
Project management is not about managing projects, and Searcy’s well-written book succinctly demonstrates the difference. Searcy, a certified project management professional (PMP), states, “limited endeavors that create a unique product or service are projects” (p. 1). More formally, “then project management must be the use of organizational resources to create a unique product or service that achieves organizational objectives” (p. 2).

In chapter 1, Searcy uses processes from both the Project Management Institute and the Agile methodology to create a hybrid of five process groups: initiating, planning, executing, monitoring and controlling, and closing. Chapter 2 talks about characteristics of a project manager: tenacity, collaboration, and ethics. Subsequent chapters lead the reader in meeting management, planning a team, costs and budget, execution, and failure.

Each chapter provides clear and simple definitions, describes library related examples, defines and gives specific techniques, circles back to previous chapters well, and ends with a tidy summation. Chapters also provide excellent examples of figures, checklists, registers, and templates. The final chapter outlines the most ignored process, closing. It entails reflection, lessons learned, final reporting, and celebration. A complete bibliography and index are included.

In closing, Searcy states, “the meaningful part of project management is not creating charts or writing plans. It’s the conversations, the transparency, the negotiation, and the collaborative problem solving that are required to create the right result . . . if you apply the skills, tools, and techniques outlined in this book while practicing responsibility, respect, fairness, and honesty, you will have better project outcomes” (p. 112).

Searcy has an easy-going, yet focused, writing style, providing a huge amount of information in a small package. Project Management in Libraries is a well-written, concise overview directly focused for libraries. Information is also provided for those interested in project management careers.—Dana Belcher, Director, Linscheid Library, East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma


Much like mindfulness itself, this title does not require a large investment of time and uses minimal structure to achieve results. This collection of chapters can be read at once or one by one, with each chapter bringing a different perspective on mindfulness in the daily life of a librarian. Topics include applying mindfulness both personally and for library users in areas such as outreach, instruction, collection development, and staff management.

The collection of chapters is a forum of practical ideas on mindfulness in all types of libraries, with examples from medical, public, academic, and school libraries. Those looking for information on best practices, an introduction to mindfulness concepts, or a thorough discussion on how mindfulness fits in with a library’s mission and purpose should look elsewhere. The brief chapters vary in the clarity of the writing and in the uniqueness of the ideas. Some chapters present truly unique ideas, such as long-term houseplant checkout for on-campus residents, while others discuss how the application of traditional techniques, such as journaling, influenced the authors’ work.

With few works available on applying mindfulness specifically in the library context, this title does fill a gap in the literature. Even though it is a snapshot of current library trends in mindfulness, it is not likely to become quickly outdated because many of the ideas will remain relevant over time. The format and content makes the work useful for librarians with varying levels of experience with mindfulness. Those with little experience would need to supplement this text with some of the ample resources on mindfulness concepts, specifically how mindfulness can affect the workplace and the academic environment. While it is not a comprehensive guide to mindfulness in libraries, this text can be useful for libraries striving to explore mindfulness in a variety of contexts.—Marla Lobley, Public Services Librarian, East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma