# NO MORE SECRETS: \*FREE BUSINESS RESEARCH RESOURCES

TERENCE O'NEILL

ENTREPRENEURSHIP LIBRARIAN

GAST BUSINESS LIBRARY, MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

## **GAST BUSINESS LIBRARY**

Four librarians available for direct research consultations

Selected Resource Machines & community borrower passes

Books, journals, magazines, books on CD

Library guides

**Databases** 

### **OBJECTIVES**

Research
your market...
...or competition
...or industry

With resources from ...the public library

...the state

...organizations

...and the internet



## WHAT FOR?

**Product Market Fit** 

**Funding & Investors** 

Personal investment



# **GOOD NEWS**

United States government

Organizations want to share information

Internet

Libraries



## **BAD NEWS**

Private company limitations

Reports are limited in their scope

Libraries have restrictions



# KEY QUESTIONS WHEN CONDUCTING RESEARCH

What do you need the info for?

How much time do you have?

What work has been done already?

Who cares about this information?



TAM = how big is the universe

SAM = how many can I reach with my sales channel

Target Market (for a startup) = who will be the most likely buyers

TAM, SAM and Target Market (Figure 4.1)

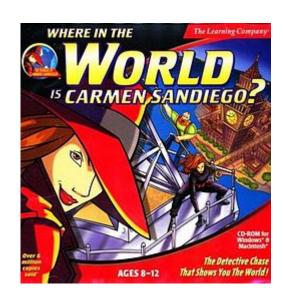
## **TYPES OF RESOURCES**

**Industry Analysis** 

**Demographic Data** 

Competitor Information

**Identifying Contacts** 



### **INDUSTRY ANALYSIS REPORTS**

**Industry Analysis reports** 

- http://mel.org/index.php?P=MeLGateways&ParentId=832
  - Business Insights Global (generalized)
  - Business Decision

### TOP DOWN: INDUSTRY ANALYSIS REPORTS

**Industry Analysis reports: Free resources** 

- Consultancies
  - Big 4 Accounting



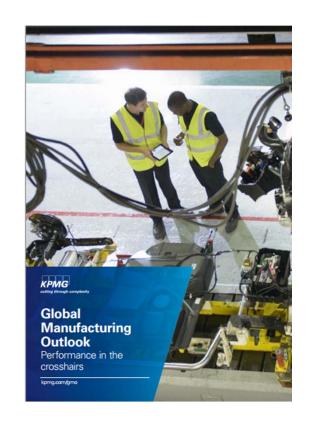
- Trade Groups & Unions
  - Institute for Supply Management



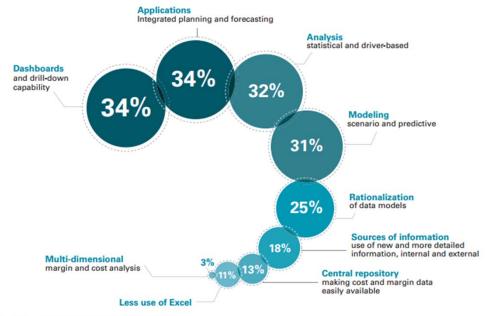
- Polling groups
  - Pew Center
- Government Agencies
  - CDC



Search google by writing "Site:.gov" after search



#### Which of the following profit and cost analytic practices are your organization's top priorities in the next 12 to 24 months?



Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. Source: Forbes survey, January 2014.

# The Diagnosis Difference

#### BY SUSANNAH FOX AND MAEVE DUGGAN

Forty-five percent of U.S. adults report that they live with one or more chronic conditions, such as high blood pressure, lung conditions, diabetes, heart disease, or cancer. They are more likely than other adults to be older, to have faced a medical emergency in the past year, and, as other studies have shown, to contribute to the explosion of health care costs in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

In this study, the Pew Research Center explores how adults with chronic conditions gather, share, and create health information, both online and offline.

We provide evidence that many people with serious health concerns take their health decisions seriously—and are seriously social about gathering and sharing information, both online and offline.

72% of U.S. adults living with chronic conditions use the internet

Of teen social media users on any social network...



#### 58% share inside jokes or coded messages on social media

You skipped this

Teens with larger friend networks are more likely to share inside jokes or coded messages on social media than teens with smaller networks.

Answered 5 seconds ago | Tweet this



#### 26% post fake information to protect their privacy

You skipped this

African-American teens are more likely than white teens to say they post fake information to their profiles to protect their privacy (39% vs. 21%).

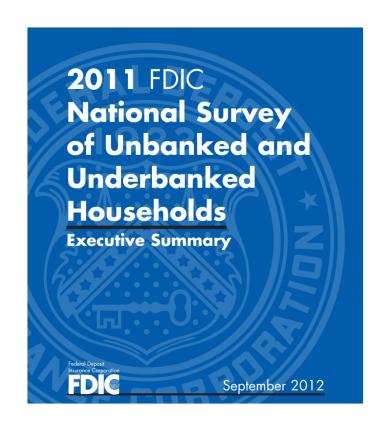
Answered 6 seconds ago | Tweet this



#### 16% automatically include location in their posts

You skipped this

Teens with larger Facebook networks are more likely to automatically include their location in posts than teens with smaller Facebook networks.



