Gower's Top 20 Books of 2014

www.gowerpublishing.com
The Goal
A Process of Ongoing Improvement
THIRD EDITION
Eliyahu M. Goldratt and Jeff Cox

Anybody who considers himself a manager should rush out, buy and devour this book immediately. If you are the only one in your place to have read it, your progress along the path to the top may suddenly accelerate...one of the most outstanding business books I have ever encountered.'

Written in a fast-paced thriller style, The Goal is the gripping novel which is transforming management thinking throughout the Western world. The author has been described by Fortune as a 'guru to industry' and by Businessweek as a 'genius'. It is a book to recommend to your friends in industry - even to your bosses - but not to your competitors.

November 2004
Paperback 400 pages
978-0-566-08665-6 £16.95
www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9780566086656

Digital Enterprise Transformation
A Business-Driven Approach to Leveraging Innovative IT
Edited by Axel Uhli and Lars Alexander Gollenia

'A solid reference for everyone involved in digital transformation, the book is ideal for C-suite executives, managers, consultants and academics, and the 300+ pages unfold the value of new technology and how Digital Enterprises do business with these technologies. The rich and insightful pages also present readers with a stream of new business opportunities that are based on digital technology. ... It has been difficult to do justice to such a comprehensive book on Digital Enterprise Transformation, but I hope this post has whet your appetite enough to acquire a copy of the book.'

Rob Llewellyn, programme director and trusted advisor to transformation executives

In order to embrace recent challenges and changes in the governance of IT strategies, SAP and its think tank – the Business Transformation Academy (BTA) - have jointly developed the Digital Capability Framework (DCF). Digital Enterprise Transformation: A Business-Driven Approach to Leveraging Innovative IT by Axel Uhli and Lars Alexander Gollenia outlines this framework which supports companies in analyzing their business potential generated by systematic usage of innovative technologies. The book presents how companies such as Samsung, IBM, Disney and Google take advantage of innovative IT and how they develop their digital capabilities.

November 2014
Hardback 314 pages
978-1-4724-4854-5 £65.00 $119.95
www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9781472448545

Critical Chain
A Business Novel
Eliyahu M Goldratt

'I would be of use to project managers who require more sensitive project management tools than management by the seat of your pants. It will also be useful for those who are not convinced of the benefit of project management methods.'

British Journal of Healthcare, Computing & Information Management

In Critical Chain, two of the established principles of project management, the engineering estimate and project milestones, are found wanting and dismissed, and other established principles are up for scrutiny —as Goldratt once more applies his Theory of Constraints. The approach is radical, yet clear, understandable and logical. New techniques are introduced, and Project Buffers, Feeding Buffers, Limit Multi-tasking, Improved Communications and Correct Measurements make them work. Goldratt even handles the complicated statistics of dispersed variability versus accumulated variability so deftly you won't even be aware of learning about them - they'll just seem like more common sense!

September 1997
Paperback 254 pages
978-0-566-08038-8 £19.99
www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9780566080388

Program Management
FUNDAMENTALS OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT
AWARD: 'AWARD OF MERIT' 2010 CANADIAN PROJECT MANAGEMENT BOOK AWARDS, RUN BY THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

'I would recommend that program managers who want a simple and useful guide to get hold of a copy of the book and keep it handy. Organizations should place a copy of the book in their library along with books on strategy and strategy implementation. For academics teaching a course in program management it would be a good as a textbook or as a reference book from which relevant readings can be suggested to students.'

Associate Professor Shankar Sankaran University of Technology, Sydney for PPPM eJournal

Based on practical applications of program management in different countries, as well as the leading international standards, this book reflects the most recent developments in the area. It offers an understanding of program management’s connection to business strategy and value realisation, beyond multiple-project management. Additionally it emphasizes the need for program specific processes, based on an iterative life cycle and the management of multiple stakeholders and their expected benefits. The book is grounded in a robust theoretical framework, complemented by a number of case studies.

September 2010
Paperback 20 pages
978-0-566-08882-7 £32.50 $59.95
www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9780566088827

Talking Safety
A User's Guide to World Class Safety Conversation
SECOND EDITION
Tim Marsh

'The missing factor for most senior managers is not the desire to do something to improve health and safety, rather it is a lack of knowledge of what they practically need to do to make a difference... Talking Safety for most people is the missing piece of the jigsaw, the piece that brings realisation and helps them to "get it". Key to this success is the light hearted and yet impactful style of the book which makes the techniques which have been developed through hard won experience immediately accessible.'

