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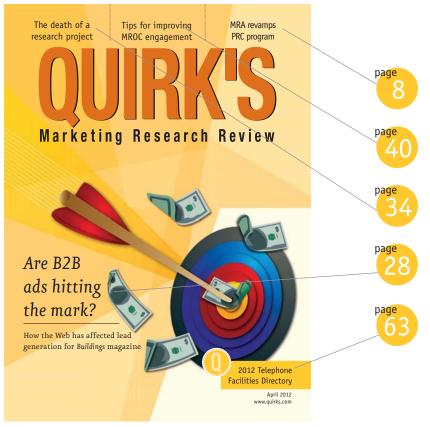
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In Case You Missed It

news and notes on marketing and research



••• social media research Facebookers give a little, get a lot

Most Facebook users receive more from their Facebook friends than they give, according to a study from Washington, D.C., research company Pew Internet and American Life Project. The study combines server logs of Facebook activity with survey data to explore the structure of Facebook friendship networks and measures of social well-being.

On average, Facebook users get more friend requests than they make: 63 percent received at least one friend request during the period studied but only 40 percent made a friend request. It is more common to be Liked than to Like others. The postings, uploads and updates of the sampled

Like

Facebook users are Liked more often than these users Like the contributions of others, as users pressed the Like button on friends' content an average of 14 times per month and received Likes from friends 20 times per month. The Facebook users also sent nine personal messages but received 12. Twelve percent tagged a friend in a photo while 35 percent were themselves tagged in a photo.

"It turns out there are segments of Facebook power users who contribute much more content than the typical user. Most Facebook users are moderately active over a one-month time period so highly-active

power users skew the average. Second, these power users constitute about 20-30 percent of Facebook users but the striking thing is that there are different power users depending on the activity in question. One group of power users dominates friending activity. Another dominates Liking activity. And yet another dominates photo tagging," said Keith Hampton, lead author of the Pew report.

Women are more intense contributors of content on Facebook than are men. The average female user made 21 updates to her Facebook status in the month of observation while the average male made six.

The study found no evidence that length of time using Facebook is associated with a decline in Facebook activity. On the contrary, the more time that has passed since a user started using Facebook, the more frequently s/he makes status updates, uses the Like button, comments on friends' content and tags friends in photos. Similarly, the more Facebook friends someone has, the more frequently they contribute all forms of Facebook content and the more friend requests they tend to send and accept. ••• consumer research Stress survey: women suffer, seniors coast

Whether the stressors in a woman's life are actually greater than those in a man's will always remain a point of contention but women still perceive themselves to be significantly more stressed than men, according to an online survey of Americans conducted by Polaris Marketing Research Inc., Atlanta.

Over 1,200 respondents were asked to rate themselves on a 10-point stress scale, where 10 was very stressed and 1 was not at all stressed. Women respondents' mean stress rating was 5.34, compared to male respondents' mean stress rating of 4.82.

Further, while men were more likely to rate their stress levels about the same as a year ago, women were more likely to say their stress is lower than a year ago.

"Interestingly, we should all be envious of the over-65 crowd, with their significantly lower stress ratings than any other age group," said Jan Carlson, president of Polaris. "Not only are they less stressed than any other age group, they are more likely to believe their stress levels are unchanged from 12 months ago. Compare that to the under-50s, who rate their stress levels as significantly more stressed but increasing from a year ago."



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Trade Talk By Joseph Rydholm, Quirk's Editor

MRA simplifies PRC program

The Marketing Research Association (MRA) is trying to make it easier for you to get ahead. After hearing from current and prospective participants in its Professional Researcher Certification (PRC) effort that things were a little too complicated, the MRA has responded by streamlining several aspects of the seven-year-old program.

The changes involve simplifying the certification structure, eliminating a focus on general business knowledge, revising the educational prerequisites for applicants, developing an exam-review process and reducing program fees. (In fact, beginning this month through June 30, the MRA is offering a 90-day introductory period during which the application fee will be reduced by \$150 and the exam administered free of charge.)

To find out a bit more, I chatted with Ted Donnelly, chair of the MRA's certification board and also managing director at Baltimore Research.

The program's initial structure was heavily segmented by its well-intentioned creators ("When you get a whole bunch of researchers together they like to segment," Donnelly quips) to capture and represent the breadth of skills and capabilities on display in the industry, which was a good thought but it proved confusing and also ended up forcing some program participants to limit them-



selves to certain areas rather than giving them the freedom to expand their skill sets. "Some people said, 'I do quant and qual – which route do I go down?' What about people who do both? And it didn't answer the bell for people who moved around the industry. People would say, 'I've pigeonholed myself as a data collector and now I'm in corporate research and it doesn't really reflect what I do,'" Donnelly says.

So the new structure includes just two options: industry professional and student. The industry professional certification requires three years of industry work experience and both designations require candidates to pass the PRC exam.

Test-taking anxiety

Ah yes, the exam. That too was a sticking point for some. General test-taking anxiety was a problem, as was the fear that, though they were seasoned pros, their own ways of demonstrating their knowledge might not fit into the exam structure. So, to further de-stress the process, the PRC board is currently looking at third-party institutions to help develop a study guide for the exam.

In addition, a previous focus on demonstrating general business knowledge in the exam added to the study work needed to pass it and also required candidates to attend non-research-focused continuing-education programming rather than soaking up potentially valuable learning in sessions about new research methodologies, Donnelly says. "Because nearly half the education was in business, the research edu-



Joe Rydholm can be reached at joe@quirks.com

cation requirements became diluted, which we felt reduced the value. So that was a major change, to eliminate the whole business track.

"The original thinking was that certification should reflect competency in the major elements of a certified individual's job, so they should demonstrate general capabilities in business administration. But we came to realize that if that is what you are looking for, you can go get an MBA. The PRC really shouldn't be in the business business," Donnelly says.

Greater than ever

Given the current state of the industry, with the seemingly daily expansion of research toolsets and data sources, the value of showing your commitment to learning and growing seems greater than ever. "For the individuals who are interested in being certified, PRC does two main things: it builds your personal brand by showing that you are best-of-class and it delivers a tangible expression of your expertise and your ongoing commitment to excellence. We're not saying PRC makes you a better researcher. It's more like you have your PRC because you are a better researcher," Donnelly says.

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Ioyalty research Improved service won't make 'em stay

Customers more satisfied but switching service providers more often

Two-thirds of consumers switched companies – including wireless phone, cable and utilities – as a result of poor customer service in 2011, despite reporting increased satisfaction with the services provided by those companies, according to a study from Chicago consulting firm Accenture. The Accenture Global Consumer Survey asked consumers in 27 countries to evaluate 10 industries on issues ranging from service expectations and purchasing intentions to loyalty, satisfaction and switching.

Among the 10,000 respondents, the proportion of those who switched companies for any reason between 2010 and 2011 rose in eight of the 10 industries. Wireless phone, cable and gas/ electric utilities providers each experienced the greatest increase in consumer switching, at five percentage points. This includes consumers who switched entirely to another provider as well as those who continued to do business with their current provider but added services from another provider – a new but growing trend.

Fewer than one-quarter of consumers surveyed feel very loyal to his or her providers, while 24 percent indicated that they had no loyalty at all. Only half indicated that they are strongly influenced by at least one loyalty program offered by their service providers.

At the same time, however, consumer satisfaction with their providers' customer service actually increased in 2011 in 10 attributes measured by the survey. These attributes include the wait-time for service (33 percent satisfied compared to 27 percent in 2010),

••• a digest of survey findings and new tools for researchers

the ability to resolve issues without speaking with an agent (38 percent satisfied compared to 33 percent) and speaking with just one customer service agent to resolve an issue (39 percent satisfied compared to 32 percent). www.accenture.com



••• retailing In-store opportunity

Merchandising ramps up as recession lingers on

During a time of economic trouble and conservative purchase behaviors, the value proposition is playing a central role in the enhanced shopping experience. After several long years of decline, merchandising – defined as displays, feature ads, feature-and-display combined and price-reduction only – has been thrust back into the spotlight. In 2011, 47 percent of consumer packaged goods (CPG) categories enjoyed increased merchandising support, according to Chicago research company SymphonyIRI Group's Merchandising Trends: Driving Consumption through



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Shopper Marketing report.

Across grocery, drug and mass channels, 53 percent of categories experienced increased lift from merchandising activities during 2011. This is an improvement from 2010, when 46 percent saw lift increase. Merchandising performance within the grocery channel is in line with average industry trends, while the share of categories seeing lift within the drug channel lags the average by 8 points.

Food and beverage categories are well-represented among the ranks of those categories seeing the biggest jump in merchandising support during the past year, reflective of retailer efforts to cater to home-based eating and drinking. Another powerful trend marking CPG-related behavior is the pre-planning of shopping excursions. Three-quarters of consumers are making CPG decisions before entering the retail environment and an equal number enter the store with a shopping list in hand. Despite the high numbers of consumers following these practices, feature and feature/ display combined support – tactics which begin to impact the shopper before entering the retail environment – have each shown decelerating growth trends during the past year.

Sixty-three percent of consumers look at store circulars before heading to the grocery store and 49 percent of categories achieved lift of 100 percent or more from feature-only merchandising efforts during 2011. When backed by display activity, 84 percent of categories achieved lift of 100 percent or greater during the same time period. Despite these results, feature-only and featureand-display combined support is much less prevalent versus other tactics. For example, 87 percent of categories achieved greater than 10 percent of volume sales with price reduction-only tactics, despite the fact that lift of more than 100 percent occurred in only a handful of instances. www.symphonyiri.com



health/beautyBlame theKardashians

Makeup and beauty products find an audience with tweens and teens

I f you think young girls are making an effort to look more mature at a younger age, you're not mistaken – and beauty manufacturers are happy to help them along. Sixty-one percent of girls ages nine-to-11 would like to wear more makeup than their parents allow, according to data from Chicago research company Mintel.

When it comes to regular usage, 37 percent of girls ages nine-to-17 say they use lip gloss/lipstick every day, while 33 percent report applying mascara on a daily basis. Twenty-seven percent stencil on eyeliner seven days a week and 16 percent use foundation every day.

"It appears that the use of foundation, eye liner and eye shadow increases sharply from age 12 to 13," says Kat Fay, senior beauty analyst at Mintel. "This suggests that the first of the actual 'teen' years and the beginning of junior high school marks the expansion into more adult cosmetic products."

More than half of all teens indicate that their moms help them make cosmetic choices but this varies greatly by age. As expected, tweens are most likely to rely on their mothers to help with purchasing decisions (73 percent) while only 39 percent of girls ages 15-to-17 say they need (or want) mom's help.

"Between reality stars like the Kardashians and bestselling books like Twilight and The Hunger Games, character merchandising plays a large role in how manufacturers are marketing makeup and accessories to the tween and teen crowd and parents might struggle to keep their children from wanting a part of it," says Fay. "In order to attract this group and get support from parents, products must be subtle in appearance and emphasize that ingredients are safe for young skin, while still playing on the books and TV shows that tweens and teens find appealing."

Over three-fourths of girls ages 15-to-17 say they buy whatever looks good on them, while only 36 percent of tween girls agree with that statement. More than a quarter of tweens and teens say they buy whatever is on sale or cheapest at the time of purchase. www.mintel.com



••• consumer research Depends on what I'm waiting for

What would you do with 15 extra minutes?

Time is one of Americans' most precious resources and a mere five minutes separates a reasonable

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wait time from an unreasonable one. According to a survey conducted by Minneapolis salon chain Great Clips, when a retail business makes customers wait more than 15 minutes, 63 percent of respondents said it shows bad customer service and a lack of respect for their time; 52 percent said they don't go back and instead take their business elsewhere; and 48 percent said they assume the business is poorly managed. Ninety-three percent said a reasonable amount of time to wait at a retail business is five-to-10 minutes or less. Additionally, almost 90 percent of respondents say they would use a technology that kept them from waiting in lines at retail stores if it saved them 15 minutes.

Taking the research a step further, respondents were asked how they would spend an extra 15 minutes a day. The bedroom is the first place both men and women would go if they had more free time. The catch? Men go there for sex, women for sleep. Respondents were given a list of options and asked to choose what they would do with an extra 15 minutes and the top choice for women was sleep (24 percent) and for men was sex (28 percent).

Among women's top-ranked choices were sleep, clean (i.e., organizing closets, dust baseboards, mop floors), read, watch TV and exercise. "Have sex" was lower on the ladies' list, after "sit there and do nothing with no disturbances" and "cook." For men, sleep, listen to music, exercise, and sit there and do nothing with no disturbances were ranked along with have sex as the options most often ranked in the top five.

When both men and women were asked to rank the most annoying time-waster in their own lives, the top three choices were being placed on hold, waiting in line and traffic. When both men and women were asked what they want more of and asked to choose from time, money, sleep, exercise and sex, 70 percent chose money; 13 percent time; 9 percent sleep; 8 percent exercise; and none chose sex. www.greatclips.com



••• auto research Driving satisfaction

Dealerships deliver on customer service

Contrary to the negative perceptions Often associated with automotive dealerships, the auto industry outperforms several other industries, including retail and wireless services, when it comes to providing a quality customer service experience. In fact, threefourths of customers rated their experience among the three highest ratings on a 10-point scale when purchasing or leasing a vehicle or having a vehicle serviced, according to a study from Maritz Research, St. Louis.

The CEBenchmarks study compared customer service experiences across II industries and 34 types of transactions. Customers were asked about experiences purchasing or leasing a vehicle from a new car dealership in the past six months and having vehicles serviced at a new car dealership within the past three months.

When asked more detailed questions about their automotive sales experience, 74.5 percent of customers were satisfied. The study also identified key factors in driving this customer satisfaction. Customers rated their experience with the sales process as the most important aspect, followed by dealership honesty, dealership keeping promises, vehicle delivery process and the financing/paperwork process as additional indicators of satisfaction.

When it came to automotive service, 74.9 percent of customers were satisfied, citing dealership honesty as the most important factor driving their satisfaction. Additional key factors included quality of repair, timeliness of service, drop-off and the service write-up process, the vehicle pick-up process and if the vehicle was fixed right the first time. www.maritz.com



••• millennials **AR, QR – who cares?**

Augmented reality apps don't impress in the real world

A ugmented reality (AR) has become the futuristic media of the moment but many consumers, including young, tech-savvy Millennials, are having a hard time figuring it out. In fact, only 11 percent of high school and college students have ever used an AR app, according to Ypulse, a New York research company.

AR apps have to be interesting enough to get users to download them and they also need to be engaging enough to get users to come back to the apps again and again. But mostly, they have to work right the first time.

Among students who have used AR apps, 34 percent think they're easy and useful; 26 percent think they're easy but not useful; 18 percent think they're useful but not easy; and 9 percent think AR apps are neither useful nor easy to use. More students think AR apps are easier to use than think QR codes (60 percent vs. 51 percent, respectively). www.ypulse.com



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IN FOCUS Product and Service Update

••• retailing Raise your ShopperIQ

Solution suite sets out to measure and predict shopper behavior

Decision Insight, Kansas City, Mo., has debuted ShopperIQ, a suite of solutions to test and measure what shoppers will do at retail and predict the impact of strategies where decisions are made: in the store.

