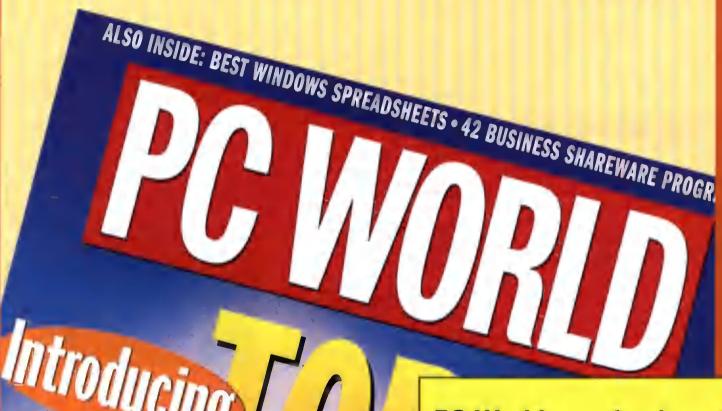
Quirk's

MARKETING RESEARCH

Review



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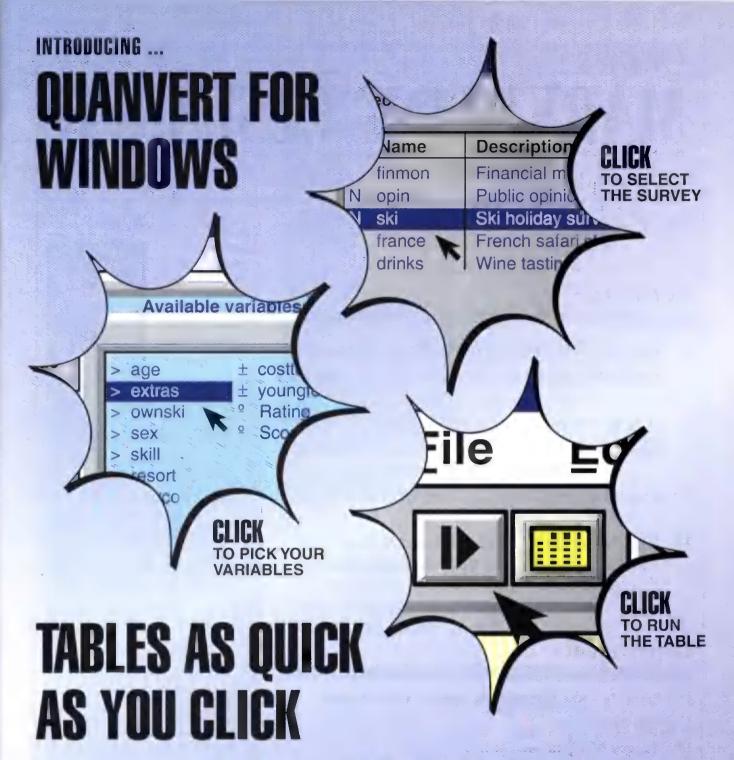


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Vol. VIII, No. 2

February 1994

Features

- 6 Fax-based surveys give *PC World* magazine flexibility and quick turnaround at a low cost
- 8 A study of physicians' reactions to health care reform
- 10 Don't let technology take control of focus groups
- 16 Researchers talk about customer & employee satisfaction surveys at the American Quality Congress

Departments

- 12 Data Use: Scale scoring in health care customer surveys
- 18 Survey Monitor
- 22 Names of Note
- 23 Research Company News
- 24 Product & Service Update
- 34 Qualitative Research/Focus Group Moderator Directory
- 39 1994 Data Processing/Software/Statistical Analysis Directory
- 69 Listing Additions/Classified Ads
- 70 Trade Talk

Cover

PC World magazine found fax-based reader surveys to be a valuable supplement to its efforts to fine tune editorial direction.



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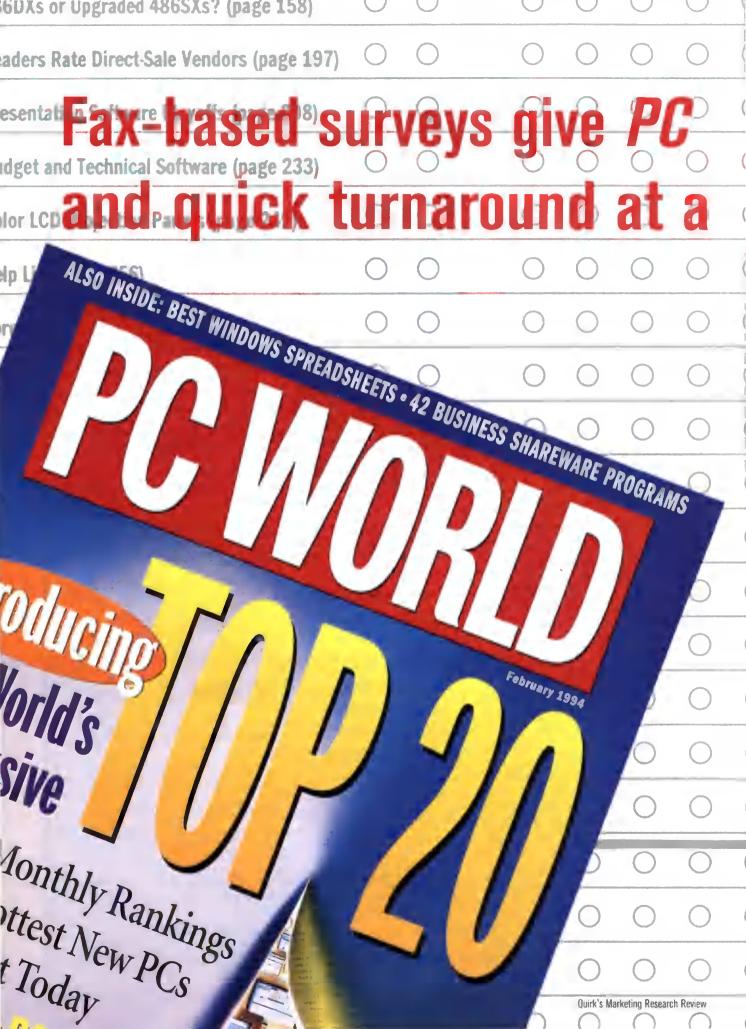
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World magazine flexibility low cost

he fax has become an indispensable part of doing business, primarily because it has two attributes that are much-prized in the money-making world: speed and low cost. Since these attributes are also sought after by marketing researchers, it's no surprise that fax machines are being used more frequently to do surveys.

Quick turnaround and low cost are what drew the research staff at *PC World* magazine to fax technology almost two years ago. Since then, the publication's readers have faxed back thousands of questionnaires to the magazine's San Francisco offices.

PC World is a monthly with a circulation of 910,000. Its target audience is business managers who are responsible for buying computers and related products for their companies.

Along with focus groups and phone and mail surveys, which the magazine uses to determine editorial direction, the *PC World* research staff uses a software program called Teleform, made by Cardiff Software, Solana Beach, Calif., to design a variety of fax-based surveys that are inserted into the magazine each month,

Teleform does automated forms processing, reading the data on the forms (whether it's hand-printed characters [OCR], typed or machine printed characters and shaded or checked circles [OMR]) and entering it into your data analysis package of choice.

The survey form includes a mark in

each of its corners which helps correct prior to processing — any elongation or skew caused by the fax. In addition, a machine-readable code gives the survey form a unique identity to simplify sorting when receiving completed questionnaires for more than one fax-based survey.

Editorial research

PC World has been using Teleform for two years now, says Thomas Gewecke, research manager, PC World magazine, Initially the program eaught the staff's attention as a way to do editorial research cheaply and quickly.

Regular reader surveys help the magazine answer important questions such as whether editorial should focus on hardware versus software, tech tips or consumer information, etc.

'fhe magazine already had a long-standing monthly telephone tracking survey, in which subscribers were called to find out which articles they read and how valuable they were, and to measure the success of editorial experiments. While the data from the telephone survey is valuable, it's costly to obtain. Gewecke says. "Even a fairfy simple phone survey can become a \$10,000 or \$20,000 enterprise, which is a big part of our editorial research budget."

In addition, lengthy processing times mean that the data isn't always available soon enough for the magazine to act on it. By the time the results come back, it can be several weeks after the issue being

researched was mailed to subscribers. This is troubling for any publication, which typically has a long lead-time between when stories are planned and written and the time they appear in the magazine. But it's especially so, Gewecke says, for a magazine covering the computer industry, where technology changes so rapidly. "If problems are uncovered in the telephone research, a delay of three or six weeks in generating results means you miss two to three issues before you can correct a problem and change editorial direction."

18-month experiment

After discovering Teleform, the research staff began an 18-month experiment that involved putting surveys in the magazine and having readers fax them back. The in-magazine form used the same questions as those in the telephone survey and offered a prize of computer equipment to encourage responses. The survey also asked readers to supply demographic information.

Response volume averaged between 5,000 to 7,000 faxes per month. The magazine began receiving 500 to 1,000 responses within just a few days after issues were mailed.

For about a year and a half the magazine fax surveys were done in tandem with the telephone survey, Gewecke says, to allow comparison of the results. "Over

continued on p. 26



A study of physicians' reactions to health care reform

by Dr. Murray Simon and Pat Gick

Editor's note: Murray Simon is president of D/R/S HealthCare Consultants, Charlotte, N.C. Pat Gick is assistant vice president at Axxiom Research, Glen Rock, Pa.

s you read this article, the American public is anxiously awaiting the fate of President Clinton's health care plan.

Few, if any would argue the need for reform. Health care now accounts for approximately 16% of the expenditure of state and local tax revenues. There are 37 million people in the United States who have no health care coverage. Untold numbers of employees are locked into jobs they would leave if it weren't for the accompanying insurance coverage they have to protect and maintain.

For small businesses, insurance has become just about unaffordable. Despite the protest over costs during the past few years, the projected expenditure of \$800 billion dollars on health care in 1993 represents an increase of

more than 37% from 1990 (before inflation).

The fact, is that if we have a health care system in this country, it is terminally ill and in need of heroic efforts and sacrifices to save it.

There are resuscitation efforts taking place on a local and a regional basis. Powerful buyers' groups (also known as health maintenance organizations [HMOs], corporate health coalitions, state government, the federal Medicare program, etc.) are negotiating with medical groups and hospitals to provide quality care at lower cost. "Outcome" programs are being developed and put into place to determine the effectiveness of various procedures and therapies, with the goal of more standardized and predictable treatment.

Similar programs are being used to evaluate the performance of hospitals, HMOs and large group practices so buying coalitions can monitor the quality and effectiveness of the treatment they are paying for. Hospitals are merging, in part to eliminate redundancy and

inefficiency in a geographic area. Does a smaller city really need more than one CAT scan machine? Is it efficient to have two or more separate physical therapy units in one town? Isn't it more cost-effective to maintain one boiler room than two?

If you keep up with all the media reports, you've seen a lot of finger-pointing. Hospitals are accused of "delusions of grandeur"; pharmaceutical companies are depicted as bloated, impersonal corporate entities feeding greedily off the public's prescription needs; insurance companies continue to raise premiums while building bigger and grander buildings; lawyers are castigated for adding to health care costs by pursuing malpractice litigation, as visions of huge settlement fees dance in their heads.

What about the doctors?

And then, of course, there are the doctors.

The public tends to think of physicians, for the most part, as bright, well-

educated, thoroughly trained individuals who are essentially insensitive to the psychological and emotional needs of the patient. They're accused of making their patients feel like faceless, nameless ciphers in their "take-a-number-and-we'll-call-you-when-it's-your-turn" practices.

Is it any wonder that what the public fears most about health care reform is not being able to choose their doctors? The specter of managed care represents, for many patients, greater anonymity in the patient/doctor relationship — which is not what they want! The physician, on the other hand, wants the public to better appreciate the pressures doctors work under and the long hours they spend caring for their patients.

Much has been written about how changes in the health care system will affect the patient, but little more than abstract conjecture has been devoted to how such changes would affect the health care provider.

Assess physicians' attitudes

To shed some light on how change and anticipation of change are influencing physicians' thinking, D/R/S HealthCare Consultants of Charlotte, N.C., and The Axxiom Research Network of Glen Rock, Pa., jointly developed an independent research study to assess physicians' current attitudes about their profession and the factors that are dramatically affecting them. It is hoped that these results will add new dimensions to the framework necessary to begin the rebuilding process.

The results were developed from 275 telephone interviews with physicians throughout the United States. The doctors interviewed represent a broad mix of specialties, ages and geographic di-

versity.

 What one change would you make in the way medicine is currently practiced?

