

# RealWorld Evaluation Working Under Budget, Time, Data, and Political Constraints

## Description

Second Edition, by Michael Bamberger, Jim Rugh, Linda Mabry. Sage Publications, Nov 2011,

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This book addresses the challenges of conducting program evaluations in real-world contexts where evaluators and their clients face budget and time constraints and where critical data may be missing. The book is organized around a seven-step model developed by the authors, which has been tested and refined in workshops and in practice. Vignettes and case studies—representing evaluations from a variety of geographic regions and sectors—demonstrate adaptive possibilities for small projects with budgets of a few thousand dollars to large-scale, long-term evaluations of complex programs. The text incorporates quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method designs, and this Second Edition reflects important developments in the field since the publication of the First Edition.

See also the associated website: <http://www.realworldevaluation.org/> Bamberger and Rugh have presented many workshops on RealWorld Evaluation in many countries. A copy of various versions and translations of the PowerPoint presentations and other materials are accessible on the next pages of this website.

### What's New in the Second Edition of Real World Evaluation?

- A greater focus on responsible professional practice, codes of conduct, and the importance of ethical standards for all evaluations.
- Some new perspectives on the debate over the best evaluation designs. While experimental designs can address the important issues of selection bias, such statistical designs are potentially vulnerable to a number of important threats to validity. These include process and contextual analysis, collecting information on sensitive topics and from difficult-to-reach groups, difficulties in adapting to changes in the evaluation design, and implementation strategies. Experience also suggests that strong statistical designs can be applied only in a very small proportion of evaluations.
- There are many instances in which well-designed nonexperimental designs will be the best option for assessing outcomes of many programs, particularly for evaluating complex programs and even simple programs that involve complex processes of behavioral change.
- The importance of understanding the setting within which the evaluation is designed, implemented, and used.
- Program theory as a central building block of most evaluation designs. The expanded discussion incorporates theory of change, contextual and process analysis, multilevel logic models, using competing theories, and trajectory analysis.
- The range of evaluation design options has been considerably expanded, and case studies are included to illustrate how each of the 19 designs has been applied in the field.
- Greater emphasis is given to the benefits of mixed-method evaluation designs.
- A new chapter has been added on the evaluation of complicated and complex development interventions. Conventional pretest-posttest comparison group designs can rarely be applied to

the increasing proportion of development assistance channeled through complex interventions, and a range of promising new approachesâ??still very much â??work in progressâ?•â??is presented.

- Two new chapters on organizing and managing evaluations and strengthening evaluation capacity. This includes a discussion of strategies for promoting the institutionalization of evaluation systems at the sector and national levels.
- The discussion of quality assurance and threats to validity has been expanded, and checklists and worksheets are included on how to assess the validity of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method designs.

## Category

1. Uncategorized

## Tags

1. bamburger
2. constraints
3. mabry
4. real world
5. rugh

## Date

06/02/2026

## Date Created

26/12/2011

## Author

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