

Nerdy, Soft, or Natural? A Taxonomy of Desired Personal Qualities for IT Project Team Members

Tony Jewels
*Queensland University of
Technology, Brisbane, Australia*

Marilyn Ford
*Griffith University, Brisbane,
Australia*

t.jewels@qut.edu.au

m.ford@griffith.edu.au

Abstract

In an increasingly knowledge intensive world, universities often require students to work with others in assignments in an attempt to duplicate 'real-world' experiences where workers predominantly work in groups or teams. Although much literature exists on desired qualities of team leaders and even desired components of the team, there is a paucity of literature on the desired personal qualities of individuals working within team settings. This research set out to empirically investigate the personal qualities which students believe would be desirable in IT project team members. An initial attempt to create a taxonomy of desired personal qualities was made using feedback from students who had completed an IT project management course. An attempt to apply this taxonomy to students who had recently completed a year long group project indicated that the taxonomy needed to be extended to include values that had not been identified separately in the taxonomy. The resulting extended taxonomy was applied to a comparison of three groups of students and indicated highly significant differences in response patterns.

Keywords: IT project team, desired personal qualities, group assignments.

Material published as part of this publication, either on-line or in print, is copyrighted by the Informing Science Institute. Permission to make digital or paper copy of part or all of these works for personal or classroom use is granted without fee provided that the copies are not made or distributed for profit or commercial advantage AND that copies 1) bear this notice in full and 2) give the full citation on the first page. It is permissible to abstract these works so long as credit is given. To copy in all other cases or to republish or to post on a server or to redistribute to lists requires specific permission and payment of a fee. Contact Publisher@InformingScience.org to request redistribution permission.

Biographies



Tony Jewels is a lecturer within the School of Information Systems at Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, coordinating IT project management units. An IT professional for over 30 years, he has worked in a variety of roles on many leading edge projects throughout the world. His practical experience combined with academic qualifications in business management and information technology provides students at both undergraduate and postgraduate level with real world perspectives of life within the IT sector.



Marilyn Ford is a senior lecturer in the School of Information and Communication Technology and a member of the Applied Cognitive Neuroscience Research Centre at Griffith University. She has publications in the areas of reasoning, education, and sentence perception and production.