

PMI Mid-Mo Chapter News

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Internet Great for PM Research

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The Internet offers good resources for Project Managers. Whether you want to keep up with best practices, need a template for a new document for your project, or want to bounce a sticky problem off other accomplished Project Managers, the Internet offers something for you.

I have used three main web sites since my visit to PMI Symposium 2000 last September. All three were represented at the vendor show, and since I frequently need a library of information to support various project managers in my firm, I decided to evaluate the sites with real-life information needs. Here are my observations.

First, www.projectconnections.com is an e-newsletter with a searchable knowledge base and organized PM information. Its sections are Home, Community, Know-How, Marketplace and Members.

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In the News

*Roundup and Excerpts Reprinted
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To Tennessee – Registration opened May 21 for PMI 2001, “First to the Future,” being held November 1 -1C in Nashville, Tennessee. A registration brochure is available on PMI’s Web site, enabling those interested to register for the event online. Registration forms and the ability to register online are now available. In addition, housing registration must be done via fax or mail. Visit www.pmi.org for up-to-date information.

The (New) Book – The PMBOK® Guide, 2000 Edition was approved as an American National Standard (ANS) (ANSI/PMI 99-001-2000) on March 27, superseding the PMBOK® Guide, 1996 Edition as PMI’s American National Standard in Project Management. The PMBOK® Guide, 1996 Edition should no longer be referred to as an ANS.

PMBOK Permission FAQ – Due to overwhelming requests received each month for permission to use excerpts from the PMBOK® Guide, 2000 Edition, PMI has developed a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) Web page on this topic. This new and informative FAQ may be found by clicking on the words “Intellectual Property” on PMI’s home page within the PMBOK® Guide, 2000 Edition download area. The FAQ answers routine questions about the permission process and contains a direct link to the Information Check List Form, the beginning point for persons seeking permission to use excerpts of the PMBOK® Guide, 2000 Edition. Automating this portion of the permission process maximizes efficiency and speeds up the turn-around time, providing access to this process 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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A free membership option provides access to a portion of the information available. Members are offered a free trial upgrade to a premium membership, which will cost about \$30 a month or \$300 a year. If you hurry you can cut that amount in half.

The Marketplace offers its own bookstore and allows vendors to register a link with ProjectConnections. A nice feature is the searchable PM tools directory. I used this when I wanted to provide all choices of configuration management tools for a particular client, with results narrowed down according to that client's environment.

Know-How includes a Cliff-Notes-like skill directory that links to templates. You can also go to Templates and Checklists. However, I notice that 90% of the templates require a premium membership for the download. Searching for a Customer Satisfaction Survey template resulted in 59 hits. However, none I checked provided the template I needed, so I used our Chapter library and found what I needed on the PMI Sample Forms CD.

The Community section has several categorized forums. I'm not much for online chat, but enjoyed reading a piece on corporate memory under the Center of Excellence Learning Group Forum.

The next site, www.gantthead.com, is harder to describe. It too offers articles, white papers, advertising, tool templates and information searches, but it is organized differently. The alphabetical tool listing provides companies with names beginning with a selected letter, not helpful when I looked for a Customer Satisfaction Survey. I switched approaches and tried a tool in the category of Tracking Issues. That seemed to be the closest category to what I was looking. I still found nothing except a lot of alphabetized ads. Finally in desperation I keyed "customer satisfaction survey" in the search field and pressed Search. No hits. I entered "survey" and got seven pages of hits.

I liked the how Gantthead sorted my hits by type (discussion forum, template, article, etc.). I then tried "satisfaction survey" and found a great customer satisfaction survey that I was able to download without a premium membership. I will use this survey again, and I found several other interesting templates.

One more thing you should know: downloading templates prompted Gantthead to send me an e-mail offering their "virtual consulting" services to modify the template for \$190. Gantthead also has a book review, an "ask PM guru" forum, and something I liked, news stories. They were mostly ads.

The final site, www.pmboulevard.com, seemed to remember I was recently looking for configuration management tools because it provided a nice article on those tools when I logged on. Pmboulevard includes online training for PM topics, many which award PDU credits, for \$200-\$500.

There is also a virtual PM Office. This PMO can be used to manage your projects online, including allowing project documents to be managed and shared via the Internet. It includes an Executive Information System that alerts a manager when a predefined performance measure is outside of its tolerance range. Time sheets and project plans, risk plans, the whole set of project documentation can be managed through this tool. I could not get the cost of this service without contacting the company, which I did.

The site's Knowledge Center functioned like competitors' sites. I found 42 templates and 37 forms, none of them available without a corporate subscription. There were also 7 checklists, 7 glossaries, 11 assessment documents and so on. I did not find a Customer Satisfaction Survey. This site offers an "Ask the Expert" service that costs between \$85 - \$115 per question, with the cost declining if you ask more questions. The bookstore links you to Amazon.com, but also has a searchable list of PM books.

