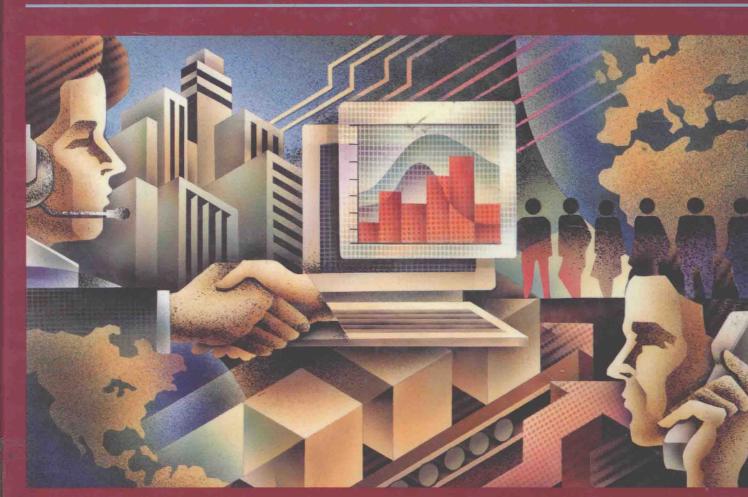
MARKETING RESEARCH

Alvin C. Burns —— Ronald F. Bush



Preface

PURPOSE AND INTENDED AUDIENCE

The purpose of *Marketing Research* is to serve as an introduction to the field of marketing research. It is designed for professors whose major objectives are to educate students on the purposes, procedures, and applications of marketing research as well as to intro-

duce them to the various types of firms in the marketing research industry. The book places much emphasis on learning fundamental marketing research concepts. It is written at a basic level, and is not intended for professors who wish to emphasize advanced data analys.

PHILOSOPHY III

Marketing Research represents a change from tradition but a change that is consistent with trends in the practice of marketing research. In the past, like many other teachers of marketing research, we prepared students to be "users" rather than "doers" of marketing research. This approach was justified by how marketing research was conducted at the time. That is, research required complicated and time-consuming interaction with other departments or other firms. Marketing research was conducted by specialists. For example, only a few short years ago, simple tabulation and the interaction required with a computer to conduct simple tabulation was beyond the abilities of most students of business as well as most managers. Also, information acquisition was a detailed and laborious process requiring professionals familiar with the various information sources. In short, marketing research was taught as a highly technical area with considerable mystique. But we realize that this approach is obsolete.

Let us expand on significant events that have greatly impacted the practice of marketing research. First, personal computer technology and literacy have been growing exponentially as have "user-friendly" computer software programs designed for marketing research applications.

Second, information acquisition has literally exploded with the advent of dialup electronic databases.

Third, the marketing research industry is adapting to this new environment. While firms offer full, custom services as they have for years, more and more "off-the-shelf" products are available to allow managers to put together the information they need to make decisions.

Fourth, the research industry has undergone radical change. Qualitative research has grown to rival quantitative methods, computer technology has been widely adopted, syndicated research is flourishing, single-source data is developing, global marketing is common, and ethical issues abound.

Fifth, and last, the marketing manager's working environment has evolved to a level where information management is paramount. Computer technology, communications networks, and decision support systems have expanded the scope of business decisions far beyond what they were just a few years ago. Moreover, the trend is accelerating. Consequently, we see evidence of more and more midlevel managers doing their own marketing research. Hence, in addition to emphasizing how a "user" should evaluate a research project, we believe a research course in the mid-1990s should also help students become "doers" of research. Accordingly, we have written our book to meet what we perceive to be the needs of business students about to work in an environment where raw information is abundant and must be integrated into business decisions on a daily basis.

To validate our beliefs, we continually monitor sources of information regarding what our students should be learning in the undergraduate marketing research course. Over time, thinking has shifted, and there is agreement among academics and practitioners that the course should emphasize the process of marketing research as opposed to data analysis. For this reason, we embody a process approach by introducing the student to our 11-step marketing research process

in Chapter 3 and by highlighting the appropriate step being covered in subsequent chapters in a figure at the beginning of each chapter. Granted, a single figure does not cause the text material to incorporate a process approach, but our use of it throughout the book is intended to remind students that the concepts in the chapter are connected to concepts in prior chapters, and they relate to concepts in subsequent chapters as well. At the same time, we have stressed the contemporary practice of marketing research. That is, we have highlighted technological change, methodological innovation, global implications, and ethical issues that are pervasive in everyday marketing research. Plus, we have stressed throughout that these areas are undergoing change as well, and astute managers should embrace these changes because they can only enhance decision making.

