SEVEN YEARS: AGE OF REASON?
2005—2012: CREATING VALUE(S) IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A Bain & Company study for the Forum d’Avignon
Bain & Company
Bain & Company is the management consulting firm that the world’s business leaders come to when they want results. Bain advises clients on strategy, operations, technology, organization, private equity and mergers and acquisition, developing practical insights that clients act on and transferring skills that make change stick. The firm aligns its incentives with clients by linking its fees to their results. Founded in 1973, Bain has 48 offices in 32 countries, and in-depth expertise and client mastery cross every industry and economic sector. For more information, visit www.bain.com. Follow us on Twitter@BainAlerts.

Authors:
Patrick Béhar is a senior partner with the Paris office of Bain & Company and leads the firm’s Media & Entertainment practice in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He has served the industry for nearly 20 years, on multiple continents and across the stakeholder spectrum of broadcasters, content producers, consumer and professional publishers, newspapers and magazines, music majors, movie studios, as well as new media. patrick.behar@bain.com
Laurent Colombani is a partner with the Paris office of Bain & Company, managing its French activities. He has worked for more than 10 years with leading players in the media and entertainment industries. Laurent Colombani focuses particularly on growth strategy and performance improvement in France and Europe. laurent.colombani@bain.com

Contributors:
Jean-Philippe Bacoe, Mertrem Benamer, Yves Chaudhurisokaran, Stéphanie Combe, Camille Croisset, Caroline Detalle, Paul Judge, Jean-Marc Le Roux, David Lewkowitz, Maggie Locher, Mathio Rubbers, David Simé, Philippe Thibault, Souhail Zeinoddine

Media contacts:
Caroline Detalle, Bain & Company • Tel.: + 33 1 44 55 75 75 • caroline.detalle@bain.com
Alain de la Hâtre, Bain & Company • Tel.: + 33 1 44 55 77 73 • alain.de.lahtere@bain.com
Franz Langer, Image 7 • Tel.: + 32 3 79 79 79 70 • ranger@image7.fr

Forum d’Avignon
The Forum d’Avignon aims at strengthening the links between culture and the economy, suggesting subjects for reflection at global, European and local levels. The Forum d’Avignon was created after the ratification of the UNESCO convention on cultural diversity and, since its beginning, has been backed by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication. Each year the Forum organizes, with its partners, international meetings, which provide opportunities for unique discussions and exchanges between participants from the worlds of culture, the creative industries, the economy and the media. The Forum d’Avignon is a field for reflection, in which the economic dimension of culture and the roles of social cohesion and job creation in cultural activities are considered. An international and cross-sectoral event associating debates and performances, the international meetings of culture, the economy and the media are a unique opportunity to bring together artists, creators, writers, professors, film directors, philosophers, students from international universities, representatives of the creative and cultural industries. The diverse points of view are also symbolized by the cosmopolitan diversity of the speakers, who come from all over the world.

Forum of discussion dedicated to culture: Each year the Forum d’Avignon publishes new studies highlighting the essential links between culture and the economy, on themes suggested by its Advisory Board. Throughout the year these themes are examined and proposals put forward by working groups that are organized by the Forum d’Avignon with experts, international consulting firms and its public and private partners. The Forum’s think tank tackles subjects such as culture, financing and economic models; culture and attractiveness of the territories; culture and digital; culture and innovation. For its third edition in 2010, six publications have been produced for the Forum d’Avignon, following the three studies presented in 2009.

The international meetings of culture, the economy and the media: An international and cross-sectoral event associating debates and performances by artists, the Forum d’Avignon is a field for reflection, in which the economic dimension of culture and the roles of social cohesion and job creation in cultural areas are being explored. The Forum d’Avignon is where concrete proposals, unique networking opportunities, heritage and innovations discoveries are brought together. The directions explored each year are disseminated among national and international authorities. More than 400 committed people come together artists, creators, writers, professors, film directors, philosophers, students from international universities, representatives of the creative and cultural industries.

