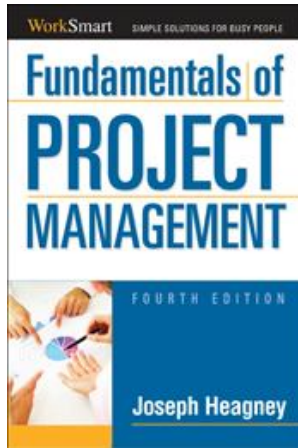

PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Fundamentals of Project Management, 4th Edition***

Authors: **Joseph Heagney**

Publisher: American Management Association

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Reviewer: **Richard Brownjohn, PMP**

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Introduction to the Book

Fundamentals of Project Management provides an overview of project management with “real world” examples of projects that are used to highlight and teach the basic tools and techniques necessary to manage successful projects. The author includes references to the Project Management Institute’s (PMI®) Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK®), and while the style is less formal than PMBOK, the information is presented in a manner that is easy to read. It provides project management situations with relevant solutions and a summary and question section at the end of each chapter to allow the reader to review and understand the information provided.

The information is presented with tables, graphs and in some cases humorous anecdotes to keep the reader interested while presenting the lesson to be learned. In addition, helpful tools and examples were provided that clearly provided insight into the world of project management. I believe that those new to project management will find the risk analysis and risk matrix tables very helpful in assessing project risks and presentations to stakeholders.

Overview of Book’s Structure

The format is not dissimilar to the PMBOK guide; the opening chapter discusses the five processes utilized to manage a project (initiating, planning, executing, monitoring and controlling, and closing) and provides a brief outline for the five processes. This chapter

also outlines the PMBOK definition for a project, and focuses on the constraints and typical reasons that projects have problems and fail.

The remaining chapters follow the five processes discussing the role of the PM, from project initiation through to substantial completion. How to make project management work in your company is a great supplement to the book and provides examples of what you must do to successfully integrate project management techniques into your company. Examples included references to Tom Peters book “*Thriving on Chaos*” and the need for management to be vested in the process; if they are not on board and showing an interest in the project and process it is much more difficult to implement.

One chapter provides additional helpful training examples and the need to educate project managers that may be unfamiliar with PMBOK terms such as WBS and risk management tools.

Highlights: What I liked!

Having recently passed the PMP exam, I found the book a great refresher on some of the main PMBOK Tools and Techniques. The PMBOK study course presented each of the Process Groups and Knowledge Areas. However, I found that a more global approach would have been helpful, and the *Fundamentals of Project Management* presented the topics in a much abbreviated fashion that allowed for easy assimilation of the main facts, without too much emphasis on raw data memorization.

The book is concise and provides enough information to educate, and in my case, helped identify areas of project management that I would like to learn more about (scheduling, and risk management techniques). I also learned how I could apply the information to projects that I am currently involved with.

Shortfalls: What was Missing!

I would have liked more “real world” experiences that relate to the project management tools and techniques, and perhaps more in-depth analysis/examples of one project that tied the processes all together.

Who might benefit from the Book

The book provides a good overview of the project manager’s role and includes chapters on Risk Management, basic scheduling and earned value management. The material covered reinforces the PMBOK approach, however, the presentation is less formal and includes numerous examples that help to demonstrate the project manager’s role and responsibilities.

Project managers studying for the PMP exam could use this material as a secondary study source in conjunction with the PMBOK Guide. Reading this prior to taking any preparatory study course for the PMP exam would facilitate a better understanding of the material and allow for a more global approach to learning the Tools and Techniques presented in the PMBOK guide.

Having been a project manager for many years I found that the material was a good refresher on the basics and reminded me to utilize some of the tables and charts presented in the Risk Management section (Six Step Process).

Conclusion

The book is a great way to refresh basic tools and techniques that are presented in PMBOK. The many examples and charts help illustrate the role and responsibilities of the project manager. I found the style very easy to read and assimilate and the end of chapter questions and summaries helpful.

As I have mentioned previously, this book would have been very helpful in my preparation for the PMP exam and I would suggest that reading this prior to taking the PMBOK courses would assist in understanding the process groups and knowledge areas. This is not a substitute for a more formal presentation, however, the book provides a more holistic approach to the presentation.

The Fundamentals of Project Management, 4th Edition; by Joseph Heagney; published by AMACOM; © 2012, soft cover, 208 pages; ISBN 9780814417485; List price = \$16.95; more information at <http://www.amacombooks.org/book.cfm?isbn=9780814417485>

Editor's note: This book review was the result of cooperation between the publisher, PM World Inc and the Dallas Chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI Dallas Chapter – www.pmidallas.org). Publishers provide books to PM World, books are delivered to the PMI Dallas Chapter where they are given to chapter members who commit to providing a book review in a standard format; the reviews are published in the PM World Journal and PM World Library. Since PMI Dallas Chapter members are generally mid-career professionals, they represent the intended audience for most PM books. If you are an author or publisher of a project management-related book, and would like the book reviewed through this program, please contact editor@peworldjournal.net.

About the Reviewer



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Richard Brownjohn, PMP has been a project manager for 20 years in the development and construction industry. He currently works for Legacy Partners Development in Dallas, TX. Qualifications include PMP certification and NZCE – Mechanical Engineering.