What else have we done to prepare students to become "doers"? First, we have devoted two chapters to information acquisition. Chapter Six is devoted to teaching students how to access and evaluate secondary information and Chapter 7 is devoted to syndicated information services.

Second, we have devoted a complete chapter to qualitative research with an emphasis on focus groups, particularly the practical aspects of this commonly used research method.

Third, we have included numerous marketing research insights emphasizing the practical application and everyday reliance of research in contemporary business. Many of these are integrated into the text discussion, while others are highlighted as "boxed" material.

Fourth, we have alerted students to ethical issues throughout our book. The industry's reputation is tarnished in the eyes of some, and while we may argue over who is to blame for this situation, we cannot ignore the responsibility of educating future research doers of their ethical obligations.

Fifth, and most notable, we have provided each student with a personal tutorial of a statistical analysis

program. More important, we have integrated SPSS® for WindowsTM, Student Version, into the book so students will have a high comfort level with it when they encounter statistical analysis concepts. Admittedly, this approach was bold, but it is consistent with our vision of teaching students to be doers of marketing research.2 SPSS® for Windows™ is extremely user-friendly, and we introduce students to graphical presentations, data files, and data handling very early on in order to foster learning. In our experience, a significant hinderance to learning of marketing research is the statistical program that is usually available only in the computer laboratory and must be programmed in a syntax that is more difficult to learn than ancient Greek. Our objective is to have students regard statistical analysis as a useful tool and not as a foreign language. Our choice of SPSS® was not haphazard. SPSS® is the most widely adopted statistical software package in the world. It is the standard in the marketing research industry. Over 40 of the top 50 marketing research firms in the U.S. use SPSS®, and the Windows™ version far surpasses any competing software in our opinion. We believe there is a high probability that when our students become managers they will have WindowsTM-based statistical analysis capabilities at their fingertips. Our approach prepares them for this working environment.

A final way we have sought to make students research doers is by presenting concepts in an understandable and intuitive fashion. Again, while marketing research can be taught from a technical standpoint, we do not believe that approach is consistent with undergraduate students' needs. Throughout the book, we have described concepts simply and logically. We have written directly to the student at his or her level. Many of our examples are geared to student experiences, and we emphasize that the concepts are easily applied and practical. In our experience, students learn what they can do and forget what they do not do. Our definition of learning embraces comprehension and application by doing, not memorizing.

KEY FEATURES OF THE TEXT

Managerial Orientation. This book is written for those who will use marketing research information to make managerial decisions. For instance, a complete chapter has been devoted to problem definition, a significant managerial task during the research process. Consistent with our philosophy, decision-making is integrated throughout the text and many of the real-world examples illustrate how marketing research was used to make a decision.

Real World Input. Every chapter in this book is prefaced by an executive in the marketing research industry. There is also an introductory case description that emphasizes key concepts in the chapter. Marketing research is a dynamic industry facing many challenges and opportunities. We wanted the input of leaders of the industry included in this text as well as examples of marketing research in action.



SPSS® for WindowsTM. A unique feature of this book is that, *should the Instructor desire*, every student will receive his or her own copy of SPSS® for WindowsTM, Student Version with the purchase of the book. Beginning with Chapter 2, we describe how to use SPSS® for WindowsTM, Student Version, and we have simple SPSS® for WindowsTM exercises in each of these chapters. The SPSS® icon identifies SPSS® descriptions and exercises in each chapter.



SPSS® Student Assistant. A separate WindowsTM program has been provided. It is a standalone tutorial on SPSS® for WindowsTM, Student Version, and it illustrates functions and operations that are described in Chapters 2 through 18. Students are prompted to use it in each of these chapters, and they are instructed as to which SPSS® Student Assistant menu item pertains to the topic(s) described in the chapter. The SPSS® Student Assistant is compatible with the master version of SPSS® for WindowsTM and will fit the needs of the Instructors whose students have access to the master version.



Global Applications. As the "business world" has turned into the "world's business," so too has marketing research. Our globe icon is used throughout the text to denote specific attention to the international aspects of marketing research. The majority of our international examples were supplied by marketing researchers working in the field of international marketing research. Consequently, they have not previously appeared in print.