While there were a variety of responses, in essence they boiled down to "eliminate the middleman." They saw the government (represented by Medicare and Medicaid) and the insurance companies as agents of interference between the doctors and their patients. They repeatedly referred to mountains of paperwork that cut into time for treating patients. It was their aggregate opinion that eliminating much of the paperwork — and the people who process it — would contribute significantly to reducing health care costs.

They also indicted the government and insurance companies for controls and regulations on physicians' diagnostic and treatment decisions. Despite the cry for cost cutting, these doctors felt that current medical coverage is not broad enough and limits their ability to provide appropriate and thorough care. Several said that the Medicare system of predetermined fees for specific procedures acts as a disincentive to the development of higher skill levels among physicians, and encourages mediocrity.

Many respondents said that managed care and competitive fee schedules represent the future of medicine. Some were for it, many were not. Not surprisingly, there was a strong correlation between years in practice and resistance to managed care. What they object to most are politicians and businesspeople administering these programs. While they did not think physicians should take on this administrative role, none-theless they believe that doctors are not

adequately involved in the decision making process.

Get the lawyers off our backs

It should come as no suprise that there was a widespread hostility toward the legal profession. (As we analyzed the survey results and read their suggestions on "what to do with lawyers," we had to wonder: What happens when a lawyer needs medical care?) Many doctors said that lawyers are responsible for a significant portion of the high cost of health care, by forcing doctors to practice defensive medicine and giving patients the idea that if a treatment outcome is not successful, a lawsuit is the next logical step.

This has had an obvious impact on their collective psyche. Many expressed the belief that a managed care system could be workable if it included strict regulation of medical malpractice litigation. The implication was clear: "Get the lawyers off our backs and we'll make managed care work."

Several respondents commented on medicine's loss of prestige. There were numerous statements about "not being appreciated, not being understood." A few claimed that medicine has its "bad apples," who are giving the profession a bad image. There were vague references to "getting rid of the greedy ones," so the profession could once again regain its former high standing.

 If you had it to do over again, would you go into medicine?

Despite all the strongly worded complaints, 82% of the respondents said they would choose the same profession again. The most frequent reasons were

continued on p. 28

Don't let technology take control of focus groups

by Thomas Greenbaum

Editor's note: Thomas Greenbaum is president of Groups Plus, a research firm located in Wilton, Conn.

ocus groups continue to be one of the most popular and fastest-growing market research techniques, as organizations of all types have positive experiences with the methodology. Further, with the pressure to keep research costs as low as possible and generate results in a more timely fashion, many marketers are moving away from quantitative research in order to implement some form of qualitative research to address their questions.

As the use of qualitative research and particularly focus groups grows, there is increasing pressure on the professionals within the qualitative research community to differentiate their services from each other. Most industry experts estimate that there are at least 1,000 people nationwide earning at least half their income doing focus groups or one-on-one in-depth interviews. This represents a lot of different people trying to find that important selling point that will make their service stand out in the crowd.

Enter technology. The advances in computer hardware and software, the introduction of cellular telephone and related personal communication devices, and the innovations in video transmission all have affected the way mar-

keting people operate in the 1990s. These same technologies have also begun to influence the qualitative research industry.

For example, clients can now watch a focus group in Chicago on a "real-time" basis from the comfort of their office in Atlanta, and even communicate with the moderator while the session is in progress. Or you can listen in on a telephone hook-up with eight different executives all over the world, all of whom are led through a discussion by a moderator trained in teleconferencing.

It is also possible to conduct a focus group via video satellite with half the group sitting in new York and the other half in London — as the client observes from her office in Houston. Finally, you can watch a focus group that uses small hand-held "reaction devices" to record the participants' inputs on a computer, so the information they generate can be collected by the moderator for inclusion in the final report.

While there is nothing inherently wrong with any of the new technologies that are entering the focus group industry, there clearly is a danger that marketers will become so enamored of the technology that they forget about the fundamental elements that make the focus group methodology work so well. Therefore, before you agree to any new technology in your focus group research, review some of the basic building blocks

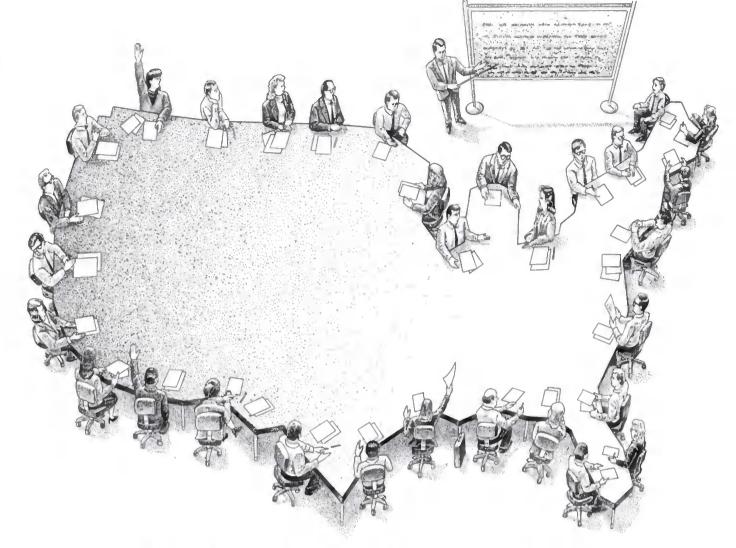
of the focus group technique to ensure that you are not compromising any of them with the new approaches.

The value of interaction

First, focus groups are a valuable technique because of the interaction of the participants, who have been recruited based on common interests, demographies or purchase behaviors. The most common setting for this interaction is a group of people sitting together in the same room, where they can react to each other's verbal and non-verbal responses. The extent to which you take away from this setting via such methods as telephone or video satellite groups will affect the quality and quantity of the interaction that occurs between the participants, and therefore reduces the overall quality of the output from the research.

Second, focus groups represent a unique way for clients to observe the research process first-hand, rather than "experiencing" it after the fact via videotapes, audiotapes or the moderator's report. Almost anybody who has observed a focus group from behind a one-way mirror can appreciate the differences in watching this way, compared with viewing the groups on a videotape or via remote television broadcast. While there definitely are some meaningful cost savings that can be obtained by not

continued on p. 32



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Scale scoring in health care customer surveys

by Scott MacStravic

Editor's note: Scott MacStravic, Ph.D., is vice president, marketing/strategy with Provenant Health Partners, Denver.

Imost all the customer surveys that are conducted in health care use scales. Such scales typically (and arbitrarily) assign numerical values to verbal options. Common examples include;

- · Agree/disagree scale:
- 1 = strongly disagree
- 2 = disagree
- 3 = neutral or unsure
- 4 = agree
- 5 = strongly agree
- · Satisfaction scales
- 1= very dissatisfied
- 2 = mostly dissatisfied
- 3 = somewhat dissatisfied
- 4 = neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- 5 = somewhat satisfied
- 6 = mostly satisfied
- 7 = very satisfied
- · Quality rating scale
- 1 = terrible
- 2 = poor
- 3 = okay
- 4 = good
- 5 = excellent

In summing up such scales, common practice is to calculate mean scores from a frequency distribution of responses, then compared to a "perfect" score. For example, the following frequency distribution would be scored:

Score	X	Frequency	=	Points
1	X	3	=	3 points
2	X	7	= ,,	14 points
3	X	24	=	72 points
4	X	30	=	120 points
5	X	36	=	180 points
	Total	100		389 points

It has a cumulative value of 389 points and a mean of 3.89, given 100 responses. A perfect score would yield $(5 \times 100 =)$ 500 points, so the standardized score for this distribution would be 389 divided by 500 = 77.8%. By standardizing, we are able to compare results to scores based on other scales, involving a variety of scale points and verbal options.

A long-recognized problem with verbal scales, even when there is clearly an underlying ordinality to the words, is the arbitrary nature of numerical values assigned to those words. Who is to say that "strongly agree" is the same psychological distance from "agree" as "agree" is from "neutral" or "unsure"? Is "very dissatisfied" as far from "mostly dissatisfied" as the latter is from "neither satisfied nor dissatisfied"?

While the numbers assigned to verbal choices in such scales respect the underlying ordinality of those choices, they may not reflect the "true" distance between them. Yet some kind of numerical value must be assigned to each verbal choice to permit summarizing of responses, comparing one

set of frequencies to another, calculating simple and complex correlations or deciding how close a set of responses comes to "perfection."

Another problem with scaling is that different numerical values produce different summary values, therefore different perceptions as to how "good" a given frequency distribution may be. In the five-point example above, a plus-and-minus scoring system might be used instead of one-to-five, with values as follows:

Score		Frequency		
-2	х	3	=	-6 points
-1	Х	7	=	-7 points
()	Х	24	=	0 points
+1	х	30	=	30 points
+2	<u>x</u>	36	Ξ	72 points
		100		89 points

The same distribution of answers as before would produce a calculated total of 89 points. With a potential "perfect" score of $(100 \times +2 =) 200$, given 100 responses, the standardized score on such a scale would be only 44.5%, vastly different from the 77.8% derived from the one-to-five scaling.

Even a slight modification in the assignment of numbers can have an impact on the normalized score, and therefore on the impression that such a score gives as to whether the results are good, bad or indifferent. If instead of scaling one to five, we used a zero-to-four scale, for example, the same distribution would yield:

Score		Frequenc	У	
0	х	3	=	0 points
1	х	7	=	7 points
2	х	24	=	48 points
3	х	30	=	90 points
4	x	36	Ξ	144 points
		100		289 points

With a "perfect" score of (100 x 4 =) 400, these results would produce a normalized score of 289 divided by 400 = 72.3%, different enough from the 77.8% derived from the one-to-live scale to suggest a result closer to a "C" grade rather than a "B."

If we were contriving to ensure good results on a normalized score, we could easily "game the system" by assigning a different set of numbers to the results:

Score		Frequency		
96	х	3	=	288 points
97	х	7	=	679 points
98	х	24	=	2,352 points
99	х	30	=	2,970 points
100	<u>x</u>	36	Ξ	3,600 points
				9 889 points

With a total of 9,889 points against a "perfect" score of 10,000, the normalized score from this distribution would be 98,9%, apparently an excellent result.

Clearly, when different, arbitrary (if commonplace) assignment of numbers to a set of verbal answers can yield results as disparate as 44.5% and 77.8% (even 98.9%, if we're clever) from the same distribution of responses, such numerical scaling warrants some attention. Is there any way to come up with the "right" numbers for a given set of verbal answers?

An alternative to the arbitrary assignment of numerical values is to link the pattern of answers to something of value where each answer has a calculated link to that value. For example, in our community surveys, we have found that preference for our hospitals (intent to go there should need for hospital care arise) is strongly influenced by self-reported familiarity with the institution.

In cross tabulating familiarity levels and preference, we found the following distribution (results slight modified to simplify calculations):

Familiarity scale	% Preferring hospitals
completely familiar	60
mostly familiar	25
somewhat familiar	10
mostly familiar	5
completely familiar	0

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300 Park Avenue · 17th Floor · New York NY 10022 TEL (212) 572-6311 FAX (212) 572-6411 Since the preference percentages are all evenly divisible by five, we can translate this pattern into a scale where

completely familiar	=	12
mostly familiar	=	5
somewhat familiar	=	2
mostly unfamiliar	=	1
completely unfamiliar	=	0

In this case, the scale scores reflect the relative value of each nominal response in terms of its link to preference. The normalization of the previously analyzed results on such a scale would be:

Response	S	оге	1	reque	ncy	Points
completely unfamiliar	=	12	X	36	=	432
mostly familiar	=	5	X	30	=	150
somewhat familiar	=	2	X	24	=	48
mostly unfamiliar	=	1	X	7	=	7
completely unfamiliar	=	()	X	3	=	()
	Te	otal				637

With a perfect score of $(100 \times 12=) 1,200$, the normalized results would be 637 divided by 1,200=53.1%, or just a little more than halfway toward a "perfect" score. Such a score accurately indicates that only about half the potential value of public preference has been realized, based on the distribution

of familiarity responses.

Similarly, in our survey of patient satisfaction we have found that the relationship between satisfaction scale choices and intention to choose the hospital again is roughly as follows:

Response	% Preferring Same Hospital
more than dissatisfied	O
mostly dissatisfied	O
somewhat dissatisfied	10
neutral	25
somewhat satisfied	40
mostly satisfied	50
more than satisfied	80

These results translate into:

	Scale Score
more than dissatisfied	()
mostly dissatisfied	()
somewhat dissatisfied	2
neutral	5
somewhat satisfied	8
mostly satisfied	10
more than satisfied	16

A distribution such as:

Scale	Points	$\underline{\mathbf{X}}$	Frequenc	<u>y</u> =	Total points
more than dissatisfi	ed 0	X	2	=	0
mostly dissatisfied	0	X	5	=	0
somewhat dissatisfi	ed 2	X	11	=	22
neutral	5	X	. 20	=	100
somewhat satisfied	8	X	10	=	80
mostly satisfied	10	X	17	=	170
more than satisfied	<u>16</u>	X	<u>35</u>	=	<u>560</u>
Produces a total sec	re of:				932

With 897 points out of a potential 1,500 maximum, the normalized score would be 932 divided by 1,500 = 62.1%. White it might seem at least odd to have two nominal options assigned the same numerical score, it makes sense in light of tinks with preference. If patients who report themselves to be "mostly dissatisfied" are no more likely to choose the hospital in the future than are patients who report themselves to be "more than dissatisfied," then the hospital should take little pleasure in noting an "upward" shift between these two scale points.

Where scales show a substantially higher value for the top verbal choices than for the lower choices, as was the case with both the above examples, the effect on normalized scores will generally be to dampen them as compared to common, arbitrary scale numbers. A simple one-to-five scale for the familiarity distribution would have yielded a normalized score of 77.8% where the value-derived point scale shows only 53.1%. An arbitrary one-to-seven scale for the patient



satisfaction distribution would have produced a normalized score of 522 divided by 700 = 74.6% instead of the 62.1% compiled with the value-based scale scores.

By contrast, if top levels of nominal choices are linked to only marginally different practical values, the value-based scales would produce normalized scores that are higher than those resulting from arbitrary numerical scales. Should a value-based connection between hospital food ratings and preference be something like:

Rating of Food	% Preferring Hospital
terrible	40
poor	50
fair	60
good	65
very good	70
outstanding	75

It would translate into the following scale (with hypothetical frequencies for illustration):

	Score	$\underline{\lambda}$	Frequency	Ξ	Points
terrible	8		10		80
poor	10		15		150
fair	12		20		24()
good	1.3		15		195
very good	14	•	20		280
outstanding	15		20		300
total			100		1,245

A simple frequency such as the above translates into a normalized score of 1,245 divided by 1,500 = 83.0% where the same frequency would produce, on an arbitrary one-to-six scale, a score of only 52.7.

A side benefit of a value-based scaling system is that it will tend to show where the hospital is likely to see the greatest impact from improving survey results. The fact that food scores are linked to such modest differences in preference suggests that not as much can be accomplished by improving such scores as can through improving scores on overall satisfaction or familiarity. The normalized scores reflecting value-based scales are likely to offer a significantly more accurate and meaningful message than scores based on arbitrary numerical values, such as are most commonly used.

Anyone considering use of a value-based scaling approach will have to first decide what value to link verbal responses to. Preference has a strong market value, though within a survey, links to overall satisfaction or perceived quality may function as well. Once the value is selected, the cross tabulated relationship between answers to a question of interest and that value, will provide the basis for determining value-based scale numbers, as in the above examples.

This approach does not pretend to answer the question of how to assign numerical values to verbal responses once and for all. It does, however, offer an improvement over conventionally arbitrary assignment methods.

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Researchers talk about customer & employee satisfaction surveys at the American Quality Congress

by Gayle Kaplan

Editor's note: Gayle Kaplan is senior research analyst with National Computer Systems, Minneapolis.

ational Computer Systems (NCS) is in the business of helping customers collect useful information about customer and employee satisfaction. Among other products, NCS provides customer satisfaction and employee attitude research services.

NCS knows that many companies are doing customer/employee satisfaction surveys as part of their quality program, an important first step to discover customer and employee opinions and needs. But NCS has found that some companies run into difficulties translating their survey information into action plans which operations or marketing staff can use. NCS decided to sponsor a roundtable discussion at the 1993 American Quality Congresson companies' experience transforming survey information into action plans.

NCS invited a group of conference attendees to participate in the discussion. Members were invited based on whether

- their company conducted customer or employee satisfaction surveys; and
- they were involved in conducting the surveys.

Eight people from companies in different industries and across the country participated in the discussion, as well as two NCS research staff members.

All the participants were part of their firm's quality department. Their titles included quality control coordinator, quality specialist, corporate manager of quality and director of quality. All the companies have conducted employee and/or customer surveys; most have done both.

Group participants were in charge of or involved with conducting the surveys at their companies. These facts lead us to believe that quality departments are usually involved with customer and employee surveys and often direct them.

Employee surveys

Participants raised several issues. Some companies are concerned that conducting employee surveys raises employee expectations — "We might need to do something." The companies are unsure they can meet employee expectations, especially in a short time frame; they don't want employees to become more dissatisfied as a result of the survey.

Other group members responded that the basis of a successful employee (or customer) survey is determining how to use the survey data before conducting the survey, so that the company can set employee expectations, not be driven by them. For example, the company may decide that each plant manager will work on the top four issues at his or her respective plant. Some also suggested that the company should decide upfront to conduct structured employee feedback sessions. These sessions let employees know the results of the survey, overall and for their group and ask for the reasons behind the responses. Respondents agreed that feedback sessions were very useful, maybe even the most useful part of an employee survey. Group participants also agreed that employee surveying has to be a process, not an event, in order to maintain management credibility with em-

Confidential and anonymous

Another issue was employee distrust

of management and concern about the anonymity and confidentiality of their input. These concerns may decrease response rate or bias results. In one case, employees knew they could be identified; the results were very positive even though the company had just gone through a very difficult restructuring.

All the roundtable members acknowledged that employee confidentiality and anonymity is an important issue. Beyond that, however, there was a range of responses. Some said that survey results should be broken out only along very broad areas, such as type of job (e.g., management, professional and line worker), number of years at company and division, and the smallest breakout group should be 50. With this broad analysis, the company gets useful information but the results are too general for an individual employee to be identified. Other companies wanted reports on each management group so they could evaluate managers. For employee feedback groups, some employees did not want their managers or human resources staff in the room.

Buy-in necessary

Participants agreed that top management buy-in is a necessity for a successful employee survey program, not only to conduct the survey but to implement actions and resurvey to determine the results of those actions. One suggestion to help attain buy-in was to involve top management in the design of the survey instrument. Explicit executive buy-in also helps to increase response rate by showing that the survey is important to top management. For example, a pre-notification or cover letter to survey respon-

dents should be signed by the division vice president or the company president.

Another issue was how general or specific the questionnaire should be. Problems arose when asking employees' opinion of areas that participants knew they could not change - or areas that management didn't want to ask about. Several participants suggested that the first survey should be more general and cover issues that could be changed in the next couple years. Once actions have been taken as a result of the initial survey, future questionnaires could deal with the tougher questions. On-going surveys should always ask:

- · if the company communicated the results of the previous survey:
- · if employees have seen changes as a result of the previous survey and;
- · if the survey is a useful method for tracking employee opinion.

Communication from management is often a major area of concern. Sometimes it's possible to improve overall employee opinion just by improving communication to employees.

Another issue was whether to survey all employees, i.e., a census, or survey a sample of employees. A census gives all employees the opportunity to participate and allows for detailed data analysis at the department or group level. A sample is less expensive and time-consuming to administer.

Summary

Overall, the discussion suggested that an effective employee survey program should include the following steps:

- · Obtain top management buy-in; if possible include top management in the design or review of the survey instrument.
- Make sure survey results are anonymous and confidential, and make sure employees know it.
- Decide how the company will analyze survey data and implement recommendations before the first survey is sent
- · Consider designing the first questionnaire to determine general areas of concern or more easily changed areas. Ask about thornier issues in future surveys.
- Set up employee feedback sessions to communicate survey results and find out the reasons behind the responses.
- · Make changes based on the most important concerns.

continued on p. 38

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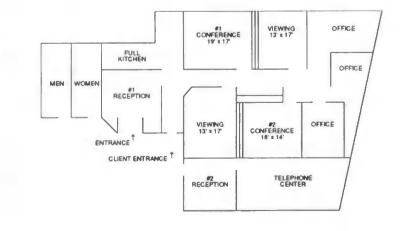
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Ads are hot topic for teens...

If you're a teenager and you see an ad you like — or don't like — your friends will hear about it. According to a new survey by Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU), Northbrook, Ill., 80% of teenagers talk with their friends about commercials they like or hate. The research firm asked 2,051 demographically selected respondents, ages 12 to 19, about their opinions on a variety of advertising- and marketing-related issues.

For teenagers, advertising isn't just

information, it's entertainment as well. More than 60% of respondents agreed with the statement, "Bad advertising can make me think or feel worse about a product or company." Half the adolescents think advertisers should be clear with their message, while 43% want them to be "original, creative or different." According to TRU president Peter Zollo, for most teens, being "creative" often means being funny. Teenage boys are somewhat more interested in humorous advertising than females (63% vs. 56%), while girls value honesty slightly more (63% vs. 58%). Boys are

also more open to using sex to sell than are girls, by a margin of two to one: 36% of teenage boys said advertisers should "show sexy girls," while only 18% of girls want advertisers to "show sexy guys."

In 1993, adolescents will have spent a projected \$58 billion of their own money (money from jobs, allowances, gifts, etc.) and \$31 billion of family money (for things like groceries, family errands, etc.). TRU projects that teens will have a combined income of \$86 billion in 1993, down about 2% from the year before (which was down 7% from 1991). 1993 was the second year in a row where the teenage population has grown, to an estimated 27.8 million. For more information call 708-564-3440.

...for parents, ads are hot-button topic

Ads are as much a conversation grabber among parents as they are among teens — and opinions vary as widely. The reasons, however, can be a little different. An overwhelming 92% of parents are concerned that commercials are making their kids too materialistic. Almost half (46%) believe that strongly. according to a July 1993 telephone poll of 1,000 parents of children under 18, conducted by New York-based EDK, About half (52%) wish there was less advertising on children's shows because their kids drive them crazy about buying things they see on TV, but most parents say they can cope with this pressure. About half say they have simply told their children to stop asking for things just because they saw them advertised on TV, while almost 60% will explain to their child that an item is just



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MARKETING RESEARCH Review

P.O. Box 23536 Minneapolis, MN 55423 too expensive. One in five will have the child use his or her allowance to buy the item.

But there is evidence that ads directed at kids do work. Almost three-quarters admit they've bought a toy that appeared in a TV ad aimed at children; 36% say TV commercials that influenced their kids have led them to visit amusement parks; and 29% say ads for sneakers aimed at their children, have influenced purchases. A related complaint was false or deceptive advertising: 61% say they have bought a toy because their child saw it on TV, only to have to cope with the child's disappointment when they toy was different than how it seemed on TV.

And what concerns parents most isn't pressure to buy specific products, but ads that contribute to a pervasive, general materialism among children. More than three-quarters of parents think TV advertisers are marketing more aggressively to children than they did just five years ago, and nearly the same proportion say they are frustrated with Saturday-morning cartoons that seem like one long commercial.

Yet while parents are bothered by commercials that promote materialism, a majority supports "public service"-type ads. Ads that promote recycling got a 91% approval rating; 70% of parents support spots that urge children to tell someone if their parents are using drugs, and 58% support ads that tell kids to urge their parents to stop smoking.

Outsourcing a growing trend

Businesses and governments are buying more goods and services from outside sources, rather than producing them internally. According to a Penton Research Services survey, 44% of the purchase decision makers report that their organization is outsourcing more than it did five years ago, and 47% expect to outsource more by the year 2000. The survey found that goods-producing industries outsource the most, although government, which is privatizing a number of operations, and many service firms expect to do more outsourcing in the years ahead.

Large organizations provide the greatest sales opportunities for suppliers, but

are getting tougher to sell to. Over the last five years, 60% of the large organizations have increased the amount of outsourcing done, while reducing the number of vendors bought from. Business and government buyers want to establish partnerships with their best suppliers. Outsourcing companies should eonsequently build a reputation for quality and make customer satisfaction one of their top priorities. Penton Research Services is a division of Cleveland-based Penton Publishing. For more information call Ken Long at 216-696-7000.

Americans love their hoops

Basketball is America's favorite team sport and the third most popular sports activity in the nation, according to a national survey that measures participation in 58 different sports. The survey, conducted early in 1993, found that 40.4 million Americans aged 6 and older played basketball at least once in 1992. Only bowling and freshwater fishing were more popular. Basketball is particularly appealing to younger people, especially 12- to 17-year-olds.

Basketball has grown steadily in popularity since the study was first conducted 1987 by American Sports Data Inc. The number of participants has grown 13.2% overthat period. The number of people who play for the first time in a given year has also grown during that period, as has the number of people saying basketball is their favorite sport.

Manufacturers' sales of basketballs and equipment in the U.S. have increased 36% since 1988, from \$95 million to \$129 million in 1992.

Other highlights of the study:

- Male players outnumber female players by a 70% to 30% margin, but between the ages of 6 and 17, participation is more even: about 60% male and 40% female. Participation among males has grown 14% since 1987, compared to 11% by females.
- The key age segment for the sport are young people aged 12 to 17. Two-thirds of all boys and 47% of all girls that age played at least once. Frequency of play is also higher than other age

continued on p. 30

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121 Beach Street, Baston, MA 02111 (617) 482-9080 2301 Hancock Drive, Austin, TX 75756 (512) 451-4000 Kapuler Marketing Research Inc., Arlington Heights, Ill., has made the following appointments and promotions: Wynne Corson has joined as a vice president in the client services group; Hung (Matt) Le has been promoted to MIS director; Edward Hibsch has been promoted to data processing manger; Sharon Swanson has been promoted to associate group manager; and Kathy Dalsaso. Laura Hopkins, Jane Martsinovsky and Samantha Phillips were promoted to associate project directors.

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American Business Information, Inc. 5711 South 86th Cir. • P.O. Box 27347 • Omaha, NE 68127 Phone (402) 593-4565 • Fax (402) 331-6681 #15-444 J. Edward Shrawder has been elected a director of *Total Research Corp.*, based in Princeton, N.J. Shrawder is a former president of Elrick and Lavidge and has led his own marketing and marketing research consultancy since 1992. He was a director of CASRO in 1990-91, and is currently a member-speaker of the American Marketing Association.





Shrawder

Chin

Grace Chin has joined Asian Perspective Inc. as project manager.

Joe Bailey has been appointed vice president of sales and marketing at MarketPulse, Cambridge, Mass. He will oversee all domestic sales and marketing functions of the company.

Neil Blefeld has been promoted to







Feldman

president and Michael Feldman to executive vice president at Philadelphiabased RSVP/Research Services, formerly known as RSVP/Interviewing Services. Blefeld and Feldman will assume joint responsibility for management of the company. Gerald Feldman has assumed the newly created position of chairman and will serve in an advisory capacity.

Peter Daboll has been named general manager of Chicago-based *Information Resources Inc.*'s Canadian information services operation. In this newly created position, Daboll will be responsible for developing, marketing and servicing IR1's database services in Canada.

Lorna Opatow, president of New York-based Opatow Associates, has



Opatow

been elected to the board of *Caravan Institute*. Caravan Institute is a non-profit organization founded in 1929 to promote education and the arts.

Marilyn Mitchell, Ph.D., has joined Hispanic Market Connections Inc., Los Altos, Calif., as vice president.

Jerry Ohlsten has been named director of marketing at Simmons Market

continued on p. 68



Research Company News

Hispanic Marketing Communication Research, and its Asian division, Asian Marketing Communication Research, both of Belmont, Calif., have opened new research facilities in the San Francisco-San Jose area. The stateof-the-art facility includes focus group capabilities and multilingual computerassisted telephone interviewing on the premises. The firm also has recently opened SuperDatos de Mexico.

Alliance Research has relocated to new \$1.8 million, 25,000-square-foot corporate headquarters in the Cincinnati area. Its new address is: 2845 Chancellor Drive, Crestview Hills, Ky. 41017.

Chicago-based **Trans Union Corp.** and the **Association of Mexican Banks**, which represents 18 banks, have signed a letter of intent to form a joint venture to provide electronic credit bureau services in Mexico. As a result of the agreement, Trans Union will build the first continuously updated Mexican credit file. The joint venture expects to offer credit reports to Mexican credit grantors by the fall. The joint venture will be based in Mexico City.

Alliance Research has relocated its Dallas/Fort Worth client service office. Its new address and phone information is: 1511 Millbrook Drive, Arlington, Texas 76012-2120. Phone is 817-265-6899; fax is 817-265-6898.

MapInfa Corp. of Troy, N.Y., in December filed a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange commission for an initial public offering of 1.4 million shares of common stock with an estimated price range of \$15 to \$17 a share. Of the shares being offered,

1.2 million will be offered by the company and 200,000 will be offered by certain selling stockholders. The offering is being managed by Robertson, Stephens & Co., Alex. Brown & Sons Inc., and First Albany Corp. A prospectus relating to these securities may be obtained from Robertson, Stephens & Co., 555 California St., Suite 2600, San Francisco, Calif. 94104; Alex. Brown & Sons Inc., 135 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md. 21202; or First Albany Corp., 41 State St., Albany, N.Y. 12207.

Advanced Data Research has relo-

cated. Its new address is: 2550 Telegraph Road, Suite 107, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. 48302. Phone is 313-332-1217; fax is 313-332-6869.

Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, Calif., has been named one of the best sources of marketing information by *American Demographics* magazine. Sunset's research study, "How the West Works, Plays and Buys," was mentioned as a particularly important piece of market research. Sunset Publishing is a part of Time Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Time Warner.



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Claritas announces Compass upgrades

Data available in Alexandria, VAbased Claritas/NPDC Inc.'s Compass CD-ROM desktop marketing system now can be exported directly into several GIS packages, including demographic data, Prizm segmentation data, syndicated data, boundary data, point data, customized reports or applications data and your proprietary customer data. Compass 5.3 also now operates with two new printer drivers, Deskset 550C and PaintJet XL300. Compass links to MapInfo, MapInfo for Windows and Atlas-GIS and data now can be exported directly into several spreadsheet and database programs.

Claritas also has announced a new GIS version of Compass. The system is called Compass+GIS, and provides links with software from two leading GIS firms, MapInfo and Strategic Mapping. It will provide additional links with other GIS firms in the future. The system provides marketers with analytical power and a variety of data including demographics, consumer-behavior data, TIGER files and site data needed for site location, media planning, direct marketing and other target marketing and planning functions.

Firm offers international conference mailing list

Mardev, Des Plaines, IL, a member of the Reed Elsevier group, has announced it is now managing the mailing list of attendees to Calmers Exposition Group's International Procurement Show, Held in Singapore, the show attracted more than 1,000 visitors, ranging from corporate and plant manage-

ment to engineering and sales personnel. For more information call 800-545-8517.

CHOICES II offers presentation-ready output

Simmons Market Research Bureau Inc. has introduced CHOICES II, avaitable on Windows and Macintosh platforms. The system's new features include quicker media access; simpler hierarchical dictionary; presentation-ready output (including variable font sizing and color); and built-in graphics (including bar, column and pie charting, and 3-D graphics). For more information call Simmons at 212-916-8900 or 312-951-4400.

Executive decisionmaking booklet available

FIND/SVP, New York, has published "10 Steps to Making Better Decisions." The 20-page booklet analyzes the decision-making process, from defining the problem to evaluating the results. It includes "dos" and "don'ts," a reference checklist and a bibliography of related articles and books. For a free copy, call David Berry at 212-645-4500.

Equifax, NRC roll out health care marketing system

San Diego-based Equifax National Decision Systems and National Research Corp. (NRC) of Lincoln, NE, have jointly introduced a new marketing resource that enables health care providers to segment and understand current and prospective patients, determine their potential for program participation and more effectively reach them. The new resource uses NRC's health care survey of more than 130,000 households nationwide. The survey sample is coded with lifestyle segment codes based on the MicroVision Zip+4 segmentation system developed by Equilax. For more information call Donna Stewart at 800-866-6520, ext. 578.

Copernicus offers pharmaceutical service

Copernicus: The Marketing Investment Strategy Group, Westport, Conn., is offering to health care marketers Pharmaceutical Watch, a multisponsored issues-tracking and research service, The service reports on dozens of pharmaceutical companies, and tracks industry issues as covered in a representative sample of print and broadcast, trade and consumer media. The quarterly reports give subscribers feedback needed to assess performance against competitors and industry norms. The industry norms are based on media exposure generated by Pharmaceutical Watch sponsors and industry leaders, including Merck, Pfizer, Ciba Geigy, and Searle. The study's tracking mechanism is sensitive to external market changes as well as evolving internal strategies. Reports provide analysis on a number of measures including: raw data; clip volume; circulation/audience (reach and frequency); market-by-market comparisons (states, regions, PMSAs); media (trade, consumer, dailies); content analysis of industry and client-specific messages; and "impact" "story value" and demographic measures.

Penton offers reports to non-advertisers

Penton Research Services findings on outsourcing and more are available for the first time to companies that do not currently advertise in Clevelandbased Penton Publishing's business publications. A complete set of 45 Penton Research Overview Reports is available. Detailed study results on outsourcing are published in the report "How Business and Government Buy: A Study of the Organizational Purchase Process" are also available. For more information call 800-326-4146.

Simmons expands CompPro study

Simmons Market Research Bureau Inc. has expanded its CompPro 1 study of purchase influence in the computer professional marketplace. The new version is called CompPro II. The new study offers a redesigned questionnaire to gather more information for advertisers and agencies; a mail out of 13,500, up from 8,000 mailed in 1992; a bigger government sample; and company site size starting at 50 employees, rather than 100. Publication is scheduled for the first quarter of 1994. For more information call Jack Bedell at 212-916-8841.

Group 1 releases AccuMail for Windows

Group 1 Software, Lanham, Md., has released version 3.0 of AccuMail. The release includes a new Windows version and an easier-to-use DOS graphical user interface versions. AccuMail for Windows and DOS are both delivered on one CD-ROM disc with no increase in price. Both versions meet all U.S. Postal Service requirements for coding accuracy and are USPS CASScertified. The new AccuMail version allows users to create and save an unlimited number of predefined job setting, saving time and eliminating job set-up errors. AccuMail works directly on ASCII delimited, ASCII fixed-field, dBASE IV and VI, Alpha Four, CA Clipper, dBXL, FoxPro, FoxBase, Quick Silver and Group 1's ArcList file formats. AccuMail can process database formats in batch processing or in-

dividual address look up, and can browse the USPS national database for alternatives to ambiguous addresses,

NPDA releases three studies

The National Decorating Products Association, St. Louis, has introduced three new studies. NDPA's Employee Compensation Study is the result of a comprehensive dealer survey on the salary and hourly rates paid to many employee positions of independent decorating products businesses. The report also includes a comparison of fringe benefits. All responses are divided by store size and geographical area for easy comparison. The Paint Consumer Market Research Study is an in-depth report on the type of store usually selected for a paint purchase, brand of paint selected, demographics of paint customers and more. This information is helpful when planning advertising for

continued on p. 33

Hispanics tend to preserve their cultural values, traditions, and identity.

The ability to understand Hispanic cultural values and forecast their influence on a purchasing decision is vital to successful Hispanic marketing programs.

In fact, an understanding of Hispanic lifestyle and values, as well as an appreciation of the subtleties of their cultural contextualizations, can mean the difference between marketing success and failure.

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PC World

continued from p. 7

time we were able to compare the results of the random sample survey with those from the self-selected survey and come up with some characteristic ways which they tended to vary, which gave us ways to interpret the early returns of the fax survey."

Self-selection

Gewecke fully acknowledges that the fax survey has the inherent problem of self-selection bias but he says the surveys have proven very valuable to the magazine, chiefly as a kind of "early read" on the readership levels of each month's articles.

"The fax survey allowed us to generate large samples which let us get an early feel for which articles were being read. It gave us a very valuable comparative tool both to benchmark the random sample phone surveys and to get some of the same data much sooner for much less money."

In tracking the two surveys Gewecke found that the fax survey accurately reflected the readership levels indicated by the telephone survey for the mostand least-popular articles. Those that fell in the middle range were more difficult to gauge.

"We did a lot of comparisons to see if the non-random sample generated the same article rankings, for example. We found that about 75 percent of the time they generated rankings that were similar.

Once the staff had validated editorion the usefulness of the methodology, it became a valuable and timesaving tool to fine tune *PC World's* larger editorial direction, Gewecke says, "Having flexibility and agility in terms of changing our editorial direction quickly is very important."

New use

Following the success of the editorial research, the magazine last fall found a

new use for the fax-based surveys. As part of what the magazine calls Service and Support Monitor, each issue contains a faxable form that asks readers to detail any experiences they've had with the products and service of a wide range of PC manufacturers. "One of our big research problems for a long time has been how to gather usable service and support experience data for the large number of PC brands we review without spending huge sums," Gewecke says.

The survey form lists over 60 computer makers and asks respondents to answer questions about any computer they've purchased from those manufac-

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PC World readers faxed back surveys like the one shown above by the thousands, giving the magazine valuable help in determining its editorial direction.

turers, to determine how the computer has functioned, if there have been any problems, and if so, what kind of service and support the customer received.

"Service and support has become one of the most critical buying criterion for computer buyers and certainly for our readers, the managers who buy for their workplace and people who buy for home use. It's a way to differentiate between

brands in a market where prices have dropped and many models have similar features," Gewecke says.

