EVALUATION WEBSITES WITH BROAD FOCUS

Comprehensive Sites

Better Evaluation

This site, established in 2011 and updated continually, organizes evaluation resources within 7 broad steps. These are: Manage; Define; Frame; Describe; Understand causes; Synthesise; Report & support use. The site is international in scope, with Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in Australia as the lead organization. Executive Director is well-respected Australian evaluator Dr. Patricia Rogers. The site includes brief resources on evaluation approaches and themes, frequently asked questions (FAQs), a weekly blog, twitter feed, and interactive forums for discussion with evaluation experts and/or peers). Contributors are diverse, and the contribution process is open to others who wish to share resources or thoughts.

http://betterevaluation.org/

Community Tool Box

This site is supports covers all aspects of community programs, including a section "Evaluating Community Programs and Initiatives". This page of links points to a brief overview of evaluation steps (Section 12) and a comprehensive evaluation guide (Chapters 36-39) broken up into multiple brief modules per chapter. The Tool Box is a service of the Work Group for Community Health and Development, University of Kansas. It is one of the first online resources for community programs, first developed in 1994 and regularly updated ever since. The site includes a "mashup" feature, for developing one's own custom toolkit, and an "Ask an Advisor" feature for brief questions to the site.

http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/evaluate/evaluation/framework-for-evaluation/main

Innovation Network

Innovation Network (and its associated Point K Learning Centre) is a U.S.-based independent not-for-profit organization that supports funders and other not-for-profits in program planning

and evaluation. Operating since 2002, they have a searchable (and regularly updated) database of reports, workbooks, tip sheets, and links. Evaluation resources cover planning, data collection, analysis and reflection, and action and improvement. There are also resources specific to advocacy evaluation and evaluation capacity building (individual and organizational levels). Useful hands on tools include organizational assessment tool, and logic model and evaluation plan builders.

http://www.innonet.org/

Program Development and Evaluation (UWEX)

This site covers basic evaluation steps and related topics -- from initial planning through communicating findings -- through brief overviews, detailed manuals, and (for some topics such as logic models) online modules). The site also covers evaluation capacity in organizations, as well as resources for program planning and development. The site was first developed in 2002 by faculty at the University of Wisconsin – Extension, and is updated regularly. (Presently, updates focus on recently developed programs, blogs, and upcoming events.

http://www.uwex.edu/ces/pdande/index.html

SPECIFIC FOCUS AREAS

Project Ethics

ARECCI

A p**R**oject **E**thics **C**ommunity **C**onsensus **I**nitiative offers project ethics screening and guidelines tools for evaluation and quality improvement project, as well as a basic project ethics course (Level 1). ARECCI is housed within Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions, but the tools and course are applicable to multiple human. The Level 1 course includes a self-guided on-line module that can also be used as a stand-alone resource. Topics address: project ethics terminology; broad ethical principles; ethical challenges and complexities; specific ethics considerations and principles; and using the risk screening and guidelines tools. The module includes ethics scenarios, interactive exercises, and knowledge self-assessments. It can be used toward the full Level 1 course if the in-person component is also taken. The website includes information on additional ARECCI programs and resources.

http://www.aihealthsolutions.ca/initiatives-partnerships/arecci-a-project-ethics-community-consensus-initiative/

Complexity and System Change

Center for Evaluation Innovation

The relatively new Centre (since 2014) has a focus on evaluating in complex, challenging contexts -- such as advocacy, policy, communications, and broader systems change (including social change). Their searchable database and publications focus mainly in these areas, and include approaches such as developmental evaluation and network evaluation. The site also has resources on using evaluation for strategic learning – which involves evaluative thinking, rapid learning, timely strategic decision-making. This Centre has recent become a partner with Innonet.

http://www.evaluationinnovation.org/

Evidence-informed Practice

National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools

This Centre is focused in the public health sector and housed at McMaster University. The site has a strong focus on: evidence-informed decision making; critical appraisal of evidence; best practices; and knowledge translation/knowledge exchange. There are also links to additional resources specific to evaluation. The searchable tool registry contains a variety of measures that can apply in multiple human services sectors, beyond the health sector. For example, some tools cover community engagement, partnerships, and policy development.

http://www.nccmt.ca/resources/registry

EVALUATION BLOGS

AEA365: A Tip-a-Day by and for Evaluators – blogs by numerous evaluators, indexed and searchable by topic/issue; presented by the American Evaluation Association (AEA). Current and archived posts (back tom 2009) available. Posts are typically about how an evaluator has addressed a specific issue or challenge, or tried out a new or modified approach in a project.

