3,6,7B

Barbara Prince Associates, Inc. 5801 W. 44th Avenue Denver, CO 80212 Ph. 303-458-0145 1,3,4,6,7A

Quality Controlled Services Cinderella City Mall 701 W. Hampden Ave., Space R-13 Englewood, CO 80110 Ph. 303-789-0565 Fax 303-789-0573 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 55)

Quick Test 203 Villa Italia Mall Lakewood, CO 80226 Ph. 303-937-0144 Fax 602-946-7641 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 3)

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Focus Facility Hartford 270 Farmington Ave. Ste. 126 Farmington, CT 06032 Ph. 203-677-1336 1,3,4,6,7B

Hartford Research Center 1321 Silas Deane Hwy., 2nd Flr. Wethersfield, CT 06109 Ph. 203-236-6133 1,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 61)

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Quick Test
Connecticut Post Mall
1201 Boston Post Rd.
Milford,CT 06460
Ph. 203-877-2739
Fax 203-877-6854
1,3,4,6,7A
(See Advertisement on p.3)

Res-A-Vue 20 Commerce Park Rd. Milford CT 06460 Ph. 203-878-0944 Fax 203-878-3726 1,2,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p.108)

Res-A-Vue 234 Broad Street Milford, CT 06460 Ph. 203-878-0944 Fax 203-878-3726 1,2,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 108)

NORWALK

Trost Associates, Inc. 585 Main Avenue Norwalk, CT 06851 Ph. 203-847-7204 1,3,4,6,7C

STAMFORD

The Consumer Dialogue Center 25 Third Street Stamford, CT 06905 Ph. 203-359-2840 Fax 203-327-9061 1,3,4,6,7B

Focus Center-So. New England 1011 High Ridge Road Stamford, CT 06905 Ph. 203-322-5996 Fax 203-322-0819 1,3,4,5,6,7B

Focus First America 969 High Ridge Road Stamford, CT 06905 Ph. 203-322-1173 Fax 203-968-0421 1,2,3,4,5,6,7B (See Advertisement on p.68)

The Gene Reilly Group, Inc. 20 Thorndal Circle Darien, CT 06820 Ph. 203-655-7994 Fax 203-655-0477 1.2.3.6.7B Area Wide Market Research 16017 Comprint Circle Gaithersburg, MD 20877 Ph. 301-948-1920 1,3,4,6,7B

Cameron Mills Research Svce. 2414 Cameron Mills Road Alexandria, VA 22302 Ph. 703-549-4925 Fax 703-549-4926 1,2,3,4,6,7C

Consumer Pulse of Washington 8310 C Old Court House Rd. Vienna, VA 22182 Ph. 703-442-0960 Fax 703-442-0967 1,3,4,5,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 65)

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Fax 202-797-8562 1,3,4,5,6,7D

(See Advertisement on p. 64)

Heakin Research, Inc. Laurel Centre Mall 14882 Baltimore-Washington Blvd. Laurel, MD 20707 Ph. 301-776-9800 1,3,4,5,6,7A

House Market Research, Inc. 1201 Seven Locks Rd., Ste. 209 Potomac, MD 20854 Ph. 301-424-1930 Fax 301-424-3128 1,3,4,6,7B

House Market Research, Inc. 3500 East West Hwy Hyattsville, MD 20782 Ph. 301-559-7060 or 301-424-1930 Fax 301-424-3128 1,2,3,4,5,6,7A

Market Dynamics, Inc. 2222 Gallows Road Vienna, VA 22027 Ph. 703-560-8400 1,3,6,7B

Metro Research Services 10710 Lee Hwy., Ste. 207 The Qutlet Mall Fairfax, VA 22030 Ph. 703-385-1108 1,3,4,6,7A

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Quality Controlled Services 6710 E. Springfield Mall Springfield, VA 22150 Ph. 703-971-6717 Fax 703-922-5946 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 55)

Shugoll Research, Inc. 7475 Wisconsin, Ste. 200 Bethesda, MD 20814 Ph. 301-656-0310 Fax 301-657-9051 1,3,4,6,7B

T.I.M.E. Market Research 425 Spotsylvania Mall Fredricksburg, VA 22401 Ph. 703-786-3376 Fax 703-786-3925 1,3,4,6,7A

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Heakin Research, Inc. Coral Springs Mall 9569 W. Atlantic Blvd Coral Springs, FL 33071 Ph. 305-753-4466 1,3,4,6,7A

Mar's Surveys, Inc. 1700 No. University Drive Coral Springs, FL 33071 Ph. 305-755-2805 Fax 305-755-3061 1,3,4,6,7B

