



**British Journal of Economics, Management & Trade**  
16(2): 1-9, 2017; Article no.BJEMT.31247  
ISSN: 2278-098X



SCIECEDOMAIN international  
[www.sciencedomain.org](http://www.sciencedomain.org)

# Proactive Communication Mode (PMC) of Zappos: The Success of Consumer Engagement

Abdullah Alhidari<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Marketing, College of Business Administration, King Saud University, P.O.Box 71115,  
Riyadh 11587, Saudi Arabia.

## Author's contribution

The sole author designed, analyzed and interpreted and prepared the manuscript.

## Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/BJEMT/2017/31247

### Editor(s):

(1) O. Felix Ayadi, Interim Associate Dean and JP Morgan Chase Professor of Finance, Jesse H. Jones School of Business,  
Texas Southern University, TX, USA.

### Reviewers:

(1) Mohd Nazri Mohd Noor, Multimedia University, Melaka, Malaysia.

(2) José L. Calvo, UNED, Spain.

(3) Muhammad Awais Bhatti, King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia.

Complete Peer review History: <http://www.sciencedomain.org/review-history/17691>

Short Research Article

Received 28<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Accepted 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Published 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

## ABSTRACT

The internet is filled with successful stories that inspire others to work hard. Zappos build a strong brand based on proactive communication. Zappos is a success story not just because of the financial gain, but also because the proactive communication model (PMC) the company used. The proactive communication model refers to the degree of which employees anticipate the consumers' needs and desires. We emphasize the importance of consumer engagement on that communication model and how this model helped the brand to success. The brand starts the communication process from the time when the company chooses the employees. We propose the flow of the PCM at the end. For the current study, the critics of the brand strategy, conclusions, and implications will be under discussion.

*Keywords: Zappos; brand; communication; brand building; customer engagement.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The turning point for Zappos – an online retail shop - was when the brand decided to go beyond

selling shoes to create consumers' engagement happiness to consumers and employees. The name started with Nick Swinmurn in 1999 after trying to find a pair of shoes in several stores. He

\*Corresponding author: E-mail: [abdullah.alhidari@gmail.com](mailto:abdullah.alhidari@gmail.com);  
Communication ID: [haseebullah5@gmail.com](mailto:haseebullah5@gmail.com);

believed that the internet is the solution for finding the right shoes in the market at the right price. Moreover, around the same time Tony Hsieh – an American internet entrepreneur- and Alfred Lin – an American venture capitalist -sold Link Exchange, ad-banner business, to Microsoft for \$265 million. They join Zappos in 2000 as co-CEO and CFO [1]. The idea of Hsieh is to build a happy culture and proactive communication in the company. Moreover, he wanted to create an environment that could be a success in today's competitive market. The two entrepreneurs want to build a new concept of retailing. The company brand evolved in 2009 from "personal emotional connection" to "delivering happiness" [2]. Zappos went beyond marketing brands to sell happiness by creating proactive communication. The company builds the brand which depends on e-commerce, social commerce, and proactive communication.

Brand's lifecycle and a good relationship with consumers' depend on communication. The Proactive Communication Model (PCM) helps the company to understand consumers and employees. In general, there are two types of communication: passive and proactive communication. Further, the proactive communication provides relevant information to consumers based on the anticipated needs of the consumers [3]. Also, the ability to anticipate information needs of consumers is highly important [4]. This type of communication may provide more information than what consumers asked. Whereas, passive communication refers to provide a reply to the question the consumers ask [3]. Therefore, consumers used to be passive when they interact with employees and brands. However, consumers are expected to engage more with the brands than ever before as the technology advanced [5].

Brand engagement refers to the level of an individual customer's motivation, cognitive and behavioral activity in brand interaction [6]. Consumer brand engagement is the core concept of PCM because engagement can be seen as the repeat interactions and communication with a brand that provide strengthen the emotional, physical, and psychological of consumers [5]. Also, engagement is a prospect's interactive with the marketing communications to predict the sales effects. The brand engagement refers to the interaction between the brand and the consumers. Consumers' engagement goes beyond the managing different marketing

channels to motivate the consumers to invest into the relationship with the brand [7]. Engagement is referring to the relational resources (e.g. trust) are optimized within the virtual social networks. The resources motivate consumers to share information to reduce uncertainty, gain insights and obtain services [8]. Several studies in the past emphasize the critical environment of engagement experience in the virtual environment [9].