Becoming a member of Pmboulevard automatically signs you up for an e-news letter that will be sent to you weekly. This has never displayed for me properly in Outlook although I can open my browser to see it.

I hope this quick review of three Project Management sites will help you find the information you need for your own projects. There are many other favorite PM links that various members have bookmarked. If you would like to share your list in this newsletter or as a link from our Chapter web site, forward the URL list to Frank Cox at fcx@mail.doc.state.mo.us.

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PM Basics Online – PMI has introduced a new section to the organization's Web site called "About Project Management." The new section can be reached by going to www.pmi.org and clicking on the "About Project Management" button at the left-hand side of your screen. Or, you can type in www.pmi.org/projectmanagement to go directly to the site.

What a Year – The "2000 In Review" product is now available for downloading in PDF format. Visit PMI's Breaking News section on PMI's home page at www.pmi.org.

Three Million? – PMI kicked off its Advertising Program for 2001 with newly created ads in the May issue of Harvard Business Review and Strategy + Business Forum Magazine. The program targets decision-makers, CEOs and other senior executives to raise awareness and advance the profession worldwide. PMI's campaign is poised to reach almost *three million* people in project management.

Construction PM News – Lew Gedansky, PMI Manager, Research, participated in a Construction Industry Institute (CII) Regional Workshop on the identification of potential research topics relevant to that industry. Other participants were from construction industry contractors, owners and academia. CII will utilize the output from the regional workshops and their needs assessment survey in preparing research project recommendations for the CII Board of Advisors. (<mailto:r&d@pmi.org>)

RFP Referrals -- PMI is pleased to announce initiation of the "PMI Request for Proposal (RFP) Referral Program," designed to link organizations and corporations seeking project management training with appropriate PMI Registered Education Providers (R.E.P). Initially, the RFP Referral Program will consist of RFP e-mails forwarded from the PMI Headquarters Web site directly to Providers. By June, PMI will begin posting incoming RFPs on a special R.E.P. Intranet. Providers will then be able to review all RFPs, identify potential clients and submit proposals based on their posted requirements. (<mailto:pdp@pmi.org>) ❖

Attention PMPs!

Earn PDU Credits at Chapter Functions

PMI Mid-Missouri Chapter is a PMI Registered Education Provider and aims to provide helpful educational opportunities to all its members. To certified Project Management Professionals, who must accrue a minimum of sixty (60) Professional Development Units (PDUs) every three years, the chapter also offers a chance to get several PDUs per year close to home, at a reasonable cost.

The purpose of the program is to:

- Sustain the PMP as a global certification credential and enhance ongoing professional development of PMPs
- Encourage and recognize individualized learning opportunities and offer a standardized, objective way of attaining and recording professional development activities

Each PMP should receive a copy of the Professional Development Program handbook

when they are notified of their certification. Alternatively, the information can be found at <http://www.pmi.org/certification/pdp/overview.htm>.

Within Mid-Missouri Chapter you can earn up to 10 PDUs per year by serving as an officer, or 5 PDUs per year by serving as a committee member. You can also earn up to 5 PDUs by presenting a project management topic at a chapter meeting. And don't overlook your chance to earn PDU credits by attending the programs at Chapter meetings and Chapter workshops.

Report your own professional development by submitting your Activities Reporting form. Save your receipt and the documentation about each meeting in your personal Professional Development Program Folder to satisfy your documentation requirements. Here are the PDU values assigned to Chapter activities to date.

For more information about earning PDUs, please contact a Chapter Board officer. Two of the officers, Charles Coldwell and Faye Zumwalt are PMPs and well versed in obtaining and documenting PDUs to maintain PMP certification.

Date	Title	Presenter	Provider Number	Program Number	PDU Credits
3/30/00	Virtual Project Management	Nick Matteuchi	C230	00200001	1.0
5/25/00	Program Coordination of SAP Implementation with University of Missouri System	Dr. Majdi Najm	C230	00200002	1.0
7/20/00	Monte Carlo Analysis and Risk Management	Michael Cook, PHD	C230	00200003	1.0
09/28/00	Remote Project Management from a Virtual Office	Linda Blanton	C230	00200004	1.0
11/3/00	Managing the Reclamation of the Mo. State Correctional Facility	Charles Bruzalski	C230	00200005	2.0
1/18/01	Microsoft Project Tips & Techniques	Lloyd Miller, PMP	C230	00200101	1.5
2/24/01	Microsoft Project 2000 Workshop	Lloyd Miller, PMP	C230	00200102	4.0
3/22/01	Project Communication Management	Frank Cox	C230	00200103	1.0
5/31/01	Maturity Models and Project Management	Bond Tarr, PMP	C230	00200104	1.0