Assess performance

PC World has tried to obtain this information in the past, for example, by having staffers pose as customers and call service departments with problems to assess the company's performance. Another approach is to survey a random sample of readers by mail. But these methods haven't netted the depth of information the magazine wanted.

"The problem is, after the largest vendors, there are some small companies who are very innovative or inexpensive

> or who are doing things that make them worth our readers' consideration. If you survey any universe of computer buyers it's very easy to get subsamples of people who own computers made by market share leaders like IBM or Apple. But it's almost impossible and would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to do a mail survey of PC owners and get usable subsamples of owners of all the smaller brands we review. And there's really no easily available commercial list of computer owners with PC brand data attached."

The fax-back survey is an attempt to gather that data. Readers are sending them back at rate of 10,000 to 20,000 month. "We're going to be able to build a database—again, a non-random, self-selected one—but we'll have 100,000 responses in six to nine months. The result will

be a unique database of service and support experiences segmented by brand that doesn't exist anywhere else.

"We hope to use it to provide a historical assessment of our readers' experience with different vendors and also to provide an ongoing tracking vehicle. Because one of our goals is to rank vendors in a positive sense in terms of those who have delivered good service

and support to their customers."

Readers are invited to send in an entry each month to update their experiences. "Assuming the sample size is large enough, we expect to be able to correlate other indications we might have that a company is improving its service or experiencing difficulties by changes in the flow of surveys coming in."

The magazine already invites readers to send letters on their service and repair experiences to its Consumer Watch column. But it's difficult to know if one reader's experience is an isolated case or an example of a larger problem. The lax survey data can help clarify that.

"One of our goals with this survey is to have a much bigger sample of people coming in all the time. So we can say, for example, that on average we get 100 or 200 responses a month about vendor X and 80% of them are always positive. And if suddenly only half of them are positive that would give us another data source to investigate and follow up on. We want to

collect data in this area and alert readers where it seems prudent."

Basic drawback

Gewecke stresses that he realizes this fax survey information has a basic drawback: it's the antithesis of a random sample survey. "We don't use any of this data in isolation. The editorial tracking study was always used in parallel with another random sample survey. And it turns out to have unique characteristics that made it quite valuable to have in addition to the random sample surveys. We never discontinued the other sampling methodologies and no one here would consider it valid to rely just on the fax survey for the editorial readership scores.

"In the case of the Service and Support Monitor, we'll never claim that we're getting a fully projectable measurement of readers' experiences. When we present findings from it in the magazine we'll note that there are some baseline thresholds of error. But because the survey isn't biased for or against any particular vendor, we believe that the data is a very valid and certainly unique source of comparative information about the service and support experiences our readers have with different PC vendors. The absolute numbers we get back, such as the percentage of a PC brand's users who have experienced a hardware problem, are interesting but not as valid as those produced by a random sample mail or telephone study. But the relative numbers, comparing one brand to another, are quite valid, particularly as we track changes from month to month.

"It doesn't supplant more traditional classic research that we do but it allows us to do kinds of research that no one else is able to do. It's given us a lot of flexibility in our approach to research in designing new kinds of surveys where before we wouldn't have bothered or it wouldn't have been cost effective. This produces some research tools and instruments that have proven very valuable and would not have been possible to obtain any other way."

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Physicians

continued from p. 9

that medicine provides a good income and a level of personal satisfaction that's hard to find in any other field.

Respondents were asked what they would be if they were not a physician. Among those who said they would not choose medicine again, 42% said they would be a business person, 10% indicated they would choose a teaching career and, surprisingly, 10% said they would be a musician.

 What changes would you make in medical school curriculums?

There were two primary areas of medical education that most doctors thought needed changing:

- A shift from academic subjects to more clinically oriented, "real-life" teaching.
- Education in the business aspects of medicine.

Almost without exception, those doctors interviewed said that med school fails to prepare the student for the realities of actual practice, a problem they considered more urgent than ever. As one physician put it, "We tend to come out of school with our heads buried in medicine, we get burned and then we become cynical." One of the most common suggestions was to have medical students do a rotation in private practices and clinics.

• What changes would you make in internship and residency programs?

The overwhelming concern among these practitioners was about the long hours that are an integral part of internship and residency programs. Many were concerned about the attendant fatigue and resultant potential for mistakes. On the other hand, some expressed the attitude that "We did it, why shouldn't the next generation of med students?"

Another frequent complaint was too much emphasis on specialization, with a resultant narrowing of the physician's perspective. Some said that more interns must be encouraged to go into primary care medicine as their area of practice.

A number of respondents said that treating patients exclusively within a

hospital setting tends to create a strong bias in treatment protocol. Interns and residents have to deal with an ever-changing group of patients with fittle or no follow-up after the patient is discharged. The respondents felt that most of the patient management issues in medicine are not learned until the doctor is in private practice. As one internist said of his internship/residency, "They taught me how to treat sick people, not how to keep them well."

 Is medicine a job or a way of life for you? Do you think young physicians coming into medicine consider it a job or a way of life?

These questions produced an interesting dichotomy. Eighty-one percent of the respondents classified medicine as a way of life for them, yet 59% thought that young physicians consider medicine a job. When asked to comment on whether the latter is bad or good, 82% said it was bad.

And whether they considered it bad or good, the reasons given were often similar: Medicine practiced on a nineto-five basis leads to a loss of patient

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empathy; or "nine-to-five" medicine leaves time for a life outside the office and a healthier mental attitude.

Much has been written about fragmenting the medical community into competing specialties, with primary care physicians scrambling for their piece of the pie. This survey indicates that there is also a pronounced generation gap within the profession.

 What can be done to reduce health care costs?

For the most part, this question produced the same responses as the first question: reduce the time spent on paperwork, and limit medical litigation. There were two additional suggestions:

- 1. End-stage patients should not be kept on life support for indefinite periods. There should be a previously agreed-upon time when treatment is discontinued.
- 2. Patients should not be allowed to abuse the system. There are too many for whom frequent medical visits are a way of life.

Doctors aren't part of the problem

Some noteworthy takeaways from this study:

- There were very few comments from these doctors about cost reduction or containment. The attitude was if you control the paperwork and the lawyers, everything else will take care of itself.
- Controls and regulations were viewed as essentially negative, mainly because they are created by nonproviders.
- Although it is obvious that there will be limits imposed on the amount of treatment and types of treatment performed, these physicians felt a need for broader medical coverage because anything less will limit their ability to provide adequate care.
- Most respondents felt med schools do a poor job of training graduates for the realities of medicine.
- When asked what they would be if they weren't physicians, 62% mentioned non-scientific vocations, with business mentioned most frequently. The American public should be encouraged that, despite all the complaints registered. 82% said they would go into medicine again.
 - · Practicing physicians see the "re-

cently minted physician" as less altruistic in their reasons for practicing medicine; they believe these young doctors view their profession as a job rather than a way of life. They think the experienced physician, on the other hand, practices medicine as a way of life.

As specialists in health care marketing research, we find the most interesting factor from this study that physicians essentially do not seem to see themselves as part of the problem. Most doctors believe that if they are allowed

to practice the way they see fit, then health care costs will no longer be of concern.

• One of the strongest recommendations for change in the medical school curriculum was to introduce businessrelated subjects — and the need is obviously even greater than they realize. The road to health care reform is going to be a long and bumpy one.

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Survey Monitor

continued from p. 21

groups. Male players aged 12 to 17 averaged 63 days of play; females, 47.

- Some 22% of all players (9 million in 1992) are in the youngest age group measured, 6 to 11 years old. This is viewed as a sign of continuing strength for the sport.
- A great deal of basketball is played outdoors and in "pick-up" situations. Asked where they played most, 23% said at home and 10% said in the schoolyard. Meanwhile 31% said in the school gym, while 4% said a YMCA or non-profit facility. Others cited locations that could be either indoors or outdoors.
- Wholesale sales of adult basketball shoes in the U.S. climbed from \$1.31 billion in 1988 to \$1.71 billion in 1992, reflecting both increased participation and fashion leadership.
- In 1992, basketball shoes accounted from 29% of all adult athletic footwear sold, compared to 17% for cross-training shoes, the second most popular category.

Movies, news services will pick up hitchhikers on info superhighway

About 60% of people in a recent Chilton Poll expressed interest in "interactive television," part of the muchtouted "information superhighway." Of this interested group, 86% said they

About two-thirds of those polled also were likely to use educational or "do-it-yourself" program, like home repair shows. The same percentage thought they would be likely to use a custom news channel to pick the topic they want to watch. Between 50% and 60% thought they would take advantage of a video library of children's programs and movies, or interactive banking services.

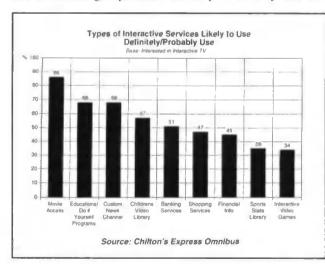
Other transactional activities, like push-button shopping, or a financial information service, interested just under half of those polled. About a third were interested in a sports statistics library, or interactive video games, where a person could compete against people nationwide.

There were gender-based preferences for some services. About twice as many men (47%) as women (24%) were interested in the sports statistics, while 77% of men would access educational programs, compared with 60% of women; and men were more interested in interactive banking by about a 5-to-4 margin. Women, on the other hand were more interested in shopping services, by about a 10% spread. For more information, call Barbara Nuessle at 215-964-4694.

Age brings nutrition habit changes

Older Americans may be less certain of what they believe about nutrition and that may affect their dietary practices,

> according to Lydia Medeiros, who conducted a telephone survey of 1,560 Wyoming residents while an assistant professor at the University of Wyoming. (Medeiros is now assistant professor of human nutrition at Ohio State University.) The findings were published in the July/ August issue of the Journal of Nutrition



definitely or probably would use a service that would give them access to movies to watch later, at their leisure. Education.

Respondents were asked how much they agreed with seven statements about

nutrition. They were also asked about their dietary and food-shopping practices, including how often they snacked and whether they read nutrition information on food labels.

Age differences appeared in four of the seven nutrition statement. Respondents under 60 tended to agree more strongly with the statement, "Eating less fat will reduce the risk of heart attack," and were more likely to disagree with the statement "Too much sugar causes skin problems."

When differences appeared, people over 60 tended to respond in the middle of the scale, rather than at either extreme. Medeiros believes this could indicate that they felt less strongly about their beliefs. This makes sense, Medeiros says, citing an emphasis on nutrition in educational curriculums that is relatively recent. Without that base, older people may feel uncertain about the enormous number of nutrition messages from the media an dother source.

Those over 60 tended to eat less red meat, less fried food, less salt, and fewer dairy products. The reasons were not clear. However, Medeiros says nutrition information geared to this group might help overcome some possible misinformation. For example, it might be worthwhile to emphasize to older people that milk is not just for children, and that its calcium and vitamin D are important for older people as well. Older people also may not want to drink milk because of lactose intolerance, but a nutritionist can help them find other ways to get enough calcium and vitamin D in their diets.

The survey also indicated that older respondents were much more likely to eat breakfast and less likely to snack. Other age-related behaviors the study uncovered include:

- Eighteen-to 30-year-olds were most likely to skip breakfast and most likely to snack. They were also less likely than older groups to read nutrition labels or newspaper food ads.
- Respondents 18 to 45 were more likely to budget for their food purchases.
- Respondents 31 to 45 were most likely to plan daily menus and shop with a list.

 All age groups thought that their knowledge of nutrition was good.

For more information call Lydia Medeiros at 614-292-2699.

Toothbrushes have most teeth in oral hygiene market

The oral hygiene market is growing at an annual rate of 4%, and Packaged Facts Inc., predicts it has finished 1993 at \$3.2 billion in retail dollars.

These are among the findings in the New York-based firm's Oral Hygiene Market report. The firm predicts that the market will maintain its current growth pace and will hit almost \$4 billion by 1998. Dental floss and toothbrushes segments are projected to be the two biggest gainers for 1994-98. In another long-term trend, the FDA is expected to approve plaque-fighter Triclosan in 1997, which could significantly affect the market.

In 1993, toothbrushes and dental floss were the big winners, with sales up by 15% and 7%, respectively. Next are denture products and dentifrices, each up 3%. Breath fresheners and mouthwashes brought up the rear: the former's sales remained flat, while the latter dropped by 1%. Packaged Facts believes the breath freshener market will fluctuate wildly in the next three years.

The projected growth of dental floss and toothbrushes suggests that consumers are listening to their dentists, who have been giving them a clear message to floss and brush. Toothbrushes marketers responded to the increasing popularity of floss and its plaque-fighting properties by creating new types of brushes specifically designed to clean between teeth where plaque builds up.

