PR News' MEASUREMENT CONFERENCE How to Tie PR to Sales

Michelle Mekky November 20, 2014



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"Half the money I spend on advertising is wasted; the trouble is I don't know which half."

John Wanamaker



THE ROLE OF PR IN SALES

Public Relations is a strategic tool to help aid companies' sales by influencing consumers, more subtly than other types of marketing, during the purchasing process.



THE ROLE OF PR IN SALES

Building Connections With Consumers

#1
Increasing
Brand
and Product
Awareness

#2
Crafting
Favorable
Public
Perception

#3
Maintaining
Consumer
Relationships
and Company
Perception



THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

"Half the money I spend on advertising is wasted; the trouble is I don't know which half."

The New York Times









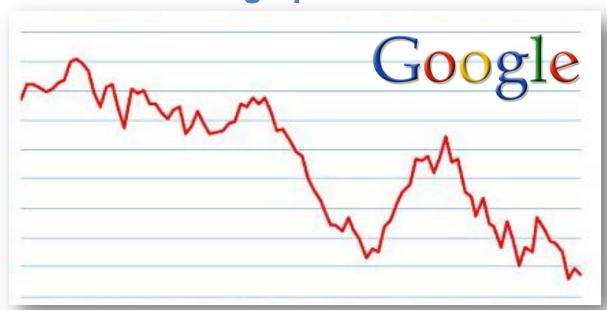
More access to digital measurement tools in terms of brand mentions

Puts PR professionals in a tough spot – clients/brands may not have an understanding of what each analytic report means



WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

If your C-Suite presented you with this graph?





WHAT DOES A CEO REALLY CARE ABOUT?

Revenue?

Margin?

Cash Flow?



#1. Turn Possibilities > Probabilities



#2. Generate More Demand



#3. Deal Growth



#4. Sales Time Efficiency



THE CHALLENGE

THE DELAYED IMPACT OF SEEING THE RESULTS

Size of The Company

Distribution Channels

Age of A Company









CASE STUDY: THE SIZE OF THE COMPANY



The Challenge: Tracking sales for a international company, when hired to represent a brand solely in the United States.

Individual ticket sales not an exact indicator.





CASE STUDY: THE SIZE OF THE COMPANY

We created different barometers for success, setting specific goals in advance of the campaigns— overall growth and brand awareness:

- Company expansion
 - U.S. expansion from 3 to 6 gateways since 2012, with a seventh launching in 2015
- Media placements
 - 639 placements, totaling 940,653,827 impressions
- Facebook growth following
 - 491 fans to more than 298,384 fans





The New York Times







CASE STUDY: AGE OF THE COMPANY

The Challenge: Difficult to track the exact cause of a sale with a well-known and trusted brand that is available online and at retailers nationwide.









CASE STUDY: AGE OF THE COMPANY

Set before and after sales comparisons:

- Impact easier to see with rebranding of first Shark product, the Shark Sweeper.
 - Had previously been on the market for over 2 years with limited media exposure

Worked with outlets to set a specific call to action with outlets for exact sales numbers:

 The Ninja Frying System featured on ABC's Good Morning America's Deals and Steals "Super Saver Edition" segment











CASE STUDY: DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS

The Challenge: As a new product, a lack of brand awareness initially limited distribution channels—leaving just the product website as the sole point of purchase.







CASE STUDY: DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS

Ideal for correlating sales and online media placements, leading to fast-track for growth.



Developing key messaging, differentiators, and intensive seasonal gift guide push.



Resulting **161** media placements totaling **64,084,926** impressions. Abundant growth due to gift guide outreach, placed products on temporary backorder in January 2013.

Additional retailers after sales results and media endorsement:

- Walmart.com
- Version Wireless stores
- Plow and Hearth Stores
- Think Geek
- Grand Street











How To Ensure Impact

Set **Expectations**

Utilize Media
Training
Capabilities

Open PR and Sales Communication

Schedule Regular Check-ins

Define PR As a Tool To Assist Sales, Not a Magic Bullet



How To Ensure Impact

1 Leverage It

Leverage PR team as a source to expand sales team knowledge

2 Sell It

Help sell with PR key messaging

3 Align It

Facilitates alignment with PR initiatives and sales efforts



THE ANSWER

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH





How To Spot The Impact



8 Ways To Spot The Impact

1 Sales Cycle

Has the sales cycle become more efficient? Trust been built?

2 Competition

Is competition's PR team outshining yours?

3 Social Media

Have social media channels experienced growth?

4 Investors

Have investors been increasingly drawn in?



8 Ways To Spot The Impact

5 Crisis Management

Has trust been maintained throughout crisis?

6 Recruiting

Have ideal candidates been increasingly attracted?

7 Inbound Leads

Have inbound leads increased? Strategic Placements?

8 Shareholders

Are shareholders happy with company relationship?

Alpaytac Inc.

How To Measure

Media Placements Analysis **Social Listening**

Behavior Research **Brand Awareness Research**



FREE ANALYTICS TOOLS



A great automated way to monitor when a website is posting about your brand.

Does not cover social media or most blog sites.

socialmention*

Allows the collection and aggregation of data across multiple platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Also provides basic negative or positive sentiment tracking for social mentions.



FREE ANALYTIC TOOLS



Great social management and consolidation tool that allows you to know immediately when your brand is being discussed.

Provides the ability to scan Twitter in real time and reply immediately.



Great tool for blog searches.
Can spot activity on
Facebook, Twitter, and search
image sites such as Flickr.



REPORTING

Try not to rely too much on aggregating all your reporting metrics into Excel spreadsheets.

Spend your time on making the data actionable versus managing the data itself.

Automate it through multiple dashboard reporting—Social, Blogs, SEO, Sales, Etc.







KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1. Understand the growing accessible technology for brands
 - Stay abreast on latest analytic offerings and proactively educate clients on tools used in your reports
- 2. Ensure open and ongoing PR/Sales team communication from the beginning
- 3. Know how to showcase your PR impact
 - Frequent media recap and social analytic reports and timeline to chart spikes in sales
- 4. Stay ahead of the curve when measuring your PR initiatives, setting benchmark goals before campaign launches



Thank You

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