Definitions
The Project Management Institute (PMI) defines project management as “the application of knowledge, skills and techniques to execute projects effectively and efficiently”.

James Porter defines a discourse community is “a group of individuals bound by a common interest who communicate through approved channels and whose discourse is regulated”. John Swales builds upon Porter’s definition and further defines discourse communities by identifying six characteristics: a set of common goals, a method to communicate among members, participation to provide information, one or more genres, a lexis, and active experts.

These definitions and attributes hold true in project management discourse communities. This wiki introduces many of these attributes in the context of project management discourse communities.

If only transferring project management knowledge from a subject matter expert was this easy.

Benefits of Discourse Communities
Just as scientists build upon the knowledge of other scientists, so do project managers learn from the knowledge of other project managers. Ongoing debates in the field of science are common, as are ongoing debates in the field of project management. Project management discourse communities offer members the opportunity to establish standards, exchange knowledge and best practices, and debate new ideas – all in an effort to make more effective project managers who can successfully deliver projects. Project management discourse communities originate from different environments, are influenced by a variety of sponsors, utilize a wide range of genres, regularly have unique goals, and assimilate members differently.
Environments
There are many different environments where project management discourse communities exist.

Academia. Many universities around the world offer courses in project management. For example, Dakota State University offers CIS-338, "Project Management". Many universities offer complete degrees in project management. South Dakota State University offers a degree titled "Construction Management" (many project management concepts come from the construction industry). B.S., Master's, and Doctorate degrees are available from many universities around the world. Domestic examples:

- Penn State
- Stevens Institute of Technology
- Colorado Technical Institute
- Northcentral University
- Capella University
- Ohio State University
- Purdue University
- Syracuse University

Professional organizations. Examples:

- Project Management Institute
- International Project Management Association
- Association of Project Management

For-profit corporations. Examples:

- Gantthead
- BICSCI
- allPM
- Eprojectcentral

Private within corporation. Example: Group of active project managers within Daktronics.

Types of Knowledge
As with most discourse communities, there is an expectation by community members that those with a desire to join the community have a basic level of knowledge. In project management discourse communities, the following are key concepts.

- Project Integration Management
- Project Scope Management
- Project Time Management
An expanded list of knowledge areas is available on [Wikipedia, Project Management](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_management).

### Sponsors
Different types of sponsors have influence on project management discourse communities and members.

**Schools.** Example: South Dakota State University and Dakota State University.

**Professional organizations.** Example: Project Management Institute.

**Employers.** Example: Daktronics.

### Standards
The most common standard for project management in the United States is *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge* (PMBOK). Additional standards/methodologies include:

- **PRINCE2** - Used primarily by the UK government.
- **Lean Production System** - Created by Toyota for manufacturing environments.
- **Agile** - Created for the software development community.
- **Critical Chain** - Places emphasis on resources required to execute project tasks.
- **Event Chain** - Focuses on identifying and managing events that affect project schedules.
- **Process-Based** - Governs the mindset and actions in an organization.
- **Extreme** - Created for the software development community.
- **ISO 10006** - Guidelines for quality management in projects.
- **Capability Maturity Model** - Typically applied to software development maturity for companies pursuing government contracts.

### Demonstrating Expertise
The most common methods to demonstrate expertise are university degrees and industry certifications.

**University Degrees.** BS, Master's, PhD.

**Industry Certifications.** [CompTIA Project+](https://www.comptia.org/certifications/project-portfolio-management), [PMI Project Management Professional](https://www.pmi.org/certification/project-management-professional-pmp).

### Genres
Genres are forms of literature. Project management communities utilize many genres. Examples:

- Research Papers
- White Papers
- Video Presentations
- Periodicals
- Online Blogs
- Discussion Forums
- ISO
Additional information on these and other genres can be found on Wikipedia.

**Technology**

Technology plays a key role in project management and in the project management discourse communities.

PMI makes available to its members a large set of online books, standards, and general information. Ganttthead.com does the same.

ISO standards can be purchased and downloaded instantly.

Safari Books Online offers online viewing of thousands of books. There are currently over 222 project management books available on Safari Books Online. In 2012 there were 181 project management books added to Safari Books Online.

Online templates are often utilized to decrease the administrative burden placed upon the project manager and to increase quality by ensuring consistency. A vast variety of templates are available online and from different companies and organizations.

**Articles**

How Technology Affects Project Management

Innovations in Technology and Project Management Practices That Can Improve Human Services

Examples of Technology in Use

Twitter

Community via LinkedIn

Project Management Questions

digg

Project Management

RSS - The Project Management Podcast (latest three)

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Take your career as a PM Trainer or PM Consultant to the next level and become an Approved Consultant & Educator (ACE) without financial investment. Watch the video for details:

Sorry. Your browser cannot play this video.
The Scholarship for the ACE program of the Project Business Foundation is to help a limited number of trainers, consultants, and other experts to gain this coveted qualification during times burdened with the Corona crisis.

**Episode 448: How Laws and Regulations Affect Projects (Free) #PMOT**

J. Franklin  
James Franklin, PMP  
Every project that you have ever worked on had at least one constraint. Maybe your current project has a fixed budget and maybe the previous one had to be completed by a certain deadline. But I am also sure of this: your projects had to follow laws and regulations.

The laws you have to follow can be major laws, like Sarbanes-Oxley here in the USA, the protection of personal data laws in the European Union, or the intellectual property laws that most countries around the world have. And if you work in aerospace or healthcare then you will know all about rules and regulations concerning personal safety. But on the other hand these must-follow laws and regulations could simply be an internal regulation that tells you that all rental cars must be rented from one particular company.

So laws and regulations limit our choices and freedom to shape our projects.

And to explore this in more detail, we have Jim Franklin with us today. He has managed over $500M of Government contracts in California and knows a thing or two about laws and regulations.

**Episode 447: Project Business and Project Business Management (Free)**

O. Lehmann  
Oliver F. Lehmann, PMP  
Today we are going to talk about Project Business and Project Business Management, and if you have no idea what that means then welcome to the club. Cornelius didn't know what either of these terms meant when he heard them for the first time.

But now he does. Thanks to Oliver F. Lehmann.

Oliver wrote the defining book on the topic called Project Business Management (Best Practices in Portfolio, Program, and Project Management). In addition to that, he also founded the Project Business Foundation, and he is our guest today to give us an introduction to project business and project business management.
The number of project management discourse communities available today is truly amazing. If at any time you are bored and would like to read more, try this Google search (there are only 89 million results).

Citations