

Evaluation Resources

There are many resources available on evaluation. In fact, it's easy to get overwhelmed by the amount of information available. Below are some web sites and publications that collate lots of information of various aspects of evaluation.

1) EvaluATE

<http://www.evaluate.org/>

EvaluATE is the evaluation support center for the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education program. The program provides webinars, resource materials, newsletters, workshops, and opportunities for ATE community members to engage around issues related to evaluation. It's an excellent resource for those with all levels of evaluation experience.

A few examples of what you will find here:

- Advice from a former NSF program officer Three tips for a strong NSF proposal evaluation plan: <http://www.evaluate.org/blog/goodyear-aug2016/>
- Finding and Selecting an Evaluator: <http://www.evaluate.org/resources/finding-evaluator/>
- Webinar on small scale evaluation: <http://www.evaluate.org/webinars/2017-feb/>
Small-scale projects need small-scale evaluation. Properly scoping an evaluation for a small project requires defining realistic process and outcome indicators and maximizing use of limited resources.

2) Center for the Advancement of Informal Science Education

<http://www.informalscience.org/evaluation>

This is an excellent site covering topics such as working with an Evaluator, designing an evaluation plan, evaluation tools and instruments, and evaluation reporting and dissemination. It includes examples of evaluation plans, evaluation reports, and data collection instruments. While it is focused on evaluation of informal science education, it is applicable outside this area.

3.) Online Evaluation Resource Library

<https://oerl.sri.com/>

This library was developed for professionals seeking to design, conduct, document, or review project evaluations. The purpose of this system is to collect and make available evaluation plans, instruments, and reports for NSF projects that can be used as examples by Principal Investigators, project evaluators, and others outside the NSF community as they design proposals and projects. OERL also includes professional development modules that can be used to better understand and utilize the available materials.

4.) Centers for Disease Control – Evaluation Resources

<https://www.cdc.gov/eval/resources/index.htm>

Focusing your evaluation:

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/Program/pupestd/Focusing%20the%20Evaluation.pdf>

5.) BetterEvaluation

<http://www.betterevaluation.org/>

6.) University of Wisconsin Extension – Program Development and Evaluation

<https://fyi.uwex.edu/programdevelopment/evaluating-programs/>

7.) Community Toolbox

<http://ctb.ku.edu/en/evaluating-initiative>

8.) Program Evaluation and Research Tips – Wilder Research

<https://www.wilder.org/wilder-research/research-library/program-evaluation-and-research-tips>

A set of fact Sheets and Presentations providing tips on evaluation and research, including data collection and analysis, surveys, logic models, return on investment studies, and more.

9.) W.K. Kellogg Foundation Evaluation Handbook

<https://www.wkkf.org/resource-directory/resource/2010/w-k-kellogg-foundation-evaluation-handbook>

A heavy duty resource. Contains a lengthy section on hiring and working with an evaluator.

10.) Bonney, Rick, et al., eds. (2011). Principal Investigator’s Guide: Managing Evaluation in Informal STEM Education Projects. Center for the Advancement of Informal Science Education, Washington, DC

<http://www.informalscience.org/evaluation/pi-guide>

This publication describes what principal investigators (PIs) need to know when it comes to evaluation. Although PIs don’t have to be skilled in the technical aspects of conducting an evaluation, they should be able to engage effectively with evaluators. Chapter 4 of the guide provides practical tips for PIs on collaborating with evaluators through all phases of a project. Although it’s listed last on this handout, this is a very good overall resource.