PQ Media: Consumer Digital Media Usage Pacing to Grow 12% in 2014; Growth in Traditional Usage Slows to 1%; Media Time Spent Globally Up 3%; US Digimedia Use Up 8%

Surging global demand from iGens, Millennials and GenXers for mobile video, social media and videogames; online video and books; and over-the-top (OTT) video will push up consumer digital media usage 12% in 2014 to 6.5 hours on average per week, according to the just-released PQ Media Global Consumer Media Usage & Exposure Forecast 2014-18.

STAMFORD, CT (PRWEB) November 19, 2014 -- Consumer digital media usage is on pace to grow 12.3% worldwide in 2014, driven by double-digit gains in time spent with all nine mobile media channels, three online media channels and the surging OTT segment, according to the new edition of PQ Media's annual KPI benchmark study covering time spent with digital, alternative and traditional media. Surging global demand from iGens, Millennials and GenXers for mobile video, social media and videogames; online video and books; and over-the-top (OTT) video will push up consumer digital media usage this year to an average of 6.5 hours per week worldwide, according to PQ's Global Consumer Media Usage & Exposure Forecast 2014-18.

PQ Media defines and segments consumer digital media usage consistently across all 15 leading global markets by three broad platform categories (internet media, mobile media, and other digital media) and 21 specific media channels, including online and mobile video, online and mobile social media, online, mobile and console videogames, and digital OTT video and digital out-of-home (DOOH) media.

Of the three digital media platforms, consumer mobile media usage worldwide rose the fastest in 2013, rising 24% during the year, while consumers spent the most time with internet media at 2.58 hours weekly. OTT video was the most used digital media channel. Meanwhile, traditional media usage inched up only 1.3% in 2013 to 37.99 hours per week, a slight deceleration from 2012. Combined, overall global consumer media consumption grew 2.8% to 6 Hours, 15 minutes and 17 seconds daily.

“Surging OTT usage has spurred diverse reaction among Pay TV providers, as they unleashed new VOD service upgrades, made more content available via VOD faster, and are driving a new wave DVR services, particularly in Europe,” said Patrick Quinn, CEO, PQ Media. "Further, several key announcements in 4Q14 assured that just as 2013 and the first half of 2014 were all about mobile, OTT has become the media darling in 2H14, as HBO's big move to offer a standalone subscription-based streaming video service has set the tone for more impactful news across the on-demand front in 2015."

Other major trends driving digital media usage:

--With the increase in smartphone and tablet penetration, internet usage has begun to exhibit decelerating growth as consumers access sites via their wireless devices;

--Despite major revenue gains by leading social media sites like Facebook, a transition is taking place as younger subscribers prefer to connect with friends on newer websites, such as SnapChat, Vine and market-specific sites.

--Videogame usage rose with the release of the Xbox One and PlayStation4, both on consoles and the digital
extensions of the popular titles;

--Consumer exposure to DOOH continues to rise, propelled by networks expanding into new venues and locations, and even-year sporting events generating higher engagement with DOOH screens providing the latest results.

Looking at demographics, the study found that GenX led all other age groupings with an average of 7.4 hours of digital media consumption, which may seem odd, given that Millennials are considered the most avid mobile and social media users. PQ Media noted the ranking is skewed by the BRIC countries, where older, wealthier people are more able to afford expensive digital media devices. Furthermore, iGens have the highest share of total digital media use worldwide at 18.3%, fueled by their affinity for gaming across online, mobile and console platforms.

From a market perspective, the United Kingdom ranked first in digital media usage at 16.9 hours per week, followed by South Korea, Australia, Canada and the US. Several commonalities exist among these markets: broadband penetration rates exceeding 70%; over 50% smartphone penetration; growing demand for computer tablets; young men who are heavy console gamers; a range of OTT video devices and services; and advanced DOOH operators and signage deployments. But low penetration rates in emerging markets have translated into governments scrambling to invest in technology upgrades, some of which were linked to the 2014 sporting events, fueling the fastest growth rates for digital media usage in 2013, led by Brazil at a 21.1% gain, followed by Russia and India.

Going forward, consumer digital media usage is forecast to grow at a 10.6% CAGR worldwide in the 2014-18 period, reaching 9.6 hours per week in 2018, and accounting for 19.5% of all media consumption worldwide. Online media will remain the most often used digital media platform at a weekly average of 3.6 hours in 2018, while mobile media will remain the fastest growing digital platform, climbing at a 17% CAGR through 2018.

GenX will remain the largest users of digital media in 2018 at 12.1 hours a week, while digital media engagement among iGens will represent 31.6% of their total media consumption in 2018. In some countries, such as Australia, the iGens will use digital media more than traditional media. The UK will remain the market in which consumers use digital media the most at 25.6 hours weekly.

About the Forecast: The Global Consumer Media Usage & Exposure Forecast 2014-18 is the updated and enhanced edition delivering media consumption data spanning the 2008 through 2018 period. Included are exclusive analysis, rankings and forecasts of media consumption per week, related growth data, and exclusive market insights and rankings by region, country, platform and cultural generation (e.g., Millennials, GenX). Global and market-specific data cover all four major regions, provide deep drill-downs into the Top 15 Global Markets, including the US, and sizes, gauges growth, and projects key challenges and opportunities on the horizon by media sector, platform and channel.

About PQ Media: PQ Media is a leading provider of econometric-based data and strategic insights to top executives in the global media, entertainment & technology industries. PQ Media employs a proprietary methodology to provide its clients with custom & syndicated competitive intelligence via actionable data, intelligent reports and on-demand consults to equip management teams with the strategic intelligence they need to make smarter, faster business decisions. The PQ Medianomics™ system is driven by PQ's proprietary databases, algorithms, and
exclusive opinion leader panels to track, analyze & forecast operator revenues, consumer media usage, and consumer spending on media content, access & technology.
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