The online engagement can be defined as cognitive and affects commitment to an active relationship with a brand [5]. As noted above, Zappos is engaging the consumers into the brand by personalizing the brand via proactive communication.

Therefore, this study will examine the success factors of Zappos emphasizing on how the company succeeds in building the brand engagement via proactive communication. For the current study, there will be few theories to criticize and analysis Zappos brand strategies. The author of the present study also uses consumer engagement and e-WOM to explain the consumers' behavior regarding the brand. The significance of this study is to propose Proactive Communication Model (PCM) and to highlight the hidden side of Zappos success story.

This study has three essential goals, first: to examine the success factors of Zappos emphasizing on how the company succeeds in building the brand engagement via proactive communication. Second: and to explain the consumers' behavior regarding the brand. Third: criticize and analyze the Zappos brand strategies. For the present study, the author has used few theories of consumer engagement and e-WOM to accomplish the study goals. Finally, this study proposing the Proactive Communication Model (PCM) and highlighting the hidden side of Zappos success story.

## 2. SUCCESS FACTORS OF ZAPPOS

In 2000, the internet bubble was the end of many companies [20]. During that times [2] tried everything possible to ensure Zappos survival, and [2] did make it survive. [2] focused on costumes, and [2] commented: "We realized that the biggest vision would be to build the Zappos brand to be about the very best consumer service" [2]. [2] truly believed that creating a culture inside the company would lead to building

the brand to be the very best in consumer service by its own. The company co-created with their employees the core values. In 2006, they listed ten core values as follows: 1. Deliver WOW through Consumer Service; 2. Embrace and Drive Change; 3. Create Fun and a Little Weirdness; 4. Be Adventurous, Creative and Open-minded; 5. Pursue Growth and Learning; 6. Build Open and Honest Relationships with Communication; 7. Build a Positive Team and Family Spirit; 8. Do More with Less; 9. Be Passionate and Determined; and 10. Be Humble [2].

Zappos has a unique culture, and the company hires unique employees to maintain that culture. For example, the job interview included funny quizzes, personality/fit questions, and crossword puzzles that focused on Zappos' business. Also, each employee has to start from the Consumer Loyalty Team (C.L.T) regardless of his/her role in the future to build a strong PCM. They spent at least two weeks talking to consumers on the phone to understand their needs and desires. Moreover, the top management needs their employees to communicate and understand the consumers' requests. The call center in the company was the starting point for everyone.

In 2007, [2] read many books about happiness including "Happiness Hypothesis" by Jonathan Haidt and invited the author for a training course on the topic. "Science of Happiness101" was one of the most popular classes in the training program. Moreover, the concept of happiness in the company does not evolve around [2]. Further, explains "For any company, movement, religion or whatever, if there's one person that personifies it, then that puts that company or vision at risk, that's why it needs to be about a movement, not about a person or even a specific company." Alexandra Jacobs, [1]. Thus, Zappos wants to communicate happiness to consumers. The company brand evolved in 2009 from "personal emotional connection" to "delivering happiness" [2]. The company went beyond marketing mix (product, price, promotion, place) to promote the idea of happiness among employees and customers. So, [2] wants to deliver happiness beyond Zappos doors, and wrote a book about happiness and named it "Delivering Happiness." In the late 2000s, companies started to contact Zappos to learn how to apply happiness in their environment. Therefore, the concept that [2] applied to the brand went beyond business to touch the consumers' life [2].

The core value number is "6": build an open and honest relationship with communication. Also, all employees start from CLT to understand and communicate with their consumers. The company has unique consumer service and communication model. For example, consumers have 365 returning policy, free shipping both ways, 24/7 consumer services, toll-free phone number, and assistance in reaching competitors if the company could not satisfy the request [2]. As the company grew, the happiness culture became more important. Also, seventy-five percent of Zappos sales are from repeat consumers, and they ordered 2.5 times the amount that new consumers ordered in 12 months [2].

## **2.1 Facilitating the Proactive Communication Model with SNS (Social Network Sites)**

The emergence of social media has spurred the growth of electronic word-of-mouth communication (e-WOM). Consumers, especially the younger generations, are spending an unprecedented amount of time online. Therefore, the online environment has become an important channel of communication, gaining prominence in the recent years. The companies are using new concepts and different strategies for the advantages and to built a strong brand. For instance, e-commerce market has high competition and many companies want to get a market share of that market. For example, Facebook, the online social networking application, has more than 175 million active users-as of January 2009- and every minute, ten hours of video content uploaded to YouTube [10].