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Tom Dale Market Research 235 Margaret Street Neptune Beach, FL 32233 Ph. 904-241-7770 1,6,7B

Irwin Research Services, Inc. 565 So. Main St., Ste. 18B Jacksonville, FL 32207 Ph. 904-398-8300 Fax 904-398-5621 1,3,4,6,7D

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(See Advertisement on p. 3)

MIAMI

BSR Field Services 2121 Ponce De Leon Blvd., #1250 Coral Gables, FL 33134 Ph. 305-448-7622 1,2,3,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 66)

Findings International Corp. 1641 SW 87th Avenue Miami, FL 33165 Ph. 305-266-9798 Fax 305-264-5584 1,3,4,6,7C

Jean M. Light Interviewing Service 8551 Coral Way-2nd Floor Miami, FL 33155 Ph. 305-264-5780 1,3.4,6,7B

Jean M. Light Interviewing Service Miami International Mall Miami, FL 33172 Ph. 305-264-5780 1,3.4.6.7A

Research Miami 7951 SW 40th St., Ste. 208 Miami, FL 33155 Ph. 305-266-3066 Fax 305-264-1123 1,3,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 65) Rife Market Research, Inc.

1111 Park Center Blvd., Ste. 111 Miami, FL 33169 Ph. 305-620-4244 Fax 305-621-3533 1,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 62)

Rife Market Research, Inc. Skylake Mall, 1758 NE Miami Gardens No. Miami, FL 33179 Ph. 305-620-4244 Fax 305-621-3533 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 62)

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Pilar Ellis Market Research, Inc. 500 N. Orlando Ave., Ste. 1398 Winter Park, FL 32789

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Barbara Noian Market Research

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Ph. 407-830-4542 1,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 67)

Quick Test Lake Square Mall 7000 U.S. Hwy. 441 Leesburg, FL 34788 Ph. 904-365-0505 Fax 904-365-0833 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 3)

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Friedman Marketing/Florida Tallahassee Mall 2415 N. Monroe St., #708 Tallahassee, FL 32303 Ph. 904-385-4399 or 313-569-0444 Fax 904-385-3481 1,3,4,6,7A

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Adam Market Research, Inc. 2511 N. Grady Ave., Ste. 401 Tampa, FL 33607 Ph. 813-875-4005 Fax 813-875-4055 1,3,4,6,7B

Phil Balducci Associates, Inc. 1304 DeSoto Ave., Ste. 200 Tampa, FL 33606 Ph. 813-254-8822 1,3,4,5,6,7B

Data Inquiries 715 N. Sherrill Tampa, FL 33609 Ph. 813-289-4500 Fax 813-289-3760

1.3.4.6.7C (See Advertisement on p.69)

Davis & Davis Research, Inc. 8001 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Ste. 401B Tampa, FL 33614-3263 Ph. 813-873-1908 1,2,3,6,7B

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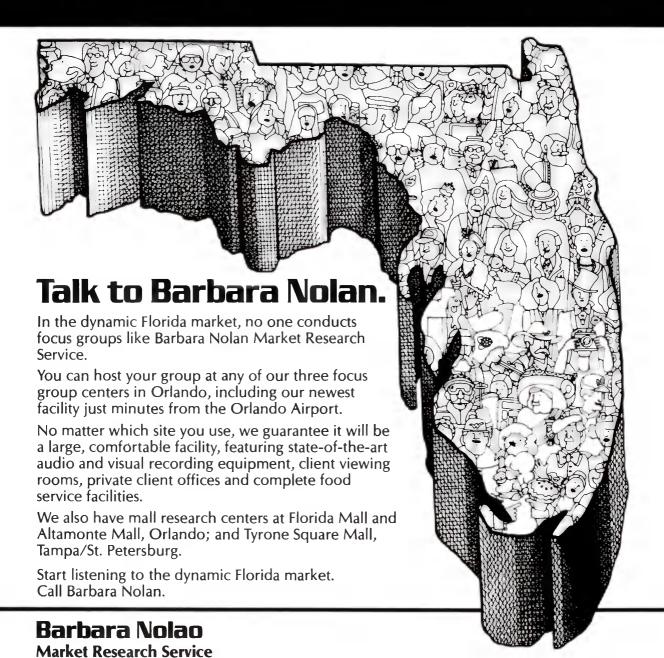
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Quality Controlled Services 4904 Eisenhower Blvd., Ste. 160 Tampa, FL 33634 Ph. 813-886-4830 Fax 813-886-5431 1,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 55) Quick Test 832 Countryside Mall, #832 2601 U.S. Hwy 19 North Clearwater, FL 34621 Ph. 813-797-4868 Fax 813-796-2616 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 3)

