PROJECT MANAGEMENT STORIES
FROM THE TRENCHES
EXPERIENCES IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

ALA CORE IG WEEK
MARCH 2023
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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
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!!

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