

PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Rethinking Project Management for a
Dynamic and Digital World***¹

Author: **Darren Dalcher**

Publisher: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group

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SPC4

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Introduction

The book ***Rethinking Project Management for a Dynamic and Digital World*** is a collection of several thoughtful articles by 19 authors, many of which have been featured in the APM series of articles published earlier in the PM World Journal. The authors of the articles follow a practitioner path which combines theories with industry experience in various domain including construction, mining, lean production etc. In addition to conventional project management processes the book also touched upon the lean concept as well as the people aspect of project management in this digital era.

Overview of Book's Structure

The content of the book is divided into 11 main areas. Each area contains two distinct perspectives, one is an introductory narrative that sets the scene & explain the context and the other is about new ideas/thoughts from a contemporary point of view. Overall, the book contains the following sections.

Introduction

Rethinking the Future of Project Management by Darren Dalcher

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Chapter 1: Quality

- The Quest for Supreme Performance: Benchmarking to Save Lives by Darren Dalcher
- Lean Quality in Construction Project Delivery - A New Model and Principles by John Oakland, Marton Marosszeky

Chapter 2: Communication

- Communicating Beyond Our Hidden Assumptions by Darren Dalcher
- Communicating Project Management: A Participatory Rhetoric for Development Teams by Benjamin Lauren

Chapter 3: Teams

- From Teams and Teamwork to Teaming by Darren Dalcher
- Leading Brainy Teams by Peter Cook

Chapter 4: Leadership

- The Followership Advantage: Reconfiguring Leadership for Success by Darren Dalcher
- Human-Centered Management: A Systematic Interrelation by Roland Bardy

Chapter 5: Life Cycle

- Organizing for Project Work: Thinking Beyond Project Delivery by Darren Dalcher
- The Project Framework: Understanding Gates and Stages by Robert Buttrick

Chapter 6: Portfolios

- Organizing for Success in Project Portfolios, Initiatives and Strategies by Darren Dalcher
- Strategic Goal Alignment and Portfolio Stakeholder Management by John Wyzalek

Chapter 7: Entrepreneurship

- The Entrepreneurship Turn: Repositioning Projects as Successful Ventures by Darren Dalcher
- Effectual Project Management: Thinking Like an Expert Entrepreneur by Laura Mathiaszyk, Christine Volkmann, Stuart Read

Chapter 8: People

- Building from the Inside: The Power of Social Organizing by Darren Dalcher
- Social Process for Project Leaders by Ian Macdonald, Catherine Burke, Karl Stewart

Chapter 9: Hacking

- Hacking Innovation: Revisiting Teams, Productivity and Limits by Darren Dalcher
- How to Herd Cats: The Art of the Hacker Paradigm Leadership by Tim Rayner

Chapter 10: Stewardship

- Taking Responsibility for Our Actions: Why It Is Time to Think About Stewardship by Darren Dalcher
- A Strategic Approach to Product Stewardship by Helen Lewis

Chapter 11: Knowledge

- The Mind of the Maker: Making Sense of Knowledge by Darren Dalcher
- Through the Knowledge Lens: KM Adventures in Project-Land by Judy Payne, Eileen J. Roden, Steve Simister

Conclusion

Rebooting Project Management for a Brighter Future - by Darren Dalcher

Highlights

The book *Rethinking Project Management for a Dynamic and Digital World* talks about new approaches and frameworks for an increasingly demanding world where the traditional methods, models and mindsets may not suffice any longer. This book makes an honest & credible effort to explore recent trends, ideas, concepts and distills the fundamentals for marshalling a young world concerned with people, communities and value by deploying innovation and thoughtful purpose. As day by day the project management world gets more global, the geographical/cultural & demographic boundaries are getting increasingly blurred.

This book makes a solid effort to provide a perspective that is quite dynamic, adaptive and reflective. This book brings together some of the best writings by leading authorities on many key topics, including benchmarking, lean quality, communicating, teams and teamwork, followership, organizing for project work, project frameworks, agile working, project portfolios, strategic initiatives, strategic alignment, trust, entrepreneurship, putting people first, social processes, positive organizations, rethinking progress, the hacker paradigm, community, stewardship and knowledge management. The collection thus offers an invaluable new resource for informed project managers who is looking to engage with the latest thinking/research and also for researchers seeking to reflect on how the discipline is evolving.

Highlights: What I liked!

Having spent 20+ years in Banking/financial services domain as an IT Project Manager, I found this book to be a comprehensive one on the topic. It contains concurrent project management topics that are explained with a practitioner's approach. This book brings together some of the best writings by leading authorities on many key topics. While all the articles are of immense value, I specifically liked the People/Teams leadership part of the book. This book also provides detailed principles that we, the practicing project/program managers, need to evaluate/apply in almost all stages/phases of projects. Overall, it is a balanced book with adequate topics on almost all major categories.

Who might benefit from the Book?

This book will be useful for practicing project managers to get an idea as to how the project management discipline is evolving in last decade or so. This book can also be used as a reference book in a curriculum of project management courses in any engineering or management institution.

Conclusion

Having invested a considerable amount of time, effort & energy in building software systems across multiple geo-graphics, I realized that the stakes are very high when large & complex mission critical systems are to be built in a multi-cultural context with cross disciplinary teams. That is when, in addition to applying proven project management principles, we also need to consider the environment as the project management world gets more global, the geographical/cultural & demographical boundaries get increasingly blurred. This book makes an effort to provide a perspective that is quite dynamic, adaptive and reflective. It brings together some of the finest writings by leading authorities on many key topics.

About the Reviewer



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Gauranga Deka, PMP, PMI-ACP, CSM, CSPO, SAFe SPC4 is a Senior IT Project Manager with expertise in building complex software solutions. Currently, he is a member of PMI Dallas Chapter. In last 20+ years, he has been leading critical roles in the development of very large, complex & mission critical software products in Banking/Financial Services Domain. He is well versed in Agile, Scaled Agile framework (SAFe) & Water fall model of software development process.

Gauranga Deka received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from MANIT, Bhopal & Executive MBA from Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. He can be contacted at G_deka@yahoo.com or <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gaurangadeka>

For more about this book, go to: https://www.routledge.com/Rethinking-Project-Management-for-a-Dynamic-and-Digital-World/Dalcher/p/book/9781032133119?utm_source=cjaffiliates&utm_medium=affiliates&cjev-ent=287ad13fa19011ed80d7004a0a1cb82a

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