### **UX** Research

Lesson 1: Research in Industry

Market Research

- Market Research
- Industry Deliverables

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- Interviewing

- Market Research
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- Sampling Theory

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- Persona Research

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- Persona Research
- Product Design

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- Product Design
- Survey Design

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- Hypothesis Testing

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- Persona Research
- Product Design
- Survey Design
- A/B Testing
- Exploratory Data Analysis
- Hypothesis Testing
- Finding a UX Job

# Course Structure

#### **Weekly Lessons**

#### 3 mini-projects

- Product Diversification
- Website Conversion
- Voice of the Customer

# Research Types

#### **Primary Research**

- Collect the data yourself
- Two types:
  - Qualitative
  - Quantitative

#### **Secondary Research**

Use existing data

#### Primary Research

- Conducted by the researcher in order to directly answer the question
  - Original research provides the most relevant data to answer a question
  - Allows greater control and customization over method and results
  - Also time-consuming and expensive

#### Quantitative

- Numerical data that can be quantified and analyzed with statistics
- Surveys (close-ended questions), experiments
- "How satisfied are you with our product from 1 (not at all satisfied) to 10 (completely satisfied)?"

#### Qualitative

- Non-numerical data
- Interviews, focus groups, case studies, open-ended questions, observations
- "Tell me what you think about our product."

#### Secondary Research

- The researcher analyzes data that has been previously collected
  - Can be used to build on existing knowledge or create a foundation of knowledge
  - Often used as background to help define primary research or supplement it
  - Much less time and cost to analyze
  - You can't control the quality of the data data might be biased, outdated, or irrelevant
- Sources
  - Published reports, databases, books, online articles
  - A variety of perspectives are available for research
- Good for comparative studies and trend analysis
- Note: Secondary research can still be quantitative!
  - Sales records, census statistics
  - o Can still test (some) hypotheses, but there's less control

# Market Research

# Market Research involves studying an industry to determine:

- What problems are facing the field
- How other companies have tried to solve these problems
- How your company can meet the need in a better way than your competition

The goal of market research is to shape business development plans and product development

#### Market Research

- Secondary research questions
  - Qualitative: Review of competitors' products in the market space
  - Quantitative: Trend analysis to predict future market developments

- Primary research questions
  - Qualitative: Create a business plan to guide strategy like market entry
  - Quantitative: Conduct a survey to learn about how your target audience views your brand vs competitors

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# User eXperience (UX)

# **User Experience Research** focuses on the study of end users: the people actually using your product

- Analyzing the behaviors, requirements, and expectations of end users
- Focusing on a specific product or service
- Often digital products, such as apps or websites

The goal of UX is to improve end user experience through the interaction with a product

#### **UX** Research

- Secondary research questions
  - Qualitative: Write a report summarizing behavioral research that discusses how users make decisions about how much to engage with an app
  - Quantitative: Test hypotheses about navigation patterns (e.g., click through rates) across e-commerce websites using previous usability studies
- Primary research questions
  - Qualitative: Ask users to describe their pain points to help learn how to design a better solution
  - Quantitative: Run an experiment to test whether a new feature makes an app more user-friendly

The goal of UX is to improve end user experience through the interaction with a product

# Consumer Insights

# Consumer Insights Research focuses on the customer experience:

- Voice of the Customer (VoC)
- Loyalty behaviors
- Satisfaction over time

The goal of consumer insights research is to understand customer needs, behaviors, and desires

#### Consumer Insights

- Secondary research questions
  - Qualitative: Identify high-level societal and cultural trends that impact consumer behavior by reading academic research
  - Quantitative: Use an API to access and query customer reviews of your store; build a model showcasing strengths and weaknesses
- Primary research questions
  - Qualitative: Conduct an interview with customers about their values and underlying motivations to engage with your product or buy from your company
  - Quantitative: Examine purchase trends, along with online behaviors, to predict lifetime value of the customers

