

PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW¹



Book Title: ***Impact on Project Management of Allied Disciplines: Trends and Future of Project Management Practices and Research***

Authors: **Young Hoon Kwak and Frank T. Anbari**

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Introduction

This Book's title seemed to suggest what the book was set out to present - the impact of Allied Disciplines on Project Management, including the trends and future of Project Management practices and research.

Overview of Book's Structure

Chapter one. In chapter one, the Book showed what the 'customer' Project Management Institute (PMI) wanted. PMI stated the questions it wanted addressed. The Book also stated the eight allied disciplines it was to find the trends in them.

Project Management Institute (PMI) posed these questions for the Book to investigate:

- What future trends in the allied disciplines might significantly impact project management?
- How would the allied disciplines' trends change project management?
- How would project managers have to change their mindset because of the allied disciplines' trends impact?
- How do we behave proactively to meet challenges of allied disciplines' trends?

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Chapter one ended with a summary of the goal of the research. “The goal of this research is to identify the impact on project management of allied disciplines and explore innovative project management theories, new trends and challenges to manage projects effectively.”

So far, so good. The discrepancy between what the customer (PMI) wanted and what the Book was set out to present, began.

It was this difference in objectives that the book showed throughout. It was all contradiction to what the customer wanted.

Chapter two. In chapter 2, the Book stated that ‘the goal of this research is to better understand project management from the management world’ and ‘argues that project management is a legitimate academic discipline ...’.

To justify its argument of project management as a legitimate academic discipline, the Book predicted, from its analysis of more than ‘500 journal articles from 18 journals ... from the 1950s to the summer of 2007, the future of project management as an academic discipline...’.

In the section about “Technology Management, Entrepreneurship and IT/IS”, the Book referenced Reisman [1994] and said that ‘he emphasized the importance of bringing practical real-world problems into both classroom settings and research.’.

Chapter two concluded that “it is important to note that that project management is no longer merely a practice to plan, schedule, and execute projects effectively, but it is an academic field ...’.

None of Project Management Institute’s (PMI) four questions was beginning to be addressed.

Chapter three. Chapter three opened with title “Analyzing Project Management Research Trends from Eight Allied Disciplines.” This title alone showed that the Book continued to miss the mark. The subject of research that Project Management Institute (PMI) asked for was in part “the trends in the allied disciplines that might significantly impact project management.” Trends in allied disciplines. Not trends in Project Management research. Table 3-1 showed project management research trends in AMP (Academy of Management Perspectives/Executives). Table 3-13 “Project Management Research Trends in Sloan Management Review.” The data presented in chapter 3 was about “Project Management Research Trends in ...”.

Chapter four. “The Future of Project Management and Allied Disciplines.”

The chapter opened with a ‘World Wild Web survey’ conducted ‘to explore the impact on project management trends in the allied disciplines.’.

Highlights

Tables and Graphs.

Highlights: What I liked!

I am not a fan of this Book. If the Project Management Institute (PMI) had not given the questions it wanted an investigation into, the Book could have been whatever fiction it wanted. As a Project Management professional, I was interested in uncovering some answers to the questions PMI asked – the trends in the allied disciplines that might significantly impact project management. For this Book's future edition, a look at Project Planning with Canvas and ChatGPT, would be an example of trend in the allied discipline (IT/IS) that might significantly impact project management.

Who might benefit from the Book?

I don't know. Maybe the 'academic disciplines'.

Conclusion

The first thing in an investigative study, in my view, is to have an idea of what of what you are looking for. In a business transaction, a business entity wants to know what the customer wants and attempts to satisfy this want. This Book missed the purpose of the study as mandated by Project Management Institute (PMI), the customer. There was no attempt by the Book to show a trend in any of the eight allied disciplines it stated, that might impact project management.

For more about this book, go to: <https://www.amazon.com/Impact-Project-Management-Allied-Disciplines-ebook/dp/B07F1HZ6XQ>

About the Reviewer



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My career is focused on Data Management. The primary tool I have used in managing Enterprise data is Project Management. The phrase ‘show me the data’ makes sense to me, as well as ‘how does the data impact my business’. Big data, small data, when managed effectively, can help a business stay focused on customer needs and provide agility no economic trends. I love learning and thrive in dynamic work environments where I learn from short or long project assignments and new subject matter. Then I use my learning to provide solutions and achieve bigger results.

I like sports – professional sports like Soccer, Football, Basketball, Swimming, and Baseball. I learned from watching these sports that the game is never over until the last whistle is blown. A come back from behind is always possible. Yes, winning is the goal, but how you played the game – putting in your best effort and learning from your mistakes, matters.

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