

THE COST OF KNOWLEDGE

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ABSTRACT

As a non-manager with many friends in the industry, Becker has a unique insight into the effect of rules and regulations on company structures and the loss of knowledge. Our small company's business strategy is based on large organizations losing the ability to do essential analyses and testing.

Building up knowledge is very expensive and it is astounding to see how especially South African companies are prepared to squander this intangible asset for short term gains.

This is a break from the author's main source of income which is to make conclusions based on the conservation of mass, momentum and energy. In science, there are very few rules but these have not been proved to be wrong. It is easy to spot mistakes.

One cannot even define knowledge, yet it is the loss of this company asset that invariably leads to ruin. There cannot be a "correct" way of investing and retaining knowledge, but based on 43 years of experience, the author gives some pointers as to how to achieve this illusive goal.