Link: http://aea365.org/blog/

Eval Central – over 60 evaluation blogs on a wide variety of topics/issues. The site also sponsors occasional webinars, and promotes evaluation gifts ((often humorous such as "baby's 1st logic model: I cry → Mommy and Daddy appear").

http://evalcentral.com/

EVALUATION VIDEOS

Introduction to Evaluation and Its Importance

Introduction to Monitoring & Evaluation – animated brief overview from STAND (Support for Training, Advocacy and Networking for Development) program

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_z9H0alSqQ

Logic Modelling

"Basic Monitoring and Evaluation Concepts" -- animated definition of the main components of a logic model, from consultant Ann-Murray Brown

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lR8FalapJf0&list=PLuE6g7wyBp8yqzjRiCU7R-THwMVd40NQ3

"3 Ways to tell the Difference between an Output and an Outcome" -- animated examples of the differences from, consultant Ann-Murray Brown

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLPPIx0kqTo

"Logic Models" – Audiovisual presentation that connects logic models with data collection for quality improvement, from Quality Improvement Organizations (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFhaHCVY_Yo

Methods

Introduction

"Research Methods: Quantitative vs Qualitative comic strip" -- Humourous comic superhero take on qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods, from 2Speechies+nick (Georgia State University graduate students)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmulkCjHqqw

Surveys

"Designing a Questionnaire" – Powerpoint slide with voiceover explanation, survey tool images, and cartooning – that covers steps of good questionnaire design, by Statistics Learning Centre

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkX-t0Pgzzs

"7 Tips for Good Survey Questions" -- Powerpoint slides with voiceover of good and poor practices in crafting survey questions, Kenneth Hernandez, Elon University

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iq_fhTuY1hw

"Methods of collecting survey data" -- Powerpoint slides with voiceover of four methods of survey data collection, from, Kenneth Hernandez, Elon University

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cuOyAR-Y9I

"Questionnaires" -- Powerpoint slide with voiceover explanation, survey tool images, which shows examples of making improvements to draft questions, from MrArnoldsMaths

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7onVHIkS1YY

Interviews

"Demo Qualitative Interview with Mistakes" -- Video demonstration of poor versus good interview practices, by researcher Joanna Chrzanowska of I-TECH

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4UKwd0KExc&feature=youtu.be

Focus Groups

"Conducting a Focus Group" – Video demonstration of poor versus good focus group practices, from University of British Columbia LEAP.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Auf9pkuCc8k

Observation

"Observing Young Children" – Video demonstration of how to use a systematic process for gathering observational data to evaluate progress in child development, from Center for Early Childhood Education, Eastern Connecticut State University

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1Xtr3RKjGc

"Evaluation through Observation in Recreation Programs" -- Video demonstration of how to use a systematic process for gathering observational data about participants' program experiences, from the Leisure Information Network.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxFcCbXjeTw

Analysis

Quantitative (Numbers)

 "Types of Data: Nominal, Ordinal, Interval/Ratio" -- Powerpoint slide with voiceover explanation, data presentation images, and cartooning – that illustrates levels of measurement, from Stratistics Learning Centre

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZxnzfnt5v8

"Data analysis & visualization" – This link is focused specifically on demonstrating the basics of using MSExcel for analysis in the context of program evaluation, from consultant Ann K. Emery. Videos show sample spreadsheets, with voiceover step-by-step explanations. The main site contains lots of additional content on quantitative analysis and data visualization.

http://annkemery.com/excel/

Qualitative (Words, Stories)

"Qualitative analysis of interview data: A step-by-step guide" – Powerpoint slides with voice-over explanations that walk through how to code and analyze qualitative data, by researcher Kent Lofgren.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRL4PF2u9XA

SOCIAL MEDIA

Many of the above sources are also on social media – LinkedIn, Facebook, and/or Twitter. Click on the icons they provide to link to these social media. To find evaluation resources:

- LinkedIn – search "evaluation" (or other related terms of interest) in category of Groups or Posts
- Facebook and Twitter – search #eval or #evaluation (#eval seems to give more relevant search results)
- NOTE: Organizing posts by hashtags (#) is more common on Twitter than on Facebook, at this point. Tweets frequently include links to resources. If certain people/organizations post lots of resources you like, you can "follow" them.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Both Canadian and U.S. professional associations for evaluators have a wide range of learning opportunities - including print resources, webinars, courses, conferences, and journals. Joint membership in both associations is an option.

Canadian Evaluation Society (CES)

www.evaluationcanada.ca

http://ab.evaluationcanada.ca/ (Alberta-NWT Chapter)

American Evaluation Association (AEA)

www.eval.org