PROJECT MANAGEMENT STORIES

FROM THE TRENCHES

EXPERIENCES IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

ALA CORE IG WEEK

MARCH 2023

LINDA SCOTT ZALESKI, MLS, PMP

SOME BACKGROUND ON ME - LINDA SCOTT ZALESKI

- University of Illinois - Computer Science and MLS
- Systems Librarian / Project Manager
- Implemented systems at hundreds of public and academic libraries
- Retired 2022: Support Manager / Project Manager at Ex Libris
- PMP: 2018

Harvard University
Cambridge

Stanford University
Stanford

Princeton University
Princeton

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia

University of Toronto
Toronto

University of Florida
Gainesville

Massachusetts Institute of T...
Cambridge

University of California, Ber...
Berkeley

Cornell University
Ithaca

Columbia University
New York

Yale University
New Haven

The University of Chicago
Chicago

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore

Purdue University
West Lafayette

Brown University
Providence

University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh

Iowa State University
Ames

Boston University
Boston

University of Massachusetts...
Amherst

Duke University
Durham

University of California, Sant...
Santa Barbara

Michigan State University
East Lansing

Virginia Tech
Blacksburg

University of Southern Calif...
Los Angeles

Arizona State University
Tempe

North Carolina State Univers...
Raleigh

Washington University in St. ...
St. Louis

Northwestern University
Evanston

University of Maryland
College Park

University of Wisconsin-Ma...
Madison

The University of Utah
Salt Lake City

Georgia Institute of Technol...
Atlanta

Rice University
Houston

USAEUR ARMY LIBRARIES HEIDELBERG GERMANY

- New computer room
- Install computers and end user equipment
- Defense Data Network
- 104 libraries
- Train staff
- Ensure operations running smoothly

CHALLENGES OF THIS PROJECT

- US Government contracting
- Culture, customs
- German and American regulations
- Managing staff
- Large geographical region
- Building specifications

BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONAL de FRANCE (BN)
(Richelieu site)

- Culture and customs
- Slow moving
- Communications

PROJECT FOR BN AND SMITHSONIAN

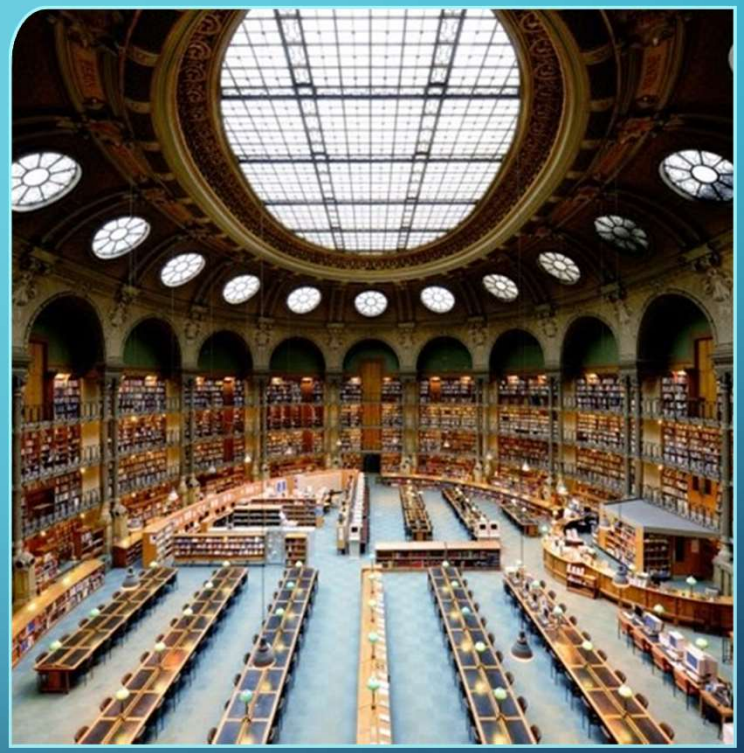
- Multi-project coordination
- Develop needed functions
- Government contracting

VATICAN LIBRARY

- Install ILS system
- Hardware and software
- Ensure successful operation

SPECIAL CHALLENGES

- Hire local contractors
- Pay attention to artifacts
- Respect customs
- Train staff
- Politics
- Debate of closing the Card Catalog



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

- Unique complexities
- Upgrade software
- Stay within timeline
- Minimize downtime

CHALLENGES OF THIS PROJECT

- Year long project
- COVID delay
- New regulations
- Government contracting
- Politics

SUMMARY OF LESSONS

1. Communication is everything
2. Regular project reviews with important stakeholders
3. Be sensitive to needs of staff and stakeholders
4. Be ready to do “what it takes”
5. Be ready for problems and build in extra lead time
6. Embrace the problems, learnings and think creatively
7. Keep records, minutes and remember to debrief learnings

FINAL TIP!

" Remember your sense of Process, sense of Perspective, and sense of HUMOUR"

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR FUTURE PROJECTS!

THANK YOU
SEND ME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR PROJECTS,
PMP CERTIFICATION
AND FEEDBACK!!

LINDA SCOTT ZALESKI

LINDA.ZALESKI@COMCAST.NET

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