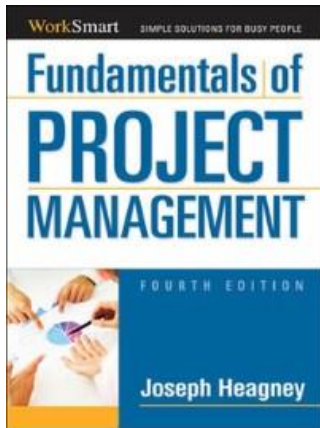


## PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW<sup>1</sup>



Book Title: **Fundamentals of Project Management, 4th Ed**

Author: **Joseph Heagney**

Publisher: American Management Association

List Price: \$16.95      Format: Softcover, 202 pages

Publication Date: 2011

ISBN-13: 978-0-8144-1748-5

Reviewer: **Priya Viswanathan**

Review Date: August 2023

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### Introduction

The book "Fundamentals of Project Management" by Joseph Heagney presents as an engaging read with concise explanations for newcomers to learn the fundamental concepts of project management related to planning, creating a project risk plan, developing a workable schedule, project control using earned value analysis and managing team members. Written with great clarity and enthusiasm, however, the book is not comprehensive enough to help you manage a project.

### Overview of Book's Structure

The book starts with an overview of the project management illustrating a realistic project lifecycle and highlighting the common traps an entry level project manager can fall into. The author then discusses the different activities corresponding to 5 phases of project management. Defining the problem, the project needs to solve as part of initiation process, planning of scope and schedule, determining level of risk with appropriate plans, managing a team to get work done, earned value analysis and balancing project performance with the management of the project are discussed in detail. However, the book doesn't address areas such as developing a workable budget, working with vendors, balancing scope with quality needs, and the recent challenges such as rise of agile development.

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<sup>1</sup> How to cite this review: Viswanathan, P. (2023). Fundamentals of Project Management, 4th Ed, book review, *PM World Journal*, Vol. XII, Issue X, October.

## Highlights

A lot of practical advice is given throughout the book. The author does a great job of integrating the various processes of project management and getting organized to achieve team building as part of project leadership.

### Highlights: What I liked!

I really liked how the author wove in his personal expertise and highlights bad decision making that typically leads to project failures. The book is an easy read, without bogging down the reader with dense technical details. Some of the practical concerns with communications for a project manager having a lot of responsibilities but with little authority are discussed. I would have liked to see more recent examples and case studies, especially in relation to team building.

### Who might benefit from the Book?

Students, aspiring project managers with little or no experience in project management. Experienced project managers will find the book too basic. It is worth noting that if you are looking for a preparatory book for one of PMI's certifications, this book may not be a good fit.

## Conclusion

"Fundamentals of Project Management" is a valuable study companion to those who would like to combine practical insights with theory concepts outlined in PMBOK guide. However, the book is not without its flaws, given that this book was written 12 years ago. The author brings in his expertise related to project management even though it may not be detailed enough to help you manage a project.

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For more about this book, go to: [https://www.amazon.com/Fundamentals-Project-Management-WorkSmart-Heagney/dp/0814417485/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=#detailBullets\\_feature\\_div](https://www.amazon.com/Fundamentals-Project-Management-WorkSmart-Heagney/dp/0814417485/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=#detailBullets_feature_div)

## About the Reviewer



### **Priya Viswanathan**

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**Priya Viswanathan** is an associate project manager leading R&D projects in the life sciences space. With over 15 years of experience in healthcare sector, her strengths lie in facilitating cross-functional collaborations from different disciplines and delivering projects in an expedient fashion working within meagre budget and resources. She has also presented in over 10+ national conferences including the Society of Neuroscience.

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