ShopperIQ is designed to allow manufacturers and retailers to test what-if scenarios; create the appropriate context to test alternatives; understand the whys behind the results; optimize communication with consumers; and save time and money over live in-store testing.

The ShopperIQ solutions include Arrangement, to identify the planogram that grows the category and improves shopability; Assortment, to optimize sales with the right assortment on the shelf; Pricing, to measure the impact of varying pricing strategies, for the client and the competition; Packaging, to evaluate and optimize packaging strategies that impact performance on the shelf; Merchandising, to test and optimize alternative in-store communications and merchandising strategies; New Product Development, to maximize new-product potential in its competitive context; Shopper Decision Tree, to understand the shopper decision hierarchy at the point of purchase;

and Visualization, to support sales teams with visual, data-driven stories. ShopperIQ is powered by Decision Insight's virtual shopping platform, SimuShop. www.decisioninsight.com

••• social media research Flash-polling from Crowdvi.be

Peanut Labs debuts tool for quick insights from social media

S an Francisco research com-pany Peanut Labs has launched Crowdvi.be, a product designed to target a unique population of social media respondents and provide insight into time-sensitive topics. Crowdvi.be enables organizations to access readyto-poll respondents in a variety of vertical markets by embedding short questionnaires into a network of social media and gaming sites across the U.S, including Facebook. This capability is intended to allow users to launch their quick polls and collect respondent data from a sample pool of over 50 million consumers within minutes; the average time to begin receiving responses is 40 seconds.

With 24-hour access, users can launch quick polls at any time to an existing network demographic. The current version allows users to target respondents based on age, gender and income, with plans to add ethnicity, personal interests and geographic location.

Offering exclusive support for multiple-choice questions, Peanut Labs' Crowdvi.be tool enables users to include a minimum of two pre-written answers and a maximum of seven pre-written answers for respondents to choose from and supports both single-select and multi-select questions. It also allows images and video.

Crowdvi.be is currently available

in beta mode and offers a platform for concept testing; campaign feedback; product opinions; brand perceptions; customer satisfaction; social media scoring; and predictive modeling. Users can register for a complimentary personal account with limited access to polling capabilities. www.crowdvi.be

••• online research Real-time tracking online

Dial tester technology takes to the Web

 $\mathbf{P}^{ ext{ortland}, ext{ Ore.}, ext{ research technol-}}_{ ext{ogy company Dialsmith has re-}}$ leased Perception Analyzer Online, an interactive survey platform that aims to track moment-to-moment opinion spikes online. With Perception Analyzer Online, standard and interactive question formats are paired with tracking tools, such as second-by-second video evaluation. By continuously moving Perception Analyzer Online's slider technology while a video plays, a respondent's opinion can be measured to the second, allowing researchers to graphically see how the respondent was feeling throughout the video - pinpointing specific people, words, phrases, images and scenes that cause spikes.

Perception Analyzer Online is designed for researching political messaging; political and consumer ad research; TV pilot and movie trailer testing; product packaging, design and pricing evaluation; and brand messaging. www.dialsmith.com



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••• mobile interviewing IPads app suite for focus groups

Real Time Chatter uses tablet technology to streamline feedback

C an Francisco research company Ochatter Inc. has released a suite of iPad apps for focus groups. Dubbed Real Time Chatter, the apps are designed to consolidate focus group feedback for clients. Using Real Time Chatter, each focus group respondent is given an iPad on which they complete an exercise, such as evaluating a new product concept or creating a brand collage. Their completed work streams live to both the moderator and the client via a secure Web interface. A real-time report then compiles respondent feedback for all to view. Clients can sort responses by age, gender, segment, ethnicity or location. Projects are archived permanently for review and comparison. www.chatterinc.com

••• segmentation research The DigitaLink between demographics and consumption

New solution segments consumers by digital media engagement

Chicago research company SymphonyIRI has released DigitaLink, a segmentation solution designed to provide insight into how quickly consumers are embracing digital media; which demographic groups are most interested in near-term engagement; and what strategies best engage these audiences. DigitaLink uses SymphonyIRI's consumer network panel MarketPulse's research and analytic capabilities to segment shoppers into unique profiles.

DigitaLink has identified five distinct groups of Internet users, all of whom are active online in one way or another but access the Web in different ways, have different comfort levels with technology and various attitudes about how much they want to engage with it and the role they want the technology to play in their lives. The five segments are as follows:

Show Me the Money – These shoppers focus on using digital technology to save money by frequently searching for and downloading coupons online. They may occasionally write product reviews or post comments on blogs.

Digitize Me! – These shoppers have incorporated digital media across the board in their lives and participate in various online activities. They have a higher tendency of interacting with companies and brands on social networks and are also more willing to post their opinions online.

Technophobes – This group rarely searches online for product information or coupons or interacts on blogs, leaving most online activity to e-mail.

Socializers – Socializers use the Internet primarily as a means of communication versus a shopping resource.

Wired for Work – Most consumers who fall in this segment own a smartphone and are driven by digital media, but use the technology primarily for work-related tasks. www.symphonyiri.com

••• ad research Data on DOOH

Ad-tracking technology analyzes across digital out-of-home networks

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., media services company rVue Inc. has launched its ad verification technology, which aims to provide real-time analytics across digital out-of-home (DOOH) networks. RVue's metadata initiative was developed to bring real-time accountability to advertisers' DOOH campaigns and enable buyers to review and optimize live campaigns across networks.

The verification technology embeds a beacon into video files that is compatible across all platforms and is accessible to most DOOH networks. The technology is built using a scalable cloud-computing architecture and is designed to deliver daily reporting on 100+ million DOOH adplayback events to rVue's partners.

RVue's ad-tracking technology complies with the Interactive Advertising Bureau's VAST standards for reporting digital video advertising. www.rvue.com

••• retailing Getting the full Experience

Program uses mobile technology to track physical shoppers

Claris Solutions, a Tulsa, Okla., retail performance consultancy, has partnered with Palo Alto, Calif., data analytics firm Euclid Elements to debut the Claris-Euclid Store

Experience Program, intended to improve store performance through visitor-based information and expert analytics. The program aims to turn shopper data into performance improvements.

The Claris-Euclid Store Experience Program is built around the use of mobile sensors that map shopper traffic patterns in retail spaces. These sensors sense Wi-Fi signals on smartphones, allowing Claris consultants to understand how shoppers move through a physical store environment.

www.claris-solutions.com

••• diy research Quick look at **QuickTake updates**

SSI adds U.S. voters, auto translation, mobile capabilities and question capacity

C helton, Conn., research company **J**SSI has enhanced its QuickTake do-it-yourself research solution. QuickTake is designed to help users conduct surveys at any time with target audiences across the Americas, Europe and Asia. Added QuickTake features include automatic translations. which allows users to program surveys and present them to respondents in up to eight different languages. SSI has

also expanded QuickTake's question capacity, giving users the option of asking up to 20 closed- or open-ended questions. Additionally, QuickTake can automatically render surveys to fit mobile devices. QuickTake also has added U.S. registered voters to its audience selection criteria.

Other new features focus on simplifying and improving the user experience. QuickTake offers a streamlined login process and can automatically save surveys during the design process so users can stop and come back later to finish questionnaires with no risk of losing information. Users now also have the option of setting their own quotas or having the system handle that for them, balancing age and gender by region.

Additionally, QuickTake provides greater flexibility in creating questions, enabling users to employ skip logic as

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well as randomize answers. For surveys needing to incorporate visual elements, users now can upload images. www.quicktake.com

quantitative research Using research to combat survey fatigue

New toolset analyzes respondent behavior and survey success

Research software companies SurveyGizmo, Boulder, Colo., and ClickTale, Ramat Gan, Israel, have partnered to create an analytics toolset that includes survey heat maps, mouse tracking and respondent recordings to deliver insight into the decision-making process as individuals take surveys. The aim is to allow businesses to create more engaging surveys, improve survey completion rates and capture better data.

The toolset uses ClickTale's customer experience analytics technology to allow SurveyGizmo customers to better understand their respondents' survey-taking experience. ClickTale's Form Analytics suite identifies specific survey questions that prompt users to leave the survey; time spent answering each question; and questions that tend to cause problems for respondents. A comprehensive realtime project dashboard provides drilldown metrics including geography-based data and customizable conversion goals that track results.

www.surveygizmo.com

••• survey software SSI Web revs up to V8

Survey software platform sees several updates

Orem, Utah, research company Sawtooth Software has released version 8 of SSI Web, its online/CAPI survey software platform. Users can install SSI Web V8 alongside an existing SSI Web installation and continue using both versions independently. Version 8 includes several new features, including looping to repeat a series of questions for each member in a list of items; semantic differential questions to provide a way to ask rating questions with paired end-points; database support; crosstabs; CBC improvements, including support for more than 30 attributes and increased attribute count for conditional relationships: and export improvements, including batch exporting, recoding list values, filtering and more.

www.sawtoothsoftware.com/products/ ssiweb

••• customer experience Capella for a clear VoC

Maritz platform aims to make CEM data actionable

Maritz Research, St. Louis, has released Capella, its customer experience measurement and action platform designed to offer a comprehensive approach to designing, measuring and managing large-scale customer experience programs from sample design to action planning.

Capella incorporates four tools to manage and track actions that have the highest impact on the customer experience: helping frontline employees; resolving customer issues; identifying what makes customers angry; and taking steps to improve issues that make customers angry.

Capella's user interface and customizable dashboards aim to enable businesses to answer essential questions and take action upon the results via performance reports, hot alerts (real-time issues that need to be addressed quickly), employee dashboards and priority dashboards.

www.maritzresearch.com/capella-news

••• research software Choice modeling for free

Decision Analyst rolls out open-source software

Arlington, Texas research company Decision Analyst Inc. has developed free choice-modeling software. Called ChoiceModelR, the software is an open-source software package written in the R language. ChoiceModelR includes the following features: dependent variable may be either discrete (nominal or ordinal) or share (continuous between zero and one); constraints may be imposed on model parameters; number of choice observations per decision maker (e.g., respondent) may vary; and number of choice alternatives per choice observation may vary. The software can be downloaded from Decision Analyst's Web site.

www.decisionanalyst.com

political researchVerifying voterhistory

Companies team up to debut Voter Insider

Washington, D.C., data services company Catalist and iModerate Research Technologies, Denver, have partnered to launch Voter Insider, an online solution for political, advocacy and civic engagement research that is designed to verify online research respondents.

Respondents frequently misrepresent their voting history and behaviors. Voter Insider matches Catalist's proprietary database of voter information to respondent profiles from three of the largest providers of online research respondents in the U.S. This offering blends Catalist's method of respondent validation with online research services from iModerate.

Voter Insider provides access to five million verified respondents and lets pollsters and other researchers select a target audience that closely represents the voting population based on their documented vote history and modeling scores.

The solution is available in three packages: a hybrid (qual-quant) package for ad testing; a qualitative package; and a custom package of a la carte research options. www.voterinsider.com

••• mobile research For when you can't Be-There

Mobile app puts ethnography in respondents' hands

U.K. research company SPA Future Thinking has launched Be-There, a mobile ethnography tool designed to bridge the gap between a consumer's actual and reported behavior. Be-There uses video, audio, photos, text and barcodes in-situ, which are then combined via a downloadable app to build a complete picture of the consumer and their experiences. By eliminating an in-person researcher and interview time constraints, the tool aims to allow participants to provide feedback at key moments.

Once uploaded to an online platform, the project team can interact with participants in real time. Analysis then allows content to be tagged, themed and distilled into insights and a multimedia summary output. www.spafuturethinking.com

••• Briefly

■ Research companies Millward Brown, New York, and Affectiva, Waltham, Mass., have partnered to integrate Affectiva's facial expression analysis technology (Affdex) with Millward Brown's Link ad copy-evaluation and optimization solution. The solution is designed to test emotional responses to ads by detecting facial and head movements through a Webcam and classifying them into emotional states. www.millwardbrown.com ■ The CASRO Institute for Research Quality (CIRQ) division of the Council of American Survey Research Organizations (CASRO), Port Jefferson, N.Y., has awarded certification to Lisle, Ill., research company Kantar Operations North America for compliance to the ISO 20252 standard for market, opinion and social research. Processes outlined in ISO 20252 are designed to produce transparent, consistent, well-documented and error-free methods of conducting and managing research projects. www.casro.org

New York research company WorldOne has launched its List Match tool on its client portal WorldOne LIVE. List Match is designed to instantly run list matches at no cost. In addition to displaying the number of matching records, the tool allows clients to set the incidence rate and provides an estimated number of completed surveys broken down by specialty. www.worldone.com

Opinionmeter International, a San Leandro, Calif., research company, has released its TouchPoint Mobile survey app, which introduces whitelabeling capabilities for research organizations interested in maintaining consistent branding awareness. www.opinionmeter.com

■ New York research company StrategyOne has added a mobile community app to its PluggedIN Communities offering, allowing users to access the PluggedIN community platform from their smartphones. The app is based on HTML5. www.pluggedinco.com

Prosper Mobile Insights, a Worthington, Ohio, research company, has debuted its ProsperChina Tablet App and InsightCenter to give marketers a quarterly look at the Chinese market through the eyes of the Chinese consumer. The solution is available in both English and Mandarin.

www.prospermobile.com

■ Data management companies TruSignal, St. Cloud, Minn., and BlueKai, Cupertino, Calif., have expanded their partnership to provide online advertisers a way to target high-value consumers across several product and service categories, including automotive insurance, life insurance, telecommunications, financial products and education. TruSignal's Ideal Audiences will be publicly available for purchase on the BlueKai Exchange. www.tru-signal.com

Amadeus Consulting, Boulder, Colo., and Lynx Research Consulting, Boise, Idaho, have partnered to create CommentLynx, a free smartphone app for iOS and Android 2.0+, designed to gather live feedback from customers to improve customer service. www.lynxresearch.biz

■ Stockholm, Sweden, research company Cint has debuted Cint Access, a DIY product intended to allow users to deploy online surveys to individuals that match their exact profiling requirements in under seven minutes. Cint Access is linked to OpinionHUB, which contains over seven million people connected to brands in 50+ countries. Cint project managers are available to assist. www.cint.com

■ Google has built Screenwise, a panel of a few thousand people to learn more about how everyday people use the Internet. Screenwise is designed to help Google understand Web usage better, such as what times of day people browse, how long they stay on Web sites and what types of sites are popular. Google has selected Menlo Park, Calif., research company Knowledge Networks as its panel management partner. www.screenwisepanel.com

■ Austin, Texas, research software company Bazaarvoice and Buddy Media, New York, have partnered to launch What's Popular Right Now, a social application designed to help customers integrate Bazaarvoice customer-generated content into their Buddy Media-powered brand pages and social media campaigns. The most popular products or services – based on customer conversations such as ratings, reviews, comments and shares – are then promoted within the app, encouraging consumers to scroll through and interact with the brand's Bazaarvoice content and share their experiences with their friends and across their online networks. www.bazaarvoice.com