On the other hand, the FDA's ruling that product makers could only claim cosmetic reduction of plaque, has left consumers with a bad taste in their mouths. Worse still, a 1991 National Cancer Institute study suggested that high alcohol (more than 25%) mouthwashes increase the risk of mouth cancer. While the bottom has not dropped out of this market, it clearly has been hurt by these developments. For more information call 212-627-3228.

Wireless market is booming

Forty million people use cellular, paging and voice, and "data fleet dispatch" services. A study conducted by Response Analysis, Princeton, N.J., and Coopers & Lybrand suggests that wireless providers have the potential to transform the telecommunications industry.

The study was designed to broadly gauge users' appetite for and views of wireless services and features. It defined the wireless concept to respondents as follows: "The telephone could be earried with you at all times, and you would be able to make and receive calls from anywhere — on the street, in your car, and while you are in your home or office but away from your wired phone."

Moderate to strong interest in the various market segments broke down as follows: communications to anyone, anytime, anywhere, 90%; emergency communications, 84%; backup for landline, 62%; access to information and other services, 56%; mobile fax and data, 49%; and consolidating multiple



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phone lines (home/office, etc.), 39%.

The study also found that:

- Interest in wireless is strong, even though the majority of respondents appear to be relatively satisfied that current service meets their communications needs.
- Interest seems to be driven by desire for greater convenience and security.
- Though consumers want the comfort and security of knowing they can place a call on demand, some resist the idea of being reachable at all times.
- Current cellular users (those more likely to use cellular for business reasons) are most interested and most willing to pay for the service.
- Respondents interested in wireless for primarily personal use were the most price sensitive.

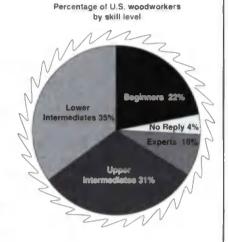
For more information call Dawn Rosso or Jim Fouss at 609-921-3333.

Woodworking is a thriving market

Nearly 17 million Americans practiee woodworking as a hobby, accounting for a \$10 billion annual market, according to "Woodworking in America," a 1993 study conducted for American Woodworker magazine by National Family Opinion Research Inc. According to the study, the typical America woodworker has an average household income of more than \$43,000. More than three-quarters are men; he is, on average, 44 years old, married, and generally highly educated. (Roughly two-thirds of all amateur woodworkers have completed at least some college). Once again, the aging boomers are making themselves felt in the marketplace.

Overall, the average American wood-

workers spend more than \$450 a year on all woodworking products, equipment and supplies. The average amount spent



increases dramatically, however, as people become more skilled and involved in woodworking. The average expert spends more than \$1,000 a year.

Most woodworkers are at an intermediate skill level. About one in four consider themselves beginners, and 8% consider themselves advanced or expert.

The products that take the largest portion of woodworkers dollars are raw materials. Last year, woodworkers spent 38% of their total woodworking budget, or \$4 billion, on woods and veneers. As they become more skilled, woodworkers spend more on these materials. Beginners spend only a quarter of their hobby budget on these products, while experts spend 41%.

Woodworkers also spend a substantial amount on power tools: more than \$2.5 billion, or 25% of all money woodworkers spend on their craft. Of that total, the largest portion is spend on portable power tools.

Virtually all (96%) of woodworkers own some type of portable power tool, and more than three-quarters (77%) own some type of cordless power tool. The value of all portable and cordless power tools owned by the average woodworkers is \$886. For the most advanced, the value nearly doubles, to \$1,700.

American Woodworker publisher David Sloan says TV programs like "This Old House" and "Home Improvement" underscore the "national obsession" with craftsmanship and woodworking. The magazine has also seen circulation jump in the past six years.

The study consisted of an initial phase of 150,000 interviews with households nationwide, and a second phase of intensive interviews with 4,000 selected woodworkers. For more information call Jessica Wall at 215-967-7795.

Technology in focus groups continued from p. 10

having clients travel to observe focus groups from behind the mirror, one has to ask if the experience is really the same, and if the individuals will learn as much from the group session by watching it from their office.

Third, focus groups enable the client organization and the researcher to communicate while the session is in progress, making the research to a dynamic, rather than static, process. While it is technologically feasible to communicate with a moderator from a remote site, there is no effective substitute for the face-to-face interaction between client and moderator that can occur in the back room of a focus group facility before, during and after the groups have been conducted.

Fourth, it is vital that focus group users remember that we are dealing with a qualitative rather than a quantitative methodology. With that in mind, the vast array of hand-held computer devices aimed at "collecting data" during a focus group should be evaluated very carefully, since the concept of generating numbers is not consistent with the overall objective of qualitative research.

In summary, while it is important that the qualitative research industry continue to seek ways to improve the overall effectiveness of focus groups, we must be careful not to compromise the benefits of the methodology for the "sex appeal" of the various new technologies. Good research still comes from solid strategic thinking, incisive planning and flawless execution, and you should make sure you are not giving up any of these in favor of new approaches that use emerging technologies.



Product & Service Update

continued from p. 25

paint and coatings products. The Wallcovering Consumer Market Research Study is available on a subscription basis. It outlines who is buying wallcoverings, how they prefer to buy them, and how dealers can use demographics and media preference to best reach them. For more information call David Weiss or Don Boettcher at 800-737-0107.

BiblioData has custom version of Fulltext book

BiblioData, Needham Heights, Mass., is offering its directory, Fulltext Sources Online, as a custom-produced book. The custom version selects only those vendors that a library or individual has access to, and lists all the Fulltext periodicals that make up those databases. The features of the original book remain the same: Dates of coverage, subject and geographic indexes and front matter all included, but customized to the databases chosen. The custom version is organized alphabetically, by title of publication. It is now possible to ask BiblioData to generate a custom book at any point during the year, which will reflect the most current information on Fulltext titles. Call 617-444-1154 for more information.

Market-Seer released

Market Dynamatics Inc., New York, has introduced Market-Seer, a family of proprietary decision support tools based on dynamic optimization methodologies. Applications include advertising accountability, market segmentation and targeting, market forecasting, marketing mix optimization and brand loyalty measurement. The tools can keep up with real-time changes in key market characteristics. They can be ported on PC or Mac platforms and are customized for the users' particular needs and environment. Formore information call Dr. Matt Hasan at 212-319-4096.

MarketPulse introduces workstation software

MarketPulse has introduced its MarketPulse software, a fast, sophisticated database marketing system, in a workstation environment. The new product offers an affordable option for companies that want to downsize their data-

base marketing platform or add to their mainframe computing power. The database is stored and accessed locally on the PS/2. It is designed to handle millions of customer records and associated transactions and promotional history, and can quickly perform complex queries, profiles and analysis. The MarketPulse standalone desktop system supports up to 24 gigabytes of storage on SCSI external disk drives. The five-gigabyte tape drive included with a standalone system provides full data refresh or transaction update and mailing list export capabilities. The system is also available in LANbased client/server and distributed coprocessing configurations, which support up to 16 simultaneous users and added database storage capacity. For more information call 617-661-9790.

Fairchild publishes 1994 directories

Fairchild Books, New York, has published 1994 editions of two directories. "Fairchild's Retail Stores Financial Directory" contains 300 detailed financial profiles of the largest publicly owned domestic and international corporations in the retail industry, from appliance store chains to variety stores. "Fairchild's Textiles and Apparel Financial Directory" contains 180 detailed financial profiles of the largest publicly owned domestic and international companies in the textile and apparel industry. It also contains 15 pages of industry analysis.

Each company listing in these directories provides: name, address, phone and fax number; type of service and/or description of products; subsidiaries and divisions; affiliates; transfer agents; stock exchange and ticker symbol; number of stores (past five years); corporate officers; cross-referenced index; sales and earnings (past five years); cash and stock dividends and stock account (current and previous year); assets (current and previous year); liabilities (current and previous year); working capital and shareholders' equity; post-annual report data on dividends, splits and acquisitions/ mergers; breakdown of revenue by line of business; and all key ratios. Both books feature detailed charts divided into industry segments, including sales and percent change; pre-tax income; shareholder's equity; net income-tosales ratio; and net income-to-equity. For more information call 800-247-



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Employee satisfaction

continued from p. 17

- Communicate plans and actions taken to employees.
- Resurvey employees every 18 to 24 moths to determine if survey results have been communicated and if employees have noticed any changes.

Customer surveys

In general, participants felt that companies are usually more interested in doing customer satisfaction surveys than employee surveys because customers bring in money and are seen as more likely to leave than are employees. In short, companies are more interested in keeping customer than in keeping employees.

Some customers are not interested in doing continuous surveys unless they know what the companies are doing with the data. They want the company to "do something significant with it" — they want to know that someone is interested in the survey results. Some business-to-business companies have found their customers require survey feedback; they share their survey results with customers. Other companies find it hard to determine how to communicate survey information or general action plans to their customers.

Companies differed widely in how and how much they have used results from customer surveys. The extremes ranged from throwing the data away to restructuring the company based on one key question. One company ignored any negative input. Some companies have started planning how to use the data but have not yet implemented action plans.

Of the possible actions a company can take, one action is to call every customer who gives a negative response to a key question or questions to find out the reasons behind the negative rating. The company then gathers additional detailed information and can also fix whatever problem led to the poor rating. Another action is to send a letter of apology and/ or compensate the customer for the bad experience. One participant recounted his experience as a Marriott customer. He received a personal letter from the president and a free night's stay, which changed his attitude from totally negative to semi-positive.

Participants agreed that it is "not an easy process" to find out what customers think and the reasons behind their opinions. Several participants suggested conducting focus groups or personal interviews to uncover the causes for the survey results. Company staff need to "get into the trenches" to find out what customers really want and determine how to solve their problems. One suggestion was to train internal people on problemsolving methods to help them meet customer needs.

Some companies evaluate employees

or compensate them based on the results of the customer satisfaction surveys. Incentives can include recognition or monetary rewards. However, problems may result if too much emphasis is placed on one or two key questions. Staff may ask customers to rate them highly on those questions or may focus all their service efforts on getting a high rating on just those questions.

Other companies do not use incentives but do require their managers to develop and implement action plans based on survey results within a certain time frame. In one case, businesses were expected to take customer survey input and incorporate it into their strategic plan.

A few participants had conducted suppliers surveys with very positive results. They obtained high response rates (more than 90%) and useful information. In one case, the information was "earth-shattering." The speaker said that most employees at his company thought the company paid its suppliers very slowly and that this slow payment caused problems with suppliers. However, in their supplier survey, no one indicated that slow payment was a problem at all.

Almost no participants compared or correlated the results of customer surveys to employee surveys. One company informally compared findings through its audit procedure, while another used the same underlying constructs but did not tie the two surveys together.

1994

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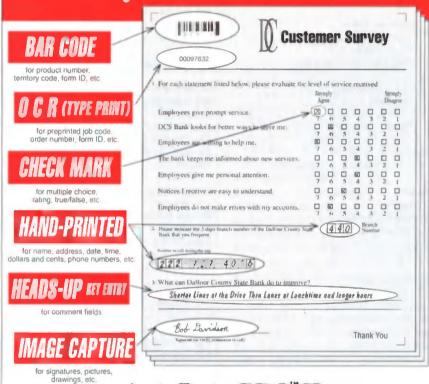
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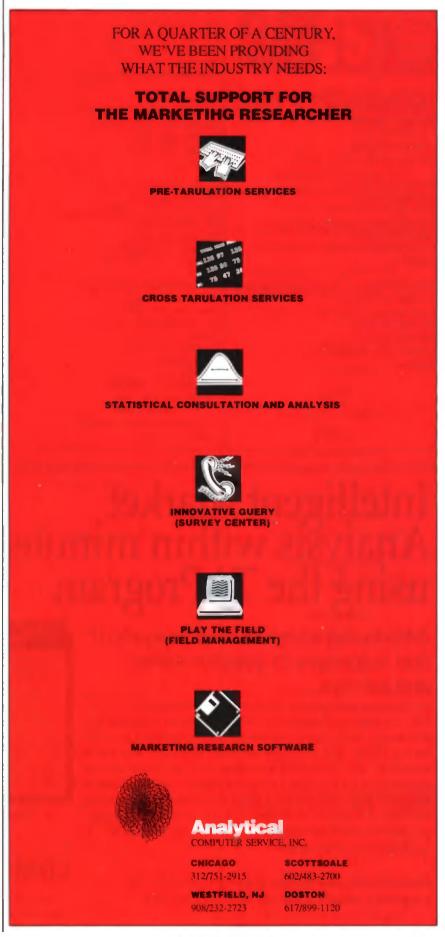
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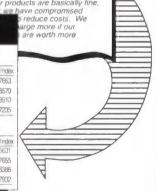
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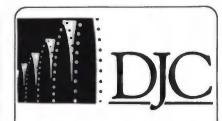
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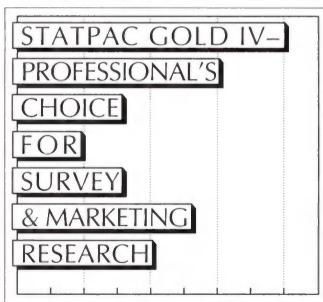
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program. Optional paper form questionnaires are generated in any supported font type and point size.

