PM World *Journal*
Vol. V, Issue I – January 2016
www.pmworldjournal.net

Effective PM and BA Role Collaboration
Authors: Ori Schibi, Cheryl Lee
Book Review   Reviewer: Chris Wright
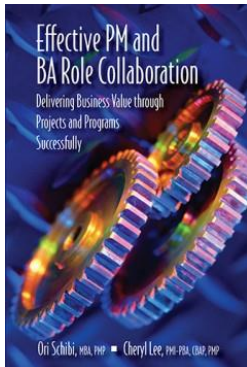
PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW

Book Title: ***Effective PM and BA Role Collaboration***

Author: **Ori Schibi and Cheryl Lee**

Publisher: J. Ross Publishing

List Price: $54.95

Format: Hardcover 366 pages

Publication Date: 2015   ISBN: 13; 978-1-60427-113-3

Reviewer: **Chris Wright**   Review Date: Dec/2015

Introduction

People above a certain age will remember a series of commercials about two great tastes that go great together. While chocolate and peanut butter may be a wonderful mix, it's important to do more than just mix them together. Likewise, a Project Manager and a Business Analyst would seem to be an excellent pairing for a project, but it's important to work out how they should be mixed.

This book provides an excellent cookbook, a template for best practices when a Project Manager and a Business Analyst work together on a project. The recent development of the Professional in Business Analysis certification by PMI suggests a strong need for this exact book.

Overview of Book's Structure

In an attempt to cover everything, the book actually works like a cookbook. The beginning is about the challenges of BA and PM working together, some of the common missteps and misconceptions. Then the book discusses the tools that each brings to the tasks at hand, and then spends several chapters on specific examples and interactions.

As the authors put it, "Achieving project success through a more effective collaboration between the PM and the BA comes in many forms, and this book has the recipe for any combination of needs."

The main objective for this book would be to assist in building up best practices and concepts for over-arching projects as well as the day-to-day realities of BAs and PMs working together. Important ingredients for success are the touch points of their roles, the areas of overlaps, shared responsibilities and gaps.

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Highlights

Like a cookbook, this doesn't need to be read from cover to cover, but can instead be dipped into by the needy chef to produce recipes for success. On the other hand, it's an enjoyable read, written by two people who know their areas well, and also provide wonderful secrets for collaboration.

Chapter 10, for example, is on Project Quality, Recovery, and Lessons learned. In this chapter, the authors provide concrete methods and examples for measuring the Cost of Quality, something not normally a matter of examination, but a critical method for optimizing resources and time. They introduce "poka-yoke," or mistake proofing, and suggest opportunities to build this into the projects activities and into processes performed by the team as well as the end product itself.

Highlights: What I liked!

I particularly enjoyed the section on Assumptions (beginning on page 170). Beginning with the statement that the large majority of PMs do not like assumptions and therefore do not consider a need to manage them, it moves into the value of listing assumptions and creating a proper plan for managing them. It then moves past the mere management of them into ensuring that they are clear to move to the next level.

This level of detail is brought into Constraints, Dependencies and Risks. An excellent primer and usable template ready to be brought into your workplace.

Who might benefit from the Book

The easy answer to who might benefit from this book would be a PM or a BA who has to work with the other. However, it's actually an excellent coverage of the discipline of Project Management, providing fine details about issues and concerns and practices for addressing same.

Any person who wishes to grow in their ability to handle risks, resource management or partnerships, just as a few examples, would gain by reading this book.

Conclusion

There exists a lot of confusion in the industry among practitioners and experts regarding the division of work and handoffs between project managers (PMs) and business analysts (BAs). This book serves as a wonderful means of addressing that confusion, and producing delicious successes together.

With this book, the BA and the PM become two great tastes that go great together.

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For more about this book, go to: *http://www.jrosspub.com/effective-pm-and-ba-role-collaboration.html*

Editor's note: This book review was the result of a partnership between the publisher, PM World and the PMI Dallas Chapter. Authors and publishers provide the books to PM World; books are delivered to the PMI Dallas Chapter, where they are offered free to PMI members to review; book reviews are published in the PM World Journal and PM World Library. PMI Dallas Chapter members can keep the books as well as claim PDUs for PMP recertification when their reviews are published. Chapter members are generally mid-career professionals, the audience for most project management 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@pmworldjournal.net.

About the Reviewer

Chris Wright

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During his time at Brainspace, a pioneer in machine learning technology that extracts meaning from unstructured text, **Chris Wright** has worn many hats – project manager, QA, documentation and lead customer support. He also teaches communication, leadership and personal development to grade school and high school children on Saturdays with thinkandspeakup.com.

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