■ Baltimore advertising technology company Videology has partnered with research companies I-Behavior, Louisville, Colo., and Kantar Shopcom, Wilton, Conn., to combine Kantar Shopcom's consumer packaged goods purchase behavior insight with I-Behavior's database matching capabilities for online behavioral targeting. The solution aims to reach users based on their demographic makeup or in-store activities and target and measure actual offline purchases from online video advertising. www.videologygroup.com

Reston, Va., research company comScore Inc. has launched its Ad Metrix service in Brazil. www.comscore.com

Civicom Marketing Research Services, Greenwich, Conn., has announced a four-tiered pricing scheme for Civicom Chatterbox Multimedia Board, its solution designed to conduct online bulletin board focus groups and forums: CBox Free, CBox Pro, CBox Basic and Custom CBox. www.civi.com ■ IModerate Research Technologies, Denver, has implemented ThoughtPath, an approach to qualitative research that revolves around three cognitive theories – identity theory, perception theory and phenomenology. ThoughtPath is designed to allow iModerate's qualitative researchers to better understand consumers' inherent thought processes and how they make decisions. www.imoderate.com

Paris research company Ipsos has launched online panels in Egypt and the United Arab Emirates as part of its Rewarding Panel project. www.rewardingpanel.com

Bangalore, India, research company Borderless Access has launched panels in Indonesia and Turkey. www.borderlessaccess.com

■ Ebony Marketing Research Systems Inc., New York, has debuted five ethnic panels: the African-American panel; the Hispanic panel; the Asian panel; the Islamic/Muslim panel; and the faith-based panel. www.ebonymktg.com

Reston, Va., research company comScore Inc. has released its 2012 Mobile Future in Focus report. The report highlights insights primarily from mobile markets in the U.S, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, U.K., Japan and Canada. www.comscore.com

Santa Monica, Calif., research

report company IBISWorld has released its Auto Customization Shops in the US report. www.ibisworld.com

■ Hudson, Ohio, research company Hedges & Co. has announced new part-specific automotive research reports available for instant download at its online market research store. The online store offers the company's new part-specific BuyerZoom and BrandZoom research reports. www.hedgescompany.com

■ EPM Communications Inc., New York, has released How Mobile Devices Are Changing The Way Americans Shop, a report that details what a good mobile shopping experience is and reveals what consumers expect from mobile payment and checkout systems. The study is available for \$750, including free supplementary updates.

EPM has also published All About Women Consumers for 2012. The report is available for \$299 as a singleuser PDF or print edition. www.epmcom.com

■ Kinesis Survey Technologies LLC, Austin, Texas, has published a white paper, titled Future-Proofing Online Panels: A Multimode, Multisource Approach. The white paper focuses on changes within the market research industry in terms of panel management strategy and implementation. www.kinesissurvey.com/resources/ whitepapers

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TRUST IN RESEARCH



For better insights from text analytics, elicit better comments

| By Carolyn Lindquist

// by the numbers



snapshot

How to tweak your questionwriting to draw richer responses.

ritten customer comments are a rich source of information about their experience with a brand. Text analytics provides the ability to leverage these comments to better identify aspects of the customer experience that drive satisfaction and loyalty. When customers provide feedback that needs immediate attention, text analytics can also be used to alert field and corporate managers. To achieve these results, our firm, Service Management Group (SMG), developed a process for soliciting text comments and analyzing the results for meaningful insights.

Text analytics can be very powerful with the right industry-specific settings; however, that power cannot be harnessed if customers do not leave rich comments. Looking at current processes, we discovered an opportunity to increase both the number of survey respondents that leave a comment and the quality of the comments themselves by improving the approach to open-ended questions. These new questions facilitate more detailed, emotionfilled responses while placing fewer burdens on survey respondents. After testing many ways to ask open-ended questions, three key elements emerged that improve the enriched open-ended feedback from customers.

i. Target your questions. As advocates for the service-profit chain, SMG's goal is to move satisfied customers to highly satisfied. Unfortunately, in many cases satisfied customers were not providing enough information on how their experience could be improved. To elicit these details, open-ended questions need to be designed specifically to return actionable insights from this group of customers. Upon implementation of questions targeted to this group of satisfied customers, response rates increased by 12 percent and customers left richer, more detailed comments. Therefore, SMG recommends aligning different open-ended questions with customers based on their stated levels of overall satisfaction.

2. Ask why. Traditionally, survey questions have asked customers "What could we do to improve?" or "What did you like most?" To get longer, more sentiment-filled comments, ask customers why they felt a particular way about their experience. The tendency for "why" questions to be richer than "what" questions is evident through average comment length (see Figure 1). For example, when asked what to improve, customers often provide comments such as "Staff friendliness." These brief, less-thoughtful statements lack emotion and detail. However, when asked why they were not satisfied, customers tend to provide more elaborate responses such as "The staff was rude to me after I asked for their help," which contains emotion and detail we can target with actions. For this reason, SMG recommends asking "why" versus "what" when designing open-ended questions (see Table 1 for examples).

3. Be sensitive to placement. Typically, SMG asks open-ended questions near the end of the survey. This means respondents are first asked a series of closed-ended questions



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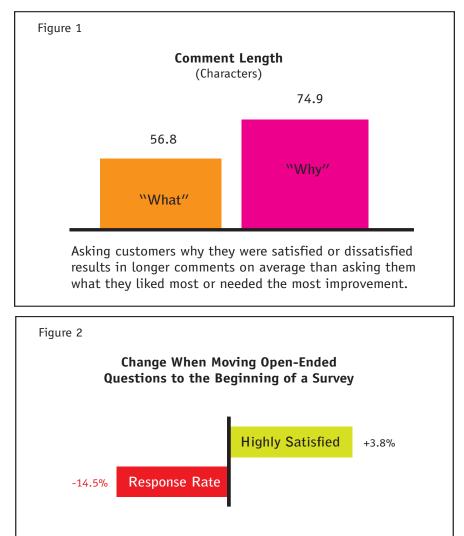
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5



Table 1: Comparison of Previous and Recommended Open-Ended Survey Questions

Respondents	Previous Questions		Recommended Questions
Less than satisfied	Please tell us what we can do to improve your next experience.	•	Please tell us why you were less than satisfied with your experience. Be as specific as you like.
Satisfied	Please tell us what we can do to improve your next experience.	•	Please tell us why you were not highly satisfied with your experience. Be as specific as you like.
Highly satisfied	Please tell us what you liked most about your experience.	•	Please tell us why you were highly satisfied with your experience. Be as specific as you like.



Response rates go down and "highly satisfied" scores on fixed-rating scale questions go up when open-ended questions are placed at the beginning of the survey.

(rated using a scale) before they are offered a chance to provide written detail through open-ended comments. SMG theorized that placing open-ended comments at the beginning of the survey would lead to higher response

rates because survey respondents may be less fatigued at this point. Our research actually showed a marked decrease in overall response rate when open-ended comments were moved from the end of the survey to the beginning. When beginning a survey with an open-ended question, respondents assume the survey will demand a longer time commitment. This leads the respondent to opt out of the survey. Equally notable was a 3.8 percentage point increase in highly satisfied responses across the closed-ended items (e.g., overall satisfaction, friendliness of staff or overall cleanliness) as shown in Figure 2. A change in survey scores is acceptable if it means the new scores are more valid (i.e., more reflective of the customer experience) but this was not the case.

For example, when open-ended questions are placed at the end of the survey, customers write about their poor perceptions of staff friendliness as part of their open-ended comments and indicate dissatisfaction in their closed-ended comments. Conversely, if customers write about their perceptions of poor staff friendliness as part of an open-ended comment placed at the beginning of a survey, they often rate staff friendliness as satisfactory later in the survey. This illustrates that respondents providing written feedback early in the survey tend to pay less attention to survey content appearing later in the survey. Simply stated, once people write about their experiences, they feel that they have offered everything needed and quickly disengage from the survey process. This demonstrates the great importance of placing open-ended items at the end of the survey.

Lead to an improvement

In our experience, the data is best when adhering to three techniques: targeting the question to the customer's satisfaction level; asking "why" instead of "what;" and placing the open-ended question near the end of the survey. Following these design principles for all open-ended questions will lead to an improvement in the quantity and quality of your customer feedback. ⁽¹⁾

Carolyn Lindquist is product manager with Service Management Group, a Kansas City, Mo., research firm. She can be reached at clindquist@smg.com or at 816-841-5611.

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Where is this leading us?

Analyzing a B2B magazine's ad inquiries and their relationship to qualified prospects

| By Jim Nowakowski



How the Web has affected lead generation for Buildings magazine and other B2B publications.



Marketers expect many outcomes from their ad expenditures. Sales, of course, is the primary one. In the business-to-business (B2B) space, another clear expectation from advertising is inquiries. Frost & Sullivan's 2011 Sales Leadership Priorities Survey' showed that the key internal challenge to corporations was identifying and qualifying high-potential prospects – which are born as inquiries.

However, despite all of this money being spent on ads to generate these inquiries, no one really knows ultimately what an ad really does in terms of producing inquiries, nor what the expectations should be regarding how many of those inquiries will turn into prospects.

True, telemarketers have their "yes-to-no" call ratios, and in many cases, we can count leads. But in B2B, it's more complex because of the two- and three-step distribution systems. Many times, B2B companies cannot define the real customer, much less figure out what to do with the inquiry from people who may or may not be the real customer!

Over the past 20 years, our studies of advertising ROI performance demonstrate this fact: It's not producing the inquiry that's the problem; it's what you do with the inquiry once it's produced to turn it into Frost & Sullivan's "high-potential prospect."

The challenge is that the Internet changed our notion of "inquiry." Terms like "clicks" or "hits" or "visitors" have confused what was once pretty clear: someone expressing an interest in a product. Indeed, the latest term is engagement, but what's that? Just becomes someone Likes you on Facebook, is that a high-potential prospect?

In B2B, we face what is called "considered purchases." That is, people look at advertising but don't make an immediate decision. They gather facts, weigh options and then make the decision. It's complex and it's becoming increasingly so because of the Internet, which helps people do even more research up front before any purchase. Indeed, one might argue that what B2B has always done is being done now by consumers



themselves – searching and researching and comparing on even commodity items.

Are inquiries being produced as a result of advertising in the B2B space? Have inquiries dropped because of the Internet? If I can get over 500,000 impressions in Facebook for \$100, why should I spend \$10,000 on a one-page ad in a trade publication?

These are only a few of the questions plaguing advertisers in the B2B space. Our most recent investigation tried to answer these questions and this article is a summary of those findings (the complete report is available at http://goo.gl/cmj7k).

Make better conclusions on their ROI

The purpose of our study was to explore inquiry and lead generation in Buildings magazine and demonstrate the Internet's impact on inquiry generation with the idea of helping advertisers make better conclusions on their ROI from advertising.

Buildings was selected because it is the premier magazine read by building owners and managers. More than 72,000 CEOs/owners/partners, vice presidents/directors of facilities, directors of real estate, directors of construction and more comprise its circulation.

We asked Tony Dellamaria, the publisher, to provide us with a year's worth of inquiries from the following channels: e-response (generated from monthly e-blasts); fax (generated from faxed-in print cards); Internet (generated from online Web inquiry cards); mail (generated from mailed-in print cards).

What was not known (nor ever known) is how many leads go to advertisers directly from the advertising (that is, readers who visited the Web site of the advertiser or the microsite created by the advertiser to track response, or those who faxed in requests). In addition to the study of this file, our firm, Accountability Information Management (AIM), conducted more than 50 random interviews on individuals within the file to provide a qualitative understanding of lead behavior².

Table 1 demonstrates the source of leads via the channel they came through. Note that prior to a tactic like e-response or the advent of the Internet, all the inquiries would have come through the mail. In both cases (now and then), a reader could have still called an advertiser, but the publisher would never know that.

AIM studies have documented the shift: As channels like e-response are created, mail inquiries drop. People's level of interest stays the same; it just moves to a different channel.

In fact, in all of AIM's work, it's been shown that advertising inquiries in magazines generally come from 6 percent to 20 percent of a magazine's circulation via the reader service card, depending on the audience. In other words, 80 percent or more of a magazine's circulation is using a channel other than reader service to inquire on an ad, if they inquire at all!

Conclusion No. 1: The number of inquiries has, relatively speaking, remained the same; only the channel has changed.

Still a powerful force

Furthermore, the AIM interviews asked a very important question that may shed some light on how people seek information. We generated Table 2 from the question asking readers how they most prefer to get product information and stay up to date.

If the response from "Magazine" and "Articles in Magazines" are added, you can see that print magazines are still a powerful force in how these people get their information. While no one denies the growth of the Internet and its social media channels, *Buildings* readers use the magazine for receiving product information. This doesn't mean they do not subsequently go to the Web site, nor ever talk to a manufacturer's sales rep. It means they are "dialing up" information in many different ways.

How people receive and seek information is important to remember in any discussion on inquiries. For example, AIM studied a magazine for users of mainframe computers and the publication generated an average of three leads per ad. When AIM showed the magazine's sales force that number, there was an outcry. "I can't take that into the advertiser! It's too low!" was the unanimous exclamation. AIM then asked what the average order was on a per-lead basis for the mainframes covered

Table 1: Inquiries by Source from Buildings

Inquiries by Source	% of Leads
E-response (generated from monthly e-blast)	43%
Fax (generated from faxed-in print cards)	3%
Internet (generated from Web inquiry card)	4%
Mail (generated from mailed-in print cards)	51%

Table 2: How People Want Information

Channel	% of Response
Online	30%
Printed Material	30%
Magazine	23%
E-mail	18%
Articles in Magazines	5%
Factory Reps	5%
Other*	20%

*Other = contractors, direct mail, electronic, Home Depot, literature, manufacturer, phone, samples, workshops

Table 3: Inquiries and Inserts by Ad Sizes for All Inquiries

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Size	% of Insertions	% of Inquiries
Half-page, four-color	22%	23%
One-third-page, four-color	13%	14%
One-quarter-page, four-color	9%	6%
One-sixth-page, four-color	8%	8%
Full-page, four-color	45%	46%
Two-thirds-page, four-color	2%	1%

by the publication. The answer: more than \$1.5 million. The room became silent. The point had been made: If each individual lead had the potential

to generate a \$1.5 million sale, how many "ones" do you really need?

Conclusion No. 2: The potential idea of what is or is not available is extremely important in understanding inquiry numbers and behavior.

Good or bad?

According to our study, 48 percent said they purchased the product they inquired upon; 52 percent said they did not. Is that good or is that bad? It is neither. Another 53 percent said it was "very important" to advertise in Buildings; 34 percent said "extremely important." None of the people we interviewed thought that advertising was unimportant!

A facility director for a large assisted-living resi-

dence told us: "Advertising in major trade publications gives manufacturers and service providers more credibility." Did he purchase the

Talk to me

With the *Buildings* study, part of the intent of our research was to help advertisers better communicate, reach and target important audiences. After all the other rich data we gathered, our final question of *Buildings* readers was: "What's the best way to reach a person like you?" Their responses? E-mail – 53 percent; phone – 44 percent; mail – 8 percent; other – 22 percent. ("Other" includes "articles, fax, Internet, links to a live person, magazines, newsletters and product literature.")

