
Subject: Re: Market Research 101

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 10 Feb 2011 18:19:11 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

- > Carsten, I know you weren't slighting me.
- > But, as you can see, it is a sore spot with me.
- > Touch it, and you get yelped at. Can't help it. :-)

Here is a more reflective thought.

I am speaking generally here, and not just personally, but I think there is a real lack of awareness on the part of the general public on what it takes to live a "creative" life. I think this applies in the arts, music, science, everywhere. To be creative means to take risks. By definition, you are doing something outside the norm.

It is a very lonely place that is sometimes obtained at great personal sacrifice. Your mother might see you as irresponsible. Your children might be embarrassed you can't get dressed and take a shower before 5:00 at night. The dog thinks YOU smell! In truth, the life you choose is not just about YOU. It is about everyone around you, too.

And, it wears on you. Especially when the rewards are so completely uncertain. Will anyone come to the symphony? Will they want to hang this painting on their wall? Will they brave the cold to come to the play? Can they tell the difference between *this* photograph and the one taken by Aunt Tilly on Memorial Day? Will they steal this book and distribute it for free to everyone they know?

I don't really think there is anything that can be done about it. Creativity must be its own reward, or there really isn't much point to it. But, still, some appreciation for what it *really* costs (and I am not talking for a second about money here), would be most appreciated by people who "create" something that didn't exist before and wouldn't exist without their effort and inspiration. I think I know enough about this topic that I can safely vouch for this.

Knowing the true costs, I guess, is what makes that spot so painful. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
