

Book Selection

This book offers many original insights into diagnosing problems in organizational structure, and benefits from the style of handbook or manager's guide. Thankfully, the book is not cluttered by references.

JOHN R. BEAUMONT

Integer Programming and Related Areas: A Classified Bibliography 1981-1984

(Volume 243 in series "Lecture Notes in Economics and Mathematical Systems")

R. VON RANDOW (Editor)

Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1985. 386 pp.

ISBN 3 540 15226 1 or 0 387 15226 1

This computer-generated listing is the fourth in a continuing series of bibliographies of the literature of integer programming and combinatorial optimization. This volume gives details of nearly 5000 papers published in the literature in a period of just under four years. These are presented with sufficient detail for access through an inter-library loan service, and are cross-referenced according to 50 main subject headings. These range from algebraic methods to zero-one programming, with suggestions as to where one could find about 100 other topics. An author index completes the work.

This is a book for the library of the serious theoretical researcher. About 240 papers fall into the applications category, although time may allow some theoretical results to find a future application. It gives a useful supplement to I.A.O.R.: here there are no abstracts, and the coverage is wider, but International Abstracts in O.R. has the virtue of contemporaneousness.

DAVID K. SMITH

Project Management: Methods and Studies

(Studies in Management Science and Systems 11)

BURTON V. DEAN (Editor)

North-Holland, Amsterdam, 1985. 318 pp.

ISBN 0 444 87742 8

In Burton Dean's introduction he states, "The purpose of this book is to stimulate interest on the part of both managers and management scientists in project management".

I must admit I found this book very unstimulating, verging on the soporific. It was not at all helped by the format: very small, cramped type, reminiscent of reduced photocopying. It is also another of those books which contain, in this case 17, papers from assorted authors almost exclusively from American academia. Although they had been carefully selected from a much larger number, there still was no sense of continuity between them; it was no different from reading a journal dedicated to project management.

The genealogy of PERT and C.P.M. seems to be almost as complicated as many of the network diagrams illustrated throughout the book. It was suggested by Weist (p. 92) that project management was an excellent subject for doctoral students and publishing professors. It was tempting to dismiss this book as being written purely to meet the demands of these groups, but this would do it a certain amount of injustice, I hope.

One only has to look at the bibliographies at the end of the chapters to see the extent of the proliferation of papers and books on the subject. With so much published material, it is perhaps time that someone sat back and took stock of the situation. To this aim, this book represents a good attempt. It could prove quite