Evaluation in Foundations – Annotated Bibliography

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Abstract

The German foundation sectors boasts substantial growth at the rate of about 800 new foundations established every year. Due to their sustainable asset base as well as their flexibility in making grants, the importance of foundations for the non-profit sector as a whole is likely to experience further growth. Foundations have great liberties in choosing their issues and designing their programs. At the same time, they are accountable to both their donors and the public at large to spend their funds in the most effective ways. They are under the obligation to document both results and impact of their work. This produces a particular quest for meaningful and easily applicable evaluation approaches.

This overview of literature and resources collects materials both from the USA and Germany, most of which were published between 1998 and 2005. They cover the basics as well as special aspects of evaluation. The overview lists case studies as well as useful internet resources. Databases used, catalogues and websites are documented.