

Article

January 2006

Reading Enough?

Today I went on Amazon.com and there were 18,625 titles available under leadership. Assuming a nominal price of \$20.00 per volume, I realized I could have the complete library for just under \$375,000. I could then say to all other consultants, my leadership library is bigger than yours!

Authors are churning out books on leadership in more and more desperate ways. Every conceivable analogy seemingly has been used to get a foothold on shelf space. Apparently war generals, spiritual leaders, sports coaches, ancient historical figures, sporting games, biology and zoology all have something to teach us about leading people.

Given that leadership is but one aspect of management—albeit an important one, the amount of information available can be overwhelming.

If you feel inadequate by not reading sufficient numbers of these books and you therefore feel the challenge of leadership too daunting, you could consider self-help. Today Amazon.com can offer you 6,210 titles to get yourself straightened out. Or, you could take the robust position of Rhett Butler and say, “frankly my dear I don’t give a damn”.