Remember "reach" means contact – the way they wanted to be contacted. It is extraordinary when you think about it, isn't it? These readers are reachable, not through one method but all methods. Thus, for *Buildings* advertisers, when an inquiry is generated, the best way to reach these people is with a phone call or an e-mail, which we have proven year after year for our other clients as well.

product he inquired on? No. But, he said, "I do my product research on things I see advertised and then recommend to the CEO/owner products for capital improvements. At certain levels, I buy what is needed." This is the essence of the inquiry in the world of B2B.

Further evidence of inquiry interest is in the analysis of inquiries to ad size. While virtually all publishers would prefer and stress larger ad sizes, Table 3 shows something they might not like to see.

There is almost a 1:1 ratio between the number of insertions to inquiries. Table 3 demonstrates this for Buildings, but this has been reflected in virtually all magazines AIM has studied. In other words, for every ad in any size that runs, there is a corresponding percentage of inquiries produced.

Conclusion No. 3: Regardless of size, an advertiser can expect inquiries by running ads.

Three behaviors

One of the real benefits of advertising is the non-inquiry. In other words, not everyone who sees and reads the ad inquires. There are basically three behaviors that a reader can take when an ad appears: seeing, reading and acting (which includes

> ignoring, which is a behavior in itself). The first break in the cycle happens when the reader does not even see the ad.

Table 4 shows the overall percentages of "seeing" scores - people who report seeing an ad – based on ad sizes. Note that clearly, the differentiation is the size of the ad. The more seers you want, the larger size ad you should run. The number of seers, therefore, helps you understand inquiries further. That is, without seeing the ad, you'd never inquire. By default, the higher number of seers, the more potential your ad will have to produce inquires.

By the way, if your ad generates no inquiries, you probably have a problem with the creative if the Table 4: Average 'Seeing' Scores and Number of Seers Based on Buildings Circulation

Size	Average Seeing Scores	Potential Seers	
One-quarter-page	24%	17,587	
One-page	41%	30,044	
Spread	54%	39,570	
Spread with BRC	67%	49,096	
Six-page insert	77%	56,424	

target audience is, in fact, your target. It is very rare for an ad not to produce a single inquiry.

Habits change continually

Reading habits change continually, especially with social media. Today, with the Internet, texting and TV, people skim what they read more than ever, making it harder for an ad to hold attention. Perhaps more important, the "need for speed" has diminished reading comprehension.

People read to do one of two things: to gain something or to protect what they have. Therefore, what must exist first is the interest in the topic being presented. The fact that this interest cannot be measured per se is one of the reasons for qualified circulations. Publishers gather similar people with similar interests around a topic and publish a magazine geared to those people. Advertisers put their messages in that magazine to reach "the right people."

The act of reading is not related specifically to the size of the ad, however. On a ratio basis, a smaller ad can have a higher readership than a larger ad. What a small ad does not do, though, is attract more eyeballs!

In essence, people respond because they have a need. Like Pavlov's dog, a bell rings and they are urged into action. Response to stimulus is an ongoing problem to advertisers, which is why the advertising world is under siege. Frankly, there are too many different bells that can ring. Given the customizable options in play today, advertisers can change the tones of those bells at will – and the customers and prospects may never know it.

The advertiser has a huge dilemma: Which bell do you ring and when? Some clues can be found in the research published on these topics. Figuring out why people respond includes understanding their hot buttons and the timing of the offer more than how the sale is presented. But to generate any kind of response, the advertisement has to be seen and read; otherwise, nothing happens.

Therefore, understanding why

people respond requires an examination of what gets ads seen and read, as well as the follow-up to the response. In other words, a study of inquiries and why they respond is the best way to measure response.

Reshaped lead generation

The Internet has dramatically reshaped lead generation – not the quantity, but how inquiries are made and followed up on. In this age of engagement, advertising itself has become frowned upon in social media



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1 Group	11	95	8.6	25%	54%	178%
2 Group	19	143	7.5	25%	0%	65%
3 Group	28	120	4.3	26%	27%	12%
4 Group	66	154	2.3	24%	-8%	-53%

circles. Indeed, get caught advertising and you could lose your followers! Yet this too is changing, as Facebook and Twitter move to understanding advertising and its revenue power.

These new platforms disrupt traditional channels and change the way the game is played. For example, advertisers complain that they receive fewer leads and many publishers explain that lead generation has fallen off since the advent of the Internet. But have leads really dropped off? Or has the channel of the inquirer changed?

Between 2007 to 2008 in one of the leading magazines we studied, direct responses to advertisements dropped 11 percent. But, the bonus leads that the publisher gave to advertisers (bonus leads are inquiries expressing interest in a category, not a specific advertiser) increased 21 percent from the previous year. The net effect was 10 percent more inquiries.

So why do advertisers and publishers say inquiries are dropping off? We respectfully suggest it is the lack of follow-up on what the inquirer wants. In the "need for speed," advertisers simply don't follow up and take the time to talk with the inquirer. They send them "stuff" and cross their fingers.

AIM conducted a comprehensive follow-up study on reader-service cards in one magazine. AIM circled every number using four separate cards (to avoid the publisher throwing out our cards as a hoax). Here are the results of that study for your consideration:

- 30 percent of the advertisers responded to the request for information. That means 70 percent paid no attention to the request.
- The average response time for the 30 percent who responded to the

request was 37 days.

- The average creative costs for the print material received was estimated (at \$1,500 per page, conservatively) to be \$113,152 each.
- The total estimated creative costs for the 30 percent who sent materials? \$2.5 million - not including printing.
- After the initial fulfillment, three of the 82 companies sent follow-up material. Only 4 percent did any follow up!
- AIM lost \$92. Some of the advertisers charged a nominal fee for what they offered. Personal checks were written for this material, which was not received. What should people think after that experience?

AIM repeated the experiment a few years later with similar results: Although response had risen to 40 percent, the average days to receive literature climbed to 44 days. Can you wait 44 days for anything?

More freedom

One reason for the lack of follow-up is that the Internet gives readers much more freedom to visit the advertisers directly online. In the past, besides circling reader-service numbers, prospects could call or fax an advertiser. Today, the prospect can also hop online and visit the advertiser's Web site, Like them on Facebook and do any other number of contact points. This puts the responsibility on the advertiser, not the publisher, to track lead activity.

Table 5 shows an analysis of inquiries divided into quartiles based on total number of inquiries (total leads/4 = 4 groups, each with equal totals of leads). In other words, the total inquiries were ranked highest to lowest in terms of inquiry generation and then sliced into four even pieces so each quartile had the same number of leads.

Immediately you see something interesting: 11 companies control 25 percent of the leads. These 11 companies did only one thing different than the other groups: They ran more ads from a per-company point of view. Their average insertion rate was 8.6. The reward for this? They not only control 25 percent of the leads coming from the magazine, their average number of leads per company compared to the other companies in the magazine was 178 percent higher. Talk about a return on your investment!

In this age of information overload, this is a testimony to the fact that people do read and respond through a reader service card. Because AIM had clients in that group of 11, the follow-up of the leads determined that every one of the responses had something to "offer" the client, whether it was new specifications or samples.

A careful study of Table 5 will also reveal that "playing" with advertising isn't worth it. If an advertiser can only afford running one or two ads, the company is better off doing something else with its money.

Publishers will not appreciate hearing that but the facts speak for themselves. Data is a powerful tool for making – or breaking – the arguments that advertisers face. It's well worth the effort to analyze advertising data to uncover the truths, rather than stick by unsupported assumptions and hunches of what works.

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² The number of interviews needed to be assured of some certainty when qualitative research is done is n=30. Peter DePaulo, in the December 2000 *Quirk's Marketing Research Review*, wrote about the sample size. In addition, George Gaskell in *Qualitative Researching* wrote and discussed the number 30 extensively. Combined with our long history of studies, we felt confident we would help advertisers understand inquiries better, and, therefore, the advertising investment, with this number.

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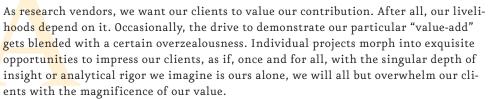
••• business-to-business research Counting the lessons learned

Anatomy of a research project gone wrong

| By James K. Callihan

snapshot

How an overzealous vendor and an inexperienced client combined to derail a business-to-business research study.



Or so we imagine. This type of project is already fraught with potential dangers and those perils are magnified tenfold when the vendor in question is also trying to use the project as a way to get back into the client's good graces after some earlier missteps.

Couple this situation with some inexperienced players and you have the potential for severe disappointment and dissatisfaction, if not disaster, as I will chronicle below.

Can be daunting

Most clients have a list of vendors sanctioned by their organizations. If you're fortunate enough to be on it, the task is to stay on it. If you're not on the list, getting on it can be daunting, as clients typically have little motivation to reach outside their comfort zone of sanctioned vendors to engage one that is untested and therefore unproven.

Perhaps the only task more daunting is climbing back onto a vendor list after being knocked off it. Vendors on a sanctioned list quickly understand its benefits and thus they strive to achieve go-to provider status. This road is a long one. Success requires a substantial history of project experiences that consistently meet the client's needs, however explicit or subtle those needs happen to be. With each successful project, client confidence grows. Trust is soon to follow.

Concentrating so much energy on a single project to propel a vendor to some exalted status generally fails to achieve a goal that is, after all, exaggerated to begin with. The notion



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GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS & AMERICAS | Seattle, USA | +1 206 315 9300 ASIA PACIFIC | Sydney, AUS | +61 2 9290 4333 EMEA | London, UK | +44 (0)20 7399 7010 that a single project is imbued with such dramatic potential takes the vendor down a path that confuses complexity with sophistication. Imagining some awe-inspiring end product, great energy and intellect is invested to expand a project, broaden its objectives and deepen its analytical rigor. Mesmerized by the glistening brass ring that seems so close at hand, little thought is given to what can go wrong and, perhaps more to the point, what stands to be lost if things do go wrong.

Fortunately most of us know better and many of us have had the good fortune of working with clients who are reasonably sophisticated researchers. They know better too. So while the temptation may be present, more often than not projects take merely the shape that's needed to attend to their objectives while taking into consideration the parameters set by budgets and timelines. Excess is avoided. In part because it's expensive, in part because it adds a complexity that can threaten a timeline but most commonly because it's recognized as simply unnecessary. Enough, in the vast majority of cases, really is enough.

Completely enjoyable

Those of us who have been privileged to work with clients who are sophisticated researchers know how enjoyable it can be. But it's a far different undertaking when the client is inexperienced in the ways of market research. It's more challenging and more difficult. In discussions with sophisticated clients, technical terms are used with an ease bred from knowing that all those at the table understand them. Nuance and subtlety can be employed.

Not so with clients who haven't been around our particular block more than a time or two. Here, extreme care is required to ensure we're not talking over or past the client. Vigilance is needed to spot those subtle cues that the client isn't tracking the conversation, is puzzled or uncertain. Tact is essential as we don the hats of both educator and advisor. Speaking clearly is perhaps a tad more important than listening carefully, since it's here where we're tasked with both selecting the route and explaining why it's likely to be the most judicious, most productive and most useful of the available options. And it's here, when we find ourselves working with clients who aren't deeply experienced in the ways of research, where the risk of doing too much – of going overboard – is perhaps greatest.

The situation becomes exponentially more precarious when the vendor enters discussions with inexperienced clients with a private sense that here is that wonderful opportunity to leapfrog what is otherwise a path of measured steps and incremental progress. It's not necessarily the case that the vendor sees the chance to take advantage of the inexperience that sits across the table. It's a more subtle process. Having been on the vendor side of a couple projects that were ill-conceived in their overzealousness, I can say that the vendor team imagines its work to be spot-on and, all the more, is fully certain their design and analytic roadmap are exquisitely well-suited to the client's needs whether the client realizes it or not.

A perfect storm

The most recent of these ill-fated projects was, fairly speaking, the most disastrous. A perfect storm of sorts brought together a vendor whose status with this particular client had been seriously weakened and a client project manager who was not only new to his job but about to embark on his first market research project. On the one hand was a vendor eager to rebuild a crumbling relationship, while on the other was a bright young neophyte equally eager to make sure his first project provided maximum insight and guidance to his team of managers and product developers.

It all began innocently enough. The first meeting for this businessto-business research project involved only a senior manager from the client's organization and two of us representing the vendor. After the customary pleasantries, the senior manager provided a detailed overview of what she needed from the project. On the whole it was, as she said, a "very straightforward" project. As the discussion progressed it was clear we were talking about a simple feature-prioritization study and that a max-diff exercise was likely to be the most appropriate

technique. The respondent population was clearly framed and it was generally agreed that accessing the appropriate sample wouldn't be difficult. The timeline, however, was critical. The senior manager needed the data to provide statistically-robust guidance to her product developers. Their task of designing the product's next-generation features would begin within two months and the market data was needed to build consensus among them as to which of a long list of possible enhancements would prove most compelling to customers. As a project that would help us regain our footing with a terribly important client, it couldn't have been nicer.

The proposal stage went well. Indeed it should have, since there was nothing overly complicated about the project. Once finalized, the proposal was sent on-schedule to the senior manager who, despite the tight timeline, took much longer than we expected to review it. So long, in fact, that we found ourselves fearing that the project had been given to another vendor. Our frustration was palpable. As every step had been taken to submit a thoughtful proposal with a competitive budget, we began fearing that our company's recent shortcomings were now blocking our efforts to begin anew. Quickly imagining that every proposal would meet the same end, we visited the possibility - more aptly, the probability – that the relationship with this client was beyond repair.

Remained confident

But we were wrong. Very late one Friday evening we received an e-mail from the senior manager congratulating us on being awarded the project. She acknowledged that the timeline would have to be revisited due to how long she had taken to make a decision but she remained confident that the findings could still be delivered in time to provide direction to the designers. Allaying our fears, she also remarked that she was "excited" about working with us and added that she was "looking forward to highly actionable results." It was in this e-mail that we learned that the day-to-day management of the project would be handed over to a more

junior member of her team.

Thus the stage was set. For reasons beyond my comprehension, the simple design we had set forth in our proposal was cast aside without compunction, as if nothing more than mere scribbles on a cocktail napkin intended only to get our cerebral juices flowing. No sooner had we been awarded the project than our team began replacing its straightforward design with one vastly more complex, based on the assumption that a more sophisticated design was needed if we were going to demonstrate the value we brought to the table. We would protect the timeline and, of course, the budget. But otherwise ours was the "obligation" to evolve the simple design into something more elaborate in order to obtain findings that would prove more broadly beneficial. In the end we'd be rewarded with a strengthened relationship and, surely, additional project opportunities.

