

Appendix 5: Evaluation Resources

A5.1 Australian Sources

Research Evaluation and Policy Project, Research School of Social Sciences, the Australian National University. <http://repp.anu.edu.au/>

REPP is Australia's leading centre for the systematic evaluation and mapping of research across all fields of scholarship. A particular focus is research on the advanced quantitative analysis of scientific performance and the organisational structure of Australia's research landscape. Other activities include conducting regular bibliometric analyses of publicly-funded scientific publications, exploring novel qualitative and quantitative approaches to research assessment and generating 'metrics' or indicators sensitive to the research and dissemination practices of a variety of fields. REPP also investigate the sociology of science, such as the way researchers respond to external forces (e.g. methods of funding allocation). REPP Discussion Papers are scholarly papers that report research in progress. They can be downloaded free of charge (PDF). One such paper is:

Research Evaluation and Policy Project. (March 2005). Quantitative indicators for research assessment – a literature review. Literature Review for ARC Linkage Project: The Strategic Assessment of Research Performance Indicators. REPP Discussion Paper 05/1. Research School of Social Sciences, ANU, Canberra.

This literature review was undertaken as part of an Australian Research Council (ARC) project, “Strategic Assessment of Research Performance Indicators”, which was funded to examine quantitative performance indicators used in the evaluation of research. The overall aim of the project is to establish a knowledge base on performance measures, containing a comprehensive coverage of indicators and an assessment of their validity, fairness, transparency and impact on research, and the cost of implementation. This review seeks to summarise the ‘state of the art’ by giving an overview of quantitative indicators that are currently in use, or have been proposed, and locating any assessments of the measures that have already been undertaken. In this way, any gaps in our knowledge of quantitative indicators that need to be addressed in further research can be identified.

This paper is available at:

<http://repp.anu.edu.au/Literature%20Review3.pdf>

The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC)

<http://www.rirdc.gov.au/>

RIRDC work closely with Australian rural industries on the organisation and funding of their R&D needs. RIRDC provides free research reports. A paper that is particularly relevant to evaluation of agricultural extension is:

Dart, J., Petheram, R.J. and Straw, W. (1998). Review of Evaluation in Agricultural Extension. Institute of Land and Food Resources, Vic.

This report discusses the discipline of program evaluation and then reviews five main forms of evaluation and illustrates them with case studies drawn from agricultural extension in Australia. It is available at:

<http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/HCC/VCA-3A.pdf#search=%22extension%20evaluation%20%22>

Land and Water Australia <http://www.lwa.gov.au>

Land and Water Australia website provides a number of publications and tools relevant to researchers and extension agents. The following documents are particularly useful for researchers interested in communicating research outcomes:

Communication planning checklist (December 2004). Series 1 Number 06/99. ISSN 1320-4734

This checklist assists researchers to understand the steps in developing a communication plan for their research project. It can also help researchers to draft their own communication plans when professional communication assistance is not available. The checklist takes you step by step through the process of devising a communication plan.

Media release guide. (December 2004). Series 1 Number 07/99. ISSN 1320-4734.

This guideline will assist researchers understand the process of writing a media release. It can also help researchers to draft their own media releases when professional communication assistance is not available.

Natural Resources Communication Workbook. (September 1994). Occasional Paper 14/94.

This workbook is targeted generally at anyone who is interested in improving their communication with clients about natural resource issues. People who may find this workbook relevant include: researchers, resource managers, policy developers, resource users, community or rural groups, and communication professionals. Some of the concepts and planning tools may be familiar to professional communicators, however the total process of “risk communication” planning should provide a novel approach.

These documents are available at:

http://www.lwa.gov.au/Publications_and_Tools/Researcher_Guidelines/index.aspx

The Regional Institute <http://www.regional.org.au>

The Regional Institute provides a one stop shop for professional associations and not-for-profit groups wanting affordable solutions for running their organisation efficiently and growing their member or subscriber base. It also offers a number of free publications, including conference proceedings, journals and reports. For an example relevant to evaluation of extension services, see:

Christiansen, I., Pyke, B., Gibb, D. and McIntyre, G. (2003). Ever improving: Evaluation and outcomes in the National Cotton Extension Network. Proceedings of the Asia Pacific Network International Conference.

