WHAT BOOKS HAVE YOU READ LATELY THAT HAVE HELPED?

The Headache: Sometimes fresh ideas don't come out of your own brain when you need them. And sometimes reading about the victories--and even the mistakes--of others is less painful than learning in the first person. And today's challenges often call for skills new to many bankers.

Our Question: What books have you read lately that helped you and your bank? Have you shared them with colleagues? What did you learn? Come see what other bankers are reading, and add your own finds

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What business books have you been reading lately?

As an industry, bankers rank highly among professionals who look to the printed word for guidance. Many banks formally sponsor reading groups among their management ranks. Conference sessions featuring name authors on common business challenges frequently draw maximum crowds.

What have you been reading, on your own or with fellow bankers, that has helped you do a better job? Overcome an obstacle? Meet a challenge? Come up with fresh ideas? Polish your current approach?

Chicago banker Dale Cleven has started the ball rolling below. Add your own recent picks. They needn't be new books, simply something you've read that has helped.

And if you would like to join our regular list of "prescribers," to whom we send questions, please email Executive Editor Steve Cocheo today.

And don't forget to check out our banker-written book review column, featuring a wide selection of helpful books.

Let's hear your book picks below! (Editorial Note: Contributions to Pass the Aspirin may also appear in our print edition. While we will ask for your e-mail address, this is only as an aid to verifying identity and will not be used for any marketing or promotional purpose. The e-mail address will not be published.)