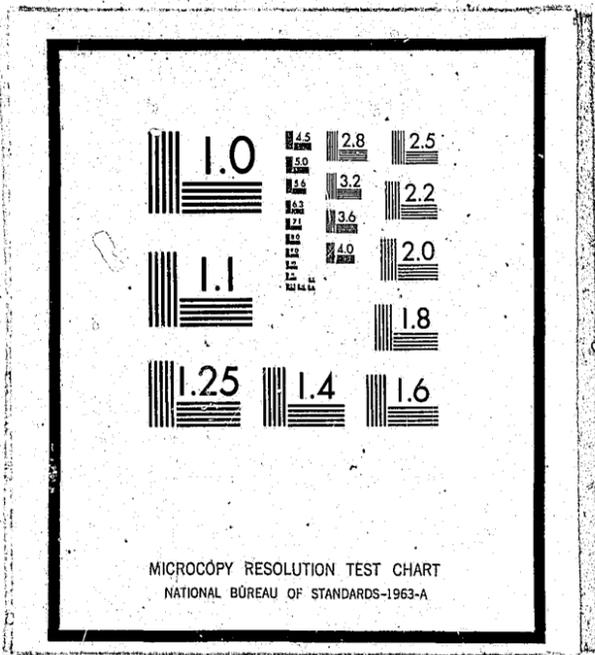


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EVALUATION RESEARCH IN PUBLIC

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1967-1974

Evaluation Research in Public Administration:
Selected References, 1967-1974.

The continuously active process of running the business of government has grown more expensive, more diffuse, and more complex. Traditionally, public administration has been concerned with carrying out the law effectively, efficiently, and economically through organization and management. More recently it has concerned itself with interpreting the law as well. Public administration, whether an art or a science, is in a period of intense study and reflection. One of the systematic and more objective methods of assessing the quality of its efforts is through evaluation research.

The broad purpose of attaining a scientific, objective, and comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of a program gives evaluation research a common bond with other social science research. However, the conditions under which evaluation research must operate provide it with a character distinct from other social science research. The evaluator frequently cannot manipulate the program or control the testing conditions because of the interactive environment of an administrative process and/or its multiple goals. But through the use of comparative studies, quasi-control groups, estimates or other techniques, an evaluator can choose the most appropriate method or combination of methods to provide a scientific assessment. While it is immediately apparent that each evaluation must be tailored to the particular needs of the programs being studied, there are broad methodologies common to most evaluation research.

The following two part bibliography presents citations to journal and monographic literature on the broad methodologies of evaluation research and its theories and techniques in part one, and in part two, their specific application to public administration and selected public programs. The majority of the citations are annotated and have been chosen from the computerized bibliographic data base created and maintained by the Library Services Division of the Congressional Research Service.

Another source of information concerning the effectiveness of government agencies and their programs are the reports of audits conducted and published by the General Accounting Office. The primary purpose of its audits is to make independent examinations for the Congress of the ways government agencies are discharging their financial responsibilities. In its audits the General Accounting Office makes recommendations to effect greater economy and efficiency in agency operations and attempts to determine whether alternative approaches might better accomplish the goals of the program. This bibliography cites only a few of the reports of the Comptroller General; others may be located in the monthly catalog of reports issued by the General Accounting Office.

The material cited is arranged alphabetically by main entry within each of the two sections. Citations to items in the classified collection of the Library of Congress are provided with call numbers; items designated Law are located in the Law Library and those with Newspaper are found in the Newspaper and Current Periodical Room of the Library of Congress. All journal articles are provided with the call number for the bound volumes of the journal regardless of whether the issues cited have been bound at this time.

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END