Zappos depend on social commerce, social communication and social networking sites (SNS). SNS is changing the online market in which consumers can be more involved and proactive [11]. Many companies offer their products through social commerce which allow the product and the consumers to connect through Facebook, Twitter, etc. The social commerce can be defined as "the use of social technologies to connect, listen, understand, and engage in improving the shopping experience" [12]. SNS and social commerce have transformed the shopping experience and provide shoppers a platform to advocate for their favorite product or service. For example, a recent study revealed that 62% of the US consumers read consumers reviews and 80% of these

consumers said that these studies had affected their buying intention [13]. Also, among the top 100 companies 79% has a Facebook page, 69% Twitter, and 59% have both [14]. Moreover, 47% of the consumers said they would visit SNS to search for and discuss holiday gift ideas, and 29% of them stated that they would buy the product there in a survey conducted by American Marketing Association [15].

From the previous studies, it can be suggested that SNS users are not familiar with purchasing through these mediums. For example, Facebook users are not familiar with buying products on Facebook. They see the product, like it and recommend it to friends. However, companies' strategy is to direct consumers to their website where they can make the transaction. Moreover, according to [16], internet users spend more time on Facebook than they spend on Google, Yahoo, YouTube, Wikipedia and Amazon combined. Also, [16] mentioned that 33 percent of Facebook users are a fan of a brand, and 60 percent of these consumers are more likely to purchase or recommend to a friend after "liking" the product. A recent report found that 60% of all retailer sales in the US will involve the web by 2017 [17]. The total online retail sales will reach 370\$ billion (10% of the total retail sales 3.6\$ trillion) by the end of 2017 [18].

These days' the companies are paying more attention to advertising and to communicate with consumers online. However, consumers opt out several messages because they are not interested or bombarded by messages [19]. Focusing on consumers who are most likely to listen to messages online would improve the communication effectiveness. Distinctive messages can be distributed to have the maximum impact.

### **2.1.1 Call center**

Zappos did not use fancy and expensive tools to create and build their brand. The company used the call center as a strategic branding tool [20]. Also, call center helped the company to serve the consumers and to spread word-of-mouth. For example, Zappos fielded 5,000 to 6,000 calls a day. Also, their policies are not scripted, and calls have no time limit [i.e. 5 hours' record] [2]. Suggested "our best branding tool, as unsexy and low-tech as it may sound, it telephone. And if we get that interaction right,

it's something they remember, maybe for the rest of their life, and tell their friends and family [21]. As mentioned earlier, the new employees would spend two weeks at the call center to understand the brand and to know how to respond to different situations. Therefore, Zappos is using the call center to build the brand.

### **2.1.2 Twitter**

Twitter helped Zappos to connect with consumers and employees. The company launched Twitter accounts (@zappos/employees) and followed all staffs that have a Twitter account. Also, the company wants to get closer to consumers. When clients follow employees on Twitter, that increases the time consumers spent with the brand. Moreover, people felt a personal connection with Zappos through Twitter. In 2010, 499 employees were using Twitter and 1.6 million people were following [2] account. The company went the extra mile and created a website called Twitter.Zappos.com where people can look at Tweets and browse through them. The company policy in blogging and micro-blogging is to use the best judgments, meet the standard of behavior [2]. The company does not care about employees' negative comments; the company wants to know the complaints and to address them. Any employee in the company can post a tweet. This technique empowers the employees to communicate with consumers and give them the freedom to tweet and spread e-WOM on Twitter. Thus, this proactive communication channel allows consumers to observe the company's internal environment. Also, Twitter gives the consumer look at the company's ethics and humanizes the brand as well. Therefore, Zappos utilizes Twitter and empowers their employees to communicate with consumers.

### **2.1.3 Videos**

The company used blogs and other methods to broadcast videos about the company from inside to humanize the brand and to make it a tangible brand. The first few videos were to answer questions about the life at Zappos. The company has now 187 videos that been viewed two million times [22]. These videos were blowout among consumers and non-consumers. Also, the videos show the employees answering the calls and fulfilling orders. Moreover, consumers can see the employees' work, answer phone calls and enjoy the time to work day and night.

