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The topic of this research article deals with assessing how creating a requirements definition for a project can benefit the various outcomes of the project, as well as the effects of interpersonal conflict and project type. The article begins by defining the requirement definition and management (RDM) process. This is a process that takes place in the early stage of product development to effectively outline the project requirements and implementation outline. It is stated to be a “crucial to the success of a project” because it can reduce the costs and simplify the scheduling of a project. Important aspects to include in the requirements definition include articulation the initial concept, problem analysis, feasibility and choice of options, modeling, and requirements documentation. Also noted in the process is the importance of training everyone involved in the requirement process in all aspects of the project, most likely to ensure understanding among team members and have future back up points of view.

An important factor in project completion is also “interpersonal conflict,” or the negative interaction between team members or organizations. Some elements of conflict-involved disagreements about project details while others involved personal conflict about non-project related issues. Regardless, these methods were included in the study to be a factor of successful project outcome (beyond the scope of this précis).
Beyond the methodology used for data collection, the importance in choosing this article lies within the results of the research. The results of the research show that having a detailed requirement definition of the project does have a correlation to positive project outcome. Specifically, project definitions should implement the following methods to be deemed “detailed” and effective: consistency of details, non-ambiguity, prioritization, completeness, and accuracy. Other important aspects in the RDM process include how requirements were collected/created and whether or not they were improved during the development process.

The process to which this data was collected seems sound in the minds of the authors, however the correlation between the RDM process and project outcome was defined by a set of statistical numbers. When analyzing these statistics, the authors simply stated that there “was a relationship” rather than using the data to explain why, mainly by not explaining the process by which the RDM was collected. This provides a slight disadvantage to us because we are unaware of how to complete a proper RDM process, but we do know that by detailing project requirements we will have a more successful and organized project. The authors also took a lot of time trying to provide these simple “there was a relationship” statements by rephrasing and repeating the message multiple times into the same paragraph without proper statistical recall.

We can, however, take some information away from this research. The RDM process is extremely important (if not the most important) in completing a project successfully. The gathering and detailing of the project requirements, especially with the consulting of the product’s users/clients, to achieve a clear understanding
of what the product should do, look like, etc. This will also reduce the time needed for our experimentation of processes and materials for our device because we will know exactly what we are searching for. This can also help reduce our project costs by finding materials that we know can accomplish the minimum requirements of our system. Overall, completing a requirements definition will help relieve the time consuming decisions/changes made in the development process and guide us towards creating an effective system.