Evaluation Planning and Questions

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Announcements

- The website will probably work if you ask for a spam exception

- Gospel insights: Neil

    - Next: Jacob

- Today: paradigms, logic models, & client relationships

Do you understand the evaluand?

Program Description

What are some examples where misunderstanding the program can impact interpretation of the findings?

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"The critical factor . . . is an understanding of why the program is supposed to achieve its desired impacts" (Fitzpatrick et. al, 203)

What are some examples where misunderstanding the program can impact interpretation of the findings?

3 Ways to Gather the Info

- Reviewing documentation

- Talking to the stakeholders

- Observing the object or program in action

Remember the evaluand may evolve!

Describe Timez Attack

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Group A: Describe Timez Attack in a Logic Model

Describe Timez Attack

Group A: Describe Timez Attack in a Logic Model

Group B: Describe Timez Attack from a user's perspective

Evaluation Questions

- Divergent phase: Create a list of potential questions without judgment

- Convergent phase: Select the most important questions to consider and their criteria

Meeting Big Brainz

- What questions do we have for Big Brainz?

- What type of evaluation are we recommending?

- What questions? What approach?

Evaluation Designs

- Causal (Does X cause Y?)

    - Time series (What is the trend?)

    - Comparison (How do groups compare?)

- Correlational (Are X and Y related to each other?)

- Regressional (What variables contribute to Y?)

- Descriptive (What is happening?)

    - Time Series

    - Cross-sectional

Evaluation Designs, Cont.

- Case Study (What was this person's, or group's, experience?)

- Grounded Theory (Why and how does Y occur? What program theory can we develop from qualitative data?)

- Phenomenological (What does it mean to be X?)

Next Steps

- Outline methods

- Align methods to questions

- Create management plans

- Begin writing up sections that we can

- Reflection paper #4 on:

  - Chapter 14: 303-328; 331

  - Chapter 15: 334-358

Sources

- Fitzpatrick, J. L.; Sanders, J. R.; & Worthen, B. R. (2004). *Program Evaluation: Alternative Approaches and Practical Guidelines*. Boston: Pearson Education.

- Otherwise as cited