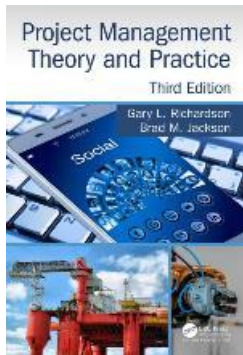


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: **Project Management Theory and Practice, 3rd Ed.**

Author: **Gary Richardson and Brad Jackson**

Publisher: Auerbach Publications

List Price: \$99.95 Format: Hardcover, 610 pages

Publication Date: July 2018 ISBN-13: 9780815360711

Reviewer: **Elena Koulich, PMP**

Review Date: December 2018

Introduction

If a group of seasoned project managers shared all the things they learned over the course of their careers, the amalgamation of their experiences would be this book. It takes a programmatic PMI model of project management and percolates it through the views and experiences of practitioners. The book uses an understandable language to bring often dry concepts to life and casts a broader view on project management vocabulary, models, concepts, and emerging trends.

Overview of Book's Structure

While each of the seven main sections of the book can be approached independently, the book does have a layered structure with each section delving deeper into project management concepts.

- Part I. Conceptual overview of the project environment. This part covers foundational topics such as the evolution of project management, industry trends, project life cycle, and project success factors. Nine chapters provide a solid backslash for the rest of the book.
- Part II. Foundation processes. This section addresses the key deliverables of a project – scope, cost, schedule, and quality.
- Part III. Soft skill processes. Here the authors discuss such indispensable themes of project management as stakeholders, communication, human resources, and team management.
- Part IV. Support processes. Topics of procurement, risk, and integration are covered at length in this part of the book. This part also concludes the coverage of the knowledge processes recognized in the basic model of PMI.

- Part V. Advanced planning models. This part showcases different approaches to viewing life cycle and introduces such concepts as adaptive models, project simulation, and critical chain model.
- Part VI. Project executing, monitoring and control. While the materials described in this section are still PMI model-driven – change management, earned value metrics, project closing – the book makes a solid attempt to add a flavor of reality.
- Part VII. Project environmental support. The final section of the book casts a broader view on the role of the organization, portfolio and enterprise project management, and project governance on a project's success.
- Appendix. Here authors suggest valuable resources on financial metrics, templates and project data repository.

Highlights

The book aligns exceptionally well with the *Project Management Institute's Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK) Guide* and provides a sound foundation of project management topics. At the same time, the authors succeed in bringing these topics closer to real-life projects.

In addition to the classic model, the book brings in a thorough examination of other important areas of project management such as Agile lifecycle, ethics, portfolio, and earned value management, enterprise project management and work breakdown structure.

Highlights: What I liked!

The book brings project management to life with vivid examples and goes in-depth on key topics, which makes it not only a lively supplement to *PMBOK* but also an invaluable resource on the subject in its own right.

Another valuable feature of the book is its gradual introduction to the subject from a historical perspective on project management. At the same time, this book's structure allows for a quick reference on the topics of interest without the need to read an entire book.

Who might benefit from the Book

Seasoned project managers will benefit from reading this book because it provides a good overview of established and recent tools and techniques of the trade. Individuals preparing to take their project management certifications will augment and solidify their understanding of project management practices as the book is largely based on *PMBOK* principles.

Conclusion

In the midst of our professional lives, it is easy to forget industry concepts one is not encountering frequently. This book provides an exceptionally well-structured reference to draw upon and patch up the gaps of knowledge whenever needed. *Project Management: Theory and Practice, Third Edition* also lines up the path for new trends in the field and prepares students and project management practitioners to a life of critical thinking and development.

For more about this book, go to <https://www.crcpress.com/Project-Management-Theory-and-Practice-Third-Edition/Richardson-Jackson/p/book/9780815360711>

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About the Reviewer



Elena Koulich, PMP

Texas, USA



Elena Koulich is a research project manager with over 19 years of industry experience in biotech and clinical research, project management, human biospecimen management, and education. Elena has a Bachelor's degree in Neuroscience, Master's degree in Integrative Biology and MBA with focus on Data Analysis. She has Project Management Professional (PMP) certification and is a Director of Operations in the Dallas chapter of Project Management Institute (PMI). Elena can be contacted at elena.koulich@gmail.com