Nothing went as planned

Suffice it to say that nothing went quite as planned. During her initial review of our proposal, the senior manager e-mailed to ask if we could increase the n from 400 to as many as 800. It was important, she said, to make sure the findings carried as much statistical validity as possible since her product developers tended to be highly intelligent engineers who would require very robust data to be convinced as to which specific features they should focus on. It was her thought that an n of 800 would surely do the trick. Through a bit of back-and-forth, we suggested - and she agreed – that an n of 600 would suffice. We made, and she accepted, changes in the budget to cover increasing the sample size. But by the time the project's design had been finalized, a single targeted sample of 600 was transformed into three audiences of 200 respondents each. Meetings with the client's inexperienced project manager were effective in convincing him that an original audience n of 200 would be sufficiently robust. Since this was the sample that would be doing the feature prioritization, it was important for him to know this. It no longer mattered that the senior manager earlier had recommended an n of 800. Far fewer, he was

told, would be enough.

The fact that three audiences were required reflects the dramatic changes that had been made to the project's design. The multiple audiences would enhance the study by providing insights relative to competitive positioning, market sizing and sundry other objectives that were there simply to be addressed. Now it was possible to effectively conduct three interconnected surveys not just one. No doubt the rewards would be commensurate with the added effort. But the more complex design created quite a bit of extra work. While a portion of it involved only our internal team's time and effort, a very sizeable portion fell on the shoulders of the young and inexperienced project manager. Now he was required to populate all sorts of lists, provide official definitions for an array of terms and provide succinct descriptions for nearly three-dozen features on the list to be prioritized. Had the sample been confined to the original audience little of all this would have been required of him.

Given that he'd been in his job for



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less than a year, his progress required enlisting input from others in his organization who were already extremely busy and quite fully engaged. Delay ensued. Instead of a study that would require six weeks from start to finish, it had become a study that was more than six weeks off-schedule by the time it went to field.

Quotas didn't fill

Things would only get worse. Fielding wouldn't go nearly as well as predicted. While the original audience quota of 200 filled quite rapidly, the others didn't. In fact, the pace was so slow that qualifiers were relaxed not once or twice but three times. And still the quotas didn't fill. Corresponding adjustments in the project's timeline were made. When all was said and done, the project that began with a tight and critical timeline was delivered two-anda-half months late.

By then, things had gotten much worse. For the first time in a 20-year career I was dismayed when the young project manager informed us that due to the delays, the project's primary objective – prioritizing a list of product features – had been pushed off the table. Decisions had to be made and the product designers could no longer wait for the results of the research. Their efforts had to get underway if their schedule was to be met. Missing it simply wasn't an option. Consequently, after all the time and effort the project had become – from the client's perspective - irrelevant.

It was all the more disconcerting to hear the young project manager take responsibility for the delays. In some respects, he was right. He didn't deliver what he promised in a way that could even remotely be considered on-time. It's likely that he found it far more difficult than he imagined getting others to provide him with the input he couldn't do without. But it was clear he didn't understand that his workload had been increased by a factor of three or four due to changes our team made to the design. To him this was simply how the process unfolds and he was duly remorseful that he had slowed things down.

And yes, things got even worse. In a following up with the senior manager it was learned that she too was distressed by the project's progression. Unfortunately, but I suppose appropriately, she placed the responsibility squarely on her own shoulders. It was her mistake, she commented, to have left the project in the hands of an "inexperienced" project manager. Had she done her job correctly, she added, she would have stayed more closely connected with the project if only to ensure things didn't go sideways. This, she maintained, was "perhaps the most critical failure." As she noted, "There's not much that happened that wouldn't have been rectified by my own greater involvement."

Blind enthusiasm

Of course, she was right. But not. In the rarefied air of organizational theory the proverbial buck always stops at the top, so from that perspective she certainly was correct. But from any practical perspective, her failing - such as it was – was that she trusted that we would embrace the project as she had framed it and use our skills and expertise to move it toward a speedy and fruitful completion. We did neither. Guided by some blind enthusiasm our team transformed a simple project into one of impressive complexity based solely on the presumption that doing so would deliver far more than the client imagined possible.

Unable to rein in our own eagerness, there was no one on the client side capable of doing so - especially absent her direct involvement. The young project manager certainly couldn't. As his first market research project, how was he to know that our more complicated design implied a very substantial risk to an otherwise tight timeline, especially, I should add, given our team's assurances to the contrary? It was only when the timeline actually began shifting that evidence of our "miscalculation" surfaced but by then he too had become wrapped up in the promise of a project that was going to produce such farsighted insight across an expanse of topics. Like the senior manager, he too had trusted our expertise and capabilities. He didn't he couldn't – evaluate the project's roadmap to assess its efficacy. It's likely it didn't occur to him that he needed to. what with the trust and all.

And just when you think it couldn't get any worse, it did. As it turned out,

a good number of the features the product designers had decided to focus on hadn't found their way to the top in the prioritization exercise. Some actually were near the bottom. I can't say what predicament this caused the designers, if any. It's easy to surmise that more than a modicum of time was spent reconciling the differences between what they thought were the most compelling new features and what the data showed. But it's also possible that the designers refused to be distracted by a study that probably had lost all credibility by the time it was delivered 10 weeks late. Perhaps it was a disguised blessing that the n had been reduced as it had.

Soundly dashed

By now the dust had settled. Needless to say, the vendor's hope of resuscitating the relationship was soundly dashed. As to the young project manager, we can only hope that his career wasn't cut short by his management of a project that, as I've noted, was deemed irrelevant before it was even completed. I suspect it wasn't. The senior manager's acknowledgement of her own "failing" probably protected him from anything more distressing than a very unpleasant debriefing. That his first experience with a market research vendor has tainted his appreciation of their collective value seems entirely probable. No doubt he'll engage his second research project with a far more critical - and far less trusting eye. That's unfortunate.

Clearly, this is an extreme example of all that can go wrong when a research team becomes overzealous in its efforts to impress the client. It's something, I'd imagine, of a worst-case scenario. But it speaks to two things. The more obvious is the downside of working too hard to do too much. Our team's leadership genuinely believed that the more complex design was infinitely practical and completely doable. Perhaps on some scale it was. Oddly, our failing was rooted in an almost altruistic sense that because it was possible to do more, it was our professional obligation to do more. Anything less would not only be unprofessional but beneath us and the expertise we had to offer.

Which leads to the second thing. As the project's design became more

and more complex it was thought of in terms of being more and more sophisticated and it's likely that this was the underlying current that was pushing the project further and further off course. Unwilling to confine ourselves to doing something simple, our research team of four Ph.D.s and over 80 years of combined experience worked doggedly to construct a design we could be proud of, as if its complexity was a direct reflection of the breadth of our methodological prowess.

Lamborghini capabilities

It was, all in all, a process that invested the team's effort more in the task of impressing itself than in attending to the client's stated needs. After all, what was the purpose of having so much intellectual horsepower at our disposal if we didn't use it? With Lamborghini capabilities how could we possibly justify an effort of only Ford Pinto proportions? We couldn't. If the project was going to satisfy our high standards, if it was to be a true reflection of what we had to offer, it had to be complex – period.

And anyway, the client would be the beneficiary. Or so we imagined. In this instance there's one particular learning that's relevant to research vendors and clients alike. As much as it's something we already know, so too is it something we'd do well to revisit now and then if only to remind ourselves of its importance.

There's no doubt that keeping things simple is much easier said than done, especially when facing complex issues. But we sometimes forget that market research is our mechanism at for deconstructing the complexity that surrounds us. Our shared interest in "highly actionable insights," as the senior manager phrased it, is nothing more than a desire for findings that enable us to sift through a multiplicity of options to find a single something to be done; findings, that is, which are simple and straightforward enough to provide clear direction.

The best path

We would do well, it seems, to remember that the best path to a simple outcome is seldom the most circuitous route. Further, we must ensure that our research designs are no more complex than what's minimally required to attend to the task at hand. For research clients – especially those with little research experience – this might imply a more constant questioning of proposed designs to gain assurance from their vendors that a simpler approach or technique might not suffice. For vendors, it implies honestly scrutinizing each design consideration in terms of whether it is genuinely required to get the job done and a preference for clarity and simplicity.

When clients and vendors work to ensure projects have taken their simplest form, timelines are likely to be shorter, budgets are likely to be less costly for the client and more profitable for the vendor, analyses are likely to be sharper, confidence is likely to be higher, and – most importantly – insights are likely to be more actionable.

After all, the loss of a major client is far from the only consequence of unwarranted complexity. It's merely one of the more extreme. ⁽¹⁾

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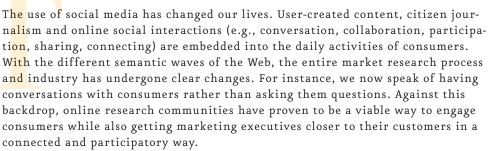
Give 'em all something to talk about

Tips for effective community engagement

| By Niels Schillewaert and Tom De Ruyck

snapshot

To get the most from your MROC, use these ideas to make sure that respondents and internal stakeholders alike are fully engaged in the process.



Research communities assemble consumers to interact in an asynchronous longitudinal setting by applying social media techniques. Companies outsource tasks such as product and service creation and testing to a crowd in an open call in order to bring consumers inside organizations and make their presence felt all the way up to the boardroom.

Why are research communities so hot today? Just like any information technology they bring automational, informational and transformational value (Day 1994; Grover et al. 1996; Mooney et al. 1996). They bring automational effects by allowing companies to quickly tap into a sample of consumers on a specific topic that presents itself and get answers more efficiently. The informational value emerges from the richer, more complex understanding we get of consumers. Transformational outcomes of research communities lay in the fact that they can be combined with mobile technologies and integrated with social networks, for example, to allow respondents to perform tasks which were previously not possible without asynchronous technology and expanded, ongoing engagement and interaction.

And still there is a friction between the ability and desire to utilize research communities in our industry. The status of online research communities today is



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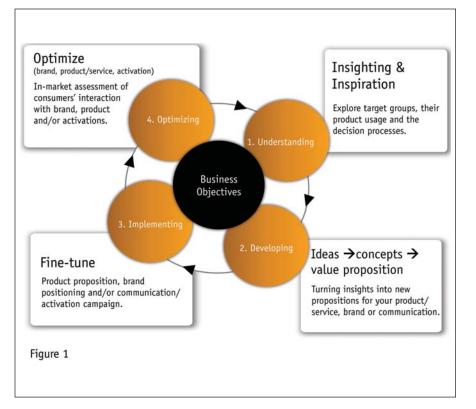
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comparable to teenagers and their first sexual experience. Everyone says they are doing it, everyone wants to do it ... but in the end no one really knows how to do it well. Hence, there is a need for an overview and some concrete tips on how to run online research communities.

Online research communities: types and applications

When positioning online research communities in the social media research space we should distinguish them from the natural communities and social networks where content and conversations self-generate between consumers. Researchers can tap into these for knowledge via "netnographic" methods like social media listening, scraping and ethnographical, qualitative observation.

Communities are invitation-only and are created with a marketing and research motivation to focus on a specific product category, brand or customer segment. Communities allow marketers to observe, facilitate and join conversations between consumers. Consumers enjoy this more participatory research approach and the interaction reintroduces the social context often missing from other research approaches that conceive the consumer as subordinate and sometimes approach them accordingly.

In terms of taxonomy there are several labels and definitions for research communities in practice today, which may lead to some confusion and some may even debate whether all of the labels classify as real communities. The labels range from online research communities. market research online communities (MROCs), bulletin boards, blogs, community panels, ongoing communities etc. (see Table 1). What they do share is that they are all some sort of asynchronous discussion platform but they vary in terms of duration (short-term and ad hoc to ongoing), intensity of moderation (longer-lasting communities are less intense or community panels are even just a form of access panels), direction of conversations and the number of research techniques used (ranging from synchronous online discussion groups, surveys, diary blogs, one-on-one interviews).

As mentioned, research communities can vary in terms duration and intensity. But when do you need a short- versus a long-term community? As often is the case in research it depends on the manage-

ment and the research objectives marketers have. Research communities can be used throughout the marketing mix for understanding, developing, implementing or optimizing marketing offers (see Figure 1). For example, communities are used at the fuzzy front-end of product innovation or for consumer immersion. In a development phase, they can assist in developing new value propositions for product concepts, brands or activation campaigns. Implementation communities can be organized when products or services are about to be launched and need beta-testing or in-home user tests. Finally, research communities can be used for gathering feedback on customer experience and satisfaction processes.

When managers have one very specific goal, a short-term community can satisfy the research needs. To run a successful community, one needs to keep up the engagement with and between all stakeholders, and that is hard to do when there is only a single management goal. If on the other hand managers have a combined need or want to have a continued finger on the pulse of their target group, ongoing communities are more suited. In other words, the number of underlying management objectives directly determines the activity plan of a community.

Technology and tools

The focus these days is often on technology and tools while the common ground real communities should share is engagement. Unlike Internet access panels, participants in a research community talk to each other as well as to researchers and marketers. Consumers exchange ideas in their own language and raise questions and answers which researchers sometimes did not even think to ask. In other words, the social context and interaction are important and help provide a holistic understanding. This can only be achieved by creating engagement at different levels, however. First, there is a need for natural engagement; consumers have to identify with the topic or the brand under

Table 1	Blogs	Bulletin Boards	Marketing Research Online Communities (MROCs)	Community Panels	Access Panels
Description	1-on-1 asynchronous discussions and observations	asynchronous focus groups or short-term discussions with small samples (n < 20)	asynchronous discussions with medium samples (n from 50 to 1,000+) and variable duration	Internet access panels with interactive social media applications	Internet access panels
Duration	Short	Short	Short – Long-Term	Long-Term	Long-Term
Intensity	High	High	High – Medium	Low	None
Direction	Bidirectional	Bidirectional	Bidirectional – interactional	More unidirectional – some interactional	Unidirectional
Research Techniques	Qualitative only	Qualitative	Qualitative, some quantitative	Quantitative, some qualitative	Quantitative

investigation. A second form of engagement is method engagement. Researchers should propose questions in a fun and challenging way to increase participation and quality of input (using gamification, "infotainment," challenges, etc.). Finally, research communities need to create impact engagement by delivering insights to those on the client management side.

Many practitioners focus on the

absolute number of people they connect with in research communities. While important, we argue that sample size is subordinate. What is really important is the number of interactions per discussion

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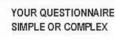
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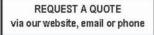


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SURVEY HOSTING QUOTA MANAGEMENT

Tabs







www.affordablesamples.com sales@affordablesamples.com 800-784-8016 thread, which can only be created through engagement with consumers. Setting up an online research community is technically easy, but in order to make interactions useful and effective, researchers need adequate processes for natural engagement and method engagement (Schillewaert et al. 2011):

Natural engagement

Purposeful sampling. Researchers are advised to create natural engagement by sampling brand fans or consumers who show an interest in the topic when recruiting for research communities. True, these consumers are "biased," but at least they reflect an illustrative consumer reality and generate indepth discussion.

