Wilder Research

Reinvigorate Your Evaluation: 15+ Free or Low-cost Tools
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Does your organization's evaluation need a boost? Could you use some inspiration for how to better present and share evaluation results? In a quick-fire presentation, the evaluation nerds at Wilder Research will share our favorite resources to help you demystify evaluation, make sense of your data, and present useful results. We'll also include time for you to share your favorite evaluation resources with the group. You will leave with a list of new (and free or low-cost) resources to enhance your organization's evaluation efforts. Whether you are new to evaluation or a seasoned evaluator, come and reinvigorate your evaluation practice!

15+ resources

Evaluation Background

- The Step-by-Step Guide to Evaluation: How to Become Savvy Evaluation Consumers

  https://www.wkkf.org/resource-directory/resource/2017/11/wk-kellogg-foundation-step-by-step-guide-to-evaluation

  This e-book is useful for beginners. Provides an overview of the evaluation process, ways to prepare for an evaluation, engaging stakeholders in the process. Includes exercises, checklists, and examples at every stage.

- Community toolbox | https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/evaluate/evaluation

  https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents

  Free, online resource from the Center for Community Health and Development at the University of Kansas. Explore chapters on community assessment (Chapters 3-5) and evaluating community programs and initiatives (Chapters 36-39).

Assessment

- IssueLab | http://www.issuelab.org

  Searchable source of evaluations, white papers, issue briefs from the social sector. Project of the Foundation Center.

- Minnesota Compass | https://www.mncompass.org

  Social indicators data and trends in 15+ topics, available for MN statewide, as well as specific regions, cities, and neighborhoods.

- Metrics for Healthy Communities

  http://metricsforhealthycommunities.org/

  Provides measures, data sources, and logic models for community development and health organizations working together to address social determinants of health and improve community health and well-being.

Collect Data

- A Field Guide to Ripple Effects Mapping

  https://conservancy.umn.edu/handle/11299/190639

  It has it all—description of the method, sample scripts, analysis tips, and suggestions of free software to use, reporting examples, and more!

- Collaboration Factors Inventory

  Online assessment tool: https://wilderresearch.org/tools/cfi-2018/start

  or PDF version: https://www.wilder.org/wilder-research/research-library/collaboration-factors-inventory-3rd-edition

  Helps you assess how your collaboration is doing on 22 research-tested success factors. Distribute the inventory to a small group of leaders in your collaborative, during a general meeting, or via mail to all members; tally your score manually or online.

Data Analysis/Visualization

- Depict Data Studio (or anything by Ann Emery)

  https://depictdatastudio.com/ or Ann's YouTube Channel

  Incredibly helpful for data visualization ideas. The Chart Chooser walks you through different ways to display data, the pros/cons of each, and provides tons of examples.

- ProQOL (Professional Quality of Life Measure)

  https://www.proqol.org/

  Is your workplace a trauma-informed place for staff? The ProQOL is a short survey measuring how staff are doing in terms of burnout, secondary traumatic stress, or compassion fatigue. A validated tool with analysis instructions.

Dissemination

- Conscious Style Guide

  http://consciousstyleguide.com/

  Conscious Style Guide calls itself "a reference site for inclusive, compassionate, and empowering language." Sign up for the newsletter.

- Evergreen Data (Stephanie Evergreen's blog)

  https://stephanieevergreen.com/blog/

  Fresh perspective on evaluation and sharing findings.

- Fresh Spectrum (Chris Lysy)

  https://freshspectrum.com/blog/

  Tons of evaluation and data-related cartoons! Underscores the importance of visuals/art in talking about evaluation.

- Plain Language Action and Information Network (PLAIN)

  https://plainlanguage.gov/

  Resource for ensuring all your communications are clear, concise, well-organized for your intended audience.

Thought Leadership

- AEA365

  aea365.org/blog/

  Daily blog from the American Evaluation Association. Short posts, often organized around weekly themes, include Hot Tips, Rad Resources, and more. Posts are searchable if you're looking for tips on new-to-you topics.

- A Short Primer on Innovative Evaluation Reporting

  https://communitysolutions.ca/web/evaluation-reporting-guide/

  Practical tips to rescue you from lengthy reports that don't meet your audience's needs

Participant suggestions

- Gallup 12 employee engagement survey - https://q12.gallup.com/
- Americans for the Arts - https://www.americansforthearts.org/
- Creative MN – economic impact of the arts, etc. - https://www.creativemn.org/
- American Fact Finder - https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
- Piktochart - https://piktochart.com/
- Chart It - https://www.chartitnow.com/ OR http://mikerazar.com/chart-it/
- Readability analyzer – one example: https://datayze.com/readability-analyzer.php; also part of Microsoft Word
- General Research and Evaluation Resources from Michigan State University's Community Evaluation and Research Collaborative - https://cerc.msu.edu/resources/general_research

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