Pioneers in Project Management

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"We are like dwarfs on the shoulders of giants, so that we can see more than they, and things at a greater distance, not by virtue of any sharpness on sight on our part, or any physical distinction, but because we are carried high and raised up by their giant size." Bernard of Chartres (Assured Solutions, 2015). Some of the pioneers of project management are known to be Frederick Taylor, Henry Gantt, Frank Gilbreth, Napoleon Hill, Donaldson Brown, George S. May, Walter A. Shewhart, W. Edwards Deming, Joseph Juran, Kaoru Ishikawa, Major Edward Murphy (Murphy's Law), Malcolm Baldridge, and Harry Markowitz (Assured Solutions, 2015).

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the work of two men and their followers: Frederick W Taylor and Henry L Gantt pioneered modern methods of managing people (Darmody P.S.P., 2007). Both men developed the concept of "scientific management" from actual experience and data. Taylor believed that things had to be done differently, what he called a "new paradigm." He was the earliest advocate of "work smarter, not harder." Gantt advanced Taylor’s ideas by inventing the bar chart schedules which have become some of the most essential tools in project management (Darmody P.S.P., 2007).

The Unified Process (UP) is one methodology that is prevalent within current trends of systems development. It is an object-oriented (OO) approach to system development offered by IBM’s Rational Software, originated by the three proponents of the Unified Modeling Language (UML): Grady Booche, James Rumbaugh, and Ivar Jacobson (Satzinger, Jackson, & Burd, 2009). Though UP is not a standard OO development methodology it is gaining ground in usage and accepted as an emerging process.

A book title “Profiles in Operations Research: Pioneers and Innovators” recounts the development of the field of Operations Research (OR) and the science of decision making. It traces the development of OR from its military origins to the mature discipline that is recognized worldwide today. It describes the lives and contributions of 43 OR pioneers and innovators and relates how these individuals have contributed to the field of OR (Assad & Gass, 2011). A review of the book by the Interfaces Journal states, “Profiles in Operations Research: Pioneers and Innovators, a volume that should be sitting on every operations researcher’s bookshelf, well dog-eared from having been read and reread, is such a book (Gray, 2012).” He goes on to say “… beyond reading Profiles in Operations Research for personal pleasure, this book should be standard reading and discussion material in the first doctoral seminar for our graduate students. … So, obtain your copy of this book. It will be well worth your investment.”

**Thesis Peer Review**

This thesis paper was reviewed by a peer. The review was acknowledged with the following comment: Wenona Fetick says, “This is a good paper because it is a good example that shows how our society benefits from the pioneers that form our intelligence and development.”

# References

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