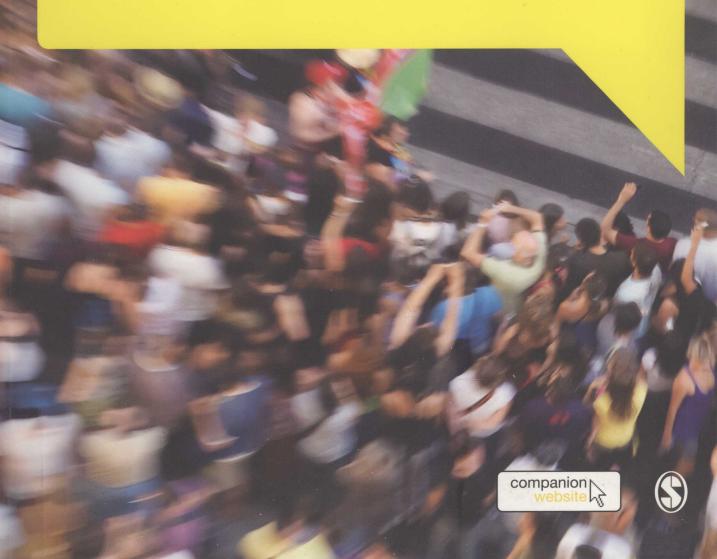
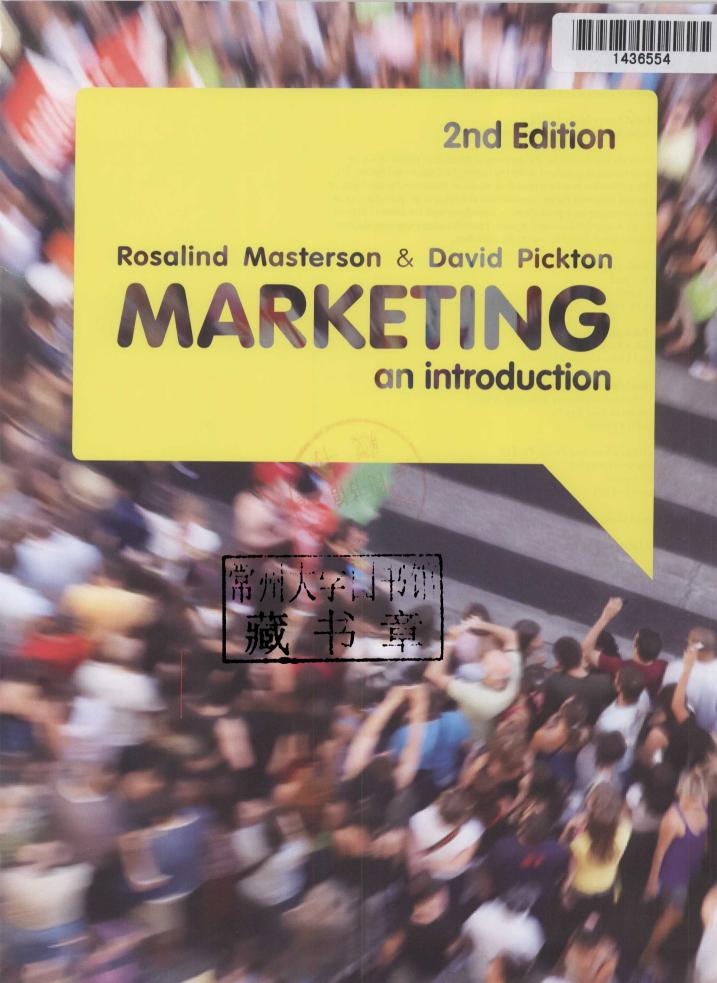


Rosalind Masterson & David Pickton

MARKETING

an introduction





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Introduction to the focus themes

Throughout this book there are focus boxes that relate the chapter's subject matter to certain key marketing themes. The boxes are:

- e-focus
- global focus
- B2B (business-to-business) focus
- ethical focus
- CRM (customer relationship management) focus
- expand your knowledge.