Schwartz Field Service, Inc. Paramount Triangle Center 8902 N. Dale Mabry, Ste. 102 Tampa, FL 33614 Ph. 813-933-8060 1,2,3,4,6,7B

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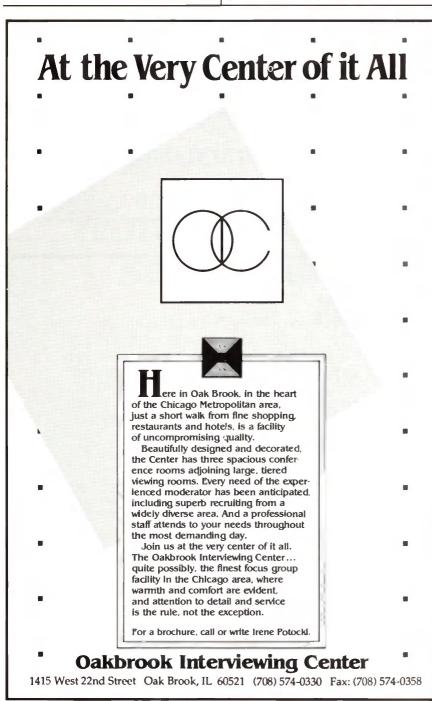
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Chesapeake Surveys 305 W. Chesapeake Ave., Ste. L19 Towson, MD 21204 Ph. 301-296-4411 Fax 301-828-6520 1,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 75

Consumer Pulse of Baltimore 8200 Perry Hall Blvd. White Marsh Mall #1039 & #1152 Baltimore, MD 21236 Ph. 301-256-7700 Fax 301-256-5148 1,3,4,5,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 65)

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National Qualitative Centers 545 Boylston St. Boston, MA 02116 Ph. 617-424-8800 Fax 617-262-2156 1,3,4,5,6,7B

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Performance Plus, Inc. 111 Speen St., Ste 105 Framingham, MA 01701 Ph. 617-872-1287 Fax 508-879-7108 1,2,3,4,6,7B

Quality Controlled Services 190 N. Main Street Natick, MA 01760 Ph. 508-653-1122 Fax 508-653-4665 1.3.4.6.7B (See Advertisement on p. 55)

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Quick Test Watertown Mall 550 Arsenal St. Watertown, MA 02172 Ph. 617-924-8486 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 3)

Quick Test Dedham Mall, Route 1 Dedham, MA 02026 Ph. 617-326-0865 1,3,4,5,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 3)

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- 7C. Free Standing 7D. Other

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So. Sbore Plaza Boston, MA	V	V							V
Assembly Sq. Mall Boston, MA	V	V	V	V					V
Rivergate Mall Nashville, TN	V	V			V	V	V		V
Aurora Mall Denver, CO	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V
Northwoods Mall Charleston, SC	V	V	V	V		V	V		V
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Consumer Pulse of Detroit 725 S. Adams, Ste. 265 Birmingham, MI 48009 Ph. 313-540-5330 Fax 313-645-5685 1,3,4,5,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 65)

Data Accuracy 15100 Northline Venture Center, #257 Southgate, MI 48195 Ph. 313-283-0551 1,3,6,7B

Detroit Marketing Services, Inc. 18000 W. 8 Mile Rd., Ste. 100 Southfield, MI 48075 Ph. 313-569-7095 Fax 313-569-8927 1,3,4,6,7B

Detroit Marketing Services, Inc. 29755 Plymouth Rd. Livonia, MI 48150 Ph. 313-427-5360 Fax 313-569-8927 1.3.4.6.7A

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Friedman Marketing/Detroit French-Town Square Mall 2121 Monroe Street Monroe, MI 48161 Ph. 313-241-1610 or 313-569-0444 Fax 313-241-6804 1,3,4,6,7A

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ICR Survey Research Group 3785 Varsity Drive Ann Arbor, MI 48018 Ph. 313-971-2221 1,2,3,4,6,7C (See Advertisement on p. 19)

Market Interviews, Div. Market Opinion Research 33029 Schoolcraft Livonia, MI 48150 Ph. 313-421-3420 1,3,6,7C

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- 3. Observation Room
- Test Kitchen
- 5. Testkitchen w/ Obs. Room 6. Video Equipment Available
- Location:
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 - 7B. Office Building
 - 7C. Free Standing
 - 7D Other

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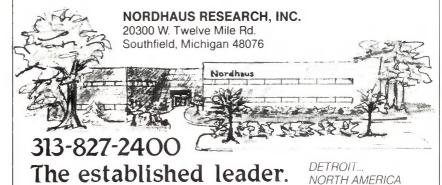
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Location:

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C.J. Olson Market Research, Inc. 708 So. 3rd St., Ste. 105 East Minneapolis, MN 55415 Ph. 612-340-1262 Fax 612-334-3169 1,3,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 81)

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4200 Blue Ridge Blvd. Kansas City, MO 64133 Ph. 816-737-1130 1,3,4,6,7A

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Marketing Horizons, Inc. 605 Old Ballas Rd., Ste. 101 St. Louis, MO 63141 Ph. 314-432-1957 Fax 314-432-7014 1,3,6,7B

Pragmatic Research, Inc. 222 So. Meramec Ave., #301 St. Louis, MO 63105 Ph. 314-863-2800 1,3,4,6,7B

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Superior Surveys of St. Louis 10795 Watson Rd. St. Louis, MO 63127 Ph. 800-325-4982 or 314-965-0053 Fax 314-965-8042 1,3,4,6,7B

United States Testing Company 338 Jamestown Mall Florissant, MO 63034 Ph. 314-741-0284 1,3,4,6,7A

Wade West-St. Louis, Inc. 505 Northwest Plaza St. Ann, MO 63074 Ph. 314-291-8888 Fax 314-291-6611 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 23)

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(See Advertisement on p. 3)

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SMG Research 260 East Avenue Rochester, NY 14604 Ph. 716-263-2614 Fax 716-271-6250 1,3,6,7B

The Sutherland Group, Ltd. 1160-B Pittsford-Victor Rd. Pittsford, NY 14534 Ph. 716-586-5757 1,3,6,7B

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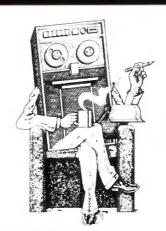
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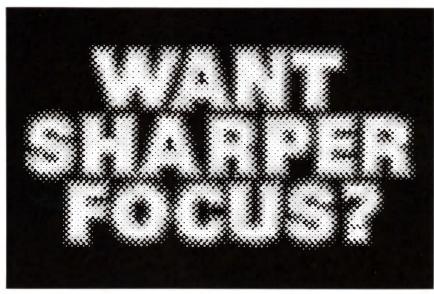
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- Observation Room
- Test Kitchen
- 5. Testkitchen w/ Obs. Room
- 6. Video Equipment Available

Location:

- 7A. Shopping Mall
- 7B. Office Building
- 7C. Free Standing
- 7D. Other

Strategic Consumer Research, Inc. 26250 Euclid Avenue Cleveland, OH 44132 Ph. 216-261-0308 1,3,6,7B

COLUMBUS

B & B Research Service, Inc. 1365 Grandview Avenue Columbus, OH 43212 Ph. 614-486-6746 Fax 614-486-9958 1,3,6,7B

Clark Jones Inc. 1029 Dublin Road Columbus, OH 43215 Ph. 614-488-2466 1,3,6,7C

Focus and Phones, Inc. 2655 Oakstone Dr. Columbus, OH 43231 Ph. 614-895-5800 Fax 614-895-5840 1,3,6,7B

Focus Plus At Shelly Berman Communicators 707 Park Meadow Rd. Westerville, OH 43081 Ph. 614-891-7070 1,3,4,6,7C

Quality Controlled Services Crossroads Center 7634 Crossroads Dr. Columbus, OH 43219 Ph. 614-436-2025 Fax 614-436-7040 1,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p.55)

Dwight Spencer & Associates Inc. 1290 Grandview Avenue Columbus, OH 43212 Ph. 614-488-3123 1,3.4,5,6,7C

T.I.M.E. Market Research 4265 Westland Mall Columbus, OH 43228 Ph. 614-276-6336 Fax 614-276-3303 1,3,4,6,7A

DAYTON

Assistance In Marketing/Dayton 560 Dayton Mall 2700 Miamisburg-Centerville Rd. Dayton, OH 45459 Ph. 513-433-6296 1,3,4.6,7A

Ruth Elliott Research Services 3077 Kettering Blvd., Ste. 300 Dayton, OH 45439 Ph. 513-294-5959 Fax 513-294-8518 1,3,4,5,6,7B

OFact Marketing Research, Inc. 8163 Old Yankee St. Dayton, OH 45459 Ph. 513-891-2271 Fax 513-435-3457 1.3.6.7B

Shiloh Research Associates, Inc. 16 West Wenger Rd., Ste. B Englewood, OH 45322 Ph. 513-836-9485 Fax 513-836-9497 1,3,4,5,6,7B

