



Book Review:

Reading Time:

3 minutes

Reader Benefit:

- ◆ Learn about what project management entails;
- ◆ Insights on how you can manage change in your work better;
- ◆ Buy the book to discover the change management process that impact your projects.

Title: **The Handbook of Project-Based Management, Second Edition**

Author: J Rodney Turner

Publisher: McGraw-Hill, 1999

Pages: 529 pp, includes Index, and Summary for each chapter

Reviewer's Rating: ☺☺☺☺☺

Rating Legend:

Inspiring ☺☺☺☺☺ *Excellent* ☺☺☺☺ *Good* ☺☺☺ *Average* ☺☺ *OK* ☺

Website Summary:

Managing Your Project?

This book is about managing the change process through projects, and the critical role that project management plays. "Project management is the art and science of converting vision into reality." It's about new approaches to general management based on projects. The emphasis is on *managing change* which by itself can be a very challenging and dynamic endeavour.

Synopsis:

Managing Your Project?

The handbook is written from a practical perspective and helps the reader amass the basic understanding of the subject. Going beyond the basics, the value of the book is enhanced with a practical approach to change management.

It's about new approaches to general management based on projects. The emphasis is on managing change which by itself can be a very challenging and dynamic endeavour. It's about managing the change process through projects, and the critical role that project management plays.

In reality, the practice of project management can yield amazing results and take advantage of change but in a manageable and predictable way. This is where the benefits lie – in change management. As a strategic weapon for business empowerment, project-based management is a means of giving a company the competitive edge.



Managing Your Project?

Book Review by Leon A. Enriquez

To many of us, project management can be a very mundane subject – very repetitive and even boring. But the practice of project management can yield amazing results and take advantage of change but in a manageable and predictable way. This is where the benefits lie – in change management.

As a strategic weapon for business empowerment, project-based management is a means of giving a company the competitive edge in managing your business proactively.

A comprehensive definition states that: a project is an endeavour in which human, financial and material resources are organised in a novel way to undertake a unique scope of work, of given specification, within constraints of cost and time, so as to achieve beneficial change defined by quantitative and qualitative objectives.

“Books about project management give a static impression, a feeling that the book proposes to encapsulate a fund of knowledge and experience,” says Eric Gabriel, vice president, Association for Project Management, U.K., in the foreword to the first edition, “(with) ... a body of knowledge, which can be absorbed to give the capability of managing a project effectively.”

Gabriel continues, “After reading these books, I am usually disappointed – not because useful information and insights are not given – but because expectations are not realisable in practice.” Fortunately, this handbook proves to satisfy Gabriel’s practical expectations beyond a doubt as he goes on to declare.

The handbook is written from a practical perspective and helps the reader amass the basic understanding of the subject. This is where the value of the book is enhanced. It’s about new approaches to general management based on projects. The emphasis is on *managing change* which by itself can be a very challenging and dynamic endeavour. It’s about managing the change process through projects, and the critical role that project management plays.



Author Turner approaches the subject in a logical manner and delivers the content with pragmatism in mind. It is a guide with a do-it-yourself focus, and the principles outlined will not work unless you make them work for you. This handbook contains 20 chapters, and is organised in five parts that focus on the following:

- Part 1: The context of projects;
- Part 2: The project management functions;
- Part 3: The project management process;
- Part 4: Project management procedures; and
- Part 5: Applications.

Project management is now not only fully recognised – but more significantly regarded by clients and top management alike – as the top priority for achieving startling results. As the use and availability of IT expands, so does the importance of achieving success with IT-based project management systems.

“Projects touch all our lives, in working and social environments. Change is endemic, brought on by an explosion in the development of technology and communications,” says Turner. “The project-based organisation is becoming common, and project-based management is becoming the new general management. Project management is a skill all managers require in their portfolio of skills.”

“Project management is the art and science of converting vision into reality.” This dynamic articulation was from A. Jain while delivering a paper at the Global Project Management Forum held in September 1995 in St Peterburg.

With a profound sense, the *Handbook of Project-Based Management, Second Edition*, delivers a practical guide on the subject in an enlightening yet straightforward manner – and can be said to fulfill Jain’s remarkable observation.

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