The goal of consumer insights research is to understand customer needs, behaviors, and desires

### **UX** Research

**Lesson 2: Market Research** 

#### Market Research

- Shape business development plans and product development
- Examples
  - Vetting prospective customer segments (what demographics best suit your product)
  - Conducting market analysis (determining market size and trends)
  - Performing strategic growth analysis (increasing profitability)
  - Completing competitor analysis (brand and product analysis, SWOT)

#### **Ansoff Matrix**

Method to evaluate growth initiatives and risk

#### Market Penetration

- Increasing advertising
- Changing pricing strategy

#### Market Development

- Opening stores in new locations
- Targeting new customer segments

#### Product Development

- R&D for new products
- Improving existing products

#### Diversification

- Clothing companies creating masks
- Amazon buying Whole Foods

		PRODUCTS	
		Existing	New
MARKETS	Existing	Market Penetration	Product Development
	New	Market Development	Diversification

You work for a SaaS company that provides a platform for online courses. Your customers are primarily educational in nature and use your platform to provide technical training and lectures to students.

You are considering branching out to offer a platform for online fitness classes. Your task is to conduct market research to determine whether this new product offering is viable and profitable.

#### **Market Demand**

Is there a need for this product offering?

- Industry trends
- Talk to current / potential customers
- Get feedback from front-line employees

#### **Market Demand**

Is there a need for this product offering?

You use Search Engine Optimization (SEO) tools to find web traffic relating to home workout themes over the last 5 years. You find that, even though some people have returned to in-person fitness centers in 2023, many still prefer to work out at home. Home fitness trends fell 50% from 2020-2021, but have stayed flat from 2021-2023 and are 200% more common than in 2019.

Furthermore, end users say that they'd pay an extra \$50 a month to your company in order to have home exercise videos.

#### **Market Size**

- Total number of potential customers and potential revenue
- Top-down industry reports
- Bottom-up data from early selling efforts
- Aim for projections for the next 3 years (growth / decline)

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#### **Market Saturation**

- The industry has produced the maximum need of products / services
- Once saturation occurs, there is no more demand for the products / services
- From competition everyone who wants the product already has it
- No more customer need (fads)

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You use SEO tools and social media to uncover customer sentiment relating to other companies and find that, while many customers are happy with their current home workout courses, there is a market gap when it comes to yoga videos. You determine that you should focus on yoga videos.

#### **Competitive Analysis**

#### Goals – find niche for YOUR product / service

Core competency

Advantage you have over competitors (capabilities, skills, resources)

Unique selling proposition

Factors that differentiate you from competitors (cost, quality)

Benchmarking

Compare various aspects of your product with competitors

#### **SWOT**

#### **Internal Factors**

- **Strengths** What separates your product from the competition Assets, promoters, employee team
- Weaknesses Where you need to improve to stay competitive Hidden costs, detractors, low performance

#### **External Factors**

- Opportunities Factors that can help you Market trends, demographics, world events
- Threats Factors that can hurt you Competitors, market changes, world events

#### **SWOT**

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul><li>Loyal customer base</li><li>Unique online technology</li><li>Proprietary video technology</li></ul>	<ul><li>Weak brand</li><li>High employee turnover</li><li>Tech debt</li></ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul> <li>Capture a new market (fitness) with same customers</li> <li>Get people to use product more frequently</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Rising returns to gyms</li> <li>Increasing cloud costs</li> <li>Changing government regulations about fitness and health</li> </ul>

#### **PESTLE**

#### Way to assess how external factors can impact your company, product, or service

- Political
   General political climate,
   international relations
- Economic
   Inflation, recession, currency exchange rates
- Social Changing lifestyle trends, demographic differences

- **Technological**Changes in vertical and company, trends (quantum computing)
- Legal Legislative changes (tax and employment laws)
- Environmental
   Carbon footprint of the cloud, recyclable product casing

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