TOLEDO

Barbour Research, Inc. 5241 Southwyck Blvd., Ste. 201 Toledo, OH 43614 Ph. 419-866-3475 Fax 419-866-3478 1,3,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 94)

Market Research of Toledo 3103 Executive Pkwy., Ste. 106 Toledo, OH 43606 Ph. 419-534-4705 Fax 419-531-8950 1,3,6,7B

Package Factors, Inc. 1690 Woodlands Dr. Maumee, OH 43537 Ph. 419-893-3685 1,3,6,7B

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Oklahoma City Research Ruth Nelson Research Services Quail Springs Mall 2501 W. Memorial Dr. Oklahoma City, OK 73134 Ph. 303-758-6424 or 405-752-4710 Fax 405-751-1743 1,3,4,6.7A (See Advertisement on p. 103)

Oklahoma Market Research/Data Net, Inc. 3909 Classen Blvd., Ste. 200 Oklahoma City, OK 73118 Ph. 405-525-3412 Fax 405-525-3419 1,3,4,6,7B

Quick Test

1153 Crossroads Mall Oklahoma City, OK 73149 Ph. 405-631-9738 Fax 405-632-0750 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 3)

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Cunningham Market Research 4107 So. Yale, #LA 107 Tulsa, OK 74135 Ph. 918-664-7485 1,3,4,5,6,7A

Friedman Marketing/Tulsa Eastland Mall 14002 E. 21st St., #144 Tulsa, OK 74108 Ph. 918-234-3337 or 313-569-0444 Fax 918-234-3793 1,3,4,6,7A

Tulsa Surveys 1535 So. Sheridan Tulsa, OK 74112 Ph. 918-836-6614 Fax 918-838-2439 1,3,6,7B

Tulsa Surveys Woodland Hills Mall 7021 So. Memorial Drive Tulsa, OK 74133 Ph. 918-836-4512 Fax 918-838-2439 1,3,6,7A

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EUGENE

MarStat Market Research 71 E. 28 Avenue Eugene, OR 97405 Ph. 503-484-6176 1,3,4,6,7B

PORTLAND

Columbia Information Systems 333 SW 5th Avenue, #200 Portland, OR 97204 Ph. 503-225-0112 1,3,6,7B

Data Unlimited, Inc. 9900A SE Washington, Mall 205 Portland, OR 97216 Ph. 503-256-0987 1,3,4,6,7A

Gargan & Associates, Inc. 2705 E. Burnside, Ste. 200 Portland, OR 97214 Ph. 503-234-7111 Fax 503-233-3865 1.3.4 6.7B (See Advertisement on p.95) Griggs-Anderson Field Research 110 SW Yamhill Portland, OR 97204 Ph. 503-241-8700 Fax 503-241-8716 1,3,4,6,7A

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Management/Marketing Associates Bank of California Tower 707 SW Washington St., Ste. 1460 Portland, OR 97205 Ph. 503-228-9327 Fax 503 248-1952 1,2,6,7B

Market Decisions Corporation 8959 SW Barbur Blvd., Ste. 204 Portland, OR 97219 Ph. 503-245-4479 Fax 503-245-9677 1,3,6,7B

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Omni Research 9414 SW Barbur Blvd., Ste. A Portland, OR 97219 Ph. 503-245-4014 Fax 503-245-9065 1,3,6,7B

PENNSYLVANIA

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- 5. Testkitchen w/ Obs. Room
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 - 7B. Office Building
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Associates Interviewing Service 1200 Baltimore Pike Springfield, PA 19064 Ph. 215-328-1147 1,3,4,6,7A

Consumer Network, Inc. 3624 Science Center Philadelphia, PA 19104 Ph. 215-386-5890 Fax 215-557-7692 1,4,7B

Consumer Pulse of Philadelphia Plymouth Meeting Mall #2203 Plymouth Meeting. PA 19462 Ph. 215-825-6636 1,3,4,5,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 65) The Data Group Meetinghouse Business Center 2260 Butler Pike, Ste. 150 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 Ph. 215-834-2080 Fax 215-834-3035 1,3,6,7B

Davis and Company 3901 Market Street, Ste. 12 Philadelphia, PA 19104 Ph. 215-222-3000 1,3,6,7B

Focus Suites of Philadelphia One Bala Plaza, Ste. 622 Bala Cynwyd, PA. 19004 Ph. 215-667-1110 Fax 215-667-4858 1,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 111)

Group Dynamics In Focus 555 City Line Ave., Ste. 580 Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 Ph. 215-668-8535 Fax 215-668-2072 1,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 32)

J.J. & L. Research Co. Roosevelt Mall 2383 Cottman St. Philadelphia, PA 19149 Ph. 215-332-7040 1,3,4,5,6,7A

