

The Payback Framework

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Presentation to:
Evaluation of Productive Interactions Between Science and Society
International Expert Meeting
Amsterdam, 9 Nov 2007

The Payback Framework: outline

- 2 main elements:
 - a multidimensional categorisation of benefits
(knowledge, research, policy/products, health sector, economic)
 - a model for organising the impact assessment
*(7 stages from needs assessment/topic identification to final outcomes;
& 2 interfaces between the research & wider pool of knowledge/society)*
- Can be applied to bodies of research from different research teams or research funders through: dataset / documentary analysis, surveys, interviews, case studies
- Framework informs & encourages consistency in data collection, presentation & analysis

The Payback Framework: pros & cons

- Pros:
 - quite *widely applied, usually acceptable to researchers*
 - *breadth of impacts matches most funders' missions*
 - *model with interfaces between research & wider environment informed by a major formative evaluation in health department & helps identify factors associated with impacts*
 - *flexible: originally developed for interactive applied research, now also used for basic responsive mode*
- Cons:
 - *difficult to identify the later categories of impact*
 - *addresses, but not solves, problems of attribution*
 - *can be fairly resource intensive*
 - *potential conflicts of interest*

The Payback Framework: lessons, tips

- Important to establish aims of an impact assessment & accept that not all research will make an impact
- Each application of the Payback Framework should include initial analysis of how far it needs to be tweaked to meet circumstances of specific research team/funder
- Specific methods & scope depend on aims & resources
- Further details:
 - *review of impact assessments in health research forthcoming*
 - *example of methods used in a Payback study:*
<http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content/pdf/1478-4505-2-4.pdf>
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