Neil Budworth, former President of IOSH

Talking Safety summarises, in a short user-friendly read, the key element of safety leadership – the management and supervisor ‘walk and talk’. Safety standards are set by a combination of three things: first, the basic systems: risk assessments, procedures, training, inductions and maintenance; second, the amount of objective learning about the inevitable weaknesses in these systems achieved from a ‘Just Culture’ perspective; and third, the quality of ‘transformational’ safety leadership which means coaching not telling, praising not criticising, leading by example and maximising front-line ownership and involvement.

A good ‘walk and talk’ is the only methodology that covers all these issues and really should be included as ‘part of the way we do things around here’. It is the centrepiece of any world class safety culture.

June 2013
Paperback 146 pages
978-1-4094-6655-0 £17.99 $34.95
www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9781409466550

Project Management
TENTH EDITION
Dennis Lock

‘Project Management by Dennis Lock, now in its 10th Edition, is a substantial, very thorough and practical book. From the contents it becomes obvious that the author has a broad range of project experience not just in a wide variety of types of project, but also from end to end - and then some...the contents and examples are applicable to projects worldwide...If you purchase the Tutor’s Edition, the book also includes a CD ROM with over 600 PowerPoint slides supporting all of the first 28 chapters...These timed slide presentations are well-prepared and represent a valuable asset for instructors wishing to use the book as a basis for instruction.’

R. Max Wideman P.Eng. FCSCE, FEICE, FICE, Fellow PMI, Project Management Wisdom

Dennis Lock’s masterly exposition of the principles and practice of project management has been pre-eminent in its field for 45 years.

The Tenth Edition of Project Management explains the entire project management process in great detail, and includes brand new chapters on implementing management change projects and the role of senior management support. Everything is reinforced throughout with case examples and diagrams, many new for this edition. As with previous editions, meticulous care has been taken to ensure that the text is reader-friendly and free of unnecessary jargon, with clear diagrams and a construction that is logically organized, well indexed and simple to navigate. The result is certain to maintain this book’s acclaimed status as the standard work for managers and students alike.

April 2013
Paperback 574 pages
978-1-4094-5269-0 £35.00 $59.95
Hbk & CD-ROM 978-1-4094-5419-9 £65.00 $109.95
www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9781409452690

www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9780566080388
Systems Leadership
Creating Positive Organisations
Ian Macdonald, Catherine Burke and Karl Stewart

‘This work is based on a multitude of practical experiences where the sustainable benefits from implementing the methodology have been very significant. ... Experienced Leaders have become much more of a positive force in their respective institutions. That’s a good fit with their intuitive understanding of how they have achieved success in the past. The value of this work is the ability to standardise this insight and to develop a new generation of leaders with confidence in a positive outcome both for them and the organisation.’

Oscar Groeneveld, Chief Executive, Rio Tinto Aluminium

A positive organisation is created by the hard work of leaders and members and is influenced by the way the organisation is designed, especially its systems. All this needs to be based on an understanding of sound, general principles of behaviour. This book outlines that work; how to build a positive organisation in terms of general principles and practical examples. It is intended to help leaders create more humane and productive organisations that can both meet their objectives and improve the human condition. It does so by presenting a coherent theory exemplified by numerous cases and practical experience.

November 2006
312 pages
Hbk & CD-ROM
978-0-566-08700-4
£65.00
$99.95
www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9780566087004

Plan for the Planet
A Business Plan for a Sustainable World
Ian Chambers and John Humble

GOWER GREEN ECONOMICS AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH SERIES

‘This is a controversial subject that polarises opinions. Much of what is written elsewhere is opinion rather than substance. Here is a book that deserves attention because the arguments are supported by clearly identifying data that can not only be independently checked because it is clearly set out in a tabulated form. The advantage is that it makes it possible for the reader to make eventual adjustments that will become necessary through future events and developments. A book worth buying and a book worth keeping.’

Dr Peter Starbuck (on Amazon.co.uk)

The scale of the global issues we are facing today: unsustainable population growth; climate change; energy supplies; water and food supplies; planet sustainability and biodiversity; extreme poverty; global health; universal education; conflict management and financing sustainability are more daunting than ever. Nevertheless these issues must be addressed – in a coordinated, global manner. That’s why the authors of Plan for the Planet outline an approach to achieving change which can be adopted and implemented at every level – government, business, community and as an individual.

May 2012
358 pages
Paperback
978-1-4094-4589-0
£19.99
$39.95
www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9781409445890

Action Learning for Managers
SECOND EDITION
Mike Pedler

‘This book is straightforward and practical as regards the why and how of action learning. It is eminently easy to read and digest and maintains reader interest, partly because of the subject matter and partly because of the way the content is presented...it provides both the first time reader and experienced professional with quality content and an up to date overview of action learning. Beyond that authors offers the following salutary advice ‘There is really only one way to get going with action learning and that is to try it!’ This text provides an ideal springboard from which to do so.’