Small is beautiful; short and intense may be best. Depending on the research objective, communities can last a couple of weeks or months or be ongoing. They can have 50 or a couple-hundred participants. But be aware that longer and larger communities need higher engagement and require more resources. Lurking - which occurs when community members remain in the community but don't actively participate - can increase when there are too many members or an overwhelming number of posts. A paradox? Not really. When participants see too much information they disconnect because they are convinced their opinion has already been voiced and adds little or no value to the discussion.

Method engagement

If not naturally present, engagement has to be created via the research methods used:

Adapt the context and environment to the target group. For example, let participants chose colors and the name of the community or put topics and questions on the discussion agenda. Foresee a social corner (next to the actual discussion space) where participants can interact "off topic." If needed, moderators should guide participants to such a social corner. These actions help give the community a "for members/by members" feel. **Build the community.** Once participants are screened and recruited, kick-off sessions are important to build engagement on a social as well as informational level. The research agenda and objectives are discussed, the client is presented and participants get acquainted.

Moderators should develop the C-factor – the "C" of community manager. Good moderators have good writing skills, are creative and apply social media-friendly approaches to interaction. Moderators need to be aware that community discussions can last for too long and also need to be steered. Researchers and community moderators build identification with the group, keeping engagement up and on-topic while not letting members oversocialize and drift away from the researchers' agenda.

Involve as many stakeholders as possible. Engaging members of the marketing team, senior management or a well-known expert from the industry or academia to participate in the discussion can spur activity levels tremendously.

What we "do" to people is as important as what we "ask" them. Give participants tasks to perform and play games with them that generate insights. We can make people generate information for us by introducing fun and creativity. In his book Brain Rules, John Medina posits that we often ignore how the brain works. We researchers do the same thing. If we would apply some of his 12 rules to how we attempt to generate information, we could get more productive. For example, there are four rules that are particularly relevant for market research: exercise boosts brain power; we do not pay attention to boring things; vision trumps all other senses; we are powerful and natural explorers.

By acting on some of these rules, researchers can create an engaged group of participants and benefit from the natural affinity and enthusiasm they have for brands. Allow participants to do what they like, surprise them with something special and check out their reaction.

Does not have the necessary impact

If we are completely honest, a lot of the research that is conducted does not have the necessary impact with and for those who commission it. Unfortunately, research has become commoditized as clients pursue "better, faster, cheaper" rather than something that is truly transformational or value-adding. Still, the core of market research should be to bring the voice and ideas of consumers inside organizations all the way up to the boardroom. Online research communities by their very nature are well-suited to do this but researchers must still create internal engagement among users of the data they generate and drive the insight-adoption process.

Market research studies are not only about formal presentations, knowledge management and communication programs. Informal gatherings can be a great way to have managers use and share intelligence. The most powerful and effective situations are those in which research is a conversation starter and generates lively stories about customers. This can be done in three phases:

- Engage the internal audience via positive disruption. Create discussion and healthy competition by contrasting management knowledge with actual market situations using games and quizzes in which managers or executives learn about consumer findings. By answering questions about consumers they receive social status (e.g., a badge), achieve different game levels and unlock extra information as they progress, etc.
- Inspire executives by allowing them to observe, facilitate and even join the consumer conversations in the community.
- Motivate managers to increase their usage of market research studies in their daily job through creative and inspiring sessions and organize internal news streams and "infotainment" (e.g., via Twitter updates, newsletters, infographics, mood boards).

As internal engagement increases, so does executives' knowledge. The more involved and energized they are, the more they will converse about the study at the watercooler and continue to observe consumers beyond merely reading the final project report (De Ruyck et al., 2011).

Bring the consumer into the boardroom

Online communities can help to bring the consumer into the boardroom through creative intelligence generation methods, making sure research is a conversation starter that stimulates management responsiveness. We need "enacting" communities, ones that create ENgagement and ACTivation among both clients and participants, through gamification, storytelling and a fulfilling research experience. ⁽¹⁾

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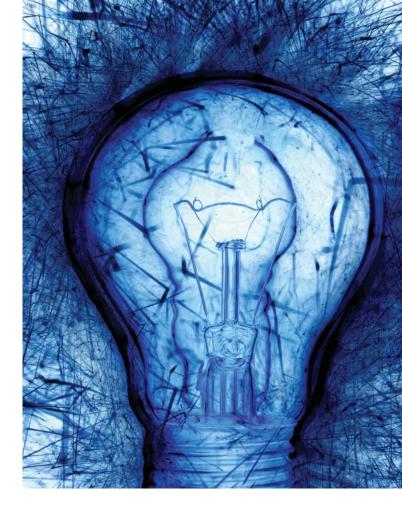
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research communities

Some art, some science

A successful research community requires a mix of strategies

| By Manila Austin



snapshot

Communispace's Manila Austin draws from the firm's research-on-research studies to offer tips on keeping community respondents engaged. When online communities were first being used for market research there was understandable concern from companies that the people participating in them were somehow "not the right people." In the early years of Communispace we were often asked, "Who are these people?" Were they brand fanatics, technology freaks, angry customers just wanting to gripe or were they just socially isolated losers? Whatever the angle, there was genuine apprehension that people who were engaged in online communities weren't, and could never be, "normal."

In today's world, however, we have over two billion people online across the globe, 845 million of them on Facebook alone. Internet penetration is well above 60 percent in developed countries and growing at exponential rates in Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. So it is technically possible – or will be soon – to engage anyone, anywhere, anytime. But just because the technology is in place doesn't make engagement a given.

With the tremendous growth in Internet access, a simultaneous proliferation of online networks, gathering places and content-sharing sites has also occurred. So although the global population is increasingly represented in the digitally-connected population, people today have a great deal of choice about and control over how and where they engage online. This means that everyone is not everywhere on the Internet. It also means that, as market researchers, we have to worry about who is actually participating in the market research online communities we build.

Whether it's the challenge of finding and engaging hard-to-reach groups or simply needing to maximize participation within a given research community, market researchers must understand how to engage just about anyone – what drives involvement and how to influence it. In this article I explore this imperative, borrowing frameworks from applied social sciences and reviewing some of our original research that is germane to the subject.



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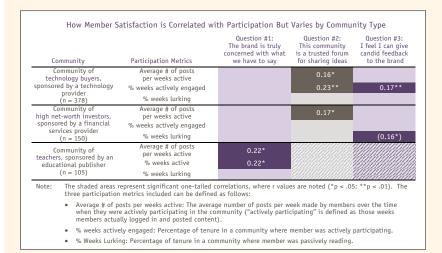
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What drives member satisfaction?

A t Communispace, we have found that different factors have different motivational impact depending on the composition and purpose of the community. We have a member satisfaction survey with standard questions that we have run across various client communities over the years. When we examine the correlations between satisfaction factors and participation, we see that the drivers of engagement vary considerably by community.



The table shows how member satisfaction was related to engagement in three comparative cases. The shaded areas represent significant results and the r values for Spearman correlations are given. The community of technology buyers and the community of high net-worth investors were asked to rate all three of the satisfaction questions shown.

Coordinate sets of needs

In our 10-plus years of facilitating online research communities, we have found that, in order to engage members, researchers must coordinate two separate but not necessarily uncomplementary sets of needs: the social, emotional and cognitive needs of prospective members and the business needs of whoever is sponsoring the research (see also Schlack, Jennings and Austin, 2007). Ideally, these needs overlap, creating a shared purpose that is motivating for community members and is a wellspring of insight and innovation for the brand.

The key to member engagement hinges on creating this shared purpose; and it's no accident that vibrant communities deliver value to clients. When community members are motivated to join, return and share their lives with companies through participating in online research, the community generates insights that are inherently relevant to the brand.

In an ideal community design, then, these two parallel objectives – the company's and the community members' – are integrated and in synch with one another.

Use all of these levers

Motivation is the underlying reason that causes us to act in one way versus another. Depending on the theory, our behavior is driven by a range of emotional states, cognitive processes or social needs. Our experience with having recruited and run over 500 communities has taught us to use all of these socialpsychological levers to inform online community design, creating a compelling value proposition for members by meeting a variety of social-psychological needs. This is accomplished, certainly through community composition, but also through: providing a shared and specifically compelling purpose for the community; tailoring communication and facilitation to a particular audience; being flexible about the tools and activities used in the community; and by providing the necessary threshold of safety and trust given the stated purpose and nature of the work.

Figuring out the right mix of and focus for these elements for a particular target group is essential for maximizing engagement. The more market researchers can understand what motivates engagement, the better chance they have at building robust communities that attract and retain people. One way to understand what drives online behavior is a concept pioneered nearly a century ago by the social psychologist Kurt Lewin: the notion that behavior is a function of both the person and his or her environment. For optimal engagement, it is necessary to understand the characteristics of individual community members in conjunction with those contextual features of the online environment that are influencing them.

Getting the fit right

Communispace has explored engagement for many years, testing the importance of getting the personenvironment fit right on a communityby-community basis. In the following sections, I first describe research findings showing how the drivers of members' satisfaction with their experience in online research communities differ depending on community type. I then share research that explores how communities generate robust engagement for targeted groups when they are designed with those group characteristics specifically in mind.

To understand the relationship between motivations for participating in a community and the level of engagement, we looked at three communities: a community of technology buyers, sponsored by a technology provider; a community of high net-worth investors, sponsored by a financial services provider; and a community of teachers, sponsored by an educational publisher.

Specifically, we examined the correlation between engagement (as

measured by average number of posts per week, percentage of weeks active and percentage of weeks lurking) and member satisfaction with the community along three dimensions, that: the brand was truly concerned with what members had to say; the community was a trusted forum for sharing ideas; and members felt they could give candid feedback to the brand.

We found that different factors have different motivational impact depending on the composition and purpose of the community (see sidebar).

One of the benefits of participating in online research communities is the opportunity to feel heard by a company: knowing that one's voice matters and is making an impact. For the community of teachers, engagement was most obviously related to having a voice with the sponsoring company. For members of the technology and investment communities, however, feeling like the sponsoring company was "truly concerned" with what members had to say was not related to engagement in any way. These findings suggest, however, that we cannot assume this benefit has the same motivating capacity in all communities. Rather than feeling heard, members of the technology and investing communities appeared to be motivated by other factors. For both groups, seeing the community as a trusted forum for sharing ideas was related to members posting more content. And for the technology buyers, this, as well as being able to provide the sponsoring company with candid feedback, was related to remaining active for a greater percentage of weeks.

Taken together, these findings offer clues about what contextual factors are

influencing engagement in these three examples. In the community of teachers, which is largely a female group, feeling like the sponsoring company "truly cares" about what they have to say is an important reason to participate. A discussion of gender and the ethics of care (versus justice) is beyond the scope of this article but there is an extensive literature base that supports the conclusion that a community of women teachers would be positively motivated by feeling cared for and the opportunity to have a voice.

For the community of high networth investors, feeling heard or that the brand "cares" was not related to increased participation; but feeling that the community is trustworthy and that they can share ideas there was a more compelling reason to participate. This finding makes sense when we consider how intimate a topic money actually is and how rare it is to find places where it feels safe to disclose specific details about one's financial situation. Being a trustworthy forum was also shown to be related to engagement for the businessto-business community of (mostly male) technology buyers but so was the opportunity to provide candid feedback.

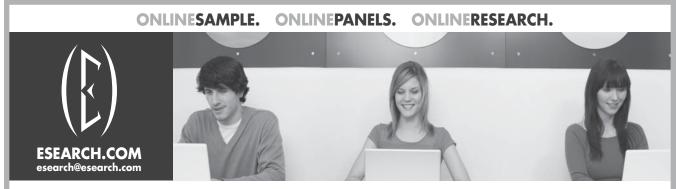
Unlike consumer communities, the link between the company and customer is very direct in business-to-business environments. Giving candid feedback to the sponsoring company is a rewarding experience, because community members benefit directly when their feedback is heard and acted upon. And, being customers themselves, they are well positioned to experience the results of their feedback directly. Thus we see how the value proposition differs in these three cases and how, in a commensurate way, the drivers of engagement are different as well.

A better way

It is tempting to make assumptions based on a broad understanding of a specific demographic group – that Boomers won't generate content online; that Millennials won't stay engaged in one place for extended time periods; that professional people won't devote their time to participating in online research, etc. These are truisms though, not truths; and they are not necessarily useful for informing community design. A better way to understand the value proposition for members is to observe how particular groups behave in various kinds of settings. If the person-environment fit is well-executed, members of key target groups should outperform their counterparts in other online settings.

For example, even in the early stages of our research we found that women tended to contribute more in all-female communities than they did in mixed-sex communities and that African-Americans were similarly more engaged in communities composed of other African-Americans (Austin and Lerman, 2006).

More recently, we found this same pattern to be true in online research communities composed of multinational members (Lerman and Austin, 2012). In particular, we found that women tended to be active for a higher percentage of weeks when they were in a single-sex environment and that Millennials posted more content and were actively engaged more consistently in communities designed specifically for young people as opposed



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to other kinds of communities.

Results of these analyses suggest that engagement in online research communities does depend on a successful match between community members and the community environment. Our experience tells us that this fit is achieved through a combination of factors working together: the community's purpose and social glue; the demographic qualities of participating members; the community manager's communication style and facilitation plan; and, for international communities, the mix of countries and comfort with writing in English must also be considered. These elements are determined when the community is designed and, if properly implemented, serve to create that meaningful value proposition that compels community members to engage again and again.

Stood the test of time

While community design is arguably as much of an art as it is a science, the following tactics have stood the test of time for us, helping us deliver value across multiple demographics and industry verticals, and in support of any number of business objectives.

Provide a meaningful proposition for members. First and foremost, remember that online research communities are intentional and purpose-driven. The community designer must create and communicate that purpose, which becomes a center of gravity for members and which can help differentiate the research community from public social networks. So be it a shared experience with a medical condition, being frequent shoppers of the same retailer, being fashion mavens or style leaders or having professional interests in common, finding that common bond that creates social glue for the community is a critical first step.

Get the community composition right. Hand-in-hand with creating a compelling, shared purpose is the need to be thoughtful and targeted about who to invite into the community. Recruitment costs can be expensive but the cost of assembling the wrong group of people is even higher. Not only do community members need to meet specific criteria as determined by the research objectives, they must also find the notion of interacting with one another interpersonally appealing. So research design in online communities is just as much about designing an engaging social context as it is about writing good survey questions or moderating discussions.

Create a private, safe and intimate environment. Unless the business purpose is to spread word-of-mouth (which is arguably a marketing, not a market research, goal), then the person-environment fit is almost always improved by keeping the community small and private. From the members' perspective, the fact that the community is closed and exclusive makes them feel as though they are participating in something special. Additionally, privacy – along with the intimacy and trust that develop as a result of it – are crucial contextual elements if the content of the community is at all sensitive. From the brand's point of view, closed communities allow companies to test products early on in the innovation stream, to get to know individual members in ways that would be impossible in a large and public network, and - conversely perhaps - to hear a greater range of opinions. One advantage of a small and private online environment is that it is difficult to remain anonymous or to be a passive participant; this means that the formation of cliques, which do occur in public settings, is deterred, creating a more inclusive dialogue with a greater diversity of members (Schlack, 2011).