JRP Marketing Research Service 100 Granite Drive,Terrace Level Media, PA 19063 Ph. 215-565-8840 Fax 215-565-8870 1,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 40) JRP Marketing Research Services, Inc. 108 Oxford Valley Mall Langhorne, PA 19047 Ph. 215-565-8840 Fax 215-565-8870 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 40)

Mar's Surveys. Inc. Cinnaminson Mall, Rte. 130 Cinnaminson, NJ 08077 Ph. 609-786-8514 Fax 609-786-0480 1,3,6,7A

National Analysts Booz Allen & Hamilton, Inc. 400 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19106 Ph. 215-627-8110 Fax 215-627-8109 1,3,6,7B

Philadelphia Focus, Inc. 100 No. 17th St. Philadelphia, PA 19103 Ph. 215-561-5500 Fax 215-561-6525 1,3,6,7B (See Advertisement on Back Cover)

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(See Advertisement on p. 3)

Research Inc. 521 Plymouth Rd., Ste. 115 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 Ph. 215-941-2700 or 800-828-3228 Fax 215-941-2711 1,2,3,4,6,7B

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(See Advertisement on p. 96)

Savitz Research Center, Inc. 3007 Willow Grove Park Mall 2500 Moreland Road Willow Grove, PA 19090 Ph. 215-657-6660 Fax 215-657-1915 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 96)

Strategic Marketing Corp. GSB Bldg., Ste. 802 City Line & Belmont Aves. Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 Ph. 215-667-1649 Fax 215-667-0628 1,3,6,7B

Suburban Associates 587 Bethlehem Pike, Ste. 800 Montgomeryville, PA 18954 Ph. 215-822-6220 Fax 215-822-2238 1,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 69)

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- Testkitchen w/ Obs. Room
 Video Equipment Available

Location:

- 7A. Shopping Mall
- 7B. Office Building
- 7C. Free Standing 7D. Other

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Data InFormation Century III Mall, Room 934 3075 Clairton Rd. W. Mifflin, PA 15123 Ph. 412-655-8690 1,3,4,6,7A

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Marketing Investigations, Inc. Osborne Plaza 1106 Ohio River Blvd. Sewickley, PA 15143 Ph. 412-741-2410 1,3,4,6,7B

Noble Interviewing 1610 Potomac Pittsburgh, PA 15216 Ph. 412-343-6455 1,2,3,6,7B

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Public Opinion Polling Svce. 400 Reservoir Ave., Calart Bldg. Providence, RI 02907 Ph. 401-765-5464 1,2,3,6,7B

Rhode Island Survey & Research 690 Warren Ave. E. Providence, RI 02914 Ph. 401-438-4120 Fax 401-438-3617 1,2,3,4,6,7B (See Advertisement on p. 98)

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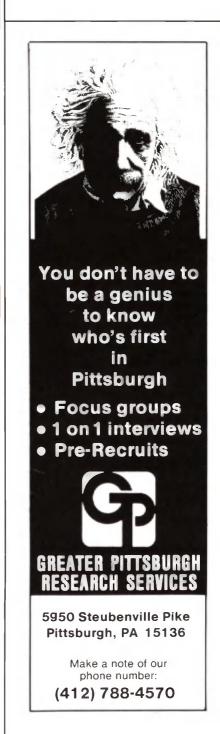
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Quick Test Hickory Hollow Mall #1123 Nashville, TN 37013 Ph. 615-834-0900 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 3)

20/20 Research 3343 Perimeter Pk. Dr., Ste. 203 Nashville, TN 37211 Ph. 615-885-2020 Fax 615-331-2264 1.2.3.6.7B

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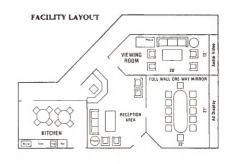
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Brisendine and Associates, Inc. 4800 So. Hulen St., Ste. 1248 Ft. Worth, TX 76132 Ph. 817-292-8073 1,3,4,6,7A

Databank Marketing Research Rt. 1, 109F Hwy. 718 Rhome, TX 76078 Ph. 817-489-2300 1,2,3,4,5,6,7C

Dallas Focus 511 E. John W. Carpenter Frwy., #100 Irving, TX 75062 Ph. 214-869-2366 Fax 214-869-9174 1,3,4,6,7B

Facts In Focus, Inc. Prestonwood Town Ctr. 5301 Beltline Rd., Ste. 2128 Dallas, TX 75240

