A STUDY TO MEASURE AND DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PERCEPTION TOWARDS THE SABAH INFORMATION DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE AND IT'S SERVICES

SITI MARIAM BT. AZIZ RASHID 2000561232

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (HONS) MARKETING FACULTY OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA KOTA KINABALU

APRIL 2008

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Undeniably, this research paper is the most challenging stage in completing the BBA (Marketing)(Hons) course. No study could be satisfactory completed without the assistance of others. Therefore, a simple *thank you* would not suffice in conveying the deepness of my gratitude to the persons involved in the completion of this research either directly or indirectly through out the course of this study.

First and foremost, Syukur Alhamdullillah to Allah the Almighty for his consent to get me through this stage. I wish to express my deepest appreciation to my advisor Encik Marcus bin Jabar, a full-time lecturer of MARA University of Technology, Sabah Branch, for his time and efforts and not to mention patience and understanding.....thank you for your guidance, comments and advises.

Special appreciation is also extended to Tuan Haji Azizan Haji Din, Director of Information Department, Sabah who have granted permission to conduct this research at the Department's Public Information Centre – also known as Pusat Maklumat Rakyat. Special thanks and deepest appreciation to Puan Irene Lim , Head of Pusat Maklumat Rakyat, Kota Kinabalu Branch, who have extended her utmost cooperation and permission for data collection at the centre. Also deepest gratitude to the staff of Pusat Maklumat Rakyat for their kindness in providing vital information and assistance throughout the period of this study and for helping the researcher in ensuring that questionnaires distributed are completed as required. I would also like to thank all the respondents for their cooperation, participation and support in this study. To my friends and families who have rendered assistance in one way or another, a special thanks to them too.

iv

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	iv
List of Tables	vi
List of Figures	vii
List of Definition of Terms	viii
Abstract	ix

CHAPTERS

1.	INTR	INTRODUCTION			
	1.1	Overview	1		
	1.2	Information Department of Malaysia	2		
	1.3	Background and the scope of study	4		
	1.4	Problem statement	5		
	1.5	Objectives of the research	5		
	1.6	Significance of study	6		
	1.7	Limitations of study	7		
	1.8	Definitions of terms	9		
2.	LITERATURE REVIEW				
	2.1	Concept of PMR	11		
	2.2	Sectored States of a structure and a sector added	12		
	2.3	Awareness defined	13		
	2.4	The concept of perception	14		
3.	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY				
	3.1	Data Collection	16		
		3.1.1 Secondary Data			
		3.1.2 Primary Data			
	3.2	Target population and the sample size	16		
	3.3	Methods for data collection	17		
	3.4	Data analysis and interpretation	17		
4.	ANA	LYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA			
	4.1	Frequency distribution	18		
	4.2	Cross tabulation analysis	33		
5.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS				
	5.1	Conclusions	39		
	5.2		40		
	5.3	Suggestions from respondents	42		

PAGE

List of Tables

Table		Page
Frequen	cy Distribution	
4.1.1	Respondent variables by profile	18
4.1.2	Respondent variables by age group	19
4.1.3	Respondent variables by ethnic group	20
4.1.4	Respondent variables by academic background	21
4.1.5	Respondent variables by profession	22
4.1.6	Respondent variables by income group	23
4.1.7	Respondent variables by product/services awareness	24
4.1.8	Respondent variables by PMR role and function awareness	25
4.1.9	Respondent variables by frequency of visits (week)	26
4.1.10	Respondent variables by utilization of products/services	27
4.1.11	Respondent variables by effectiveness as a one-stop information centre	28
4.1.12	Respondent variables by information status	29
4.1.13	Rating of services rendered by PMR staff	30
4.1.14	Rating of facility in PMR	31
4.1.15	Rating of information materials in PMR	32
Cross T	abulation Analysis	
4.2.1	Respondents' age and products used	33
4.2.2	Respondents' age and PMR role awareness	34
4.2.3	Respondents' profession and frequency of visits to PMR centre	35
4.2.4	Respondents' profession and PMR role awareness	36
4.2.5	Respondents' income group and frequency of visits to PMR centre	37

ABSTRACT

The era of globalization is becoming more and more challenging these days, and we cannot afford to still be ignorant and not knowing what is going around us every day. Each day is a challenge and if we do not equip ourselves with the necessary tools of life, a.k.a information – then we will be left behind and struggling to fend for ourselves. The information issue is so important, so much so that the government of Malaysia through its Information Ministry, has set up an information centre that functions as an information hub and provides all the information needed by society accessed via on-line or print materials. The centre is called Pusat Maklumat Rakyat (PMR) or Public Information Centre. But is it known to the public? What is the level of awareness that the public has regarding the Pusat Maklumat Rakyat.

This research aims to evaluate the PMR issues at hand. Common methods were used to conduct this research and variables are analysed thoroughly. The result of this research will be used as a guideline and a stepping stone towards planning and implementing strategies to better improve the existing product marketing. The results of this research was found to be a favourable one, whereby the public are in fact aware of the effectiveness and relevancy of a PMR centre, and it has achieved its objectives of being an effective one-stop information centre for the society.

ix