Contact:
Forum of Culture: www.forum-culture.org
Grand Palais des Champs-Elysées – Cours la Reine – Paris C – 75008 Paris – France
Laure Kahnfehr, directrice générale du Forum d’Avignon
Olivier Le Guay, responsable d’éditorial
Email: laure.kahnfehr@forum-avignon.org; forum-avignon@forum-avignon.org
Tel.: + 33 1 44 55 75 70

Acknowledgements
Bain & Company would like to thank the following people, who strongly contributed to this study: The Board and the Advisory Board of the Forum d’Avignon; the team of the Forum d’Avignon: Laure Kahnfehr, managing director, Olivier Le Guay, editorial director; Rebecca Amosell, project manager; and Alya Nazarian, project manager; and the participants of the task force: Guendoline M. Allain, French Ministry of Culture and Communication; Claudia Ambruosi, Forum d’Avignon; Alya Bain & Company would like to thank the following people, who strongly contributed to this study: The Board and the Advisory Board of the Forum d’Avignon; the team of the Forum d’Avignon: Laure Kahnfehr, managing director, Olivier Le Guay, editorial director; Rebecca Amosell, project manager; and Alya Nazarian, project manager; and the participants of the task force: Guendoline M. Allain, French Ministry of Culture and Communication; Claudia Ambruosi, Forum d’Avignon; Alya

Summary
Online video, social gaming, tablets and e-readers have been among the many contenders to become the "next big thing" in media over the past seven years. Have they lived up to their promise? Has the media industry generated more usage and economic value since 2005? What reasons for hope are emerging today?

For each of the past four meetings of the Forum d’Avignon, Bain has studied how people consume content through connected devices. Our latest global survey of more than 6,000 consumers highlights how innovations remain largely shaped by five underlying trends:

- **Abundance:** Consumers want to access an “infinite shelf” of content
- **Personalization:** Consumers are increasingly segmented by their interests
- **Aggregation:** Fragmented audiences converge toward powerful digital platforms
- **Community:** Social networks are becoming key to content choices
- **Engagement:** Consumers are actively involved in content discovery and data curation

Our in-depth look at the state of media and devices across several categories (music, video, books and video games) suggests that this field is as turbulent as ever, with cycles of innovation and reinvention creating a fertile ground for exploring new models. Far from reaching levels of stability or maturity, each of these industries shows strong signs of a seven-year itch, continually on the lookout for the next big thing.

- After years of decline and transformation, the music industry sees hope of recovery in new business models and online aggregators
- Tablets are changing the way consumers watch video, heralding the age of social TV
- The digital migration of the book publishing industry hinges on uncertainties regarding value creation models in Europe and the US
- Video games, once secure on their console model, have been shaken by mobile, Web and “freemium” models

Amid the uncertainty of such cycles of disruption and value creation, we see a set of compelling reasons for hope emerging. Consumers across the world continue to express an ever-growing appetite for content, stimulating new media experiences, including many that bridge creators and consumers in both developed economies and emerging markets. As a result, the content industry is poised to regain its pre-2008 economic value by the end of 2012, driven largely by the emerging markets. Equally important, we see the emergence of a “middle ground” in the media space: a sustainable, diverse market for properties that fills the gap between mass franchises and niche content, which will open new growth opportunities for an industry that has never lacked for new ideas.
2005—2012: Seven years in the digital age

An explosion of new digital models

The past seven years have seen their share of self-proclaimed media revolutions based on smarter devices, more compelling interfaces and new platforms. What lessons can we draw from this explosion of disruptive business models?

The pace of innovation, far from slowing down, has increased over the last few years. Apple took 20 months to sell a million iPods after the device’s introduction in 2001; it sold a million iPads in less than a month in 2010. Facebook has grown from 60 million active users in 2008 to more than 1 billion today, establishing itself in the exclusive league of global platforms alongside Google. And new platforms continue to emerge faster: Instagram has grown from 10 million to 100 million users in less than a year.

Such competition for consumer attention is not without casualties. In the digital world, just like everywhere else, consumer expectations can be misinterpreted and value propositions deployed at the wrong time or in the wrong place. For example, US household penetration for 3D TVs is only at about 3%—and much less in terms of actual usage—in spite of a strong push from the consumer electronics industry. Two years after its launch, the much-awaited Google TV revolution has captured less than a million households. Even the social space is not exempt from growing pains: 80% of Myspace’s users have left the service, and Apple shut down Ping after only two years.