This paper can be downloaded at:

<http://www.regional.org.au/au/apen/2003/3/131christianseni.htm>

A5.2 International

Evaluation: The International Journal of Theory, Research and Practice

<http://evi.sagepub.com>.

Edited from a European base, *Evaluation* is an international journal which promotes exchange between European, North American, Asian and Australasian voices within the evaluation community. It encourages dialogue between different evaluation traditions such as program evaluation, technology assessment, auditing, value-added studies, policy evaluation and quality assessment. Evaluation is available electronically on SAGE Journals Online.

A useful article is:

McDonald, B., Rogers, P. and Kefford, B. (2003). Teaching People to Fish? Building the Evaluation Capability of Public Sector Organisations. *Evaluation* 9: 9 - 29.

This paper can be downloaded at: <http://evi.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/9/1/9.pdf>

University of Wisconsin – Cooperative Evaluation <http://www.uwex.edu>

The Cooperative Extension campus is a community-based faculty providing resources and training for use in implementing and evaluating educational programs. The Program Development and Evaluation Unit (PDE) is especially concerned with evaluation. PDE offers a number of free-to-download evaluation resources, which are available at:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/pdande/evaluation/index.html>

Cooperative Extension and Outreach <http://www.extension.psu.edu>

Cooperative Extension and Outreach is part of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State University. It offers educational programs and resources on agriculture, horticulture, and environmental issues among many other topics. Through the Program Evaluation directorate, the centre provides information on implementing program evaluations for project improvement, comparison of delivery methods, responding to stakeholders, etc. The information is based on methodological research and theory, and on twenty years of experience evaluating extension programs. These resources are available at:

<http://www.extension.psu.edu/evaluation/>

The Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service <http://www.ca.uky.edu>

The Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service is a comprehensive outreach and engagement program at the University of Kentucky. The service began in 1914 when county, state and federal governments agreed that they could work collaboratively to provide all citizens with access to the wealth of knowledge generated by public universities. Today that partnership includes county governments, a national network of land-grant universities, and the US Department of Agriculture. Their web site is a treasure trove of information about research based education. Useful reference documents for program development and evaluation can be obtained at:

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agpsd/soregion.htm>

Ohio State University Extension <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu>

Ohio State University Extension interprets knowledge and research developed by the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Ohio State and other land-grant universities, so that it is useful and practical to community members. Program evaluation and measurement resources are available at:

<http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~brick/dcc1pg.htm>

The Centre for Evaluative Studies (CES) <http://www.canr.msu.edu>

The Centre for Evaluative Studies (CES) is located within the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Department of Education and Communication Systems at Michigan State University. The centre draws on the expertise and experience of faculty, staff and graduate students, and provides technical assistance and training in four major areas of evaluation:

- Conduct evaluation studies,
- Train individuals and groups in evaluation methodology,
- Provide consultation to individuals and organisations involved with evaluation,
- Provide a forum for an on-going dialogue related to issues of evaluation.

For a detailed list of program evaluation resources produced by CES, visit:

<http://www.canr.msu.edu/evaluate/AllTextMaterial/ProgEvaRes.html>

The Free Management Library <http://www.mapnp.org/library>

The Free Management Library is a complete, highly integrated library for nonprofit and for profit organisations. The Basic Guide to Program Evaluation provides extensive guidance toward planning and implementing an evaluation process, featuring many kinds of evaluations that can be applied to programs (e.g. goals-based, process-based, outcomes-based, etc.). For more information visit:

http://www.mapnp.org/library/evaluatn/fnl_eval.htm

Horizon Research, Inc. (HRI) <http://www.horizon-research.com>

HRI is a private research firm specializing in work related to science and mathematics education. The firm has expertise encompassing a range of areas, including evaluation of science and mathematics education initiatives. A useful reference available from the HRI website is:

Bond, S.L., Boyd, S.E. and Rapp, K.A. (1997). Taking Stock: A Practical Guide to Evaluating Your Own Programs.

This guide is written for community-based organisations interested in improving programs. With a focus on internal evaluation, the guide is a useful program staff to design and carry out a program evaluation. It is available as a free download (PDF) at:

http://www.horizon-research.com/reports/1997/taking_stock.php