

Preface

Artur Lugmayr and Doug Vogel

The primary intention of this book has always been to help future scholars to succeed in their careers. Others should also learn from our mistakes or successes. We strongly believe that we have been succeeding and have collected some excellent chapters from which future scholars will be able to learn. You surely will ask: why do we self-publish? Simply, our publisher decided not to go forward with this book despite having completed the full package of chapters. We would not like to elaborate on the reasons in this preface, but these were rather ‘surprising’ to us. But this was another motivator to make this book even more successful, and try the new modern way of open scientific publishing: *free, under open access, and using modern channels*. We were even more inclined to proof, that it’s possible to self-publish a book! If you should want to follow our way – don’t hesitate to contact us!

The idea for the book started to emerge when Doug Vogel invited Artur Lugmayr to hold a motivational talk for doctoral students at the eBled conference in Slovenia¹. The resulting paper can be found in [1]. Honestly speaking as first editor, I, Artur, have to confess that the publication was written extremely fast and under time pressure, but I was happy to be able to have collected my experiences and make them available to other future scholars. Ironically, the publication was even criticized when I added it to my application package as material to illustrate my management skills in building research laboratories. Even more ironically, none of the evaluators read the publication and understood its larger scope and impact.

Yet another reason was to contribute to the scientific society with a book for career planning for future academics in a modern *open access format*. We are definitely sure that you have obtained paper reviews with one sentence evaluation – or review comments that were contractionary or simply gave the impression that the paper was not even read. Let’s leave this little anecdote aside and focus on the history of how this book has been developing. As there are myriads of management books, we found that there exists only a very small amount of literature contributing to academic careers. Thus, we simply decided to contribute one and during the 25th eBled conference we started to work on this project.

Nevertheless, it took a couple of years to complete this book. We really have to appreciate the patience of the authors. We were rather delayed with its production process. However, we wanted to guarantee the highest quality of chapters, and worked with quite some of the authors to improve their chapters, or re-develop the chapters so that they can be utilized for this book. Finally, after a few years of work, here it is! To guarantee the quality of the book, we have been conducting a three-

¹ If anyone would like to attend, the webpage of the conference can be found on: <http://bledconference.org/>. It’s an extremely lovely place, and a very well-run conference with a small, but dedicated community.

step review process. First, we conducted a call for abstracts. These underwent an editorial selection process to select chapters that would be able to be further developed. Some of the authors published full chapters in this process. As a second step, each of the chapters underwent a double-blind review process to guarantee quality. From the initial 22 submitted chapters, only 14 made it into the final book, which resulted in an acceptance rate of approximately 60%. Submission countries ranged from Australia, Austria, Finland, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United States.

Thereafter, we have been working with some of the authors to improve the quality of their chapters and fit the topic line of the book. We also would like to pinpoint and thank the authors, whose contribution we consider as invited chapters: Jordi Vallverdu, Nader Ale Ebrahim et al., Erkki Sutinen, Jeffrey Koh, and Peter Reichl et al. Last but not least, we would give exceptional credits to the authors of the two prefaces of the book, namely Prof. Ted Selker, who contributed a visionary approach of how the future of publications might evolve; and Piet Kommers, who provided an in-depth overview of the overall contribution of each author. We strongly appreciated their feedback, and their new thoughts and inputs for the book – in the form of the preface, as well as in commenting on the book content.

If you are interested in staying informed, please join the following channels:

- YouTube: <http://www.youtube.artur-lugmayr.com>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/universitymanagement>
- Email list: <http://emaillists.artur-lugmayr.com>
- Website: <http://unimgm.artur-lugmayr.com>

We would like to emphasize our YouTube channel, as there will be some videos with interviews published in the very near future. These should help you in succeeding in your academic career. However, keep in mind that we had to put a LOT of effort into creating this book. Thus, it's important for us to promote this book – if it should have helped you in your career, PLEASE recommend it to friends and colleagues. We are also very happy for a 'cent' of thanks, and if you liked it, please appreciate our efforts through some citations in your works. It helps us to remain motivated, eventually contribute with a second edition, and maintain a YouTube channel. Thank you in advance for this help!

We wish for the readers that this book will help in creating a successful science career – it's a fascinating domain, which is shaping our future. If some of the advice has helped, please contact us. We are also happy to arrange an interview with you on our YouTube channel. If you should be interested in contributing in others' science careers, we are happy to arrange a Skype interview and publish it as part of our YouTube channel.

Artur Lugmayr, Doug Vogel - Perth, AUSTRALIA, 2017

- [1] A. Lugmayr, "Managing Creativeness in a Research Laboratory - Lessons learned from Establishing NAMU lab./EMMi Lab.," in *25th Bled eConference Proceedings "eDependability: Reliable and Trustworthy eStructures, eProcesses, eOperations and eServices for the Future"*, 17-20 June 2012, Bled, Slovenia, U. Lechner, D. Lux Wigand, and A. Pucihar, Eds. University of Maribor, 2012, p. 11.