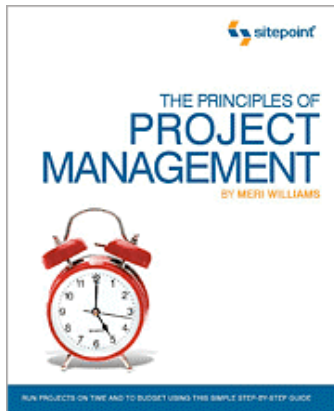


PM World Today Book Review



Book Title: *The Principles of Project Management*

Authors: Meri Williams

Publisher: SitePoint Pty, Ltd

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ISBN: 978-0-9802858-6-4

Reviewer: James Mason

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Introduction to the Book

The author, Meri Williams, is a project manager of large multinational projects as well as a web developer. In addition to project management Ms Williams is also an author. Ms Williams enjoys motorbikes, shooting, tattoos and traveling to her native home of South Africa. *The Principles of Project Management* by Meri Williams provides an entertaining account and thoughtful perspective on the science and art of project management. This book is an excellent resource to students, and project management novice. In reviewing this book, the principal criteria included structure, Highlights (what I liked), and shortfalls. While editing errors and organizational incongruities plague some of the latter chapters, many of the shortfalls of this first edition will likely be alleviated by later editions. These problems are only a minor distraction to the story being told.

Overview of Book's Structure

The organization of *The Principles of Project Management* allows the reader to easily follow the road map laid out by Meri Williams. The book is divided into five chapters with three appendices. The book opens with what is project management, getting started, getting it done, keeping it smooth, and following through. Each chapter is broken down into three or four sections, which typically fit logically into the topic of the chapter. The appendices conclude with

a listing of tools, resources and professional qualifications. It is virtually impossible for the author to cover all aspects of project management but the book did a good job in providing a through foundation for those new to project management topics terms and acronyms.

The structure of the book tracks well with the project management institute organization and lends itself successfully to the study of project management.

Highlights: What I liked!

The most enjoyable aspect of this book was the readability. The chapters are composed of several defining parts that maintain a sense of continuity throughout the book. The book is well-referenced, making skillful use of first-person sources. A summary is provided at the end of each chapter. The use of certain typographic styles through the book was a nice touch. These typographic icon often prompt to pay particular attention to certain area as well a provide information which may come in handy down the road for individuals going seeking additional professional certifications.

Another thing I enjoyed about this book was the information on the different professional certification organizations. Normally you only here about PMI but the author gave information on the International Project Management Association (IPMA), which is the oldest organization, providing a framework for local organizations. The author also included information on the Association for Project Management which is based in the UK. Those project managers interested in global projects should consider obtaining this certification. Background information on the newly formed International Association of Project and Program Management and the Project Management Institute was also covered.

Shortfalls: What was Missing!

There were certain times throughout the book when the information in the paragraph did not correlate to the title. Although this happens only a couple of times it should be noted if the author intends to publish another book. The other shortfall is for individuals expecting this to be used to support passing of a certification exam. This book provides good foundation knowledge

but is lacking in thorough information to sit for an exam. If you want a good solid read on project management this is the book for you.

Who might benefit from the Book

Those who will benefit the most from this book are those new to project management. The author introduces the reader in a non-threatening way. Ms Williams addresses some of the negative perceptions in project management such as project management is boring, its takes too long and it's too hard. She provides real work examples and real world antidotes that anyone can relate to when starting out in project management. In addition, the author provides information as to why there are misperceptions and supplies information on how to balance the science of project management and the art of project management.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I think Ms Williams did a good job with this book. It is evident in her writings that she thoroughly understands what it takes to be a good project manager. This is definitely a good book for novice project managers and individuals who would like general information on project management.

About the Reviewer:



James Mason



James Mason is a senior telehealth consultant and project manager with MELE Associates, INC. In his current position, he provide contract and project management support to the Assistant Surgeon General for Modernization, Office of the Air Force Surgeon General. The varied portfolio consists of several congressionally sponsored projects, many of which, when complete, could have national implications. He has over twenty year's progressive experience in managing information systems in a military Medical Health Service (MHS) environment. James can be contacted at james.mason2@gmail.com.