Alan Cattell, Industrial and Commercial Training

Action Learning for Managers is a clear, concise and straightforward guide to this well-established approach to problem solving and learning in groups that enables change in individuals, teams, organisations and systems. Through action learning people develop themselves and build the relationships that are the key to improving operations and bringing about innovations.

June 2008
98 pages
Paperback
978-1-566-08863-6
£9.99
$19.95
www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9781566088636

The Management of a Student Research Project
THIRD EDITION
John A Sharp, John Peters and Keith Howard

The ability to carry out research successfully has come to be seen as a ‘key transferable skill’ required of all higher education students – and The Management of a Student Research Project addresses directly the skill element of this. Furthermore the research process, at all levels, is far more systematised than in the past. This is a hugely popular and highly successful textbook.

June 2002
278 pages
Paperback
978-0-566-08490-4
£19.99
$39.95
www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9780566084904

Complex Adaptive Leadership
Embracing Paradox and Uncertainty
Nick Obolensky

‘Drawing upon a wide range of wisdom and ideas, from Lao Tzu to Lorenz and modern chaos theory, Obolensky brilliantly argues the case for organisations and their leaders to adapt to the complex, uncertain world of today and tomorrow. He also proffers excellent practical advice on how to do so.’

Philip Sadler CBE, Vice-president, Ashridge Business School, Senior Fellow, Tomorrow’s Company

We all seem intuitively to know leadership ‘isn’t what it used to be’ but we still cling to old assumptions which look anachronistic in changing and challenging times. Organisations and their contexts are increasingly paradoxical and uncertain. A broader approach to leadership is needed. Nick Obolensky has practised leadership in the public, private and voluntary sectors. He has also researched it, and taught it over many years in leading business schools. In this exciting book he brings together his knowledge of theory, his own experience, and the results of 15 years of research.

August 2010
256 pages
Hardback
978-0-566-08932-9
£65.00
$109.95
www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9780566089329

The Culture Builders
Leadership Strategies for Employee Performance
Jane Sparrow

‘It is easy to forget the “people” element in challenging times with sights focused solely on hitting targets. Yet a sound employee-engagement strategy enables an organisation to retain its top talent and reap the benefits of a loyal workforce committed to the future success of the business. The Culture Builders is a practical guide to support you to achieve these aims, and is written with clear passion, sharing many inspiring examples of best practice.’

David Williams, CEO Impact International, (A Sunday Times Best Small Company to Work For since 2006)

In The Culture Builders Jane Sparrow shares the insight of her research and experience into how companies are creating an engaged workforce. Along the way she looks at the evidence, the case for engagement and how organizations are measuring and defining it. Having an engagement strategy is merely a first step and so the book explores how to enable the manager-as-engager.

Alongside the practical models and the guidance, there are stories and examples from leaders and organizations allowing you to learn, amongst other things, about the strong sense of purpose felt in John Lewis Partnership; the importance Innocence places on values; how companies are creating an engaged workforce. The Culture Builders provides an ideal springboard from which to do so.

John Baptista, Warwick Business School, UK

The Digital Renaissance of Work
Delivering Digital Workplaces Fit for the Future
Paul Miller and Elizabeth Marsh

‘This book gets to the fundamentals of work in the digital realm of organisations today. Miller and co-author Marsh offer a humanist perspective on the fast digitisation of what used to be office-based work. It first stimulates our thinking and then, based on the vast and rich history of the Digital Workplace Group, situates these ideas in real and practical case material. This book will prepare you for the new age of work in organisations.’

John Baptista, Warwick Business School, UK

The Digital Renaissance of Work: Delivering Digital Workplaces Fit for the Future takes the reader on a journey into the emerging technology-led revival of work. Paul Miller’s follow up to his critically acclaimed The Digital Workplace picks up the story to provide organisations with an understanding of the structural and organizational implications the emerging technology has for the workplace. His insights, backed by the considerable research of the Digital Workplace Forum, offer a lifeline to organizations needing to make better sense of a very uncertain future.

October 2014
240 pages
Paperback
978-1-4724-3724-6
£20.00
$39.95
www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9781472437246

Credit Management
SIXTH EDITION
Edited by Glen Bullivant

The best single-volume guide for anyone responsible for managing credit, risk and customers. Previously published as Credit Management Handbook, the new edition, with a new editor, has been revised to reflect changes in practice and technology and is the text for the Institute of Credit Management (ICM) examinations.

June 2010
748 pages
Hardback
978-0-566-08842-1
£125.00
$225.00
www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9780566088421