
Thomas Schmelter

READING ROOM

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What are you reading at the moment? What did you recently finish reading? What have you learnt from it?

I am reading Ayn Rand's, *The Fountainhead* currently. I have just finished reading Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography*.

What amazed me about the second book is the humility displayed by one of the greatest Americans, the clarity of thought, the way Benjamin Franklin distinguishes his love for America from his loyalty towards Britain is just fantastic and foresight, the gift of foreseeing how history will shape up for both Britain and America is something that Benjamin Franklin was obviously gifted with.

A book all company heads must read...

The book mentioned above, I think autobiographies of achievers inspire in more concrete ways than books on dry knowledge. Autobiographies bring to fore principles that have obviously worked as opposed to books on strategies where except those backed by case studies, most ideas mentioned are yet to be proved.

A book everyone in your sector should pick up...

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen R. Covey. In my industry either you are effective or you are non-existent. I believe merely changing one's personality does not guarantee success, one needs to change the core of one's being and attune that to success for achieving consistent results. Covey's book is a guide towards doing exactly that. I also think the book adds value to one's personal life as well.

What kind of books would you normally buy while travelling?

Autobiographies and business books.

Have you written any books? If not, do you plan to write in future?

I have not so far, but would certainly love to write a book at some point. In my job I come across various incidents that have shades of humour, I want to put them down on paper and offer a fun-filled insight into the trade of hospitality. The books you grew up with? What did you like most about it?

I have grown up by reading Karl May's *Winnetou I, II and III*. Karl May is one of the best German writers ever and his stories of bravery and courage have not stopped inspiring me till date.

Your book shelf consists of...

Biographies, management books, religious books, books related to hospitality business.
Where do you shop for books?

I shop online and also in some shops such as Landmark or Om Book Stores in the NCR region.
Has your reading habits changed in the past four or five years? If so, how....

I do not get as much time as I got as a student to read. However I have still retained reading as a part of my daily schedule.

One book you cherish that you received as a gift...

It's the Bible, I received it from my parents, it's the best gift ever.
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