

Construction Project Management Books

The books listed below are most of the English language books on construction management. New and older books, and books of varying usefulness are listed. Since all of these books will not be found in any single library and many are costly, a brief commentary is provided to focus the efforts of students who want to learn more.

101 Ways to Cut Business Insurance Costs Without Sacrificing Protection, Third Edition William S. McIntyre IV/Jack P. Gibson, Int'l Risk Management Institute 2002

Although the book does offer cost-cutting suggestions as the title suggests, the underlying principles and practices of insurance are explained well and in detail in laymen's terms. A good first choice for construction managers who want to learn more about insurance.

Brunelleschi's Dome Ross King 2000

A historical narrative describing the management and construction of a mega project in 15th-century Florence Italy: the dome of Santa Maria del Fiore cathedral. This, the largest dome in the world, was constructed without centering which required continuous engineering innovation. Interesting wood, stone and brick masonry construction technology are detailed. Risk management and schedule dimensions of material fabrication and transportation, labor and money shortages in times of intermittent war were documented. Interestingly, the engineering of general conditions items such as material hoists, rigging devices, scaffolding, and transportation carts and ships were as revered as the design of the dome itself. And the story of 14th century politics, personalities and intrigue of the funders, politicians, designers and builders could have been written about a present day project.

Choosing Project Success A Guide for Building Professionals J. F. McCarthy, Pareto 2008

This book uniquely combines a managerial approach to construction management and construction technology. It is not an exhaustive analysis of either subject, but rather focuses on the essentials needed to manage and integrate the two subjects in the real world. It is valuable for capstone college courses, working building professionals and project management consultants seeking to work in the construction industry.

Construction Contracting A Practical Guide to Company Management Seventh Edition Richard H. Clough/Glenn A. Sears/S. Keoki Sears, John Wiley & Sons 2005

The book focuses on construction business practices and administrative procedures, but not on actually performing the work. For example, the chapter on estimating covers regulations, contracts and procedures but not actually constructing an estimate. This book is not an exhaustive study on regulation and law, and does not attempt to show how the subject matter is applied in the real world. About one third of the book is photocopied AIA, CMAA and AAA forms.

Construction Extension to the PMBOK Guide Third Edition Project Management Institute 2005

This is the extension companion to the Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge described above. It adds the knowledge areas of safety, environmental, financial and claim management in a manner most relevant to the construction industry. It includes some tools and industry-specific knowledge, but it is not a construction management quick reference manual.

Construction Jobsite Management Second Edition William R. Mincks/Hal Johnston, Thomson Delmar Learning 2009

This book delivers what the title promises, and is a good choice for those who are assigned early in their career to work full-time at a construction site. It comprehensively treats the needed subjects with an emphasis on what is done, but less on why it is done. This book does not attempt, and does not provide, a higher-level view of the

construction management process or address functions typically handled by the construction managers' home office.

Construction Management Fundamentals Clifford J. Schexnayder/Richard E. Mayo, McGraw Hill 2008

This book covers many traditional construction management subjects reasonably well, but omits jobsite organization, communication management, and cost and schedule monitoring and controlling. It ambitiously attempts to cover construction equipment and provides a reasonable introduction to the subject. It also attempts to cover building materials, but the treatment is too brief to be of value.

Construction Management Jump Start Construction Management Basics 2nd Edition Barbara J. Jackson, Wiley Publishing 2010

This very elementary introductory text focuses heavily on the design/build project delivery system that the author has used and favors. This text will be inadequate and sometimes misleading for those working with other delivery methods or with civil or industrial projects.

Construction Management Standards of Practice Construction Management Assoc of America, Construction Management Assoc of America 2010

This book describes CMAA's structured approach to construction management. It defines the necessary parts, processes and sequences, but does not attempt to provide any tools or practical hands-on guidance.

Construction Management Third Edition Daniel W. Halpin, Wiley Publishing 2006

This a newer edition of a book with very old origins, and so it is structured around the design-bid-build delivery method, and only touches on the design/build or construction management delivery systems. Some of the information presented in accounting and depreciation of equipment became obsolete over 20 years ago.

Construction Project Administration Ninth Edition Edward R. Fisk/Wayne D. Reynolds, Pearson Prentice Hall 2009

This book does not cover all the needed subjects and is not organized in a way useful to a construction manager.

Construction Project Management – A Managerial Approach J. F. McCarthy, Pareto 2010

This book integrates the knowledge, principles and practices of business, project management and construction management. It is the first text to apply the Project Management Institute PMBOK® knowledge areas and processes within the established construction management framework. The book will help the construction manager achieve a strategic vision, continuously improve construction operations and manage industrial, commercial and institutional projects from concept to occupancy.