Tailor your facilitation. The value proposition is based on more than the structural elements of community design, which are often determined before a community launches. Of equal importance are the ongoing interpersonal actions community managers perform on a daily basis. While cultural norms are often codified in member agreements and information on the homepage, they are enacted and reinforced daily by facilitators. We have learned, for example, that the style of communication and activity design are very different in B2B versus B2C communities. It is fine and even welcomed in a community of moms, for example, to field activities on lighthearted or sentimental topics. In business customer communities, whose members look for and expect a much a more business-focused experience, communication and research activities need

to be clearly aligned with members' professional interests.

Leverage your brand. Our research has shown that branded communities consistently outperform unbranded ones (Lerman and Austin, 2006) and companies should not underestimate the power of a brand to bring people together. Even for lowinvolvement categories (e.g., fabric softeners, toothpaste, motor oil) we have found that people are energized by the opportunity to engage with companies when they believe their time and effort are being well spent.

More nuanced

In order to engage people in online market research we must view them in more nuanced ways than onedimensional demographic or consumer categories. Historically, the measure of good research has been to mitigate and control systematic error as much as possible (Austin, 2012). In online research communities today, however, we must figure out how to engage people before we can consider measuring (or predicting!) their behavior. Thus the design of the setting – putting in place those features that will make a given community compelling to members for various reasons – is a new core competency. 🕕

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Staying in tune with today

How technology can improve the access and consumption of research presentations

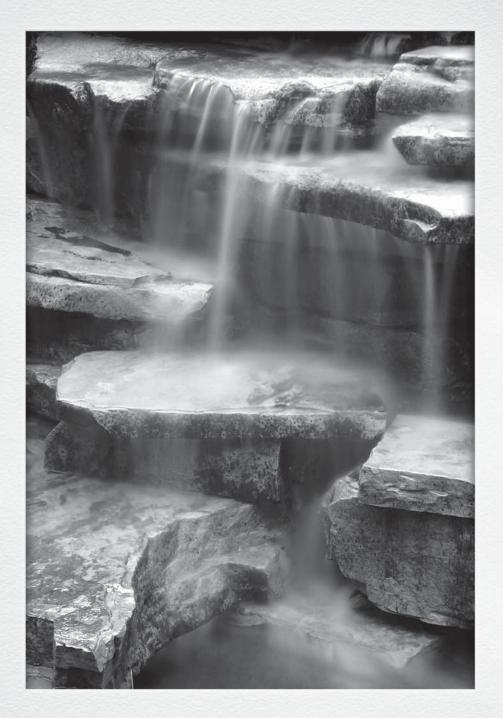
| By Chris Forbes

snapshot

Using the music industry as an example, the author suggests how researchers can use technology to keep findings from becoming irrelevant. In the early '90s I attended my first market research debriefing as a young marketing manager. Sitting with my colleagues, I listened patiently as a senior member from the research agency presented the findings, starting with an outline of the objectives and finishing an hour and a half later with conclusions and recommendations.

On the way home that night I stopped at a record store and bought a CD (Eric Clapton's Unplugged, if you must know). At home I put the disc in the CD player and sat down. I liked half the tracks but couldn't be bothered to get up off my chair to skip the ones I didn't.

Fast-forward to 2012. What's changed? To start, we don't have to go the record store; music can be purchased online – right from my chair. We can preview part of a song and purchase it, rather than buying an entire album and paying for tracks we don't like. Then once we've downloaded the music, we can create our own In the fine art of research, the shades of gray complete the masterpiece.



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The Fine Art of Marketing Research

playlists. We can skip from track to track the instant we get bored. This change in music access and consumption has resulted in the demise of the traditional pre-packaged album and set off a chain reaction that is reshaping the music industry.

But what has changed since the '90s regarding how research is accessed and consumed? Well, we

Have we perfected research's equivalent of the music album just as the medium is being replaced?

sumed? Well, we appear to have finally mastered PowerPoint. We've cted stopped trying to lent squeeze two bum pages of data lium onto a single ced? slide. We understand how to use images and

use images and video to enhance our message, rather than

distract. We've also generally got the right mix of verbal and visual information necessary to keep the audience engaged.

This command over the research presentation would have been appreciated 20 years ago but is "the presentation" the best communication medium for research today? Have we perfected research's equivalent of the music album just as the medium is being replaced?

Big changes

One of the big changes is that it is almost impossible to get people together for a presentation and more often than not the ones who can't make it are the most important. The typical response is to send out the presentation files via e-mail. The problem, of course, is that e-mailing the material separates the presenter from the presentation – and a great presentation is designed as a support for the presenter, not as a standalone document. E-mailing research presentations may broaden the internal market for research but it also diminishes its value, as people speed through the slides trying to identify and absorb the most important messages the same way they might skip through tracks on a CD.

How we are accessing information is also changing. The projector and darkened room that provided the forum two decades ago are being replaced by the Web browser on our PCs (or smartphones or tablets). This change in how we access and consume research is as significant for our industry as the move from CD players to iPods and MP3s has been for the music industry.

Why? The browser allows clientside marketers and researchers – the consumers of research - to access and compile information from multiple sources. They can search online and save information from most secondary research providers; they may have dashboards for various internal or external trend data that can be combined and synthesized; and they can create their own information "playlists" based on snippets of information from multiple sources and use this information for their own occasions, such as annual market planning, new product releases, etc. Unfortunately, many high-value insights from primary research don't make it into these playlists because they are trapped inside a 50-slide PowerPoint deck, hidden on a shared drive or saved as e-mail attachments in an archive.

Over the last 10 years, many client-side research teams have attempted to counter this by getting their internal IT teams to develop browser-based, searchable, online research libraries. While this was initially seen as a significant step forward, it didn't resolve the problem: Once a potentially-valuable file is found, individuals still have to wait for the file to download. then open and search through the content in the hope that there is something of value. It's like having to download and listen to an entire album when all you're really interested in is a single track.

One solution to this problem is for client-side research teams to create their own multi-project research summaries, collecting outputs from numerous projects and combining them all into a new file. The resulting file is like a "best of" album that potentially increases the use and reuse of past research. However, these summaries can also reflect poorly on the research team if the business doesn't find them useful or relevant, in the same way that we've seen many "best of" albums diminish the status of the artist as the CDs find their way into the \$2 clearance bin.

Take advantage of new technology

Some forward-thinking insight teams have recognized the limitation of the traditional file structure and are redesigning how research is delivered to take advantage of new technology. In addition to storing research presentations in their repositories, they are also storing research outputs as separate, distinct entries. These entries can be searched and displayed using any criteria the organization chooses, similar to how music tracks can be cataloged by artist, genre, etc. Outputs can also be searched based on words or phrases, like searching a lyrics database and then playing the songs. Client-side researchers (and increasingly, their internal clients) can quickly identify high-value research outputs from different projects and create their own insights "playlists" to match specific requirements. Typically, these key entries are linked back to the research project, allowing access to other critical information about the project (i.e., sample size, methodology, traditional project documents, etc.) so that the project context is not lost.

This new way of packaging outputs is increasing and changing the way research is used within enterprises. For example, one company reviews outputs from projects against the organization's key growth drivers and identifies whether a finding represents a strength, weakness, opportunity or threat (SWOT) for each driver. The result is that research findings have a direct input into the SWOT analysis used by marketers in building their strategic plans.

Another company tags outputs based on the specific responsibilities of its marketers. Whenever new marketers join the company, they can immediately access outputs from past projects relevant to the brand, compressing their learning time and freeing up the research team, who no longer need to educate the new members on what is already known.

The use and reuse of research outputs is also gradually changing the perception of research within organizations. Rather than seeing research projects as a series of oneoff expenses, companies recognize that research can be reused and reapplied. As a result, it becomes a continuing investment in intellectual capital and a cumulative strategic asset from which the company can generate a greater return.

Researcher as presenter

The introduction of new technology and processes also means a shift in the role of researcher as presenter. Another interesting change within the music industry over the last 10 years has been the rise of the DJ. Previously an anonymous record changer, many DJs have taken center stage by combining new technology with their deep understanding of tracks produced by other people to create mixes for concerts and events. While client-side researchers may not want to aspire to the role of corporate DJ, the ability to quickly combine and apply research findings to business problems and events – in effect creating insights playlists on the fly – is likely to become a core skill of client-side researchers.

One of the other changes taking place in client-side research teams is that many organizations are moving from Web-based portals to more integrated research management systems. These systems use Web technology to help client-side researchers create, define and manage project inputs, as well as help distribute and control outputs. Typically, these systems reintegrate outputs from past research into current projects. For some client-side research teams, this has also broadened the concept of outputs. In addition to storing and reapplying outputs that relate to what has been learned about the market from a given project, they are also storing and reapplying outputs about what has been learned

about the research processes and suppliers they have used.

These integrated research management systems are continually refreshed as projects are completed and give the organization the opportunity to use their combined research expertise when commissioning research. The result is higher-value research projects – without changing the concept or the economics of the project.

The demise of the traditional?

So what does this mean for the future of research? Are these changes in how research is consumed likely to result in the demise of the traditional research project in the same way that we see the demise of the music album? It may be too early to say but it's certainly time for the research industry to understand the impact of changes in demand for our own products and services. It's time to face the music.

Chris Forbes is co-founder of Research Reporter, a Melbourne, Australia, research software company. He can be reached at chris.forbes@researchreporter.com.



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Names of Note

Oklahoma City fast-food chain Sonic

Corp. has named James O'Reilly senior vice president and CMO.

Research Now. Plano. Texas. has hired Melanie **Courtright** as vice president, research services; and Madhu Rajendran as vice president, operations.

New York research company Advanced Focus has promoted **Brad Solomon** to president and Sara White to vice president.



Courtright



Scott Van Manen has joined Omaha, Neb., research company The MSR Group as vice president, senior methodologist.

Ken Colen has been named senior vice president at Los Angeles research company Ipsos MediaCT. Colen will be based in New York.

■ Shelton, Conn., research firm SSI has named Christopher Fanning as its new president and chief operating officer.

Maritz Research, St. Louis, has named Loretta Seymour vice president, global market lead, Automotive Research Group. Seymour will be based in Torrance, Calif.

London research company

BrainJuicer Group PLC has appointed Ralph Komen as client director, Netherlands; and Maria Carla Sanna as country director, Italy.

Market Strategies International, a Livonia, Mich., research company, has made the following promotions: Rob Stone to CEO; George Wilkerson, pres-





Giroux

ident; Phil Giroux, CFO; and Andrew Morrison, chairman.

Morrison

Camm Epstein has been named director, strategic market access, for Princeton, N.J., research firm BioVid Corporation.

GMO Research / Japan Market Intelligence, Tokyo, has appointed **Jonathan** Sheldrake as European sales director of its U.K. office.



Sheldrake

■ Fresno, Calif.,

research company Decipher Inc. has hired

Richard Collins as director, client development, Europe, the Middle East

and Asia. Collins will be based in London.

ICM Research. London, has hired James Guild as research director, omnibus. The company has also named Andrew Wiseman acting managing director.

Gareth Nicol has joined Bangalore, India, research company Cross-Tab as associate vice president, European client services.



Guild



Wiseman

Lance Hoffman has been made partner of New York research company Opinion Access Corp.

■ InSites Consulting, a Ghent, Belgium, research company, has named Magali Geens partner. Hakim Zemni and Ramon Pardo have been named managing director of the company's Belgium and Netherlands offices, respectively. Managing partners Filip De Boeck and Niels Schillewaert have been appointed to lead the New York office. InSites has also made several additions to its ForwaR&D lab team: Anouk Willems, Elias Veris, Bas De Luij and Thomas Troch.

Salt Lake City research company Allegiance has hired Andrew McInnes as director, product marketing.

Farmington Hills, Mich., research company Morpace Inc. has promoted David Myhrer to senior vice president, brand strategy; and hired **Zhen**

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Hua (Olive) Zhang as managing director and Chris Tan as senior project director of its Asia-Pacific office in Shanghai, China.

■ Judy Bahary has joined Reston, Va., research company comScore Inc. as senior vice president, marketing solutions, consumer packaged goods. Bahary will be based in Chicago. Additionally, comScore has appointed Marcos Christensen as country manager for Argentina and Uruguay.

■ San Francisco research company Terapeak has named **Kevin North** president and CEO.

■ Andy Waller has been named global COO of New York research company Hall & Partners. Kevin Ford has been named global head of research solutions.

■ U.K. research company SPA Future Thinking has hired **Jörg Höhner** as senior vice president, global head of automotive.

■ KJT Group, a Honeoye Falls, N.Y.,

research company, has appointed **Tom Richardson** as vice president, strategic consulting.

■ Jayson Roberts has joined New York research company Abt SRBI as vice president, business development, market insights.

■ Santa Monica, Calif., research company The Phelps Group has hired **Alex Perez** as team leader.

■ *M/A/R/C Research*, Dallas, has honored **Alice Butler**, vice president, and **Betsy Sutherland**, senior vice president, with the annual President's Award. **Brian Barnes**, executive moderator, was named Employee of the Year. Recipients were selected by a committee of senior management and were awarded based on 2011 performance and service.

■ Martin Lautman has joined the advisory board at Symphony Advanced Media, a San Francisco research company.

South Africa research company Yellowwood has appointed Matthew **Glogauer** as group head, research and analytics. The company has also promoted **Jenny Moore** to head of business development and innovation.

■ **Richard Ow** has joined Carlsbad, Calif., research company *EEDAR* as vice president, sales and strategy.

■ Paul Mazzoni has joined Atlanta marketing company Cardlytics as director, merchant analytics.

■ London research company *GfK NOP* has appointed **Richard Lawrance** as director, consumer health care, consumer products and retail.

■ Palo Alto, Calif., research software company *Revolution Analytics* has hired **David Rich** as CEO.

Simon Dannatt has joined The Sound Research, Vancouver, B.C., as CEO.

■ Leeds, U.K., research company Nunwood has appointed **Alvin Jackson** as director, consulting, customer experience management.



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Research Industry News

News notes

■ The Media Rating Council (MRC), New York, has withdrawn accreditation of Columbia, Md., research company Arbitron Inc.'s monthly Portable People Meter (PPM) radio ratings data in five markets: Cleveland; Portland, Ore.; Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif.; Salt Lake City-Ogden-Provo, Utah; and Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla. Nine PPM markets remain accredited.

■ The Digital Advertising Alliance, New York, has announced plans to develop a browser-based opt-out system designed to allow consumers to block behavioral advertising and tracking.

■ Cologne, Germany, research company Globalpark has adopted its parent company's name, following its August 2011 acquisition by Oslo, Norway, research company QuestBack. The firm will trade under the QuestBack brand.

Acquisitions/transactions

■ Vienna, Va., research company **D3 Systems** has acquired a significant share of Nairobi, Kenya, research company **Infinite Insight**. Infinite Insight's new board of directors includes Margit Cleveland, Jane Delorie, Althea McCourt, David Jodice and Matthew Warshaw.