Consumers can also learn more about from where they buy the product and how employees handle the phone calls. Thus, the videos are windows into the internet company's work environment.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

In this study, we used qualitative techniques to have a uniformed model of marketing communication. We reviewed previous literature, visited the company website, read company publications, and interview experts in communications to understand Zappos proactive communication model and how does it work. The researcher is filling the gap in the literature about the proactive communication in successful companies. Next, we are presenting the propositions of the communication model.

#### 3.1 Zappo's Proactive Communication Model (PCM)

There is no precise definition of proactive communication [5]. The researcher defines the proactive communication as the communication process that anticipates the consumers' needs and desires. Zappos uses internal and external methods to communicate with their consumers proactively.

*Proposition 1: Internal method: Zappos recruit high skilled employees and have fun, productive environment, and clear reward programs.*

Zappos has exceptional ways to build their brand name. The CEO, Tony Hsieh, is trying to build the brand inside and outside the company. Zappos starts hiring from inside the right employees, who's suitable for the job requirements. For example, one of the questions in the interview is "do you consider yourself lucky?" If the answer is no, the employee might not get the job because that sort of question determines the person happiness in his personal life. Then, Zappos give the employees the appropriate training for the job. Employees are answering consumers' phone calls for two-four weeks' even if the job does not require working answering phone calls. The aim of this training is to understand the business and get the core value of Zappos. At the end of the training, the employees are giving the opportunity to leave the job and get \$2000 to show how much the employees are enthusiastic about the job. After

that training, the employees have the freedom to be on SNS such as Twitter and they have to maintain their behavior and what they write. They should use their best judgment as directed [1]. Thus, the company starts from inside before they go beyond that.

The employees have free food and recreation center inside the company's campus to provide the best environment for the employees. It is a dream for many people to work in that environment. Consumers can see and engage in that great environment through the videos that have been posted on Zappos channel and the employees Twitter accounts [22]. Consumers can comment on the videos and re-tweet and reply to employees' tweets. Moreover, these videos and tweets attract consumers to visit the channels, and that would create a sense of community among consumers [23]. Zappos want consumers to come back not only to see the new products offering but also to see the newest videos and tweets about Zappos. The company wants to allow consumers to feel emotionally connected with the brand [24]. Thus, Zappos utilized the work environment to build the brand.

Zappos has many different programs for employees to grow and to reward. All of the programs that Zappos offers are compelling to the employees. For instance, the most taken course is "Science of Happiness 101". The goal of this course is to deliver the WOW factor to the consumers. The success of Zappos to build the brand is to make the consumers come back after purchase. Zappos, as mentioned earlier, does not manufacture any product" yet, but the services they deliver exceed the consumer expectations. For example, repeat consumers had higher average orders than the new consumers in the 12 months following a purchase [1]. Also, managers are required to spend ten-twenty percent of their time hanging out with their team members to recognize the problems early and react quickly. All these factors help consumers to get the optimal experience and to go beyond consumers' expectations because of the interact with skilled employees [2].

*Proposition 2: Outside method: Zappos is building the brand through delivering the highest consumers experience.*

Consumers experience products in Zappos risk-free by offering free shipping both ways and 356 days' refunds. Zappos wants to reach

consumers at their convenience time, and they provide 24/7 consumer service. Moreover, Zappos does not manufacture any of their products yet. However, they deliver the highest consumer service, and that drive many consumers to switch from their local store in the corner to Zappos. Most of the consumers can find the same products at different offline and online store at bargain prices, but they choose Zappos for the experience. Therefore, Zappos differentiates itself with the level of experience, communication and the service they provide.

[25] specified six dimensions of "experience rooms": physical artifacts, intangible artifacts, technology, consumer placement, consumer involvement, and interaction with employees. [25] Defined consumers experience as the consumer's interpretation of their experience with the brand. Zappos want to co-create consumer experience by engaging them everyday workday. Physical artifacts exist when the company has physical signs and symbols necessary to create the experience. Zappos website and the logo can be physical artifacts. The second dimension is intangible artifacts. This aspect includes brand reputation, mental image, and norms. They lead consumers to have a positive feeling towards the brand. If we apply this concept to Zappos, they are building happiness culture as their intangible artifacts. The third dimension is technology, and it refers to the technological methods and tools for consumers to interact. In this dimension, Zappos has features for consumers to have the optimal experience. For example, consumers can watch a video for the product in the movie, and also they have appropriate measures for shoes to ensure consumers get the right size. Consumers' placement is the fourth dimension in this model, and it means how consumers are positioned in the brand. Consumers' placements related to the presence of consumers around the brand. For example, Zappos is presenting actual consumers in their Twitter account and YouTube videos to increase consumers' placement. The fifth dimension is consumer's involvement, and it refers to the interaction between the consumer, stimulus, and situation. For example, Zappos is showing consumers reviews and comments to increase consumer's placement. The last dimension is interaction with employees which might affect the brand reputation. They empower consumers to have the highest interaction with the employees via social network sites. Thus, all of these dimensions make the proactive communication stronger.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