In our view, those platforms that have become part of the everyday lives of millions of consumers in less than a decade tend to hinge on a set of deeply rooted social, economic and cultural trends, which are the genuine, consistent sources of value creation for the content industry.

Five underlying trends

Five main trends propel the surge of digital platforms that has taken place over the past seven years.

Abundance. Our 2009 study for the Forum d’Avignon identified the end of spectrum scarcity restrictions as one of the driving forces of the media revolution. Consumers who used to have access to only a handful of TV channels, radio stations or books in their library are now overwhelmed with content: hundreds of free and pay-TV channels; iTunes and its 28 million songs, 45,000 movies, 150,000 podcasts and 500,000 applications; Google Books and its 20 million titles. Barely conceivable 10 years ago, access to an “infinite shelf” from which to choose content has become standard. Most consumers view any limits on this wealth of offerings—whether legal or technical—as an insufferable impediment.

Personalization. The ever-increasing segmentation of interests has become pervasive in today’s society. Digital consumers expect content to be tailored to their tastes. In music, smart platforms, such as Pandora, Deezer and Spotify, meet this need by analyzing usage history. According to The Economist, more than 30% of Amazon’s sales in 2011 resulted from its personalized recommendation engine. Today a paradox emerges as demand for personal content continues to grow—fueling the need for extensive data curation—while clashing with rising concerns about privacy.

Aggregation. Facing the daunting prospect of unlimited content choices, consumers feel a growing need for a guide. Audience fragmentation has given rise to powerful aggregators, such as Google and Facebook. Google owes its success to its ability to structure and prioritize digital chaos—not for giving that chaos meaning. These platforms have become the dominant business model on the Web, raking in up to 60% of advertising spending, sometimes relegating content publishers to mere data sources in the process.

Community. Since even the most sophisticated algorithm could never substitute for a friend’s advice, media usage is becoming increasingly social. Social networks have brought users out of their isolation to rediscover—at least virtually—the pleasure of a shared emotion. By enabling audiences to voice their opinions and share their discoveries, the social Web reintroduces a human element in digital content choices, reconciling the digital space with one of the primary needs of human cultures and societies.

Engagement. Analog broadcasting technologies democratized content and spawned mass audiences. However, these 20th-century audiences were mostly passive. By giving audiences a voice, digital media allows them not only to give their opinion, but also to influence content creation in vivo. Not all consumers are born creators, but they can now play a role in the creative process, even through small acts such as “liking” an artist on Facebook or contributing to a project through a crowdfunding platform such as Kickstarter. Some may see this as a sign of a salutary democratization, cynical demagogy or simply a marketing lever, but it signals a deeper level of personal engagement in the creative process itself. Initiatives such as Talenthouse provide opportunities for the anonymous to express their talents. Millions of participants have already submitted ideas to a community of more than 600 million.

Sources: The Long Tail (Chris Anderson), Amazon, Netflix, PwC, Google, Facebook, Kickstarter, Bain analysis.
Coming of age

Faced with these trends, different media are following diverse trajectories. Whether in line with expectations or against all odds, they have reached different levels of maturity—and face contrasting futures.

Recorded music: Recovering at last

Just over seven years after the launch of the iTunes store in Europe, nine years after its launch in the US, the music industry may be on the way back to value creation.

Digital sources of recorded music today account for more than a third of time spent listening to music. Recent years have witnessed continuous digital innovation: Music streaming, smart feeds and social interfaces have continued to push digital music toward personalization and community sharing. Today those digital sources account for more than a third of time spent listening to music. Against inherently lower monetization levels, aggravated by lost earnings from illegal downloading, the industry has diversified its revenue sources, as illustrated by the growing importance of live performances and ancillary rights in the industry.

Several signs point to the stabilization of the music industry; for example, in the US digital revenues are poised to overtake physical sales. In this improving but fragile context, high-profile recorded music and publishing mergers, such as Sony/BMG and EMI/Universal, should contribute to strengthening the economic resilience of the industry.