Ethical Issues. This book points out where ethical issues occur in the conduct of marketing research. Our ethics icon is used throughout the text to call the student's attention to an ethical issue. Additionally, several cases are devoted to ethical issues.

Marginal Comments. We have included many comments in the margins. These repeat important points mentioned in the text, and they are useful as study guides.

Bold Key Terms. Important terms are set in bold, and their definitions are provided at that point in the text. The key terms are repeated at the end of each chapter to act as review and study guides.

Cases, Review Questions, Applications and Exercises. Each chapter contains a section devoted to short cases (many of which are real-life), review questions, and applications. These materials are provided to enrich the student's learning of marketing research. Some of the questions require answers that may be taken directly from the text material. Such questions serve the purpose of organizing and reinforcing what the student has just read. Other questions or applications require the students to synthesize the chapter material with other typi-

cal business course material. Finally, there are applications that require fairly extensive work outside of class, for instance, talking with local business firms, looking up additional library material, or working with SPSS® for WindowsTM, Student Version. Professors can assign different questions/applications to suit their particular course objectives. For example, if a project is not used in the course, there is adequate supplementary material at the end of the chapters.

Data Sets. Four separate data sets are supplied with exercises in the text requiring students to perform various types of analyses on them. One data set is provided by National Family Opinion Research.

Suggested Readings. We have provided suggested readings for the material covered in each chapter. These readings include books and recent articles that students may read to expand their knowledge on selected topics.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

Adopters of the textbook will receive the following ancillary materials to help them prepare their course and teach it effectively.

Instructor's Manual. A comprehensive *Instructor's Manual* accompanies the textbook. The manual includes sample syllabi; chapter summaries; chapter outlines;

answers to end-of-chapter questions; hints on material coverage; SPSS® for WindowsTM, Student Version information; and transparency masters.

Test Bank. A test bank has been prepared. containing 60 or more objective questions, on average, for each chapter. Both print and electronic versions are available.

SPSS® for WindowsTM, Student Version. Instructors may order this software for *each* student's personal use. Prentice Hall is the exclusive distributor of SPSS® for WindowsTM products, and it has provided for a special discount price on SPSS® for WindowsTM, Student Version, available to adopters of *Marketing Research* who order the software with the textbook. We urge Instructors to order SPSS® for WindowsTM, Student

Version, along with the textbook as we believe personal software greatly facilitates students' learning of the materials in the text. We are, however, sensitive to the unique circumstances of each Instructor, so the option to order Marketing Research without SPSS® for WindowsTM, Student Version, software is available to Instructors whose students have ready acess to SPSS® for WindowsTM.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book project was both expensive and daring. It was expensive in terms of our time and in terms of the investment of our publisher, Prentice Hall. It was daring in that we ventured away from the generic approach of competing marketing research textbooks and coupled our text with SPSS® for WindowsTM, Student Version. Many people must be thanked for their significant roles in converting our vision to reality.

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Perhaps we learn the most from our own students. We have both taught marketing and marketing research for many years now. The experiences we have gained through working with our students have been invaluable. We also wish to thank our Graduate Assistants who also helped us with the preparation of this book: Michelle Steward, Everett Brooks, Kristine Bonner, Elizabeth Reed, Robert McClaren, and Michael Weber. Special thanks goes to our staff support: Marianne Baker, Linda Davis-Manze, Donna Lohr, Deborah Tripp, Carol Cecil, Rickie Yates, Barbara Dinsmore, Stacy Kosmas, Marja Smith and Tammy Edwards. A special thanks goes to Peggy Toifel for her help with the preparation of our chapter on secondary data, and to Marcia Howard for her help with the report preparation chapter.

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AL BURNS, Louisiana State University RON BUSH, University of West Florida

NOTES

 See Michael Russell, "The Relative Importance of Selected Marketing Concepts for Business Graduates of Colleges and Universities," 1991 AMA Educators' Proceedings, 1991, 771-76;
 R. Dale Wilson, "New Trends and Issues in Marketing Research," Marketing Educator, (Fall, 1989), 1 and 3; Thomas J. Page, Jr. "Tailor Required Course to Future Research Users," Marketing Educator, (Fall, 1989), 1 and 4.

 Nancy D. Marlow, "Improving Students' Attitudes toward the Marketing Research Project," in Robert L. Kind, ed., "Marketing: Toward the Twenty-First Century," Proceedings of the Southern

Marketing Association, 1991, 137-40.

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