



President's Letter

This month's ITAK theme is Project Management. Over our lifetimes we will all be engaged in a multitude of projects whether they are at the office or for your child's 4th grade science project. The term "project" is part of every day vernacular in our lives. How does Project Management differ when considering ITAM? Does it, and what then do you have at your disposal to reference as a best practice guide for the differing needs of an IT Asset Manager?

There are many similarities between ITAM Project Management and other organizational projects undertaken, but then again, an ITAM program does have many unique characteristics which obviously trickle down to the individual projects, each one uniquely interdependent on the other and few that can stand alone within the scope of an ITAM implementation.

As Dan Ingouf points out in his article, Project Management has a long history and methodology that applies broadly across industries or so they thought. Along comes the IT Asset Manager who can't seem to tweak this "one size fits all" methodology enough to fit their needs. What makes this industry sector so different from others?

For starters, ITAM projects cross every organizational business unit and can impact every unit's operating budget and departmental performance during the lifecycle of the IT asset. No other program has such far reaching impact on the individual employee, the top brass and the budget. No other set of projects require the direct input and cooperation of most every business unit as well, whether they be a direct stakeholder, project manager or influencer such as legal council.

Best practices needed to be refined and honed to a list specific to ITAM Project Management activities that not only maintained the industry accepted practices established by standard project management principles, but added those necessary to implement ITAM projects in support of an overall ITAM program.

This was the predicament we as IT Asset Managers found ourselves in a few years back and a "project" that IAITAM chose to tackle on behalf of ITAM industry professionals. The resulting product is the IAITAM Best Practice Library ("IBPL") and the demand and acceptance of the IBPL has proved to be a lifeline for many organizations struggling for an ITAM guide of "how to's" for their ITAM programs all the way down to the project management level.

In the economic climate we are currently navigating, let me give you a suggestion – Why not give your organization a leg-up on their ITAM program implementation and map out the unique projects required to build a successful ITAM program by incorporating best practices into the mix that are directed at what you do – IT Asset Management. Use the IBPL to accelerate your project timetables, save the company money by doing so and show measurable RIO to your executives.

As I see it, that is a clear, quantifiable benefit for any organization when you consider fulfilling the requirements established in a project's scope for your ITAM program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Rembiesa'.

Barbara Rembiesa
President and Founder