SURVEY MANAGER - A Windows program in the Survey Said suite, that maintains and provides analysis reports on survey data. Survey Manager provides frequency, banner and cross table analysis for appropriate question types. Open ended question analysis provides frequency count and percent for keywords and key phrases. Analyses can be graphed, previewed on screen or printed in any font type and point size supported.

SURVEY RESPONDENT - A Windows program in the Survey Said suite, for electronically answering questionnaires. Survey Respondent presents questions on the computer as originally defined to the Survey Librarian. Survey Respondent supports skip patterns and automatic question advance. Optional demographic and respondent identification fields can be defined as categories for data subset analysis. Survey interviewers or the respondent can enter their answers.

MERCATOR CORPORATION - SNAP Professional™ is a survey design and analysis software formulated to analyze the results of any type of market survey. Facilities include questionnaire design and printing and data entry methods for all survey types, including self-completion and telephone. The analysis includes crosstabulation, bar charts, 3-D graphics and descriptive statistics. SNAP Professional is available in DOS and Win-

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MICROTAB, INC. - MICROTAB's cross tabulation software is available in three different editions, each designed with a specific range of needs in mind. You can perform all the necessary functions on your data in order to examine and analyze the data in a cross tabulated manner. Used by service bureaus, research suppliers, banks, newspapers, etc. Fast, flexible and comprehensive. Free demodisk. Free telephone support and enhancements.

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PAI-PRODUCTIVE ACCESS, INC. - The mTab Research Software system is a powerful system for the analysis of survey research data on a personal computer. mTab is fast, powerful, and extremely simple to use. Large studies, like tracking projects, which formerly required mainframe power are now readily accessible on your PC without programming. mTab is ideally suited for planning and marketing professionals who need immediate

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OUANVERT/OUANVERT FOR WINDOWS: Interactive data analysis for researchers. Tabulates with any question (variable) in the database by any other. Filter tables on any answer or combination of answers from existing questions. Weighted or unweighted output. Creates new variables by combining/splitting parts of existing questions. Handles multiple projects simultaneously. Interfaces with Quantum. Available on Multi-User 80386, and 640K MS-DOS PCs and in Windows.

OUANOUEST: Interactive questionnaire design system. Uses color windows and menus. Stores questions, groups of questions and entire questionnaires for use with new questionnaires. User enters text of questions and responses. Handles skip patterns and grid questions. Automatically assigns column and punches, generates printed questionnaire, CATI script, editing and tabulation specs. Interfaces with Ouantum. Available on Multi-User 80386, and640K MS-DOS PCs.

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SURVEYFIRST provides the full Survey program up to 1000 records. It supports unlimited questions (fieldnames)-only the num-



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SURVEY-ENTRY is the data entry module for remote sites or network nodes. It provides form creation, data entry, data editing. Ouery for information retrieval, a data summary, phone dial-out and a Hot-key program interrupt. Data is appended to the parent Survey for analysis. There is no limit to number of cases or fieldnames.

UFILLTM similar to Survey-Entry but limited to data entry and data editing only. UfillTM is designed for low-cost data entry, such as in telemarketing or political volunteer activity. Phone dial-out. Networkable and ideal for laptops. There is no limit to number of cases or number of fields.

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SAWTOOTH SOFTWARE: Putting Theory Into Practice

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1007 Church Street, Suite 402, Evanston, IL 60201 708/866-0870 FAX: 708/866-0876 Interviewing handled by widely-used Ci3 System for Computer Interviewing. Handles up to 60 interviewing stations.

CONVERGENT CLUSTER ANALYSIS (CCA) SYSTEM: is software for grouping survey respondents with similar characteristics into identifiable "clusters" for strategic target marketing. Market segments based on demographics, product preferences, or other variables can be identified easily and dependably using CCA, CCA can use data from any source, but it is particularly easy to use with data from Sawtooth Software products.

STATPAC, INC. - STATPAC GOLD IV is designed exclusively for survey analysis and marketing research. Features survey design, sample selection, data entry and management, CRT and telephone interviewing, basic analyses and presentation quality graphics. Includes frequencies, tabs and banners, openended response coding, multiple response, descriptives, breakdowns, correlations and ttests. Advanced analyses available (regression, factor, cluster, conjoint, perceptual mapping, etc.) Complete tutorial,

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Productivity Consulting Services

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Pulse Analytics

Quantime

Raosoft, Inc.

SPSS. Inc.

StatPac, Inc.

Spring Systems

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T/C/A

Touch Base Computing

Training Technologies, Inc.

Jan Werner Data Processing

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Daniel Mallett Associates

GENESYS Sampling Systems

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Ferox

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Pizzano & Co.

Sawtooth Software

The Scientific Press

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Strategic Decisions Group

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Raosoft, Inc.

Strategic Mapping

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T TEST

BMDP Statistical Software, Inc.

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Computers for Marketing Corp. Concurrent Technologies Co. CRC Infomation Sys.

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Microtab, Inc.

NCSS

Pericles Software

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Spring Systems

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Sulcer Research Ascts.

Systat, Inc.

Tabulyzer T/C/A

Vision Database

TABLE EDITING

Business Rsch. & Surveys

Computers for Marketing Corp.

Concurrent Marketing Systems Data Probe/Datatab

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Matrix, Inc./The Uncle Group

Microtab, Inc.

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Raosoft, Inc. The Sachs Group

Spring Systems

SPSS. Inc. StatPac, Inc.

T/C/A

Training Technologies, Inc. Vision Base

TABULATION SYSTEM

Analytical Computer Service, Inc.

Apian Software

Bruce Bell and Ascts. Brunetti & Associates

Computers for Marketing Corp.

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DATAN, Inc. **Datanetics**

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TRANSLATION

Pizzano & Co. Raosoft, Inc.

UPC SCANNERS

DATAN, Inc. IRI Software Raosoft, Inc.

VERBATIM CODING

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QUANCEPT: CRT Interviewing System. Handles very large and complex questionnaires. Significant features are telephone number management, quota control, computer assisted coding, interviewer monitoring, and interactive topline tabs. Generates printed questionnaire and tabulation specs from script. Autodialer interface available. Interfaces with QUANQUEST and QUAN-TUM. Available on Multi-User 80386 (up to 32 users), DEC VAX, and other UNIX machines

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Statistical Innovations

Systat, Inc.

T/C/A

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Pulse Train Technology

P-STAT, Inc.

Quantime

SDR. Inc.

SPSS, Inc.

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Comstat Research Corporation

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IMA, Inc.

M/A/R/C Inc.

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Marketing Info. Systems

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Matrix. Inc./The Uncle Group

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SDR. Inc.

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Market Probe International, Inc.

Matrix, Inc.

Pulse Train Technology

P-STAT, Inc.

Quantime

SDR. Inc.

SPSS, Inc.

Systat, Inc.

T/C/A

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Market Probe International Pulse Train Technology

P-STAT, Inc.

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SDR. Inc.

SPSS. Inc.

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Computers for Marketing Corp.

IRI Software

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Pulse Train Technology

P-STAT, Inc. Quantime

Statistical Innovations

Systat, Inc.

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Market Probe International, Inc.

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Management Science Ascts.
Marketing Information Systems
SAS Institute, Inc.

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Comstat Research Corporation
CRC Information Systems
DATAN, Inc.
IMA, Inc.
LPC, Pitney Bowes Co.
Management Science Ascts.
M/A/R/C Inc.
Marketing Info. Systems
SDR, Inc.
SPSS, Inc.

MEDIA ANALYSIS

Statistical Innovations

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Computer Associates IRI Software SDR, Inc. SPSS, Inc. Systat, Inc. T/C/A

MULTINOMINAL LOGIT ANALYSIS

BMDP Statistical Software, Inc. Caliper Corporation SDR, Inc. Systat, Inc.

MULTIVARIATE METHODS

BMDP Statistical Software, Inc. Claritas, Inc.
Computers for Marketing Corp.
Concurrent Technologies Corp.
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SDR, Inc.
SPSS, Inc.
Systat, Inc.

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Matrix, Inc./The Uncle Group

Pulse Train Technology

P-STAT, Inc.

Quantime

SDR, Inc.

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DATAN, Inc.

IMA, Inc.

M/A/R/C Inc.

Marketing Info. Systems

Pulse Train Technology

P-STAT, Inc.

Quantime

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PERCEPTUAL MAPPING

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Concurrent Technologies Corp. DATAN, Inc. SDR, Inc.

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE

DATAN, Inc. Devcom Mid-America Pulse Train Technology P-STAT, Inc. SPSS, Inc.

QUADRANT ANALYSIS

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QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN LANGUAGE

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RANKING

T/C/A

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DATAN, Inc.
M/A/R/C Inc.
Market Probe International, Inc.
Pulse Train Technology
P-STAT, Inc.
Quantime
SPSS, Inc.
Systat, Inc.

REGRESSION/CORRELATION ANALYSIS

BMDP Statistical Software, Inc.
Claritas, Inc.
Computer Associates
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R. Isaacs Computing Ascts.
Market Probe International, Inc.
Market Science Associates
P-STAT, Inc.
SAS Institute
SDR, Inc.
SPSS, Inc.
Systat, Inc.

SALES ANALYSIS

Analytic Consultants Intl.
Claritas, Inc.
Computer Associates
Computers for Marketing Corp.
Concurrent Technologies Corp.
DATAN, Inc.
Devcom Mid-America
IMA, Inc.
IRI Software
Market Science Associates
Marketing Info. Systems

SALES DATABASE

Analytic Consultants Intl.
Computer Associates
CRC Information Systems
DATAN, Inc.
Devcom Mid-America
IMA, Inc.
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Marketing Info. Systems

SALES EFFECTIVENESS MEASUREMENT

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Devcom Mid-America
Market Science Associates
Marketing Info. Systems
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SDR, Inc.
Systat, Inc.

SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION

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SAMPLE WEIGHTING

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Market Probe International, Inc.
Matrix, Inc.
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P-STAT, Inc. Quantime SDR, Inc. Systat, Inc. T/C/A

SAMPLING SYSTEMS

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SITE EVALUATION

LPC, Pitney Bowes Co.

T TESTS

Systat, Inc.

T/C/A

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Matrix, Inc./The Uncle Group Pulse Train Technology P-STAT, Inc.

Quantime SDR, Inc. SPSS, Inc. Systat, Inc. T/C/A

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Quantime

TEXT ANALYSIS Comstat Research Corporation

THURSTONE SCALING

DATAN, Inc. SDR. Inc.

TIME-SERIES ANALYSIS

BMDP Statistical Software, Inc. Computer Associates Concurrent Technologies Corp. DATAN, Inc. IRI Software P-STAT, Inc. SDR. Inc. SPSS, Inc. Systat, Inc.

UPC SCANNERS

DATAN, Inc.

VERBATIM CODING

DATAN, Inc. M/A/R/C Inc.

T/C/A

VOLUMETRIC ANALYSIS

Computers for Marketing Corp. DATAN, Inc. Quantime SDR. Inc.

Names of Note

continued from p. 22

Research Bureau, New York/Chicago. Cindy Steinbach, vice president, customer/microcomputer services has added the title of product manager for the firm's Choices II package. Hugh Curley has joined the company as senioraccount manager, Julie Michaelson has joined the Chicago office as junior account manager, and Karen Fusco has been promoted to senior account manager, Midwest region.

Edwin Batson has joined Interviewing Service of America, Van Nuys, Calif., as director of analytical services.

Paul Seever has been named to write Market: Basket, a new publication that follows global trends in purchasing. Seever is principal in Global Business Opportunities, Pound Ridge, N.Y. The publication is a joint venture of Global Business Opportunities and W-Two Publications Ltd., Ithaca, N.Y.

