

Project Management: Past and Present



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Project Management
Chapter 1: Project Management: Past and Present

Project Management Past and Present

- This chapter introduces project management as an important activity in many different careers and industries.
- The chapter presents a brief overview of the history of project management tools and project management professionalism.



Careers Using Project Management Skills

- Everyone carries out projects, every role in every organization.
- Projects can be any size from one-person doing his or her homework to thousands of people working together with billion-dollar budgets.



Project management skills

- Planning
- Communication
- Delivering results
- Monitoring risks
- Managing resources



Industry sectors

- Business owners
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Arts, Media and Entertainment
- Building Trades and Construction
- Energy and Utilities
- Engineering and Design
- Fashion
- Finance

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Industry sectors (continued)

- Health and Human Services
- Hospitality, Tourism and recreation
- Manufacturing and Product Development
- Education
- Public Services
- Retail and Wholesale Trade
- Transportation
- Information Technology



History of Project Management

- Early methodologies not well-documented, but results still stand: the pyramids, Stonehenge, mass human migrations
- Late 19th century
- Construction of intercontinental railroad, other large projects
- Early 20th Century
- Frederick Taylor created Scientific Management of industrial processes
- Henry Gantt developed a bar-chart approach to illustrating timing of project tasks and progress



History of Project Management (continued)

- Mid-20th century
 - CPM and PERT methodologies identified the importance of task sequences, task dependencies and the concept of the critical path.
 - Project management as a profession
 - Project Management Institute (PMI) was founded
 - Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK) was created



History of Project Management (continued)

- Today
 - Increasing recognition of project management as a specialized set of skills applicable to many different industries
 - Project Management certifications: PMP, CAPM, specializations
 - PMBOK is in its 5th edition
 - Variations on methodologies:
 - phased (waterfall approach)
 - Agile methods
 - The importance of integrating projects into portfolios and programs



Summary

- Project management has existed as long as humans have worked together to achieve goals
- Project management skills are useful in all careers
- Project management takes place in all industries
- Project management tools and methodologies have evolved over the past century and a half:
 - Scientific management
 - Gantt chart
 - Pert/CPM network diagrams
- There are associations of professional project managers that set standards for the practice of project management
 - PMI's Project Management Body of Knowledge or PMBOK, currently in its fifth edition.



Questions?



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