

# Information Systems Project Management

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The purpose of the book is to give a descriptive idea on how to define, plan and develop information system projects, with optimized usage of resources forming teams, co-ordinating with timely assessment of risks involved ensuring that the developed project is qualitative. The book is mainly targeted to management professionals who want to bring in information system for managing overall processes in their system. The authors have rightly covered all steps for achieving a successful information system project.

Each chapter describes subsequent knowledge and suggest ideas to managers for managing projects in a better way. It focuses on the start to end process of managing a project and covers every step in detail which leads a manager to a successful project including estimating project costs and benefits, developing project plan, assessing risks involved and measuring project quality, etc.

The book is written in easy to understand and clear language. The chapter scheme of the book follows the sequential steps taken for developing a systems project. A list of thematic points appears before the actual text to give an idea about the topics covered in each chapter. At the end of each chapter interview with a project manager on the relevant topic is provided with a brief chapter summary. Case studies on interesting topics presented separately in boxed form bring quick attention of the readers and support the theories and ideas presented in each chapter.

Managing time and other resources in information system projects is explained using PERT/CPM supported by proper examples. Examples of MS Project may give managers a step-by-step guide on how to create and manage projects. The qualities of an information system's project leader are discussed suggesting the possibility of career in project management. A system's project cannot be successful if it is brought up by a strong team. Forming and handling a team is considered to be one of the core activities in developing a system's project. With teamwork and right attitude there are chances

## BOOK REVIEWS

that the developed project would succeed. Identifying and managing risk is particularly interesting as it allows managers to be proactive and be prepared to respond to risks whenever required. The important role of manager is presented in evaluating and implementing responses to the risks to achieve quality outcome by using statistical methods if required.

The rest of the book revolves round ensuring project quality, maintaining the standards and measuring project against the set standards to assess their quality level. The last chapters are particularly of relevance to IT project managers as it has the goal of satisfying user's requirements.

In general, this book covers all the general topics in managing information systems projects, but lacks the user's perspective. Technology today has reached to another level today and users need everything to be done at the faster pace using available tools and softwares. The methods suggested are typical methods used in the organizations by system managers and as the technology moves on they are also looking for some solutions which can do their tasks as quickly as possible with least risk.

Few points which if focused more would have been better like:

- The connectivity between business providers and users.
- Role of financial managers in managing information systems projects could have been elaborated as they are also involved in the overall process.
- Information system projects cannot be one time job and hence there should be a good scope of modification/updation of existing features.
- Typically information systems need to be scaled to test their applicability in real time. Some methods could be suggested on how it can be achieved.

Although the information presented in chapters is not new and rewriting the old ideas, but some of the good points make it stand out from existing books. All the ideas, new or old are supported by figures to give readers a clear idea about what is being said.

The book is aimed at public and private sector professional especially project managers in managing information systems projects. Looking at all the aspects presented in the book and discussed above, the book can be rated as a 3 Star book.

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