This study attempts to increase our understanding of proactive communication and consumer experience. The results of this study indicate Zappos communication process and how that process enhance consumers experience. Further, PCM can occur in a different setting when consumers search, evaluate, consume and dispose the product. In this study, the researcher has analysis consumers' proactive communication with Zappos. The researcher draws his analysis from prior research such as brand experience [26] and dimensions of experience [25]. Also, the researcher looked at electronic word-of-mouth (e-WOM) [19] model to critically evaluate the brand. All these concepts helped Zappos empower consumers to co-create value and experience.

Zappos brand not only creates communication between consumers and employees, but also it promotes this culture outside its doors. Zappos built a strong brand with proactive communication. One of the core values of Zappos is: to build open and honest relationships with communication [1]. The CEO added that they increase efficiency by increasing communication, building trust, and creating friendships [1]. These communication elements enhance consumers' value and exercise. Moreover, the company formulates their consumers experience on proactive communication.

The PCM model depict the proactive communication between inside and outside the company. For example, the model shows how the CEO and the top management communicate with consumers through social media using their best judgment. This fast and proactive communication make consumers closer to the brand (e.g., Zappos) and its products. Consumers may use this communication process in their buying process which eventually enhance their value and experience.

Zappos transfers the PCM to advertise the brand. It is an inexpensive and efficient way to promote the brand. That is why all the employees have to know basic skills in communicating with all consumers. Many past studies discuss happy culture and found a lack in research where the studies emphasized the importance of the brand's communication model. The researcher argues that Zappos built their brand experience

on happiness and communication as well. The researcher thinks that communication mediums such as Twitter, YouTube, and call center help consumers to engage with their brand. These different mediums capture different dimensions of the consumers' life and can use multiple mediums to increase their engagement.

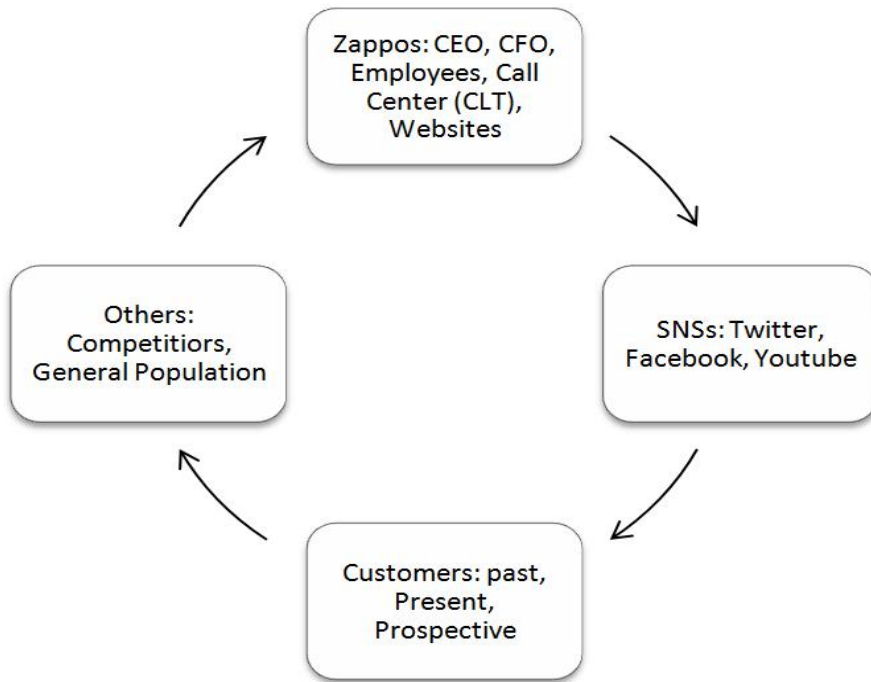
**5. IMPLICATIONS**

The results of this study have several theoretical and managerial implications. The PCM model could be applied to companies who work in the complicated environment. The communication process is an essential part of the company's success. Managers have to build a strategy for their communication with their employees and customers inside the company. Also, managers have to build another strategy to communicate with consumers. These both strategies have to be aligned with each other and support the PCM.