Figure 2.1: Music consumption habits

How would you split the time you were spending listening to music by source? (five years ago vs. today)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you pay a subscription in order to listen to music streaming online?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Average monthly spending per subscriber</th>
<th>Do not listen to music streaming</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>€7–9</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>€7–9</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>€7–9</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>€7–9</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>€6–11</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Bain consumer survey (n=6,167)

Several signs point to the stabilization of the music industry as digital revenues are poised to overtake physical sales in most mature markets

New equilibriums are emerging for the industry: not only between recorded and live entertainment, but also between mass-market hits and independent and niche properties. While the former remain economic powerhouses, digital platforms and social networks are likely to foster a new breed of artists focused on smaller yet sizable communities of networked fans. Crowdsourcing platforms, such as My Major Company or Minimum Noise, could become an integral part of the music ecosystem, and an alternative source for majors always looking for new talent. The industry transformation thus goes beyond distribution, as artists and repertoire (A&R) activities fully integrate in the digital age.

Video: Connected devices at the center of a new digital era

Seven years since the birth of YouTube, tablets are changing the way consumers view video and ushering in the age of social TV. Half of French and German households now own an over-the-top video device, such as a console, set top box or tablet. As a result, nonlinear video now generates significant audiences as it meets the consumer’s need for abundance and customization. YouTube videos receive 4 billion views per day, accounting for nearly half of all videos watched online in the world in 2011. Several of its channels already generate audiences that can compete with cable TV, and its total reach during prime time is already double that of the three largest networks combined in the US. In October 2012, professional Austrian daredevil Felix Baumgartner not only broke the 52-year-old record for a free fall from the highest starting point ever, 128,100 feet, but had a record-setting 8 million-plus viewers tuned in online to the live event coverage on YouTube. The i-generation is becoming the mass market.
While some technologies that were heavily promoted have yet to deliver on their transformational promise—most notably 3D and connected TVs—some major new video platforms have emerged that were hardly anticipated. In particular, consider the rapid adoption of tablets (with 20% of adults in the US and 15% in France) and their heavy skew toward video. They are the new territory to conquer for the video industry. The rapidly growing importance of social networks in video choices and consumption represents another trend that was hardly anticipated a few years ago.

These new video devices and platforms are changing consumer behavior significantly. While 40% of consumers rely on television for their daily video consumption, 40% already use alternative devices—PCs, tablets or smartphones—as well. Half of tablet owners have stopped using television to watch certain types of content, be it news or fiction.

Half of tablet owners have stopped using television to watch certain types of content, be it news or fiction.

Social TV is challenging traditional one-to-many content marketing, inherited from analog broadcasting, with social and viral approaches. In the UK, Zeebox allows 1.5 million users to get information about their favorite programs or to see their friends’ comments on their second screen—a tablet or smartphone. Targeted advertising spots also appear on this second screen, contextually linked with those shown on the main screen, and display promotional offers or enable viewers to buy products seen on TV. In France, the new version of the M6 Replay tablet application directly includes social features, allowing users to share and discuss the programs they are watching with their friends and community. Consumer interest is high: Half of surveyed consumers in the US and Europe and two-thirds of those in BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) countries are interested in social video.

New forms of prime time will compete with TV: nonlinear video, video games, social networks

As they stimulate audience appetite for new formats, connected video devices and platforms could unleash the creative energy of content producers. Initiatives such as Condition One’s immersive video, which allows iPad and iPhone users to adjust their field of vision in real time within a recorded movie, is one of many innovation examples.

Yet consumer willingness to pay remains limited, requiring the advertising market to absorb the costs of these new experiences. With more than 60% of households owning at least one connected device by 2015, the very notion of mass audiences, on which the foundations of TV advertising have been built, could evolve. The trinity of prime-time economics—“watch live, watch together, watch regularly”—will become increasingly rare and valuable as audiences continue to fragment. At the same time, new forms of prime time will compete with TV for mass audiences and advertising money: not only nonlinear video, but also video games and social networks. For example, FarmVille, Zynga’s star Facebook game, attracted up to 30 million players per day at its peak.

The battle for aggregation between traditional publishers and networks, search engines and social networks is poised to intensify.
Books: The fragile promise of a value-creating migration

Seven years after the introduction of the first e-readers in the US, the digital migration of the book publishing industry hinges on uncertainties regarding value creation models in both Europe and the US.

The digital transition of book publishing has only really begun in the US and the UK. Several factors have hindered the e-book market in continental Europe and emerging countries, including lower e-reader penetration, consumer attachment to paper and healthier physical distribution networks. Yet purchasing intents suggest that the ongoing democratization of digital reading should continue, benefiting from rapidly declining device prices, especially in BRIC countries.

