

Introducing 'SCOPE'

A five-stage process for evaluating responsibly

Introduction

The International Network of Research Management Societies (INORMS) established a two-year Research Evaluation Working Group (REWG) in 2018. It consisted of representatives from a range of global member research management societies all seeking to work towards better, fairer and more meaningful research evaluation. One of the group's two areas of focus was the development of some briefing materials for senior managers around the importance of evaluating research responsibly. As part of this work, the SCOPE process was developed. SCOPE moves beyond principles for responsible evaluation and provides a five-stage process by which good evaluations can be implemented. This is a high-level 'crib-sheet' of the main stages of the SCOPE model.

START with what you value

- Not with what others' value (external drivers)
- Not with available data sources (the 'Streetlight Effect')

CONTEXT considerations

- WHO are you evaluating? (Entity size)
- WHY are you evaluating?
- Do you need to evaluate at all?

OPTIONS for evaluating

- Consider both quantitative and qualitative options
- Be careful when using quantities to indicate qualities
- Evaluate with the evaluated

PROBE deeply

- WHO might your evaluation approach discriminate against?
- HOW might your evaluation approach be gamed?
- WHAT might the unintended consequences be?
- Does the cost outweigh the benefit?

EVALUATE your evaluation

- Did your evaluation achieve its aims?
- Was it formative as well as summative?
- Keep your approach under review