PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW

Book Title: **Project Management Jumpstart**  
Author: **Kim Heldman, PMP**  
Publisher: **SYBEX**  
List Price: US$ 29.99  
Format: soft cover; 332 pages  
Publication Date: 2011  
Reviewer: **Hernan Peniche, PMP**  
Review Date: July, 2014

Introduction to the Book

We all have been involved in the execution of projects at certain points in our lives (vacations, house renovation, etc). The author is successful introducing project management to those that have run projects unaware of the five Project Management Process Groups. Great brake down of the Initiating, Planning, Execution, and Monitoring and Closure of a project for those new to project management.

As Project Managers we need to ensure that scope, cost, schedule and quality are documented properly and tracked throughout the project life to lead a project to successful completion and this book is a great source of useful information.

Overview of Book’s Structure

This book’s structure is broken down into 12 chapters and 3 appendixes, these twelve Chapters explain the life of a project.

The first two chapters lay the foundation of a project and it explains the Basic Project Management skills expected from a project manager.

Chapters 3-9 talk about the initiating process and all the planning required to lead a successful project. These chapters are excellent, describing the breakdown of project activities, planning of resources as well as risk assessment and it emphasizes on budgeting on Chapter 9.

Chapter 10-11 focus on execution and controlling of the project.

Chapter 12 focuses on the proper closure of a project and highlights the importance of lessons learned.
Each chapter ends with a series of Review Questions, all answers can be found on Appendix A.

Appendix B and C provide the reader with excellent samples of Project Management Forms and Checklist. The book also has links to download these forms.

**Highlights: What’s New in this Book**

As described earlier, this book is excellent for new project managers as it provides a step by step guide to kick off a project until closure. In addition there is a high level view of the requirements needed to obtain a PMP certification.

Throughout the book there are side notes with extra information on the subject explained as well as references for additional information. As a plus, the reader will find tips to execute tasks effectively and warnings of things that could be avoided, or actions that the reader should do undergo to make a project execution smoother.

**Highlights: What I liked!**

My initial opinion after reading the first few chapters is that the book has a logical flow and is easy to follow.

I like the book’s structure. I have been working as a project manager for seven years and I find this book to be a great source for reference in day to day activities, to review and refresh my knowledge in times of doubt. The links to templates are very good; although all companies have a library of templates I find that the templates included in the book provide a different view on important items like project charter, communication plan, etc.

The review questions at the end of each chapter help the reader to retain the main concepts recently taught

**Who might benefit from the Book**

This book is a “must read” for anyone who is exploring the project management field, or perhaps has been assigned to their first project; it will give the individual a jumpstart on understanding the basic principles of project management.

It is a definitive guide for new project managers who are executing their first project and experienced project managers can use this book as a knowledge refresh.

**Conclusion**

Great source of information to give the reader all the information required to plan, execute and close a project. It helps to identify clear goals and deliverables as it talks about the difference between goals and objectives and it provides guidance on how to create smart goals.
When conflicts arise the Chapter 10 has great advices that can be found on section "Six Approaches to Problem Resolution" as well as "Rewarding Experiences".

All project managers are a mile wide and an inch deep due to all the different knowledge areas covered by project managers.


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About the Reviewer

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Hernan Peniche has 17 years’ experience in Telecommunications of which 7 have been spent delivering successful New Product Introduction Projects. Projects included deployments in the following countries:
- US - AT&T, T-Mobile, Alaska Wireless
- Mexico - Telcel, Movistar
- Canada - Rogers
- Panama - Cable and Wireless, Bell South
- Chile - Entel
- Bolivia - Entel
- Venezuela - Movilnet
- Jamaica - Digicel
- Aruba - Digicel
- Ecuador Telecsa