■ Horizon Research Limited, Chapel Hill, N.C., has acquired the ShapeNZ New Zealand research service from the Sustainable Business Council, Wellington, New Zealand. ■ C&C Market Research, Fort Smith, Ark., has acquired Harrison, N.Y., research company Friedman Marketing Services to expand C&C's U.S. mall locations.

■ Dassault Systemes, a Vélizy-Villacoublay, France, virtual technology company, has acquired San Francisco dashboard technology company Netvibes.

Alliances/strategic partnerships

■ Cincinnati marketing software company **ThinkVine** has added Little Rock, Ark., research technology company **Acxiom Corporation** to its value added reseller program, allowing Acxiom to use ThinkVine's ThinkAhead technology in combination with its own offerings.

Association/organization news

■ Researchers Judah Phillips and Joel Rubinson have co-founded the **Analytics Research Organization** (ARO, pronounced "arrow"), a New York industry trade organization that aims to marry digital and traditional analytics and research methods to create economic value. ARO is online at www.thearo.org.

New York researchers The Conference Board and The Nielsen Company have launched The Demand **Institute**, a non-advocacy, non-profit entity focused on illuminating how consumer demand is evolving around the world. The Demand Institute mission is to strengthen the growth and vitality of the global economy by helping public- and private-sector leaders align strategies and investments to where consumer demand is headed across industries, countries and markets. As a member-driven organization, The Demand Institute will create and deliver new knowledge to its members across three areas: leadership, evolution and science. The Demand Institute is online at www.demandinstitute.org.

■ The Neuromarketing Science and Business Association (NMSBA), Venlo, the Netherlands, has changed its Web and e-mail addresses. The NMSBA is online at www.neuromarketing-association.com. NMSBA was created to provide professional support to neuromarketers and neuromarketing scientists while contributing to the development and implementation of international guidelines and standardization in the neuromarketing discipline.

■ ESOMAR, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, has released 36 Questions to Help Commission Neuroscience Research, a guide designed to help research buyers understand what should be asked from a neuroscience supplier and to help understand the intricacies of commissioning neuroscience techniques.

Awards/rankings

■ Chicago research firm **Networked Insights** has been named to Fast Company's list of The World's 50 Most Innovative Companies for 2012. The list is an annual guide to businesses whose innovations are having an impact across their industries and modern culture.

New accounts/projects

■ The NPD Group, a Port Washington, N.Y., research company, has reached an agreement with Walmart, Bentonville, Ark., to receive and analyze Walmart's point-of-sale information. Under the agreement, NPD will receive sales data from Walmart U.S. stores and walmart. com, covering a broad set of general merchandise categories.

New York research company TNS

has formed an exclusive partnership with French virtual reality software company **ACTISKU** to extend its retail and shopper offering into online 3-D environments.

New York researcher The Nielsen **Company** has been awarded a contract with Poland cable network UPC **Polska** and Poland advertising sales firm **Atmedia** to launch a TV audience measurement panel in Poland.

Additionally, Nielsen has signed an agreement with **Unilever**, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, allowing Unilever to use the Nielsen Online Campaign Ratings reach, frequency and gross rating point measurement for all Unilever brand Internet ad campaigns in the U.S.

Hilversum, Netherlands, research company Intomart GfK has extended its contract with Dutch radio association NLO for radio audience measurement in the Netherlands for four more years. The company has also been recording national Internet audiences, which will continue for the next three years.

New companies/new divisions/ relocations/expansions

House of Marketing Research, Pasadena, Calif., has launched House of Marketing Research Mobile, a division dedicated to offering mobile and Internet-based marketing research services.

Oslo, Norway, research company QuestBack has opened its North American headquarters in Bridgeport, Conn. Suresh Subbiah has been named president of North American operations.

BuzzBack Market Research. New York, has expanded into the Nordic region. Marie Hayling will lead the operation out of Gothenburg, Sweden.

New South Wales. Australia. research company Media Monitors Group has launched Sentia Media, a New South Wales research division for Asia-Pacific. Sentia is online at www.sentiamedia.com.

Researcher Louise Fraser has launched Jump Research in

Edinburgh, Scotland. The company is online at www.jumpresearch.co.uk.

Las Vegas research company Precision Opinion has announced plans to double its staff, adding 300-400 permanent jobs in the first half of 2012.

Evolution Marketing Research, Blue Bell, Pa., has restructured and implemented its "Intelligent Efficiency" strategy.

■ Salt Lake City research company Mindshare Technologies has tripled the size of its text analytics team, hiring product managers, developers and text analytics engineers.

Decipher Inc., a Fresno, Calif., research company, has announced plans to open a U.K. office in June 2012. Richard Collins has been hired in London as director, client development, Europe, Middle East and Africa.

■ B2B International, a Manchester, U.K., research company, has launched Deep See, a consumer market research company. Deep See is headed by Conor Wilcock in New York.

Additionally, the company has opened an office in Chicago.

Research company earnings/ financial news

■ IPerceptions Inc., Montreal, has

entered into an agreement with **XPND** Fund, a Montreal growth capital fund, wherein XPND will acquire all of the issued and outstanding common shares of iPerceptions for a consideration of \$0.08 per share in cash, other than the shares held by the rollover shareholders.

■ InSites Consulting, Ghent, the Netherlands, grew 28 percent in 2011, bringing total revenues to more than 16 million euros.

■ The GfK Group, Nuremberg, Germany, achieved a sales increase of 6.2 percent in 2011 over to 2010, based on preliminary figures.

■ The Nielsen Company, New York, reported fourth-quarter and full-year results for 2011. Revenues for the fourth quarter increased 4 percent to \$1,421 million. Revenues for the year ended December 31, 2011, increased 8 percent to \$5,532 million.

MarketSight LLC, Cambridge, Mass., announced a 2011 revenue increase of 40 percent over 2010.

■ Harris Interactive, Rochester, N.Y., announced results for the first half of fiscal-year 2012. Revenue declined to \$77.4 million from \$82 million in the prior-year period.

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DIY Tools and the Changing World of Marketing Research Dave Goldberg, CEO, SurveyMonkey

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Barry Jennings, Market Research Director, Global Insights, Dell, Inc.

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"Driving" Towards Golfer Insights: New Media Enhances Qualitative Methodology

Don Hein, Research Analyst, PING Golf and Jon Last, President, Sports and Leisure Research Group

Social Media Research: Blending Traditional and New Research Methodologies for Maximum Results

Jacqueline Anderson, Director, Product Development for Social Media and Text Analytics, J.D. Power and Associates

B2B → B2P: Marketing Research Tactics that Recognize B2B Professionals are People Too

Todd Brown, Director, Marketing Research, LexisNexis Risk Solutions

What We Can Learn From the Socialization of Super Bowl Ads David Brandt, Lead, Socialized Research and Neuroscience, Ipsos Open Thinking Exchange

Collaboration: A Global Study into How People Work Brian Green, Senior Researcher, Insight and Exploration, Herman Miller Inc.

Inspiring Insight Activation through Visualizing the Consumer Claire Brooks, President, and Jeff Myers, Creative Associate, ModelPeople, Inc.

Implementing a DIY Online Survey System Across Your Enterprise Lisa Wolfe, Senior Director, Consumer Insights, DeVry, Inc., and Ryan Smith, CEO, Qualtrics, Inc.

Emerging Trends in Online and Mobile Privacy LaToya Rembert-Lang, J.D., LL.M., MRA

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The basics

Is the facility able to scale appropriately between small and large projects? What kind of contact services are provided? Do you have inbound and outbound calling capabilities? Do you provide additional contact capabilities (e.g., Web, mail, e-mail, etc.) for multimode research? Do you have international/ multilingual reach?

The staff

What are the required qualifications for interviewers? How are interviewers trained and what ongoing training is provided? What is the supervisor-tointerviewer ratio? What percentage of interviewer completes is monitored?

Available technology

Does the telephone research facility have clear remote-monitoring capabilities to adequately monitor projects as they first go into the field? What ability will I have to do live monitoring of active interviews? Can you record interviews? If so, how would I receive the recordings? How do you handle states where two-party consent is required? Do you have cost-saving technologies like interactive voice response and predictive dialing? Do you provide online real-time reporting capabilities on survey data? Does the CATI software ensure that no data or sample is stored on the local interviewer computer in the call center? Does the CATI software provide separation of data for each project dialed? Does each project have its own database?

Standard operating procedures

How are interviewers incentivized? What times do you normally dial business and consumer studies? How do you oversee interviewer dialings/completes? How are cell phone numbers handled, if at all?

Quality control

What are your quality-control procedures? Is there a secure on-site server? If so, how often is it backed up? How do you keep track of monitorings and validations? What percentage of phone calls is actively monitored for quality? How is the quality of a phone call measured and reported? What metrics are used? Do interviewers read verbatim or are they allowed to paraphrase if a respondent does not understand the question?

Your deliverables

During and after the telephone interviews, what are the deliverables? What time are my reports ready each day and how do I receive them?

Special thanks to Thoroughbred Research Group, Louisville, Ky., and DataPrompt International, Chicago, for providing input on the questions.

2012 Telephone Facilities Directory

The 2012 Directory of Telephone Interviewing Facilites was compiled by sending listing forms to firms we identified as having permanent telephone interviewing facilities. This year's directory lists nearly 700 firms, arranged geographically. In addition to the company's vital information, we've included a line of codes showing the number of interviewing stations, the number of stations that use computeraided interviewing (CATI), and the number of stations that can be monitored on-site and off-site.



A searchable version of this directory is available at www.quirks.com

Codes - (e.g. 25-10-25-10)

1. STATIONS - No. of interviewing stations at this location 2. CATI - No. of stations using computer-aided interviewing

3. ON-SITE - No. of stations which can be monitored on-site

4. OFF-PREMISES- No. of stations which can be monitored off-premises

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Birmingham, AL Ph. 205-443-5350 or 800-289-7335 gdenton@newsouthresearch.com www.newsouthresearch.com Jim Jager, President 40-30-40-20

Research Strategies, Inc.

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Arkansas

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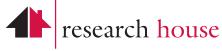
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Organizations will hold its annual global research conference on April 18-19 at the Hyatt Regency in Miami. For more information visit www.casro.org.

The Mobile Marketing Research Association

will hold its inaugural general assembly, themed "Shaping the Future of Mobile Marketing Research," on April 20 at the Dorint Amsterdam-Airport Hotel in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The assembly will be held alongside Market Research in the Mobile World Europe. For more information visit http://www.mmra-global. org/events/event_details. asp?id=204364.

The International Quality and Productivity Center will hold a conference, themed "Shared Service Exchange Latin America," on April 22-24 in Miami. For more information visit www.sharedserviceslatamexchange.com.

Worldwide Business

Research will hold its spring mobile shopping conference on April 23-25 at the Westin in San Diego. For more information visit www. mobileshoppingspring.com. The Association for Qualitative Research and the Qualitative Research Consultants Association will hold the Worldwide Conference on Qualitative Research, themed "Qualitative Renaissance: Challenge Your Thinking," on April 25-27 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Rome. For more information visit www.aqr.qrca.org.

Anderson, Niebuhr &

Associates will hold a workshop, titled "Analyzing & Reporting Questionnaire Data," on April 26-27 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel Minneapolis (Downtown) in Minneapolis. For more information visit www.anainc.com/workshops/data.html

The Alliance of International Market Research Institutes

will hold a conference, themed "The Power of Social Media Research on the International Landscape," on April 27 in New York. For more information visit www.aimri.net.

IIR will hold a conference focused on technology in market research on April 30-May 2 at The Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas. For more information visit www.iirusa.com/tdmr.

featurec

The Yale School of Management's Center for Customer Insights will hold its annual customer insights conference on May 4-5 at the Yale School of Management campus in New Haven, Conn. For more information visit http://cci.som.yale.edu/ conferences/ci12.

The European Networking

Group will hold its annual consumer insights and marketing excellence conference, themed "Integrating consumer insights and marketing 3.0 into breakthrough business actions," on May 9-10 at the Radisson Blue in Rome. For more information and to register visit http://www.engspain. com/site_media/files/SP64/ SP64_C.I.M.E.pdf.

ESOMAR will hold its annual Latin America conference on May 13-15 in Mexico City. For more information visit www. esomar.org/latam.

featured

Allegiance will hold an event, themed "VOCFusion: The World's Largest Voice of Customer Event," on May 14-17 at The Cosmopolitan Hotel in Las Vegas. For more information and to register visit www. vocfusion.com.

IIR will hold its audience measurement event on May 21-23 at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel in Chicago. For more information visit www. iirusa.com/audience.

The Council of American Survey Research

Organizations will hold its annual technology conference on May 30-31 at the Millennium Broadway Hotel in New York. For more information visit www.casro.org.

The Marketing Research and Intelligence Association will hold its annual conference on May 30-June 1 in St. John's, Newfoundland. For more information visit www.mria-arim.ca.

The Marketing Research

Association will hold its 2012 annual conference and CEO summit symposium on June 4-6 in San Diego. For more information visit www.mra-net.org.

The Council of American Survey Research Organizations will hold a management conference on June 13-14 at the Wyndham in Chicago. For more information visit www.casro.org.

Marcus Evans will host its life sciences market research conference on June 19-21 in Philadelphia. For more information visit http://www.marcusevansch.com/LSMR_QMR.

The International Quality and Productivity Center will hold its annual shared service exchange on June 24-26 in Pinehurst, N.C. For more information visit www. sharedserviceexchange.com.

IIR will hold a conference, themed "Shopper Insights in Action," on July 18-20 at the Marriott Magnificent Mile in Chicago. For more information visit www. shopperinsightsevent.com.

To submit information on your upcoming conference or event for possible inclusion in our print and online calendar, e-mail Emily Goon at emily@quirks.com. For a more complete list of upcoming events visit www.quirks.com/events.

Promoting the Use, Understanding and Value of Marketing Research

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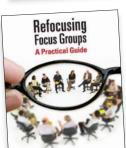
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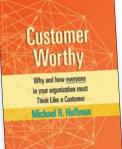
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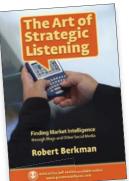
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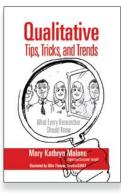
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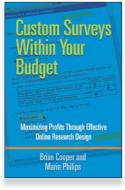
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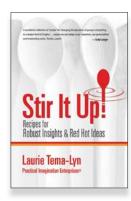
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page 29 People's level of interest stays the same; it just moves to a different channel.



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Quirk's debuts its Research Careers Blog

As the economy picks up, we are seeing more job openings and more marketing researchers switching jobs. New technologies require updated skill sets for employees and also present new challenges for hiring managers. That's why Quirk's has launched the Research Careers Blog (www.researchcareersblog.com). With posts written by marketing research recruitment and HR experts as well as Quirk's staff, the Research Careers Blog is designed to provide advice and discussion regarding employment in the research community. We welcome your feedback and submissions!

WIN ••• WIN ••• WIN ••• WIN ••• WIN

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Congratulations to February's winner, Joseph E. Herskovic of ConAgra Foods, Omaha, Neb. February's prize was free registration to the American Marketing Association's Applied Research Methods event and a customized tutorial portfolio.

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