

REVIEW

Title:	<i>Encyclopedia of Evaluation</i>
Editor:	Sandra Mathison
Publisher:	Sage, Thousand Oaks, California
Publication date:	2005
Extent/type:	Hardback, 481 pages
Price:	AU\$265 (Footprints Books is offering a 15% discount to AES members, phone (02) 9997 3973)
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The American Evaluation Association sponsored this encyclopedia, so not surprisingly, most of the entries have been written by Americans, but with some written by evaluators from the UK and Australia.

Regarding the Antipodean contribution, Patricia Rogers from RMIT University, Melbourne, sat on the editorial board for the publication and Rosalind Hurworth from the University of Melbourne wrote the largest number of Australasian entries (Archives, Delphi Technique, Description, Document Analysis, Emergent Design, Group Interview, Interpretivism, Photography). Other Australians who wrote entries include: Jessica Dart, Victorian Department of Primary Industries (Most Significant Change Technique, Performance Story, Rapid Rural Appraisal, Storytelling); John Owen, University of Melbourne, (Audience, Change, Learning Organisation, Organisational Culture); Patricia Rogers, RMIT University (Accountability, Appropriateness Conceptual Use, Logic Model, Program Logic); and D Royce Sadler, Griffith University (Recommendations).

The encyclopedia also contains biographies of 125 major evaluators, again mostly American. Nevertheless, the following Australians have been recognised and appear as entries in their own right: Sue Funnell, John Owen, Patricia Rogers and Yoland Wadsworth. Unfortunately, New Zealanders do not rate a

mention. This is a shame as the editor, Sandra Mathison (who is Canadian and works at the University of British Columbia) wrote in the preface: 'An attempt has been made to convey a global, international view of evaluation' (p. xxxiv). So, this attempt has failed to some degree.

Other omissions include that most Western European countries have evaluation associations but they are not mentioned in the volume. Furthermore, according to the reader's guide in the encyclopedia, countries covered in relation to evaluation practice around the world are Afghanistan, Belgium, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Israel, The Netherlands, Niger, Scotland, South Africa, Spain and Uganda. However, I could not find entries under these countries' names, so I assumed they must be covered within other entries. I finally found them by looking up the country names in the index, but they do not appear alphabetically.

Otherwise, the encyclopedia is organised alphabetically, and contains almost 600 entries by more than 100 contributors. In the reader's guide these 600 entries are organised into 18 thematic categories: evaluation concepts, methodological concepts, philosophical concepts, social science concepts, ethics and standards, evaluation approaches and models, evaluation practice around the world, evaluation planning, evaluation theory, laws and legislation, organisations, people in evaluation, publications,

qualitative methods, quantitative methods, systems, technology, utilisation, and representation, reporting, and communicating.

Entries range from 100 to 5000 words and generally end with a valuable reference list for further reading on the topic. For anyone wanting to come to grips with the various evaluation approaches and models, the encyclopedia covers 42 approaches. Meanwhile, eleven publications, mostly American, have an entry (but unfortunately, not the *Evaluation Journal of Australasia*). Then, listing of organisations does not include evaluation associations around the world but rather includes commercial and governmental organisations that carry out evaluation.

Nevertheless, an enormous amount of work must have been involved during compilation and I congratulate the sole editor Sandra Mathison for her efforts. I see this first edition as a good start and assume any future editions would remove the American bias.

Even so, I recommend this compendium to teachers of evaluation as entries provide short descriptions of the who, what, where, how and why of evaluation. I also recommend it to libraries as a reference work. Organisations that carry out evaluation should also have a copy in their offices as browsing through the encyclopedia is an educational experience for the reader.

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