Ph. 312-446-7799 Fax 312-441-9255 1,3,4,6,7A

Fenton Swanger Consumer Research 14800 Quorum Dr., Ste. 250 Dallas, TX 75240 Ph. 214-934-0707 1.3.4.6.7B

Fenton Swanger Consumer Research Town East Mall Mesquite, TX 75150 Ph. 214-934-0707 1,3,4,6,7A

Fenton Swanger Consumer Research Galleria Mall Dallas, TX 75240 Ph. 214-934-0707 1,3,4,6,7A

Focus On Dallas 12240 Inwood Rd., #400 Dallas, TX 75244 Ph. 214-960-5850 1,3,4,6,7B

Heakin Research, Inc. Fort Worth Town Center 4200 So. Freeway, Ste. B-31 Ft. Worth, TX 76115 Ph. 817-926-7995 1,3,4,6,7A

Plaza Research 14160 Dallas Parkway Dallas, TX 75240 Ph. 214-392-0100 Fax 214-386-6008 1.2.3.4.5.6.7B (See Advertisement on p. 88)

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1,3,4,6,7C (See Advertisement on p.7)

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Savitz Research Center, Inc. 2053 The Parks at Arlington Mall 3811 So. Cooper Arlington, TX 76015 Ph. 817-467-6437 Fax 817-467-6552 1,3,4,6,7A (See Advertisement on p. 96)

Texas Audits & Surveys Rt. 1, 7 Green Oaks Rhome, TX 76078 Ph. 817-489-2016 1,3,4,5,6,7B

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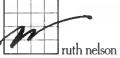
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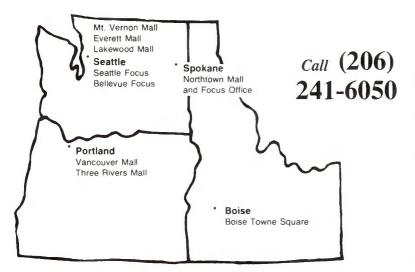
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How to get better tape recordings of focus groups and interviews

by Stephanie Tudor

Editor's note: Stephanie Tudor provides focus group and one-on-one transcriptions for the marketing research industry.

- 1. Be sure the moderator's voice is not the only voice you hear. Have all respondents equally miked—not one very loud group of voices at one end of the table and one very soft group of voices at the other end.
- 2. Be sure that the overall sound quality, tone, and balance are adjusted for best recording.
- 3. When taping by yourself, be sure to get expert technical advice on what equipment to rent, including which microphone is best suited to the surroundings you'll be taping in, the size of the room, and the number of people being taped.
- 4. Always rent or invest in high-quality equipment. As your research assignments are so important and often so time sensitive, it pays to be sure the tape quality is the best it can be.
- 5. Always bring and use a second tape recorder as a backup.
- 6. Use 90 minute tapes instead of 120 minute tapes. They are thicker, of better quality, and break much less often.
- 7. Monitor the tape recording throughout the focus group or interview session to insure that the recording levels remain consistent.
- 8. Always do a sound eheck in the actual room you will be doing your interview or focus group in—even if you are working at a focus group facility. Do this eheck before you begin the interviews. If using more than one room in the facility.

each room should be sound-checked, as their acoustics may vary. This check should be done on the day of the interviews, as conditions may vary from day to day.

9. How to do the sound check: *For a one-on-one interview*

Set up your equipment. Sit down at the table where you will conduct the inter-



Tudor

view and say a few sentences or read something out loud in a normal conversational tone. Then, sit down in the respondent's chair and say a few more sentences in the same manner. Tape record both segments. Then play back the tape and listen for any noticeable problems.

For a focus group or meeting

Follow the same procedure as above, however, walk around the entire table and get voice levels from where each respondent will actually sit. This is even more important when taping in a meeting or conference room of a hotel or conference center.

- 10. Avoid all ambient noises that night interfere with tape quality, such as background noise, hiss, machine operating noises, and air conditioner hum. Outside street noises should also be masked as much as possible.
- 11. Try to control the participants in the focus groups so that they do not all talk at once and have many side conversations. This will avoid many inaudible sections in the transcript and insure that respondents do not go off on unimportant tangents that confuse the main research issues.
- 12. Encourage the respondents as often as necessary to speak up, or ask them to repeat things that you think may not have been audible or clear enough for the tape to pick up.
- 13. When working with a facility you are not familiar with, have them send you samples of their tape recordings to evaluate their quality.
- 14. If you have time to do further research into the facilities in the cities you interview in most frequently, it might be helpful to get samples of tapes from prospective facilities before you book them.
- 15. Alert the facility that you are going to have the tapes transcribed and ask them to take extra care with their recording quality and sound levels.

