A literature review on the facilitators and barriers to evidence use in the non-profit sector

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The goal is to turn data into information and information into insight.

- Carly Fiorina, former CEO of HP

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OBJECTIVE OF LITERATURE REVIEW

identify potential facilitators and barriers to evidence use for decision-making in the non-profit sector

THIS LITERATURE REVIEW WILL

1. identify scope of existing research and practiced knowledge,
2. inform larger research project plan and methodology, and
3. offer comparison between literature and project results

HYPOTHESIS

use of evidence will be associated with an organization's size, evaluation capacity, and data management practices

EXAMPLE DATABASES:

EBSCOhost   ProQuest
Google Scholar   Scopus

**EXAMPLE
SEARCH KEYWORDS:**

Non-profit
Data management
Evidence use
Evaluation capacity

**10 YEARS OF JOURNALS
MANUALLY SEARCHED:**

Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation
American Journal of Program Evaluation
Evaluation and Program Planning Journal

**288
articles
yielded**

COMMON THEMES

Partnerships — with academics and private consultants can build skills and fill resource gaps

Resources — funding, staff, and administrative infrastructure (i.e., effective data systems) facilitate evidence use

Culture — culture of evidence use promotes sustained collection and use of data

IMPLICATIONS

This literature review is informing our case study on evidence use in a medium-sized non-profit organization in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Direction for future research

How do we design and/or use data systems to facilitate the collection and use of evidence in non-profits?

Takeaway for non-profits

Funding proposals should include a plan to collect and use evidence to ensure sufficient resourcing.

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REFERENCES

Full bibliography in Google Docs

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