The themes have been chosen to reflect marketing's current major preoccupations. Marketing is a broad subject that overlaps with many other business functions: corporate strategy, human resource management, operations management, research and development, design and corporate communications. It also draws on many other academic disciplines, for example: psychology, economics, management strategy, intercultural relationships, media studies and sociology.

e-focus

The Internet has changed the way many businesses operate. It has far-reaching effects throughout the business world, affecting the ways that businesses communicate with their customers, their suppliers, their own staff. The Internet has shortened supply chains by cutting out trade intermediaries such as wholesalers and retailers, and allowing manufacturers to deal directly with their end customers. It has broadened the geographic reach of companies by providing a fast, cheap way to communicate with customers in other countries. It has increased the levels of competition in many industries, and the ways in which firms compete, by making it easier for companies to get into new markets and for smaller companies to compete with larger ones for business. For example, Amazon did not exist pre-Internet but it is now a serious global competitor in book selling. It has taken enormous amounts of trade away from the more established bookshops, and is rapidly branching out into other areas too.

Web pages provide a shop front to the world. Many companies now do very well without a high-street presence. Online, everyone looks the same size so there is no immediately obvious disadvantage for a smaller firm like there is for a smaller shop. It still has to deliver the goods of course, as only a few businesses manage to do that online (e.g. software and music downloads, and some services such as banking).

The influence of the Internet has been so great that many have declared it a new economy or a new market. Few marketers now take that position, referring to it instead as new media or a new marketing channel (i.e. way to sell to customers). The confusion arises because of the differing definitions of 'market'. Traditionally, a market is a place where buyers and sellers meet – in which case the Internet is a new place. However, increasingly, the term 'market' is used to refer to customers *en masse*. In this case, the Internet is not a new market; Internet buyers just buy online rather than offline, they are not necessarily new customers. If a firm finds new customers in another country via the Internet, then that is a new market – but the old

way of describing them as a new geographic territory is still valid, indeed necessary, if their needs and wants are to be met effectively.

E-marketing does not stop at the Internet. Further new communications technologies are being developed all the time. Mobile phones are becoming a marketing tool – and are particularly useful for reaching the young. Digital television is in its infancy but interactive TV (iTV) may radically change the way we watch TV – and do TV advertising.

Throughout this book we will take the opportunity to reflect on the impact of new technologies and how they can be used to market goods and services.

global focus

There seems to be a general consensus that all marketing today is international. If this is not quite universally true now, it is certainly the way the trend is going. Almost all large firms have to deal with foreign competitors either in their home markets or abroad or both. Foreign rivals may not be much in evidence in the local shop, but foreign products are, and it may be foreign-owned supermarkets that are taking away its customers.

However, there are a large number of small to medium-sized businesses that have little or no dealings outside their own country. Many services businesses (e.g. cleaning, consultancy, law, accountancy, hairdressing and plumbing) have no significant international dimension. Will they all be crushed by the march of the multinationals? It seems unlikely that everyone will desert their regular hairdresser (especially those that make home visits and therefore have very low costs and, consequently, low prices), or that individuals and small business people will prefer to hand over their tax returns to an anonymous corporation or Internet service rather than the accountant round the corner.

All businesses, however small, need to be aware of the forces of globalisation though. They need to look out for new competition, new products and services and new opportunities. (See Chapter 2 for more about monitoring changes in the organisation's environment.)

The patterns of trade are changing. The twentieth century was the era of free trade, with richer countries pushing for the lowering, or abolition, of barriers to trade between nations, such as import duties, quotas (specified maximum amounts of imported goods), embargoes (bans on certain imported products) and subsidies (grants to producers that make home-produced goods cheaper). The twenty-first century may well prove, at least in its early part, to be a time of reconsolidation, but along new lines. Countries are clamouring to join trading blocs such as the European Union (EU), the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA), the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Mercosur (an alliance of South American nations). Between them, the EU and NAFTA account for the bulk of world trade. Within their borders, member countries conduct trade on preferential terms. For example, within the EU, there are no import taxes and EU citizens can move to any country to work without obtaining work permits.

B2B (business-to-business) focus

Marketing grew from a start in consumer goods – in particular, FMCG (fast moving consumer goods). The term FMCG describes products that move off the shelves fast, i.e. they are bought frequently and so shops need to restock them regularly. These are everyday products such as soap, washing-up liquid, toothpaste, shampoo, breakfast cereal and bread – low-cost, kept in the cupboard all the time, items. Because of this heritage, modern marketing techniques favour the selling of these kinds of items to individuals for their own use. It is also the type of shopping that most people are more familiar with, so they usually relate to it better than B2B.

