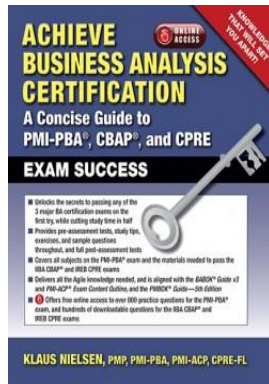


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Achieve Business Analysis Certification***

Author: **Klaus Nielsen**, PMP, PMI-PBA, PMI-ACP, CPRE-FL

Publisher: J. Ross Publishing

List Price: US \$69.95 Format: Softcover

Publication Date: 2016 ISBN: 13: 978-1-60427-111-9

Reviewer: **John Holderman**

Review Date: July 1016

Introduction

This book provides in great detail; strategies, techniques and tools for requirements management. It links the various areas to the PMBOK so project managers without strong requirements gathering skills can increase their understanding and apply these new skills to achieve greater success.

Overview of Book's Structure

This book is broken down into 6 parts. Part 1 is a general overview, study tips and pretests. Part 2 breaks down the Domains; Needs Assessment, Planning, Analysis, Traceability and Monitoring and Evaluation. Part 3 applies to the Knowledge, Skills, Methodologies and Standards. Part 4 shows how this book aligns with the IIBA CBAP and the IREB CPRE knowledge areas. Part 5 is a practice exam and Part 6 is the Appendices.

Throughout the book Klaus provides diagrams, tables of information and drawings to help the reader connect all the dots. Many of these additions explain relationships between the various types of project methodologies. Many of these are examples of tools and others give insight to cultural dynamics.

Highlights

In Part I, there are three pretests that give you a great perspective of where you stand, knowledge wise, before you get in to the book. The book then takes you through a great learning process where each chapter builds upon the last.

In Part II, the author breaks down each of the five domains with an introduction, a business or value connection, an action and a validation phase. He relates the PMI-PBA practices directly to the PMBOK and Agile practices. Each chapter has a posttest with an answer key for you to assess what you've learned. Part III provides insight to the application of the knowledge learned in Part II and adds to it.

Part III also provides a great section on Ethics and Standards of Conduct. Part IV discusses the BA from the IIBA and IREB perspectives and how they align to the material learned in the previous chapters.

Highlights: What I liked!

The author imparts a great deal of knowledge in this book. As a project manager with little experience in requirements gathering, this book will be a wonderful addition to my reference library. The broad scope and alignment to the PMBOK along with the discussion on Agile have given me a means to lead projects that I have previously shied away from.

I greatly appreciate the connection Klaus makes between the BA and PM. The interaction of these two throughout the project only increases the opportunity for success.

Who might benefit from the Book?

I believe most Project Managers, Implementation Managers and project coordinators would greatly benefit from the information provided in this book. Also, anyone that has been tasked with creating a project, regardless of their title including risk managers, schedule managers, financial analysts

Conclusion

Klaus Nielsen has provided a wealth of knowledge and insight in the book. His vast experience and dedication to success are very evident. I would definitely purchase books from this author, however, I'm not so sure about the publisher.

To get the online content, I had to create an account and provide my mailing (snail mail) address as well as my email address. What this means to me is I will need to maintain an account with every publisher I buy books from, as well as all my other accounts. This can reach upwards of 45 accounts, not including my banking, app stores, computer companies and work. I find this quite annoying. There is a special code in this book that allows access to the practice content. Could that be used to validate the purchase rather than asking each purchaser to create an account?

I when I tried to download the content I had to download several files, some of which failed, giving me a “file seems to be invalid” error. I called the publisher and they quickly corrected it. However, the irony is, as a company that publishes books with a project management theme, you would think they could validate their web content before they released their book.

For more about this book, go to: <http://www.jrosspub.com/achieve-business-analysis-certification.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



John Holderman

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John Holderman has worked in project management since 1997 with his most recent work in program management controls and reporting. John has managed the global implementation of UNIX server farms used in telecommunications and large, complex telephone switching systems. As a member of a new product introduction team he guided deployment team readiness and worked closely with engineering teams to ensure the product and customers were ready.

John has supported many global communications system deployments, has been an integral part of two electro-mechanical to digital telephone system conversions, authored policy documents, installation and commissioning manuals and has created many of his own tools used to manage projects. John's technical background, along with his international project management experience, gives him a unique ability to very effectively manage highly complex technical projects.

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