The digital transition of book publishing has only really begun in the US and the UK

As suggested by our 2010 study, “Publishing in the digital era,” distinct genres have migrated at different paces.

Fiction remains the primary e-book genre, with digital representing about 15% to 20% of the total market in the US and the UK. E-reader devices are primarily responsible for this distribution, as tablets are used mainly for Web browsing and video rather than reading e-books, limiting the momentum for color-heavier genres to date.

Since most readers continue to pay for e-books, the prospect of a value-creating migration lives on. This willingness should increase as content offerings expand, both in terms of catalog depth and product innovation, in particular for children’s and do-it-yourself books.

New distribution models taking advantage of book dematerialization are being tested—not only in partnerships between authors and digital platforms, but also in self-distribution. For instance, J.K. Rowling launched Pottermore, an exclusive digital publishing and distribution platform for the Harry Potter franchise. Likewise, self-publishing and crowdfunding websites are burgeoning around the world, allowing readers to decide for themselves whether a book is worth publishing. For example, Bibliocratie.fr allows readers to provide input on book prices. Unbound.co.uk offers content and product benefits to readers “investing” in a book. Bookly.fr even allows consumers to invest in the book they like and share future earnings with the author.

The fragile economic balance for publishers continues to depend on a sensitive regulatory framework on prices and VAT

Confronted with this profusion of models, publishers and distributors remain essential, although they face many challenges. Fragmentation of independent platforms illustrates the challenges of competing with global players such as Google and Amazon. The fragile economic balance for publishers, already highlighted by our 2010 study, continues to depend on a sensitive regulatory framework on prices and value-added tax (VAT), which will be closely scrutinized by regulators across the world.

Finally, consumer appetite for new multimedia, interactive and social formats primarily hinges on publisher innovation. Interesting products can already be found, especially in do-it-yourself, children’s and school books. The latter category likely represents the key to a real generational shift in e-book usage. Not insignificantly, Apple introduced the second version of its iBooks platform in January 2012, allowing the integration of interactive illustrations, 3D schematics, audio and video, with a clear focus on textbooks. Illustrated and school books could also represent an attractive test bed for new business models based on subscriptions and advertising. Our research finds that 70% of e-reading consumers in BRIC countries and 50% in Europe would be interested in economically attractive e-book subscription services.

Figure 2.5: E-books’ market share

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have you already read e-books?</th>
<th>E-books’ market share (2011, % of sales in value)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of e-books read per year</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Bain consumer survey (n=6,167); National publishers associations

Figure 2.6: Book genres most adapted to electronic reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Which book genres are you more likely to read in digital format instead of paper format?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature (new releases)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only e-books</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Best-selling books per genre (2012, top 50 Amazon.com)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature (new releases)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Literature includes fiction and non-fiction but not children’s or illustrated books
Sources: Bain consumer survey (n=6,167), Amazon
Video games: The transition of a digital-native industry

The supposedly “digital-native” video game industry, which has thrived on a platform of online consoles and massively multiplayer online games, is currently being shaken up by mobile, Web-centric and freemium models.

**Connected consoles will penetrate up to 30% of households by 2014**

Our consumer survey suggests that connected consoles will penetrate up to 30% of households by 2014. More importantly, the emergence of smartphones, tablets and social networks as gaming platforms has dramatically broadened and altered the industry’s user base. Today, titles such as Angry Birds and its billion downloads compete with traditional industry blockbusters for consumer attention.

**Casual gaming should benefit from democratization of new gaming devices**

Gamers who play on new and portable gaming devices spend more than one-third of their gaming time on casual games, mostly on social networks. Yet their willingness to pay on such platforms remains structurally lower—inducing a long-term shift toward lower-value and freemium models. In parallel, the next generation of consoles should revitalize the core gaming segment—at the cost, however, of ever-higher development budgets. Cloud gaming, promising to stream high-production value games on simple connected devices, such as TVs and smartphones, should further this trend, accelerating the obsolescence of physical distribution at the cost of heavy digital infrastructure. This model remains unproven today, as suggested by the financial troubles of
cloud-gaming pioneer OnLive and the recent buyout of Gaikai by historical industry leader Sony. Yet it is likely
to dramatically alter the established economic balance between hardware manufacturers, software publishers
and distributors.