ACTIVITY

Look around your room. What items can you see that both a business and an individual might buy? How might their uses of the items differ? Where would they go to buy them?

When you want to buy something, the decision is usually yours although you may consult other people, particularly if you are not paying the whole cost yourself. Within organisations, it is rarely just one person who makes the decision on any significant purchase. There is a group of people who are referred to as the decision-making unit (DMU).

Take the example of a new car. There may be the fleet manager (who will specify which cars may be bought), the buyer (who will choose a supplier and negotiate terms), the finance department (which will set the budget and pay the invoice) and, of course, the person who is actually going to drive the car: the user. A potential supplier may have to deal with all these people and more. (See Chapter 3 for more on decision-making units.)

With all these people involved, purchasing decisions can become long and complicated. There are often forms that must be filled in, committee meetings called, procedures that must be followed. The organisation is likely to have rules about how many suppliers must be invited to bid for a contract. All of them must get a fair chance, and so there are more rules and procedures to ensure that this happens. It is a lot more complex than when you decide to buy a new printer for your PC.

However, just consider how much more money businesses have to spend than individuals. Large companies spend millions every year. When they do buy the everyday items that we do (pens, paper, sticky tape, etc.), they buy them by the crate. This is a good market to be in.

ethical focus

Different businesses operate according to different ethical codes. There was a time when it was considered perfectly acceptable for an employer to own his workers and their children, yet now such a practice would cause outrage. Ethics change with the times. There are a number of different ethical models under which an organisation can operate.

There are different views on who should be the main beneficiaries of business activities. Many companies are ostensibly run for the sole benefit of their owners or shareholders, whose primary requirement is likely to be profit. In practice, though, a business cannot run without workers, and so they must benefit too, usually through wages or salaries. Then again, if the firm's products and/or services do not benefit anyone, why would customers buy them? So perhaps a firm is run primarily for the benefit of customers?

The stakeholder view of business ethics takes all of these interests, and more, into account. The argument is that the benefits to all of an organisation's stakeholders should be considered by the management team.

When an ethical position is generally accepted within a country, it is likely to be formalised by the passing of a law. Regulations and codes of practice are watereddown laws. They still reflect what is generally accepted as right or wrong. There are many laws governing marketing, e.g. product liability, consumer protection, trades descriptions, pricing, anti-competitive practices. There are regulations and codes of conduct covering advertising, sponsorship, sales promotion, Internet trading, telesales, data protection and many other marketing activities. For example, the UK Sale of Goods Act requires goods that are delivered to be the same as the ones that

Does his face ring a bell?

Continued deregulation in the UK telecommunications market meant that, in 2003, directory enquiry services were opened up to competition. A

new operator, The Number, quickly gained an impressive 50 per cent market share thanks to its unusual advertising campaign featuring two athletes who appeared to have run straight out of the 1970s.

ethical focus

However, former world record holder David Bedford felt that they looked all too familiar and consulted lawyers. The Number denied basing their characters on him, saying that the look was typical of 1970s sportsmen.

He wasn't the only famous runner to appear in adverts around that time. Prince Charles (or rather, what appeared to be Prince Charles) made it on to Belgian billboards, in lycra shorts and looking

surprisingly fit, to advertise tours to Britain. The Queen also appeared in that campaign – skirt flying just like Marilyn Monroe's. Clearly the royal appearances were the construct of modern imaging technology. Advertisers can also place dead stars with products they could never have seen (e.g. Steve McQueen driving a modern Ford). They can change a photo's background and a subject's appearance. Racing driver Eddie Irvine successfully sued a radio station that had used a digitally altered picture of him in promotional material without his permission.

We are used to seeing famous faces in adverts and assume that these people are paid for the use of their image. If people are in the public eye, or even actively seek out publicity, should it be OK to use their image without their permission? If not, then how close must the resemblance be for us to say that it really is that famous face?

were shown to the customer. This is particularly important for mail order where the pictures and descriptions must be accurate. In many European countries, a code of practice prevents overt product placement on television (although the practice is considered acceptable in the USA).

