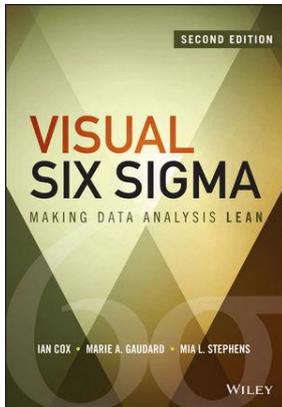


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Visual Six Sigma: Making Data Analysis Lean, 2nd Edition***

Author: **Ian Cox, Marie A. Guadard, Mia L. Stephens**

Publisher: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

List Price: \$65.00 Format: Hardcover

Publication Date: June, 2016 ISBN: 978-1-118-90568-5

Reviewer: **Mary E. S. Townsend**

Review Date: August 2016

Introduction

This book has two concurrent purposes, providing the reader with principles and basic foundational practices of Six Sigma and providing a basic tutorial and walkthrough of how to use JMP, a SAS tool, to perform analysis via graphs and charts.

Overview of Book's Structure

This book has three main sections:

- Section 1 – Background
- Section 2 – Case Studies
- Section 3 – Supplementary Materials

The Background section provides the foundational material for each main purpose of the book.

The Case Studies section provides six case studies presented as analysis projects across a variety of situations from manufacturing to marketing.

Finally, the Supplementary Materials section, which is just one chapter, offers advice on progressing to advanced JMP activities.

Highlights

The two main sections, Background and Case Studies are the meat of the book.

The first background chapter is devoted to Six Sigma basics and the SAS extension of that, namely Visual Six Sigma. A second background chapter provides the basic

tutorial of the JMP tool itself. The third chapter provides practical advice on the implications of data quality on performing Six Sigma analysis in general.

Each case study provides a diversity of different business scenarios that a Six Sigma practitioner might encounter across their career along with the challenges and one possible solution to each analysis project. The studies walk through the thought process of the senior analyst on the theoretical project applying lean analytical practices while using the graphical tools found in the JMP product.

Highlights: What I liked!

This could have been a very dry topic. I'm a hands-on learner and this book fed me the material in a way that kept me interested. By giving me just enough foundation to get started before diving into the case studies it didn't get bogged down in heavy theory disconnected from practice. The book provides instruction on how to acquire the JMP tool along with data sets so that I could follow along by doing.

Given that data is at the core of six sigma analysis, the chapter on data management and data quality adds an essential element. I found the detailed description of the data quality challenges to be thoughtful, practical advice.

Who might benefit from the Book?

It doesn't matter if you are a college student studying lean business practices or a professional seeking to extend your skill set on your own, this book provides a good foundation for both.

This book can also fill a purpose for the person who has acquired significant six sigma education but still lacks understanding of how lean practices might be applied in the real world.

Conclusion

This book starts off with a good introduction to Six Sigma practice, the Visual Six Sigma extension and the JMP software which supports Visual Six Sigma. The book then dives deep into the practical world of data quality and data management. After acquiring the foundational elements in a relatively brief manner, the book then apprentices the reader with a series of case studies introducing both six sigma concepts and the JMP software concurrently. The authors have created an effective way to learn through more of an apprenticeship model than dry six sigma theory and repetitive how-to's.

For more about this book, go to: <http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1118905687.html>

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Mary Townsend, PMP, CSM, CISA has more than 30 years of experience in development and change of business process and technology. She has provided team and organizational coaching moving teams and organizations along the journey through Agile adoption. She has a Bachelor's degree in Internet Technologies and Applications from Charter Oak State College.

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