Somewhere between independent casual wonders and billion-dollar blockbusters—worldwide sales of Modern
Warfare 3 took only 16 days to reach $1 billion, a day less than the 2009 blockbuster film Avatar took to reach
the same milestone—the industry faces an imperative to innovate. Recent growth markets, such as women and
seniors, may be reaching their limits already, as the recent decline of the family-friendly Nintendo Wii suggests.

In this context, ongoing market consolidation is likely to continue as traditional players adapt; for example,
consider EA’s acquisition of casual powerhouse PopCap in 2011. Publishers also have to develop new capabilities:
Community managers now work alongside developers and graphic designers, and writers integrate customer
feedback into creative choices as games shift to episodic content. More than ever, publishers need to invest in
ambitious content and brands to withstand market changes.

Creating value(s) in the digital age

From ubiquity to diversity: The road to economic recovery

Digital platforms not only increase the depth of content available to consumers but also stimulate their interest
in new experiences. Satisfying this appetite is a daunting challenge for content producers, as well as a major
opportunity for traditional publishers and digital platforms to become the curators of the digital chaos.

Combined with infrastructure improvements in emerging markets, the development of global content platforms
and social networks could facilitate exchanges among audiences and creators, fostering the transmission of
content and ideas across the world.

While our 2009 study anticipated a return to pre-crisis economic value levels by 2013, our latest forecast confirms
this recovery, with emerging markets as the driving force.

At the same time, growth dynamics between distribution and content aggregation have reversed since our 2009
study. While distribution, led by telecom and cable operators, was the clear winner of the first digital decade, we
expect its share of the total media value pool to begin receding as digital aggregation models ramp up. In seven
years, online has jumped from marginal to more than 20% of the industry’s profit pool.

Against such long-term trends, we see a pattern of cycles. In recorded music in the US, digital sales will soon
overtake physical ones, signaling the prospect of a return to growth. Meanwhile, the video game and book
industries, which have been largely spared by digital disruption to date, are beginning to experience what could
become structural changes. These are only a few examples of the media industry reacting to external, technology-
driven shocks through successive waves of adaptation and reinvention.
The rise of a creative middle ground

Recent history in television, music and box office suggests an ongoing rebalance between large blockbusters and niche content.

By lowering historical barriers to creation and distribution, digital platforms offer new opportunities to develop and deliver content to segmented audiences. Recent history in television, music and box office suggests an ongoing rebalance between large blockbusters and niche content, resulting in the emergence of a profitable middle ground in the content industry.

For example, the average box office sales of the top 10 movies in France decreased by 27% from 1998 to 2010, while box office sales for movies ranked 11 through 100 nearly doubled over the same period. A similar decline of blockbusters can be observed in recorded music, where top 10 album sales in the US fell by 60% in 10 years, much faster than the overall market. This ongoing shift can only be further reinforced by new distribution platforms and social communities, which have demonstrated their ability to deliver virally targeted content to mass audiences.
For this nascent trend to live up to its promise, the many stakeholders in the content ecosystem will have to take up several challenges.

**Commercial platforms**, confronted with the explosion of digital cultural products and services, and what it offers and demands, will continually have to reinvent business models that blend new consumer needs with creative innovation.

**Regulators** will face the demanding task of adapting legal frameworks to fast-paced innovation, both in terms of technology and business models.

And **artists**, while enjoying more creative resources than ever, will have to manage the daunting prospect of receiving direct, continuous audience feedback; develop their own marketing and social media skills as a complement to those from labels and other professionals; and face emerging competition from a wider range of talent.

Successfully and simultaneously addressing such imperatives represents a formidable challenge for the media industry, but bears the promise of an equally formidable prize. Make diversity its primary value creation engine for the next seven years.
Notes on methodology

Bain & Company conducted an online survey in July 2012 with a panel of 6,675 people over the age of 15, including 1,058 in France, 1,000 in the UK, 1,000 in the US, 1,004 in Germany, 735 in Russia, and 518 in Brazil, who are representative of national populations according to gender, age, and region.

