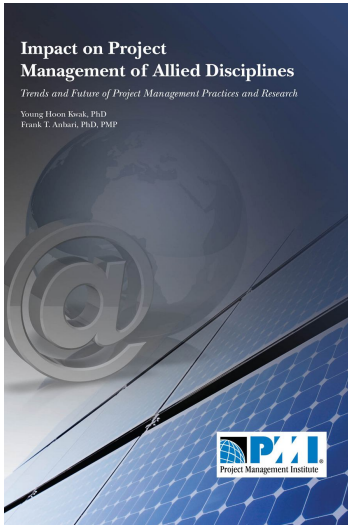


PM World Today Book Review



Book Title: *Impact on Project Management of Allied Disciplines*

Authors: Young Hoon Kwak, PhD and Frank T. Anbari, PhD, PMP (The George Washington University)

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Reviewer: Lisa Holowiak

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Introduction to the Book

The book focuses on the following eight allied disciplines of project management

- (1) Operations Research, Decision Sciences, Operation Management and Supply Chain Management (OR/DS/OM/SCM)
- (2) Organizational Behavior and Human Resources Management (OB/HRM)
- (3) Information Technology and Information Systems (IT/IS)
- (4) Technology, Innovation, new Product Development and Research and Development (TECH/INNOV/NPD/R&D)
- (5) Engineering-Construction, Contracts, Legal Aspects and Expert Witness
- (6) Strategy, Integration, Portfolio Management, Value of Project Management and Marketing (STRATEGY/PPM)
- (7) Performance Management, Earned Value Management, Project Finance and Accounting (PERFORMANCE/EVM)
- (8) Quality Management, Six Sigma, and Process Improvement (QM/6SIGMA/PI)

These eight disciplines of project management are researched in 18 top selected management and business journals. The authors analyzed project management past, current, and future trends from articles published between the 1950's and June 2007. A total of 537 papers were analyzed and the quantified data was extrapolated into prediction of future trends.

Additionally, a survey was conducted utilizing the World Wide Web to assess the perception of trends in project management and the eight allied disciplines. The data may surprise you!

Overview of Book's Structure

The book is organized with a table of contents where the introduction breaks down the research study and its challenges. Second, a chapter discussing project management trends of the allied disciplines. This includes the origin of project management, and previous research analyzing publication trends. Next, the book incorporates the eight allied disciplines and the eighteen top management journals used for this research study. This includes a description of each publication and its relevance to project management.

The book talks about the future of project management based off the analyzed data. The next chapter continues with information on the survey and predictions as well as concerns going forward in the field of project management. This includes in depth qualitative discussions from both project management scholars and practitioners on the future of project management. The book concludes with future recommendations and conclusions on the impact of project management on allied disciplines.

Highlights: What I liked!

The book is well organized and easily understood. The flow is well developed and the tables are properly illustrated. Being new to the project management sector, it is very interesting to recognize the project management trends in the eight allied disciplines and tie them into number of occurrences in top business journal articles. This research is impressive in demonstrating the various aspects and paths that may be successful for future project management leaders.

Additionally, the survey provided qualitative data for the eight allied disciplines in project management. Being that the World Wide Web was used, the 82 responses indicated a wide variety of education and project management experience. Although it is important to be aware and truly understand all aspects of the eight allied disciplines, it was eye opening to see the divide between the project management community and the business journal articles.

Shortfalls: What was Missing!

The book did not go into depth on the eight allied disciplines or the journal articles where the data was derived. It would have been nice to see a bit more of the information collected, rather than the concluded tables demonstrated. It is unclear on how the number of occurrences was determined. For example, was

the journal article entirely about one allied discipline or was it merely mentioned once throughout the article.

Who might benefit from the Book

If one is curious about past, present, and future project management trends relating to business journal articles then this book is an excellent resource. Also, it gives one a perspective on the eight project management allied disciplines as well as top business journal articles and the inter-relation between them both. This study assesses the trends and identifies opportunities for possible future research.

Conclusion

There was a lot of time and effort involved researching 537 journal articles. It is clear that project management research in the allied disciplines started to become more popular in the 1980's as indicated from the analysis. It was not surprising that STRATEGY/PPM appeared most frequently in journals during the last 50 years. As companies continue to improve and manage business opportunities, strategy becomes critical in action plans. Overall, it is necessary to understand all eight allied disciplines because they are integrated, ultimately driving growth in project management.

It is recognized in this book that the research published in these journal articles correlates to future trends in project management and the eight allied disciplines; but this interpretation is strictly based on the research publications not any additional project management sources. Therefore, can one conclude future trends strictly based off the number of occurrences cited in business journal articles rather than incorporate the project management community as well? It was interesting to determine that the data from 18 management and business journals vs. the project management community has no direct relationship. Therefore, it is clear that the project management community derives their information from a variety of sources not just strictly publications.

About the Reviewer:



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Lisa Holowiak holds a MBA focused in Project Management from University of Texas at Dallas and a B.S. degree in Biotechnology from Rochester Institute of Technology. Currently, Ms. Holowiak is employed at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals as a Quality Assurance Specialist supporting Drug Product Operations in Pearl River, New York, USA.