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Subject: Saving Credits! and destroying a Medium Tank  
Posted by [Phoenix - Aeon](#) on Wed, 12 May 2004 20:25:43 GMT  
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Like I said, referncing others work on occaision is prudent, but there are people who do it over much, from the sounds of things you are the formar not the latter and I commend you for that. To use on of my rare references I will pint to the works of Isaac Asimov, in the book "Foundation" there was a highly recognised and lauded Archeological Historian (Lord Dorwin), however he would have a nervous fit if some-one suggested that he actually research a historical site himself. To him the "proper scientific method [as I see it]" was to "weigh up what the greats of the past have said" and from there come to his own reasonable conclusion. He recognised greater minds but he did that to such an extent that he was incable of believing that he himself could create a new theory, this scientific decadance was the main cause of the stagnation and eventual collapse of the Galactic Empire. A similar them,e runs through David Brin's Uplift Trilogies with regards to the Library of the five galaxies.My previous attempt did not convey the point very well, hopefully this one will do better.

To add to this there are a great many scientists who have refused reference others in their field, instead they chose to research the subject themselves, whilst often this has been time consuming and fruitless there are times when this hasd proven a theory wrong, or at least incomplete. The biggest example of this in recent years is the advent of Quantum physics, whilst Einstinien law does make allowances for Quantum mechanics Newtonian law disagrees with it completely, we are now face with the fact that whilst we have based almost all of our technology on a science that appears to work it may be based upon a science that is wrong, this could lead to devatating consequences. However it is usefull to reference others, as long as it is done with prudence it speeds up the rate of advance without building upon unstable structurcs (Newton).

Btw, I wholehaertedly agree with you on the subject of greater minds, with regard sto mathem,atics I am ranked within the top percentile in Britain and the top 12% in Europe, I also have a numerical I.Q somewhere in the region of 180. Through all this the most potent lesson I have learnt is just how little I actually know and how vast an amount there is to learn.

Oh, and laziness is both an effect and cause of decadance in society.

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