#### I. Executive Summary

The FDIC is committed to ensuring that all Americans have access to safe, secure, and affordable banking services. Public confidence in the banking system derives in part from how effectively banks serve the needs of the nation's diverse population. To assess the inclusiveness of the banking system, and in response to a statutory mandate, the FDIC conducts biennial surveys of households to estimate the proportion of households that do not fully participate in the banking system.¹ This report presents the results of the 2011 FDIC National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households.

The FDIC partnered with the US Census Bureau to conduct this survey in June 2011, collecting responses from nearly 45,000 households. The FDIC used survey responses to categorize households' banking status as unbanked, underbanked, or fully banked. Unbanked households are those that lack any kind of deposit account at an insured depository institution. Underbanked households hold a bank account, but also rely on alternative financial services (AFS) providers.<sup>2</sup> Fully banked households are those that have a bank account of any kind and

providers, while others use cash or other financial arrangements.

- 8.2 percent of US households are unbanked. This represents 1 in 12 households in the nation, or nearly 10 million in total. Approximately 17 million adults live in unbanked households.<sup>4</sup>
- The proportion of unbanked households increased slightly since the first survey. The estimated 0.6 percentage point increase represents an additional 821,000 unbanked households.<sup>5</sup>
- 20.1 percent of US households are underbanked.
   This represents one in five households, or 24 million households with 51 million adults.<sup>6</sup> The 2011 underbanked rate in 2011 is higher than the 2009 rate of 18.2 percent, although the proportions are not directly comparable because of differences in the two surveys.<sup>7</sup>
- 29.3 percent of households do not have a savings account, while about 10 percent do not have a checking account. About two-thirds of households have both checking and savings accounts.

### **INDUSTRY ANALYSIS REPORTS**

"First-time entrepreneurs are seduced by market size data from research firms. They should keep in mind that market research firms are excellent at predicting the past. (If they were geniuses at predicting the future, they'd be running hedge funds.)"

-Steve Blank, Market Size Hypothesis

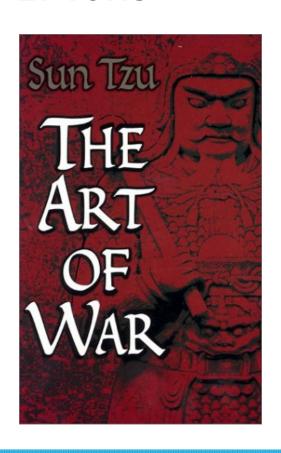
## **INFORMATION FROM COMPETITORS**

Company SEC reports

■ EDGAR 👩



**Press Releases** 



### **POPULAR PRESS**

MIT Technology Review

**ArsTechnica** 

**Local News--MLive** 



MIT Technology Review

## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

#### **Government Statistical Sources**

- American Fact Finder
- http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml

#### Market Analysis

#### Mapping software

Demographics Now

## **GOVERNMENT RAW DATA SOURCES**

Data.gov

Health.gov

Census.gov

Business.gov

**American Fact Finder** 

NAICS & SIC codes

## FINDING THOSE CONTACTS

#### Sales lists

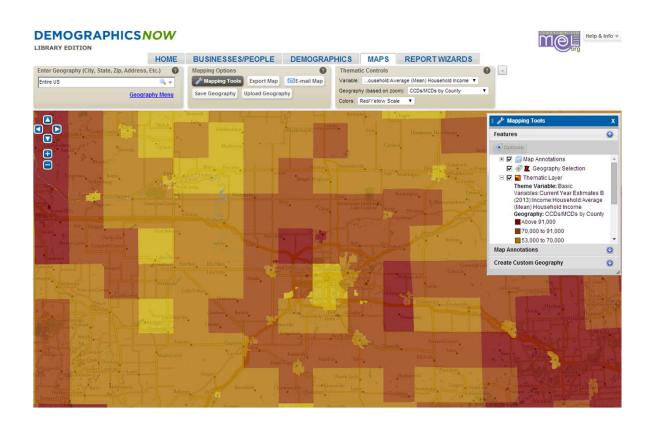
- Demographics Now
- Reference USA

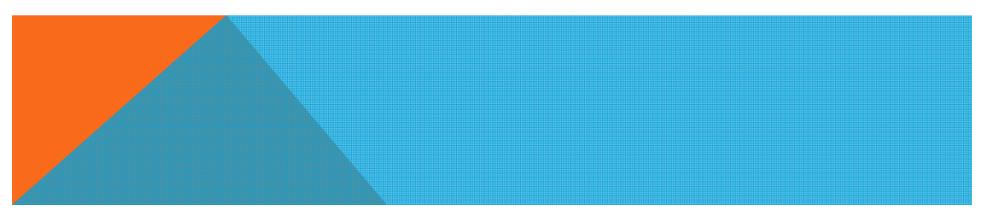


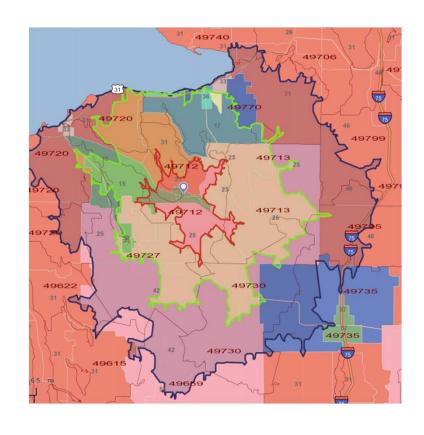
#### **Professional Organizations Lists**

#### Other Methods

- Linked In
- Local groups
- Twitter / Facebook



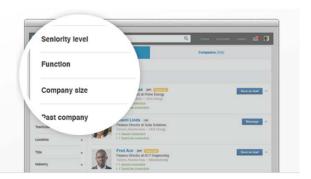






Create lead lists with custom searches to source and close deals.

Upgrade free .

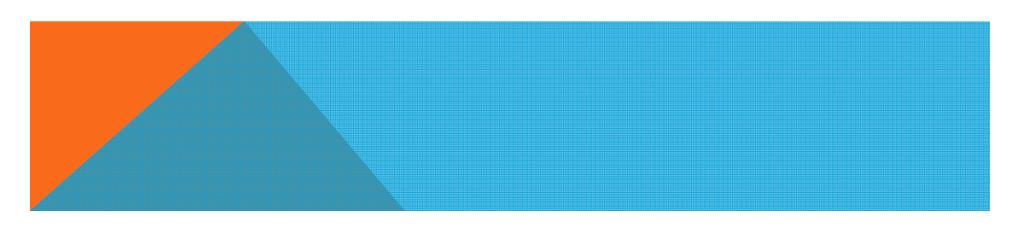


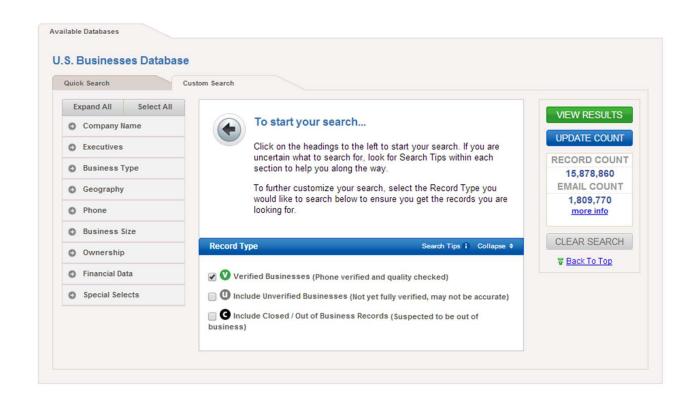


#### Lead Recommendations

Quickly discover decision makers and potential prospects with personalized recommendations just for you.

Upgrade free •





Location Employees		1		Location Sales Volume			\$124,000			
Corporate Employees		Not Available		Corporate Sales Volume			Not Available			
Type of Business		Priva	Private		Location Type			Single Loc		
Affiliated Records		Not Avail	able	Affiliated Locations			Not Available			
Parent Company		Not Avail	able	For	eign Parent		Not Available			
EIN		Not Available		Fortune 1000 Ranking			Not Available			
Credit Cards Accepted		MV		Last Updated On			July, 2014			
Years in Database		22		Year Established			Not Available			
Square Footage		2,500 - 9,999		Number of PCs			0 - 1 Pcs			
IUSA Number		49-124- 5205		Home Business			No			
Credit Rating Score		C+		Full Credit Report			Buy from Experian			
							SmartBusinessReports* by			
lours of Operatio	n									
Mon	Tue	V	Wed		Thu	Fri		Sat	Sun	
	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM		11:00 AM - 5:00 PM		11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM		Closed	Closed	

### **APIS AND DATA**

Bloomberg Open economic data project

**National Library of Medicine** 

World Bank Indicators/ Finance/ Projects

**UN ComTrade** 

#### **EXAMPLE OF A RESOURCE STACK**

#### **Industry Reports**

- IBIS World
- Business Insights Global

#### Consultants:

"Restaurant Briefing: Industry Intelligence"

#### Demographics:

Reference USA

#### Relevant groups

- National Beer Wholesaler's Association
- American Brewers Association: "Draught beer quality manual"

#### **Press**

- MLive: "Mold and bacteria in local beers from drat beer lines"
- Modern Brewery Age