Construction Project Management Fourth Edition Richard H. Clough/Glenn A. Sears/S. Keoki Sears, John Wiley & Sons 2000

Although this book surveys many traditional construction management subjects, it lacks real world application which limits its usefulness for students and working professionals. It presents some tools, traditions and procedures but does not describe how they are managed in practice.

Construction Project Management Third Edition Frederick Gould/Nancy Joyce, Pearson Prentice Hall 2009
A reasonable survey text.

CPM in Construction Management Seventh Edition James O'Brien/Fredric Plotnick, McGraw-Hill 2009

This book has long been recognized as a definitive text on scheduling. It is not a light or easy read, but rather requires careful study.

Design-Build Risk & Insurance Int'l Risk Management Institute 2006

This book is similar to 101 Ways to Cut Business Insurance described above, but focuses on the design/build delivery system.

Effective Work Breakdown Structures Gregory T. Haugan, Management Concepts 2002

This is a general text on work breakdown structures for many industries, and is not focused on construction management. This broader outlook can provide construction managers a new perspective.

The Goal Eliyahu M. Goldratt 2004. The book is an exploratory introduction to the theory of constraints which is related to the critical chain in construction management. It is written as a novel that weaves the productivity turnaround of a factory and the story of the central character's troubled marriage. It has been found useful by the general business community and general project managers and has sold over 3 million copies, but the experienced construction project manager will have long ago understood and applied these principles. Use of a critical path resource-weighted schedule coupled with expediting logs for material procurement, and monitoring and control of job costs will have previously made the principles introduced by this book second nature.

A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge Fourth Edition Project Management Institute 2008

This is the bible of the Project Management Institute and defines knowledge areas and processes. It is an essential preparation reference for the PMP credential exam and must be studied and learned in detail. It focuses heavily on a structured project management process but offers no applied construction knowledge, and is not a quick reference manual for construction project managers.

Management of Construction Projects A Constructor's Perspective John E. Schauffelberger/Len Holm, Prentice Hall 2002

Text illustrates the principles of construction management using a light commercial wood framed office building. This approach may have value for those seeking to work in this market segment, but will not provide a good foundation for those seeking to build larger projects with more sophisticated building systems and different delivery methods.

Professional Construction Management Third Edition Donald S. Barrie/Boyd C. Paulson, McGraw-Hill 1992

This book provides a competent detailed treatment of construction management. Although the older copyright makes some aspects dated, the book is still valuable.

Program Management Fifth Edition Chuck Thomsen Construction Management Assoc of America 2008

This book was written by an architect for architects and it is not useful for construction managers.

Project Management A Managerial Approach Seventh Edition Jack R. Meredith/Samuel J. Mantel, Jr., John Wiley & Sons 2009

This has long been a strong project management text focusing on manufacturing and other non-construction businesses. Application of the principles and examples presented in this text to construction will be a struggle with only modest results.

Project Management in Construction Fifth Edition Anthony Walker, Blackwell Publishing 2007

Written by a professor of the real estate and construction from the University of Hong Kong, this text takes a high-level management view of human relations on a construction project. Practical real-world applications are absent, and useful knowledge for a construction managers is minimal.

Project Management in Construction Fourth Edition Sidney M. Levy, McGraw-Hill 2002

This book takes a very legalistic view of construction management and does it well. Management of the minute details of construction contracts and the model AIA document suites are discussed and illustrated with many real world examples. This is the strongest book using this approach.

Project Management Planning and Control Fifth Edition Albert Lester, Butterworth-Heinemann 2007

This theoretical book on general project management will not be useful to the construction manager.

Standard Estimating Practice Seventh Edition The American Society of Professional Engineers, BNI Publications 2008

A useful book on a structured approach to construction estimating. This is not a “how-to” manual that will guide the novice develop their first estimate.

The Machine That Changed The World The Story of Lean Production James P. Womack/Daniel T. Jones/Daniel Roos, Free Press 2007

This is not a construction management book, but is a very readable description of how the quality process was applied to manufacturing. Lessons learned from this book can produce improvements in the construction industry.

The Management of Construction A Project Life Cycle Approach F. Lawrence Bennett, Butterworth-Heinemann 2003

This book's life cycle approach describes the activities, processes, and players in each project phase. This unusual approach will be puzzling to most, and struggles to show the integration of function across phases and the relation between the phases.

Total Construction Project Management George J. Ritz, McGraw-Hill 1994

Although this book covers traditional construction management subjects, it does not use industry terminology and real world examples are virtually absent.

Toyota Production System Beyond Large Scale Taiichi Ohno, Productivity 1988

The development of the world-class Toyota quality control system is explained in very understandable terms. Lessons learned can be applied to total quality management in construction.

What is Total Quality Control? The Japanese Way Kaoru Ishikawa, JUSE Press 1991

This is a very readable and accessible explanation of the total quality process. The power of these seemingly simple tools and processes can benefit the construction industry.