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Well-informed

Himmelfarb has found that college students are very interested in and well-informed about new products. "We have the sense that in addition to being active current consumers they also tend to be at the leading edge of adopting new technologies and new kinds of products. They have the resources, and on top of that they have the interest and awareness to fuel that purchasing."

For example, the survey data shows that the penetration of compact disc players is much higher in the college market than in the general market. (In addition, 78% own a TV, 42% have a VCR and a 40% are connected to cable.)

Students also have money to spend. About half of the students surveyed work during the school year, while 85 percent work during the summer. On average, students have \$155 of discretionary income per month. About half have a major eredit card. And 64% report having their own car at college.

"A great deal of the money that's being spent is money they've earned. We've been impressed by the amount of resources they have at their own command," Himmelfarb says.

Misconceptions

Ostensibly, college is an ideal time for marketers to reach a new audience, but misconceptions keep many of them out of the college market, Himmelfarb says. For example, some use their own college experiences ("When I was in college, I didn't have any money, I didn't have a car...") as proof that college students aren't a viable market.

"We've found that it's hard to get marketers to look past their own personal experiences in this area. This is a market full of surprises. The rapidity of change is such that even if you were on campus a handful of years ago, what is going on today can be quite different. And that means that the anecdotal reasons for not targeting the college market really might not be in the best interest of the brand you're working on."

Spring break

Another misconception is the belief that rolling out a full-scale promotional effort during the annual spring break festivities (when college students from around the country converge on beaches in Florida and other coastal areas) constitutes ample involvement in the college market. With so many other marketers sharing the same idea, spring break is filled with promotional clutter, and in addition, a comparatively small number of students actually participate in spring break activities.

"A spring break promotion does not a college marketing program make," Himmelfarb says. "To use it in the absence of a much more sustained marketing, communications, and promotion program is one of the mistakes that's getting made. We're not saying not to get involved with spring break, but we're saying don't depend on it as the exclusive way of reaching students."

Students receptive to media

CollegeTrack data shows that students are receptive to many media, and not just television. In fact, study information shows that college students are light viewers of TV. Instead, they stay informed on news and trends by reading magazines and college and local newspapers.

Along with aiming at the college market with mass media campaigns, it's important to establish a presence on campus.

"It's really a one-two punch. I wouldn't do one to the exclusion of the other. If you can deliver a strong message through the mass media and then combine it with messages targeted to the students on campus, I think that's a very powerful way to reach this market.

"A very important criterion for students, just as it is for any market segment, is the sense that this marketer is talking to me, they understand what I want and they are bringing me a product that I care about."

Himmelfarb says that the companies who enter the college market early on and maintain a presence there will not only benefit in the short term, but they will also ensure the payoff on that "investment" after the students graduate.

"That's where we think the victories are going to be won."

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TRADE TALK

by Joseph Rydholm managing editor



Syndicated study finds college market viable

n the course of analyzing his company's syndicated study of the buying habits and attitudes of college students, Stuart Himmelfarb, president of College Track, Inc., has come up with some important advice for marketers: don't sell the college market short.

Himmelfarb, whose College Track studies interview students on 30 college campuses across the U.S., says marketers frequently tell him that they think pursuit of the college market just isn't worthwhile because it offers no immediate payoff.

"Very often, marketers say they perceive the college market as an investment market, and they follow that statement up with something like `And we don't have the time or the budget to pursue investment markets,' "Himmelfarb says.

Though they represent a desirable market once they graduate and enter the workforce, college students aren't seen as active, current consumers while still in school, But Himmelfarb says his studies tell a different story.

The CollegeTrack studies are divided into two sections. A general tracking study looks at student attitudes, media and purchasing habits, demographics, and financial resources. Category studies investigate student attitudes and intentions in product categories such as health and beauty aids, automotive, entertainment, consumer electronics, and financial services.

College Track data shows that college students are active con-

sumers in these areas, and in some not so obvious other ones. For example, while 37% of students live on-campus and 18% live at home, 45% live off-campus. Members of this group, many of whom are setting up households for the first time, purchase the same products and food items that any household would—a fact which marketers don't normally consider, Himmelfarb says.

These and other purchases are influenced by media, friends/

roommates and the trends of each particular campus. "Many of the brand loyalties that students bring with them as tecnagers are up for grabs when they're in the college market, because they're exposed to that many more tastes and preferences."



Himmelfarl

Survey data shows that only 61% of fall term students were at the same campus in the prior school year, meaning that each fall the market is infused with new students with their own tastes and influences.

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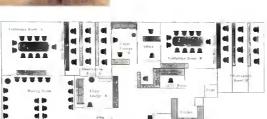
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