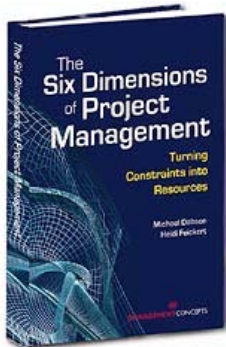


PM World Today Book Review



Book Title: *The Six Dimensions of Project Management*

Authors: Michael Dobson and Heidi Feickert

Publisher: Management Concepts

List Price: US\$ 49.00 (softcover)

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Reviewer: Donald R. Hammons, MBA, PMP

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Introduction to the Book

Michael's Dobson's approach for authoring this book is the result of a basic project management premise involving scope management. As he authored his book entitled, "**The Triple Constraints in Project Management**", Michael realized there was much more to say about the topic than originally conceived. Michael partnered with Heidi Feickert, a noted historian, educator, and cross-cultural expert. Her approach combined with Michael's background in product management, software development, and strategy, formed a dynamic combination resulting in the completion of this text *The Six Dimensions of Project Management*.

The stated purpose of the book is to better communicate and understand the typical project manager's plight with regard to real-world, not classroom based, project management. The text is filled with quotations and satire which serves to lighten up the engineering complexity of typical project management books. The text delivers 'what we already know' but may not necessarily articulate in our daily meetings with management over the 'triple-constraint' process.

Overview of Book's Structure

The book's structure includes an introductory preface where the backgrounds and intended purpose of the author's is laid out. The book is formatted into three large-category sections:

Section 1: Triple Constraints

Section 2: The Six Dimensions

Section 3: Issues and Conclusions

Each section includes chapters that serve as both anecdotal and practical guides to project management in a world of constraints. Section 2's Six Dimensions is perhaps the most compelling content of the text. It includes Chapters on triple constraints with sufficient examples to engage the PM-interested reader.

Highlights: What I liked!

I liked the reminders of the triple constraints and the tradeoffs that must be made when time, performance, and quality must all be considered. The approach of cheap, fast, or good (pick two!) was a solid reminder of the tradeoff matrix. Whilst this is not new thinking, it is a well written segment of the text that possesses practical considerations for the practicing PM. This book offers an excellent adjunct to the PMBOK and should be considered a must for any PM library.

Shortfalls: What was Missing!

I did not like the combination of Triple Constraints along with the Six Dimensions. The Six Dimensions are hard to find in the text and the three six titling creates confusion.

Who might benefit from the Book

Junior to mid-level project managers will benefit from this book particularly as they attempt to understand the dynamic 'dance' between project management and senior leadership. Their ability to articulate tradeoffs and drive organizational behavior, often bottom up, is essential to their ability to withstand the organizational pressure PM's face in an economy which consistently places pressure on cost and time while not lessening the expectations of quality.

Conclusion

I was impressed with the book. I would recommend some structural modifications to inject clarity between the triple constraints models and the six dimension aspects. However, the text possesses a combination of humor, applicable quotations, and common sense perspective resident in today's project management environment.

To purchase the book, visit: www.managementconcepts.com.

About the Reviewer:***Donald R. Hammons***

Donald R. Hammons, PMP has a 15-year track record in project management. An eight-year Veteran of the United States Navy, Donald's U.S. Navy telecommunication experience launched his civilian program management career in the U.Ss Telecom and IT sectors in the early-mid 1990's. Don has led large multi-million dollar programs for Lucent Technologies, Alcatel SA of France, and Deutsche Bank AG in Asia-Pac. Donald is the former PMO for the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation Cardiovascular Clinical Research Center at UT Southwestern, a member of the Town of Flower Mound, Texas 4B Community Development Corporation Board, and is currently a management consultant in N. Texas. Don is a 2004 graduate of the University of Texas at Dallas where he earned a Master of Science and an MBA in Program Management.