

“Resources Available Towards a Self-Taught CDO”.

By: Steven Perry

In searching for the perfect CDO course I realised that there isn't one that suits us all. The data landscape is ever changing but there are some classic texts old and new to refer to. The combination of data skills, business skills, IT and change management means that a diverse background that straddles IT and Business is required. So, understanding Data, Cloud or Platforms isn't enough if you can't get your business case approved or navigate cultural inertia around sharing data. The greatest challenge I hear from CDO's across the industry is Data Literacy. The most common roadblocks are organisational inertia and change management challenges and the most successful projects aren't led by technology but people who have learned the hard way through experience.

There are two common paths that people come into Data Management, through IT or Business. The best CDO's must manage both equally well and discover the nuances that drive cross cultural understanding and build collaboration. CDO's must deliver real business value despite ambiguity, clarity amidst chaos and build a data culture that drives change and fuels business or organisational growth and innovation. Easier said than done. Having worked in big banks, telco, across fed, state and local gov, insurance and numerous digital transformation programs I know all too well the diverse skills and experience required. The key is building a trusted data foundation to underpin your overall data program.

I've found CDO round tables and industry events to be a great source of practical information to hear about data best practice, new ways of working or sharing implementation tips. Avoid the hype and be pragmatic. Academic research papers are also a great source if you can find the time. For a CDO juggling implementation, execution and the forward planning of a hybrid cloud future with real time AI models you are going to need to do some reading.

My Top Reading & Reference tips for a self-taught CDO regardless of your background in Business or IT. Get up to speed fast, build skills, iterate and refine as you go.

8 Books:

1. [DAMA DMBOK II](#) - The Data Management Bible
2. [The CDO's Journey](#) - Harbour, et al (Public Sector Insights)
3. [The Chief Data Officers Playbook](#) - Curruthers (Evolution of CDO role)
4. [Data means business](#) - Foster & Green (Private sector practicality)
5. [Infonomics](#) - Laney on building that business case
6. [Leading Change](#) - Kotter on change
7. [Homo Deus](#) - Harari on future focus and ethics

8. [Show me the numbers](#) - Few on data visualisation

5 Courses or Sources:

- [MIT CDO-1 Course](#)
- [Dataversity](#)
- [CDO Forum Informatica](#)
- [MISIQ UALR](#)
- [Data Strategy Playbook](#)

1 Ask:

- Help to drive data literacy in your organisation with passion and creativity, connect with other CDO's in round tables and learn both the theory and practice.

*The views here are those of the author - keen to hear your tips on classic and recent reads as you build out your own library.