Products can be unethical. There are a number of products that are banned in most countries (e.g. recreational drugs). Many would argue that cigarettes should not be on sale either. Sales of some products are severely restricted (e.g. guns, alcohol – which is banned in some countries – and strong medicines).

Unethical pricing practices include fixing prices so that consumers are forced to pay too much. This usually involves collusion between competitors (e.g. as a cartel) or the existence of a monopoly or a severe shortage of goods. In wartime, there are people who exploit other people's misery by charging dearly for essential goods, and so they become rich.

Too low a price may be considered unethical too. The outlawing of **dumping** is called for at meetings of the WTO (World Trade Organisation) and there are now severe restrictions on its legality. Dumping is an anti-competitive practice whereby a company exports its products at a very low price and so undercuts competitors in the target country. These competitors are then unable to compete and eventually go out of business, and so jobs and wealth are lost in that country. The low price is, of course, unsustainable. The company that has dumped the products will either raise its prices or will stop exporting, so the residents of the dumped-on country end up with either no products of that type or more expensive ones.

Professional marketers, and marketing associations such as the Chartered Institute of Marketing, strive to behave ethically towards all their organisation's stakeholders. There are still those who doubt their motives, however, and consider their caring stance to be enlightened self-interest or just good PR.

dumping

when a company exports its products at a very low price and so undercuts competitors in the target country

CRM (customer relationship management) focus

One of the trickiest things about CRM is getting people to agree on what it is. In this textbook, we have taken the acronym to stand for customer relationship *management*, but you may see it used in other places as customer relationship marketing. The two terms are used interchangeably by some, and to add further to the confusion, the initials CRM are often used to refer to cause-related marketing, which is a form of sponsorship and therefore a different thing altogether.

The term 'management' is preferred here because it has more scope. If you are managing a relationship, then you are nurturing it, progressing it – perhaps in the end terminating it. If you are using a relationship for marketing purposes only, then you are using your knowledge of someone to further marketing aims: to woo them into loyalty, persuade them that the brand's image is right for them, sell them more products and over a longer time period. Both sets of activities are valid and both go on. However, the management of customer relationships is more likely to contribute to the long-term health of the company. Some even claim that it is more important to manage the life cycles of these customer relationships than it is to manage the life cycles of products; that this is the route to strategic advantage (Wilson, 1996).

So there is some confusion over what CRM stands for, and further differences of opinion surface over what it actually means in practice. There is a school of thought that takes CRM as a set of technological tools that capture customer information and enable an organisation to use it to market its products more effectively: 'the application of technology to learning more about each customer and being able to respond to them one-to-one' (Kotler, 2003). This is really just a sophisticated modern form of **database marketing**. It enables a company to cross-sell (i.e. sell existing customers additional, different products) and up-sell (i.e. sell customers a more expensive version of the product) and it is not the way the term CRM will be used here. Customer relationship management is more than just technologically enhanced customer service. It is the use of procedures and management techniques that enhance the customer's experience of the organisation, build loyalty and contribute to long-term profitability.

database marketing use of computerised customer data to communicate with customers and promote further sales



An expanded definition

CRM is about

- finding the right customers i.e. those with an acceptable current and future net value
- getting to know them as individuals or groups
- growing their value as customers (if appropriate)

 retaining their business – in the most efficient and effective way.

It is achieved by companies enabling their people, processes, policies, suppliers and customer-facing technologies to manage all customer interactions proactively during each stage of the customer life cycle in a way that enhances each customer's experience of dealing with the company.

SOURCE: Woodcock et al. (2000)

It is all about attracting and keeping the right customers. Technology is an enabler and not a main driver, i.e. if you have a lousy value proposition you are not going to gain or keep too many customers. (Woodcock et al., 2000)

It is as important to be skilled in ending relationships as it is to be able to maintain them. A customer will end a relationship that no longer has value. The organisation must be prepared to be similarly ruthless. Some customers, particularly long-standing ones, can in fact cost the firm money.

EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

These boxes contain references to further reading to help you understand better the points raised in the book. Many of the references are well accepted articles that have shaped and often changed marketing thinking over the years; they are *marketing classics* that have been influential in developing marketing thought. These are informative and insightful articles written by some of the leading and most prestigeous authors in the fields of marketing and strategy. The considerations contained within them are still relevant today and still shape our thoughts and understanding and are especially useful for students first learning about marketing. Marketing has travelled a long way from its early beginnings, but a far richer appreciation of marketing is gleaned by understanding its roots and how it has branched into the discipline it is today. While significant changes have occured in marketing over the years, such as the move away from transactional to relationship marketing and greater emphasis placed on customer loyalty and lifetime value, internal marketing, marketing of services and marketing effectiveness and metrics, we would contend that these are natural developments that refocus marketing rather than deny its origins.

Other articles in the expand your knowledge boxes are of more recent publication. Their inclusion allows readers to delve more deeply into specific areas and into some of the latest thinking that has influenced or is influencing marketing thinking now.

REFERENCES

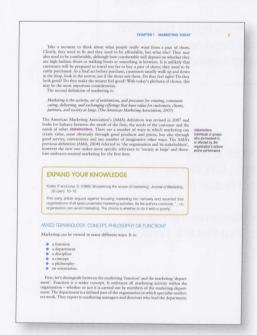
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Guided tour



Part opening page each part opens with a summary of the area of marketing under study and with an outline of the chapters that make up the part

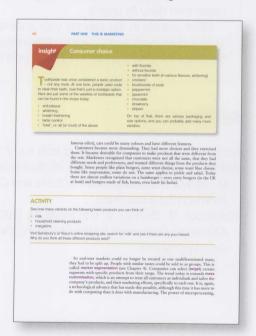


Margin notes to help you to spot the important terms you will need for revision purposes, each new concept appears in coloured text and defined in the margin where it first appears in the text.

Glossary terms key terms highlighted in the text are defined in the glossary at the end of the book.



Chapter opening page each chapter opens with a set of 'Marketing Challenges'. These are real-life challenges that you could face as a marketing professional. As you read the chapter, think about how you would tackle each challenge.



insight boxes insight boxes encourage you to pause from your reading and take time to think about the topic in more detail.

Activity boxes each chapter contains a number of marketing–related activities, that you can try out on your own or in class.



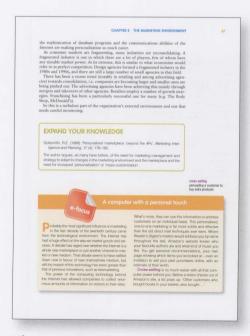
ethical focus a closer look at marketing and social responsibility.



B2B focus business-to-business marketing examples.



global focus cases of international marketing in a global economy.



e-focus examples of how technology impacts marketing.

expand your knowledge further reading to help increase your understanding.



CRM focus illustrations that demonstrate customer relationship management in practice.



Reading around suggested titles for further reading to enhance your background knowledge. Self-review questions test your understanding of the key marketing ideas in the chapter.



Summary recaps the key topics for review at the end of each chapter.

Challenges reviewed hints are given to help provide further guidance to answer the challenges posed at the beginning of the chapter.



Case study with questions apply your marketing knowledge by reading a case example and working through the case questions.

Companion website

Be sure to visit the companion website (www.sagepub.co.uk/masterson) to find a range of teaching and learning material for both lecturers and students.

For lecturers:

- Instructor's manual: Helpful notes for lecturers including exercises, activities and discussion questions for every chapter.
- PowerPoint slides: Slides are provided for each chapter and can be edited as required for use in lectures and in seminars.
- Case studies: Lecturers and tutors can supplement their classes by giving students extra case studies.
- Multiple choice questions: Test students' knowledge with downloadable MCQs available for every chapter.

For students:

- Links to relevant websites: Save time by using these useful links to helpful websites.
- Self-test questions: Test yourself before exams with these questions from each chapter.
- Flashcard glossary: Learn key terms and definitions using this
 online glossary.

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Welcome to the Companion Website for Marketing: An Introduction (2nd edition).

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This section contains details on the new edition and its authors.

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This section contains a variety of resources which are available free of charge to to teaching staff in higher and further education institutions who adopt *Marketing: An Introduction (2nd edition)*. The material within the Lecturer Resources sections includes:

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- PowerPoint Slides
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Student Resources

This section contains self test questions, a flashcard glossary of key terms, links to useful websites and study skills and career advice.

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