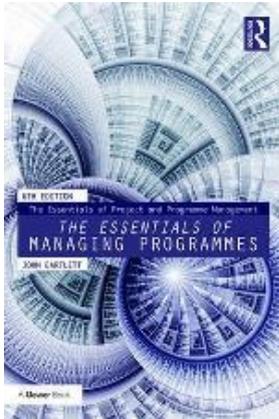


PMWJ Book Review



Book Title: ***The Essentials of Managing Programmes***

Author: **John Bartlett, BA Hon. FRGS, Hon. FAPM, CPM, ALCM, LLCM**

Publisher: Routledge

List Price: \$ 50.95 Format: Paperback, 102 pages

Publication Date: 2017 ISBN: 978-1-138-28829-4

Reviewer: **Marta Santos, PhD**

Review Date: February 2018

Introduction

The Essentials of Managing Programmes revolves around the decisions, benefits, and distinctions between program and project management. John Bartlett, the author of this and several other books/articles covering change, risk, and quality devotes this volume to further clarify the approaches and techniques to successful implementation of programs.

Overview of Book's Structure

A good portion of this book is dedicated to helping the reader distinguish the uses and purposes of projects and programs, as well as its benefits and exceptions. Several tables and illustrations allow for easy visualization of concepts and process flow. The examples are attention grabbers, as they include the very well known Year 2000 problem besides other high profile UK programs.

Highlights

In the author's opinion, these are some of the key characteristics of a programme:

- Allows for breakdown of a business strategy into smaller components
- Tolerates variation in the business strategy interpretation
- Longer duration than projects
- Strategic nature – Supports the strategic objective of an organization
- Focus – A business strategy
- Designed for scope change
- Ideal for monitoring benefits achievement
- Should be designed for change
- Complex and multidisciplinary
- Ideal for innovative undertakings
- Change can be implemented as strategic programs
- More adaptable to an organization's culture

Key Concept:

Programme Definition – “Collection of vehicles for change, designed to achieve a strategic objective.”

Highlights: What I liked!

It was hard to identify a section that I liked most. Given the succinct nature of the book, I avidly went through it page by page and took its entire content as highly applicable. The author makes a bold statement on page 98 that shouldn't be ignored. “The Programme Manager who neglects to visit the teams and remains behind closed doors is not managing the programme.”

Who might benefit from the Book?

Those seeking a high-level view of program management yet with enough details that include all the essentials should find this book very useful.

Conclusion

This books reinforces the notion that a program is the desired structure for strategic change. According to the author, “Programmes are costly ventures, but the benefits they bring usually justify their undertaking. Companies should only embark on programmes if they accept that change in the life of a programme is inevitable.”

For more about this book, go to: <https://www.routledge.com/The-Essentials-of-Managing-Programmes/Bartlett/p/book/9781138288294>

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@peworldjournal.net.

About the Reviewer



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Marta Santos currently serves on a global Cybersecurity Transformation Program as a Project Coordinator - IT Security. She previously served on a global IT Infrastructure Refresh Project after transitioning from a productive career in the Life Sciences as a Research Scientist and author on major scientific journals. She is looking forward to growing in and contributing to the Project Management profession. This is her third book review for the *PM World Journal*.

A naturalized American from Brazil, Marta currently lives in the Dallas area.

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