Carl Ackerman has been named corporate controller at Scelba, Scelba, DeTitta & Wolfson, Montville, N.J. He will be responsible for the internal financial functions of the firm, and will help provide financial expertise to client programs, budgeting, feasibility studies and return on investment analy-

Clarice Irwin has been named chief executive officer of Irwin Research Services Inc., Jacksonville, Fla. Irwin is a founder of the firm. Scott Irwin has assumed the presidency of the firm and announced the following appointments: Kathryn Blackburn, vice president/ director of qualitative research; Denise Henry, vice president/director of telephone operations; and Teresa Ray, vice president/director of mall research.

John Leggett has joined Parkwood. Research Associates, Allentown, Pa., as project director. In his new position, Leggett will guide the execution of the firm's research projects, including survey design, implementation and evalu-

Thomas Neri has joined Custom Research Inc.'s east coast office in

Ridgewood, N.J. He will serve as vice president and will handle a full line of research service for CRI clients.

Maureen Brannan Gillespie has been promoted to research manager in the TEC Group at Chilton Research Services, based in Radnor, Pa. In her new position, Gillespie will be responsible for the design, scheduling, implementation and administration of telecommunications research projects. She will also provide sales support to TEC research consultants and leadership to the study direction team. William Augustyn has been promoted to research consultant at Chilton Research Services. In this position, he is responsible for the sales, design and execution of consumer and business service studies and eustomer satisfaction research projects as well as the presentation of research results and recommendations.

Craig Miller and Steven Buchholz have joined Advanced Data Research Inc., Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Miller has been named sales and marketing manager; Buchholz has been named consulting service manager.

Trade Talk

continued from p. 70

ployee relations, Philip Morris Companies, Inc., says the company didn't want to do a typical attitude survey. "We had a lot of anecdotal beliefs about how employees were feeling but no data. We wanted to do something quickly and at low cost using our own human resources people. We developed a brief worksheet that had both open-ended questions and more quantitative questions where the respondent would score us on 16 different subjects on a 1-6 scale."

"The employees cut across all kinds of jobs, age groups, and demographics," Temlock says. "We used TAP to see what the major themes were that they were thinking about. We also used it to study those ideas by demographic differences. It was a very useful program because it took qualitative data and it made it quantitative but with an enormous amount of flexibility. All of us have been in the situation where we've asked coders to look through qualitative data and code it. Once they've done it you don't want to let people look through the data a second or third time. But this program lets you start from scratch each time. I think it's a remarkably powerful tool that will enable the richness of qualitative data to be used in quantitative ways."

The whole project, undertaken last spring, took two months from start to finish. This was the first time that Philip Morris had used focus groups for research with employees, Temlock says. "As an employee, if your company gives you a questionnaire and you usually just sit in a room and take it. You don't end up discussing it until after the results are in and sometimes not even then. But Philip Morris was willing to let people really have a conversation with each other on the subject of the social contract or what it called the Philip Morris partnership,"

The employees were asked, If there was one element of the

work partnership that you could change, what would that be? The predominant response across all operating companies related to employee-manager communications. "We weren't expecting that," Kauto says, "We expected to hear, 'Make our jobs more secure."

Philip Morris learned that employees tend to view their direct manager as "The Company" and that, in the absence of lifetime job security — which they realize is no longer a reality — they want to be able to communicate with their direct supervisors.

Blew 'em away

The real value of the TAP program came out when human resources personnel from the various Philip Morris operating companies got together to look at the research results, Kauto says. "When we delivered the reports in front of representatives of all the companies that had been working on this project, Jim was there with his laptop and he was able to do special iterations on the data and print them out on the spot, which blew everybody away.

"When we've done full scale attitude surveys in this company it's usually taken several months from beginning to end. And to then create another variation on a report adds more time. So we were all very impressed with the speed and capability of the program. For example, during the meeting one person wanted to know what women with more than 10 years service to the company said in response to a certain question. In 10 minutes she had the report in her hand. Essentially, everyone left the meeting armed with the information that they felt was most useful for them.

"Everybody has identified the broken employee contract as an issue but no one has figured out how to rewrite it, so we were without any kind of assistance in terms of other companies' experience. But our research gave us the kind of information we needed to take action."

Please note the correction to the following listing from the 1994 Directory of Focus Group Facilities (corrected text shown in bold):

DataSource 8004 Castleway Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46250 Ph. 317-577-0500 Fax 317-576-5438

Contact: Barb Miller

1,3,4,6,7B

Rm. 1) 17x21

Obs. Rm. Seats 12

Rm. 2) 12x14

Obs. Rm. Seats 10

Please add the following firm to the 1994 Directory of Focus Group Facilities:

Kirk Research Services, Inc. 4525 Roosevelt Blvd

Jacksonville, FL 32210 Ph. 904-387-0883

Fax 904-387-0268

Contact: Rebecca Kirk

1.3.6.7C, 8.9

Rm. 1) 30x19 Obs. Rm. Seats 8

Rm. 2) 30x19

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Trade Talk

by Joseph Rydholm Editor

Dealing with those pesky open-ended responses

nce again, we have necessity to thank for spurring invention. After years of frustration dealing with open-ended questions, researcher Jim Falk vowed to figure out a way to simplify the task of coding and working with written responses. The result is something he calls the Text Analysis Program, or TAP.

TAP uses proprietary artificial intelligence algorithms to group written responses into text clusters for easier analysis. In effect, the program does the coding and sorting of written responses for you.

As Falk, executive director of Comstat Research Corp., Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., states it in the program's literature: "TAP 'understands' the meaning of words and groups written statements contextually. It labels each text cluster with the most representative statement and it provides summary statistics to show how many individual statements formed the cluster along with an index of internal consistency."

A typist enters the answers into the computer, inserting delimiters to separate the responses to each question and adding demographic information to each response so users can analyze how groups of respondents answered the various questions.

"If we have a four item questionnaire, for example," Falk says, "you would have the respondent's statements for each item and following that would be the demographic codes associated with that individual. And when I go to extract

the data for analysis, if you give it specific demographic criteria, it will only extract that data which pertains to that demographic combination."

The program works best with short answers to specific questions. If the person rambles, Falk instructs the typist to shorten the answers.

TAP is currently available as a service from Comstat but Falk is preparing to offer it under license as a program for the UNIX operating system. Plans for a DOS version are also in the works once Falk is able to get around the multitasking limitations of DOS.

Put to the test

The program was put to the test last year as part of a research project conducted by the human resources department of Philip Morris Companies. The research focused on determining how workers in the various Philip Morris operating companies view what's referred to as the "broken social contract" between employer and employee.

Steve Temlock is an organizational psychologist (his firm Organization Consultants Inc., is based in Westport, Conn.) who worked on the Philip Morris project. He explains the idea of the social contract: "Twenty five years ago, employees were expected to be loyal and hard-working and in return they got job security. Well, today that contract is broken in many companies because management can't promise job security. But management still needs loyal and dedicated workers and so the

question is, how do you renegotiate the social contract in an honest manner with your employees?"

Big companies can have difficulty in answering this question, Temlock says, because management often assumes that all employees want the same thing. "[A big company] tends to make the assumptions that its executives make relative to the social contract. So if you have 50 year-old executives, their mental frame of reference in terms of how employees should be treated is very much driven by the kind of social contract they're accustomed to. Our research has shown that younger people are less concerned about the availability of lifetime job security than people who were around when that was still a possibility."

Anonymity guaranteed

A sample of 1,100 employees of the many companies under the Philip Morris umbrella — including Miller Brewing, Kraft, General Foods, and Philip Morris Tobacco — was recruited worldwide. All respondents were guaranteed anonymity. After volunteering to participate, they answered a brief survey that included both quantitative items and open-ended questions about their perceptions as Philip Morris employees. They then participated in a focus group to discuss issues related to the social contract.

Randy Kauto, vice president, em-

continued on p. 69

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The Burke Institute

Partial Schedule of Burke" Seminars Through June 1994

[0].	Practical Marketing	g Research	501.	Applications Mari	
	Boston			Cincinnati	
	Cincinnati			New York	Clet. 28-29
	Foronto			Cincinnali	
	New York			Chicago	
	Cincinnati		***	Atlanta	June 30-July I
	Chicago		2014	Generating and E. Products and Serv	valuating wew
	New York				
	Boca Raton			Cincinnali	
	Cincinnati	July 38 Albr 2		Cincinnati	
	Boston			Cincinnati	June 3. 3
	Toronto		5013	New Product Fore	June 200
	Chicago	May 16-18	4.255.57	New York	Sept. 30 Oct. E
	Cincinnati	lune 6.8	504	Advertising Resea	reh
	Atlanta	June 27-29		Cincinnati	
104.	Questionnaire Con-	June 27-29 struction Workshop		Cincinnati	
	Cincinnate	Aug. 9-11		Cincinnati	
	San Francisco			New York	
	New York	Nov. 1-3	505.	Positioning and So	gmentation Research
	Cincinium	Dec 13-15		Cincinnati	
	New York	Jan. 24-26		Cincinnati	
	Cincinnati	Mar. 7-9		Cincinnati	Feb. 15-16
	Boston			New York	
	Cincinnati		506.	Customer Satisfac	tion Research
	Toronto	June 20-22		Toronto	
105.	Questionnaire Desi:	gn: Applications and		Chicago	
	Enhancements			Boca Raton	
	Cincinnari	Aug. 12-13		New York	May 26-27
	San Francisco		601.	How to Summariz	e, Interpret
	New York				ceting Research Data
	Cincinnati			Boston	July 15-16
	New York	Jan 27-28		Cincinnati	
	Cincinnati			New York	
	Buston			Busion	Mar. 31-/Apr. 1
	Cincinnati		4413	Cincinnati	mes of Data Analysis
2011	Toruntu	June 23-24	1017 de s	New York	
201.	Focus Groups: An	Introduction		Cincinnati	Aug 17 20
	San Francisco	Sept. 16-17		Foromo	
	New York	Fig. 24.36			
	Boston			Boston	
202,	Toronto	Applications		Cincinnati	
2076,	Workshop	plucations		Cincinnali	
	New York	Nov. 10-11	603.	Practical Multivar	riate Analysis
203.	Fixus Group Mode	rator Training	4047.71	New York	
	Cincinnati			San Francisco	Sept. 8-10
		Aug. 31-Sept 3		Cincinnati	Nov. 22-24
	Cincinnati	Oct. 19-22		New York	
	Cincinnati	Nov. 30-Dec. 3		Boston	Feb. 21-23
	Cincinnati			Boston Cincinnati	Apr. 11-13
	Cincinnati		701.	International Mar	keting Research
	Cincinnati			Chicago	Sept. 2-3
	Cincinnati	June 14-17		Cincinnati	Apr 14-15
30E,	Writing and Presen	ting Actionable	702.	Business to Busine	ss Marketing Research
	Marketing Research	h Reports		Cincinnati	
	Cincinnati	Aug. 23-25		Cincinnati	Jan. 26-28
	Cincinnati	Nos., 8-10		Cincinnati	
	Boston	Feb. 7-9	704.	Pharmaceutical N	larketing Research
	Cincinnati	Mar. 21-23		New York	Sept. 27-29
	New York	Micy 23-25		Four-Week Certif	icate Program
401.	Managing Marketic	ng Research		Cincinnati	
	Cincinnati	Aug. 26-27		Cincinnati	Feb 28-Mar. 25
	Cincinnati	Nos. 11-12		2 Week Segments	
	Boston			Atlanta	
	Cincinnati	March 24-25		San Francisco	
				New York	
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Please call Lisa Ralfignone at 800.543.8635 (ext. 6135) for schedule information for the following Burkets seminars which are also currently offered by the Institute:

Introduction to Marketing Research

- Marketing Research for Decision Makers Effective In-person Presentation of Marketing Information
- Pricing Strategy and Research Using Multivariate Analysis A P.C. Based Workshop
- Experimental Designs for Marketing Research Industry Specific Seminars

 - · Pharmaceutical
- · Public Utilities
- Planning Marketing Strategies and Tactics Using Actionable Research
- Lifectively Selling Marketing Research Services
- Negotiating Marketing Research Contracts Strategic Market Simulation

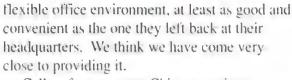
ALL OF THE ABOVE BURKE® SEMINARS ARE AVAILABLE FOR IN-HOUSE PRESENTATION

Please look over the list of our Burkest current seminars. Then call us toll-free. We will help you select the best Burke seminar or other educational opportunity to meet your specific needs. Please call Lisa Raffignone, Marketing Manager, or Dr. Sid Venkatesh, President, at 800-543-8635 (ext. 6135) or 606-655-6135.

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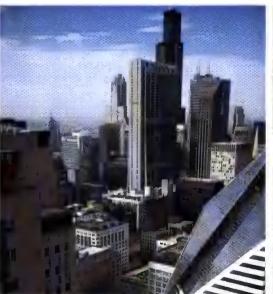
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