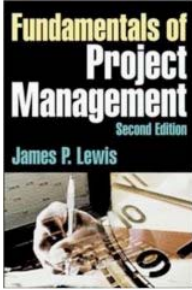


PMF Book Review



Book Title: Fundamentals for Project Management

Author: James P. Lewis

Publisher: AMACOM

Publication Date: 3rd Edition, December, 2006

List Price: \$14.94 USD (paperback)

Reviewer: Natalie Davis

Review Date: February 2007

Introduction to the Book:

This was an excellent book. It is concise and the author somehow made a usually less than exciting topic a very interesting and informative read. The most impressive part of the book was how well he addressed topics such as Project Planning. Many of the books in our program are several inches thick and are somewhat difficult to understand due to their wordiness, but Mr. Lewis' style of writing is pointed and impactful with limited verbosity.

The information contained in the book is real world and very practical. Anyone can read the overview section alone and have a basic understanding of Project Management. The Fundamentals of Project Management's basic premise is the "responsibility of the project manager is to ensure that all work is completed on time, within budget and scope and at the correct performance level." (Page 24)

Highlights: What I liked!

The format and real life examples of his past experiences made this book a joy to read as I could specifically relate to many of the pitfalls and successes written. I originally selected this book because of the challenges I was experiencing finishing an assignment. But this book clarified several topics like the Work breakdown structure and project planning and I successfully completed the project. The chapter, "The Role of the Project Manager" in an organization along with the one entitled, "How to Make Project Management Work in Your Company" were my favorites by far. I found myself waving the book in the air, exclaiming to teammates, "Listen to

this!" or "We need to do this!" because I identified a process or procedure we needed to implement in our organization. I can certainly say this little book generated lots of excitement in our QA Lab!

The little notes located on the side of each page highlighted information key to each chapter. The planning exercises located at the end of some of the chapters provided practical experience in applying the lessons learned in the chapter. The books' top-down approach begins with Planning a project, developing a project Mission, Vision, Goals and Objectives, Scheduling project work and finally Controlling and Evaluating the Project allowed the reader to understand each area in systematically.

The book's objective to provide the fundamentals of project management was achieved by the book's content and is clearly reinforced by its title. If this book were any longer then it would not be an overview--it would contain too much detail. Therefore I would not recommend editing or deleting any of this book's content. I absolutely loved it!

This book is power packed with key information every company can use to gain insight and help improve project management process within their organization. Project Management occurs in every aspect of our lives but the level of volume may not appear to be because the effort does not involve the complexity or the enormity of the scope as that of an organization. Readers who might benefit from reading this book include:

- Functional Managers, i.e. Operations Managers
- Project Managers (all levels of experience)
- Support team members
- Development team members
- Quality Assurance teams
- Business Analysis

Who might benefit from the Book

In my opinion this book would be a useful tool for someone who is currently a project manager or anyone interested in managing corporate projects from the micro to the macro level. In addition, this book will help individuals manage their personal affairs just by implementing a few of the processes this book advocates. Every entity within an organization, particularly smaller organizations, should be required to read this little book to make the project management processes more efficient and increase the overall organization's effectiveness.

Conclusion

The Fundamentals of Project Management provides the right amount of detail to clue everyone in to what the Project Manager is trying to accomplish and encourages cooperation within the team. It could quite easily become a training resource for the entire organization.

About the Reviewer:



Natalie Davis



Natalie Davis was born in West Point, Mississippi, USA. She completed her undergraduate work in Management Information Systems at the University of Southern Mississippi in 1990 in Hattiesburg, MS. She has been working for a small software company for one year as a Quality Assurance analyst. Her professional work experience includes Project Management software implementation, mainframe development/analysis and Quality Assurance testing in telecom, defense and snack foods industries. Currently she is attending the University of Texas at Dallas' Project Management certification and master's program in order to further her knowledge in business leadership skills.