

Chapter 77

Publishing Industry: What Is the Future of Newspapers, Magazines, and Books?

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ABSTRACT

The general aim of this chapter is to show digitalization is one of the main threats that is shaping the publishing industry value chain and company business models. The analysis of the publishing industry structure is conducted from the perspective of international features. The value chain system of printed media publishing business is explored with more in-depth analysis of its elements. The primary objective of this research is to establish practical outcomes of Internet influence on the structure and business model of publishing companies. As rapid development in the IT sector and the Internet can be considered a crucial risk factor for contemporary publishing business, it creates new business models and changes the industry structure. Publishers progressively respond to changing consumer demands, especially around digital content. Effective pricing strategies for digital content will be the major challenge for magazine publishers.

INTRODUCTION

The general aim of this chapter is to answer the question: how digitalization is one of the main threats that is shaping the publishing industry value chain and company business models. The analysis of the publishing industry structure is conducted from the perspective of international features. The value chain system of printed media publishing business is explored with more in-depth analysis of its elements.

The primary objective of this research is to establish practical outcomes of Internet influence on the structure and business model of publishing companies. As rapid development in the IT sector and the Internet can be considered as a crucial risk factor for contemporary publishing business it creates new business models and changes the industry structure. Publishers progressively respond to changing consumer demands, especially around digital content.

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Publishing Industry

This chapter is divided in three parts:

Section 1 defines the scope of the research, investigates market changes and strategic issues. Along with exploring the publishing business in general, the research has a focus on the magazine publishing industry, market structure and players' strategies. The choice is explained by the fact that the magazine segment is characterized by a strong investment activity and a significant number of failures at the same time.

Section 2 establishes the theoretical foundations of value chains and the main related concept: business models (BM). The BM is a useful analytical framework for comparing the players involved, and for assessing the elements at the root of their performance (see chapter 6). From this perspective, it is a precious tool, both for the manager and the researcher.

Section 3 presents the case study of a Swedish publishing and media company Bonnier, a long established media house. The Bonnier Magazine Publishing Group has adopted a strategy of internationalization and has developed digital activities.

BM makes it possible to approach the various aspects related to implementing a strategy: which resources and competences to mobilize in order to deliver their product or service, how to develop this product or service and how to organize their activities in order to generate revenue. The choices made in these three fields directly influence the structure of revenue and the expense level (which together form the revenue model) and ultimately determine the profit of the company's chosen BM (Casadesus-Masanell & Ricart, 2007). A magazine publisher competes on three markets – the advertising, the circulation and the content market.

MARKET CHANGES AND EVOLUTION OF PLAYERS' STRATEGIES

The current trends dominating the publishing industry are closely linked with several factors, among which: technological advances and the Internet development, changes in consumers' preferences and usage patterns, increasing competition globally, social networks development, high fragmentation of the magazine market, and consumer and advertising revenues downturn due to economical and structural reasons.

Scope of the Publishing Industry

According to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy, the publishing industry comprises mainly newspapers, periodicals, books, and directory and mailing list publishers.

Newspapers include general newspapers and specialized newspapers, periodicals comprise general interest periodicals, professional and academic periodicals and books refer to textbooks, children's books, general reference books, professional, technical, and scholarly books.

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