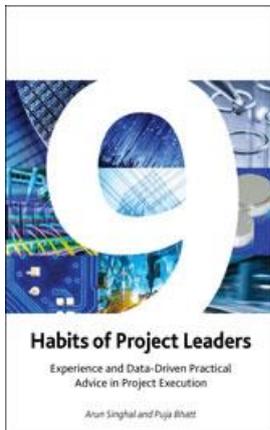


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***9 Habits of Project Leaders: Experience and Data-Driven Practical Advice in Project Execution***

Author: **Arun Singhal and Puja Bhatt**

Publisher: Project Management Institute, Inc.

List Price: \$12.95 Format: Spiral-Bound 7x4.5 in Book

Publication Date: 2017 ISBN: LCCN2017005884

Reviewer: **Heron Gonzalez Jr., PMP**

Review Date: February 2018

Introduction

Project Management is a dynamic and challenging profession that demands the creation of unique results in fast paced and demanding environments. To be successful, a project manager needs to develop and then consistently apply a broad set of skills. To grow in the profession, project managers need to sharpen their skills with each new project. The “9 Habits of Project Leaders” by Singhal and Bhatt, is an excellent tool for a busy project manager to have in her tool box. It clearly, insightfully summarizes nine key success ingredients that practitioners need in order to successfully launch and grow their project management career.

Overview of Book’s Structure

“9 Habits of Project Leaders” is two books in one. It is first a project management leadership resource that is meant to be read from cover to cover to learn about key practices and thought patterns of successful project managers.

The book is also a handy reference book that is formatted to be carried in a brief case or backpack, or kept in a convenient location in a workspace for periodic review and reference. The book’s spiral bound pages make the book easy to open and close and so encourage its use as a frequently used reference book.

The book’s layout is also intended to facilitate convenient use. After a helpful Preface, the book is laid out in Eleven chapters which cover each of the 9 Habits (Chapters 1-9), a discussion of the alignment of the habits with PMBOK Knowledge areas (Chapter 10) and a Summary and Conclusion (Chapter 11). The nine chapters covering the success habits should be viewed as an integrated model, but each chapter can stand alone based on its content’s insight for a particular reader. The chapter on alignment (Chapter 10) contains an excellent chart which helps to cross-reference the 9 Habits to the PMBOK Guide’s Knowledge Areas.

Finally, two helpful Appendices provide the reader with information about the author's experience (Appendix A) and their Data Collection and Analysis Methodology (Appendix B). Appendix B was a key element of the book for me. It drove to the heart of what it means to be a project manager. It shows that the book is based on real world, proven project experience, just like a successful project.

Highlights

Singhal and Bhatt admit that there is “nothing particularly revolutionary about the nine habits,” but as a reader and admirer of Steven Covey's “7 Habits of Highly Effective People,” I thought the same about Covey's extraordinarily insightful book before I read it and applied it to my life. Books of this kind present what appear to be simple ideas in a way that are incisive and eminently useful.

“9 Habits” provides common-sense, yet useful, insights on timeless project management best practices that are sometimes ignored, but are always critical to success. For example, taking ownership of project success is a common expectation, that doesn't always happen. This book demonstrates why focusing on this habit is critical to individual project success, why the habit contributes to a broader context of career success, and provides insight into what happens when the habit is not addressed.

By providing personal examples and stories from interviews with experienced project managers of different levels across industries, “9 Habits” breathes life into the business logic of the habits highlighted in the book.

This book continues in the tradition of Covey's “7 Habits,” but targets its insights to the specific, dynamic and challenging world of project management. In doing so, “9 Habits” provides a relevance, an impact and an applicability to project managers that can help them “drive benefits in the quality of [their] daily work.”

Highlights: What I liked!

This book appealed to me because of its firm grounding in the reality of the world of project management, its value as a constant companion in daily project management work and its common-sense approach.

First, this book is based on actual field research involving 50+ project managers, directors and core team members from around the world over a thirty year time span. That is real world stuff.

Second, this book is not intended to replace experience, but to serve as a supplement, an additional tool, in the daily work of a project manager.

Third, this book takes a common-sense approach to addressing the essentials of good project management habits. It includes embedded references to key project management concepts, models and entities, e.g., integrated product team (IPT), Manifesto for Agile Software Development.

Who might benefit from the Book?

Because of its usefulness as both a leadership learning resource and a reference tool, “9 Habits” has the potential to help several audiences. First, this book can be handed to a brand-new project manager on her first day of work as a quick start introduction to key leadership skills that will be helpful to her as she applies her new-found PMBOK skills.

Second, mid-career and experienced project managers will find this an interesting refresher on skills they have acquired and now maybe take for granted. These experienced folks will benefit from seeing new stories about experiences they may have had. Third, any leader in the Project Management world, whether a leader of a team of project managers or an Executive responsible for multiple teams of project managers at different levels, can use this book for insights to assist with development planning, performance management or succession planning.

This book would be useful to anyone who is interested in success literature and leadership/management theory and enjoys reading about real world skills that lead to success.

Conclusion

The world is complex and getting more so every day. Advances in technology, continued globalization and an acceleration of the pace of business at every level is driving project managers to be more agile and to produce more, faster with better quality. To succeed in this environment, project managers need to develop their skillsets quickly and continuously hone them over time.

“9 Habits of Project Leaders” is a great tool for project managers at all levels to develop and maintain success habits that will enable them to deliver quality projects and achieve professional success and satisfaction at every stage of their career.

For more about this book, go to:

<http://marketplace.pmi.org/Pages/ProductDetail.aspx?GMProduct=00101598101>

Editor’s note: This book review was the result of a partnership between the publisher, PM World and the [Alamo PMI Chapter](#). Authors and publishers provide the books to PM World; books are delivered to the PMI Alamo 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 Alamo 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



Heron Gonzalez, Jr., PMP

San Antonio, TX, USA



Heron Gonzalez, Jr is currently a Business Process Outsourcing Sr. Migration Manager and a member of the Project Management Institute. His professional experience also includes Program/Project Management, Business Process Engineering, Information Security, Human Resources, Organizational Planning/Design, Change Management and Operations Integration.

Heron has a B.A. and an M.B.A., and has obtained the Project Management Professional (PMP), Certified Outsourcing Professional (COP), Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), and Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) professional designations.