Notes on exhibits

Time spent listening to music by source: Percent of surveyed people listening to music. Subscription for music streaming online: percent of people listening to music. Social networks as recommendation source for music: percent of people registered on a social network and listening to music. Tablet usage: percent of tablet owners; sum of the three main uses reported by respondents. Interest for new video experiences: percent of people watching videos. Willingness to pay or be exposed to advertising to access these experiences: percent of people watching videos interested by at least one new experience. E-payment penetration rate: percent of people having used at least one book (paper or electronic) over the last 12 months. Preferred book format: percent of people reading e-books. Device used to read e-books: percent of people reading e-books. Evolution of book consumption: percent of people reading e-books. Potential reasons to increase e-book consumption: percent of people reading e-books, main factor reported by respondents. Interest in an annual subscription in exchange for a price discount: percent of e-reader owners reading e-books and having read at least one book (paper or electronic) over the last 12 months. Interest for advertising exposure in exchange for a price discount: percent of e-reader owners reading e-books. Time spent playing video games by device: percent of people playing video games. Players using smartphones: people reporting at least 10% of their total gaming time on a smartphone. Players using tablets: people reporting at least 10% of their total gaming time on a tablet. Time spent playing video games on social networks: percent of people playing video games. Money spent on social networks: percent of people playing video games on social networks. Moka industry and GDP evolution by region: includes inflation, with constant exchange rates.

Notes on appendix

Tablet purchase intentions: percent of people not owning a tablet. Smartphone purchase intentions: percent of people not owning a smartphone. Online-enabled console purchase intentions: percent of people not owning an online-enabled console. Social networks as a source of recommendations for videos: percent of people registered on a social network and watching videos. Hours per day spent watching videos and consumption since ages: average among people watching videos. Social networks as a source of recommendations for books: percent of people registered on a social network and reading books. Consumption of books and e-books: average among respondents having read at least one book over the last 12 months. Thirst for e-book adoption: percent of people not reading e-books, main factor reported by respondents. Hours per day spent playing video games: average among people playing video games. Share of paid video games vs. free games and number of downloaded games per device: percent of people playing on each device.

External sources


Annexe : résultats de l’étude consommateurs

Appendix: survey results

Tableau d’équipement par pays 2012

Device penetration rates by country 2012

Taux d’équipement par pays 2012

Device penetration rates by country 2012

Inscription sur les réseaux sociaux personnels ou de microblogging

Registration on social networks/microblogging services

Intérêts d’achat de conseils de jeux connectés

Intent to purchase an online-enabled video game console

Intérêts d’achat de contenus de jeux connectés

Intent to purchase an online-enabled video game content

Sources: Bains consulting; Bains 2012 [1/2]; Source: Bain customer survey 2012 [1/2]

Inscription sur les réseaux sociaux personnels et de microblogging

Registration on social networks/microblogging services

Seven years: Age of reason? 2005–2012: Creating value(s) in the digital age  | Bain & Company, Inc.

Page 19
Les réseaux sociaux comme source de recommandation de jeux vidéo
Social networks as a source of recommendation for video games

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pays</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Allemagne</th>
<th>Chine</th>
<th>Inde</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>Russie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeux physiques</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeux téléchargés</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2009 vs 2012

Les réseaux sociaux comme source de recommandation de livres
Social networks as a source of recommendation for books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pays</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Allemagne</th>
<th>Chine</th>
<th>Inde</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>Russie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livres lus</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeux physiques</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2009 vs 2012

Freins à l’adoption des livres électroniques
Hurdles to e-book adoption

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>États-Unis, France, Allemagne, Inde, Brasil, Russie</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attachement au format papier</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports numériques trop chers</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital devices too expensive</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports numériques trop complexes</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital devices too complex</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic books too expensive</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lecture sur ecran trop fatigante</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pas encore eu l’occasion</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livres numériques trop chers</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : Enquête consommateurs Bain (n=6167)

2009 2012

Hours per day spent playing video games
Heures par jour passées à jouer à des jeux vidéos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>États-Unis, France, Allemagne, Inde, Brasil, Russie</th>
<th>Hommes</th>
<th>Femmes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>États-Unis, France, Allemagne, Inde, Brasil, Russie</td>
<td>2,4</td>
<td>1,9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : Enquête consommateurs Bain (n=6167) / Source: Bain consumer survey (n=6,167)