

Volume 3, Issue 1, 2012

Review

Boring Meetings Suck: Get More Out of Your Meetings, or Get Out of More Meetings

Jon Petz. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2011. 223 pp. ISBN: 978-1-11800-462-3. \$22.95.

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Meetings are supposed to be a time of collaboration and productivity, right? However, many professionals, including librarians, have a meeting (or meetings!) on their calendars that they are dreading because leading a meeting can be exhausting or because attending a meeting can be a waste of time.

Libraries are not excluded from the epidemic of endless, unproductive meetings. The truth is, many professionals have never taken a Meetings 101 class and are not trained to lead or to even attend meetings productively. That being said, there are many business textbooks on the market about how to have a productive meeting. *Boring Meetings Suck* by Jon Petz is unlike those stuffy business textbooks, instead offering a fresh and innovative look into improvements everyone can make when leading or attending a meeting.

Petz offers dozens of "Suckification Reduction Devices" (SRDs) to make the next meeting anyone attends more organized and valuable. The book is organized in agenda items (chapters) so anyone can pick up the book and look for a problem area. There is

even insight into which meetings one actually needs to attend. Readers will also learn how to improve meeting presentations, including using technology effectively (i.e., Power Point presentations that don't suck), making better eye contact, and monitoring your presentation speed. Petz even goes as far as to offer the reader ideas on how to "become a meeting hero," which would include getting people to show up on time, participate, and leave the meeting happy. Petz also offers practical advice on planning large meetings and conferences.

Everyone working in a professional role could benefit from reading *Boring Meetings Suck* because all employees want to have more motivating and productive meetings. Librarians from all types of libraries would be able to implement one or all of the novel practices in this book. Whether leading or attending a meeting, the approaches in this book can transform meetings in all types of libraries.

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