This study extends our understanding of brand experience [26] and dimensions of experience [25]. The PCM model proposes the underlying mechanism of the brand experience. Also, the

model shows the process of proactive communication that consumers experience and how that experience leads to brand success. To the best of our knowledge, this study is one of few studies linking the success of proactive communication. Although communication has been reviewed in the past literature, the proactive communication is a unique and gives us more critical look in terms of consumer experience.

The researcher also argues that the communication does not usually start from the company as the traditional communication model proposes [27]. The researcher thinks that the proactive communication could start at any point and from the consumers as well as the employees. Also, the direction of that communication is not uni-dimensional, it is multidimensional. Fig. 1 might give a clear view of how this model works. The communication in this model does not start from top to bottom or from one point to another. It could start from any point and feedback is embedded in the process. In this model, there is noise as it was introduced in the traditional model. However, due to consumers' high engagement, the sound is less effective.



**Fig. 1. Proactive communication model (PCM)**

## 6. CONCLUSION

PCM can be duplicated with other company and with other industry. Zappos created many points of contact rather single contact which decreases the time to response to the consumers and creates a variety of responses. For example, if a consumer sends a question through Twitter, one tweet from an employee answer part of the question and another tweet from another employee give the consumer beyond his question. The employees are anticipating the consumer's needs to achieve the proactive communication. The answer not always from the employee, consumers can answer the question too, because it is in public domain and anyone can answer the question. As the researcher mentioned above the consumer's experience, which can be defined as the consumer's interpretation of their experience with the brand [25]. The brand experience could be shaped based on this communication process [28].

It is crucial for online brands to be humanized and live as human being. Being human that means the brand has to have personality and consumers view the brand based on that personality. Brand personality can be defined as "the set of human characteristics associated with the brand" [29]. PCM process could build and shape the brand characteristics. The consumers can see, hear and communicate with the brand in two ways directions. They know, they can rely on one Zappos because there will be someone to answer their questions 24/7. Also, they can watch what is going on inside the brand by looking at a couple of streaming the videos on YouTube. [30] explain that virtual consumption fit nomadic characteristics people and enable global consumers to gain access to products and services without transport. Thus, the consumers can see the brand as a person as they see themselves in the online world.

While the present study contributes to the emerging body of literature on online communication and buying behavior, this study is not without limitations. The author reviewed one case, and in future research, the researcher would include more brands. The researcher believes there are many brands and companies who are trying to imitate that model, but there are not visible as Zappos. It will be suggested for the future research, to know brands and stores who imitate their model and replicated this model. As the researcher mentioned above, there are

many companies contacted Zappos in late 2000 to learn about the happiness model, and the researcher believes there are other brands who are copying the communication model.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author extends his appreciation to the Deanship of Scientific Research at King Saud University, for financing the study through the Research Center of College of Business Administration.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

Author has declared that no competing interests exist.

## REFERENCES

1. Stanford. Zappos: Happiness in a box; 2010. Available:<http://faculty-gsb.stanford.edu/aaker/pages/documents/100823zappos.pdf>
2. Hsieh T. (Producer). (2009, 11/01/2013). "Delivering Happiness," presentation at SXSW interactive. Hsieh T, (Ed.). Delivering happiness; 2010. Available:<http://www.slideshare.net/hein2006/zappos-tony-hsieh-3580169>
3. Kamali K, Fan X, Yen J. Towards a theory for multiparty proactive communication in agent teams. [Article]. International Journal of Cooperative Information Systems. 2007;16(2):271-298.
4. Zhang Y, Iloerger TR, Volz RA. Decision-theoretic proactive communication in multiagent teamwork. Paper presented at the Systems, Man and Cybernetics, IEEE International Conference; 2005.
5. Mollen A, Wilson H. Engagement, telepresence and interactivity in online consumer experience: Reconciling scholastic and managerial perspectives. Journal of Business Research. 2010;63(9): 919-925.
6. Hollebeek LD. Demystifying consumer brand engagement: Exploring the loyalty nexus. Journal of marketing management. 2011;27(7-8):785-807.
7. French T, LaBerge L, Magill P. Five 'no regrets' moves for superior consumer engagement; 2012.



- Available:<http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/marketing-sales/five-no-regrets-moves-for-superior-customer-engagement>
8. Mathwick C, Wiertz C, De Ruyter K. Social capital production in a virtual P3 community. *Journal of Consumer Research*. 2008;34(6):832-849.
  9. Wasko MM, Faraj S. Why should I share? Examining social capital and knowledge contribution in electronic networks of practice. *MIS Quarterly*. 2005;35-57.
  10. Kaplan AM, Haenlein M. Users of the world, unite! The challenges and opportunities of social media. *Business Horizons*. 2010;53(1):59-68.
  11. Alhidari A, Iyer P, Paswan A. Personal level antecedents of eWOM and purchase intention, on social networking sites. *Journal of Consumer Behaviour*. 2015;14(2):107-125.
  12. Cecere I. Rise of social commerce: A trail guide for the social commerce pioneer; 2010.  
Available:<http://www.altimetergroup.com/research/reports/rise-of-social-commerce>
  13. Pookulangara S, Koesler K. Cultural influence on consumers' usage of social networks and its' impact on online purchase intentions. *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services*. 2011;18(4):348-354.
  14. eMarketer. What's in a retail E-mail; 2009.  
Available:<http://www.emarketer.com/Article/Whats-Retail-E-Mail/1007294>
  15. Horovitz B. Survey: Social-network sites could also lure shoppers; 2006.  
Available:[http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/tech/news/2006-11-23-socla-l-shopping\\_x.htm](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/tech/news/2006-11-23-socla-l-shopping_x.htm)
  16. Harris L, Dennis C. Engaging consumers on Facebook: Challenges for e-retailers. [Article]. *Journal of Consumer Behaviour*. 2011;10(6):338-346.  
DOI: 10.1002/cb.375
  17. Dusto A. 60% of U.S. retail sales will involve the web by 2017; 2013.  
Available:<https://www.internetretailer.com/2013/10/30/60-us-retail-sales-will-involve-web-2017>
  18. Cheah I, Phau I. Attitudes towards environmentally friendly products. *Marketing Intelligence & Planning*. 2011;29(5):452-472.
  19. Kelly L, Kerr G, Drennan J. Avoidance of advertising in social networking sites: The teenage perspective. *Journal of Interactive Advertising*. 2010;10(2):16-27.
  20. Burmann C, König V. Does internal brand management really drive brand commitment in shared-service call centers? *Journal of Brand Management*. 2011;18(6):374-393.
  21. Steinert-Threlkeld T. (Producer). (2009, 11/01/2013). Following Zappos.com. Retrieved from Following Zappos.com
  22. Zappos (Producer). (2010, 11/01/2013). Inside Zappos Channel.  
Available:[www.youtube.com/insidezappos](http://www.youtube.com/insidezappos)
  23. Mudambi SM, Schuff D. What makes a helpful online review? A study of consumer reviews on Amazon.com. *MIS Quarterly*. 2010;34(1):185-200.
  24. Singer D, Aaker J, Smith A. The power of storytelling: What nonprofits can teach the private sector about social media. *McKinsey Quarterly*; 2011.
  25. Edvardsson B, Enquist B, Johnston R. Design dimensions of experience rooms for service test drives: Case studies in several service contexts. *Managing Service Quality*. 2010;20(4):312-327.
  26. Jořsko Brakus J, Bernd H, Schmitt, Lia Zarantonello. Brand experience:What is it? How is it measured? Does it affect loyalty? *Journal of Marketing*. 2009;73:52-68.
  27. Berlo DK. The process of communication: An introduction to theory and practice; 1960.
  28. Steuer J. Defining virtual reality: Dimensions determining telepresence. *Journal of Communication*. 1992;42(4):73-93.
  29. Aaker JL. Dimensions of brand personality. *Journal of Marketing Research*. 1997;34:7-356.
  30. Bardhi F, Eckhardt GM, Arnould EJ. Liquid relationship to possessions. *Journal of Consumer Research*. 2012;39(3):510-529.

© 2017 Alhidari; This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

*Peer-review history:*  
*The peer review history for this paper can be accessed here:*  
<http://sciencedomain.org/review-history/17691>