

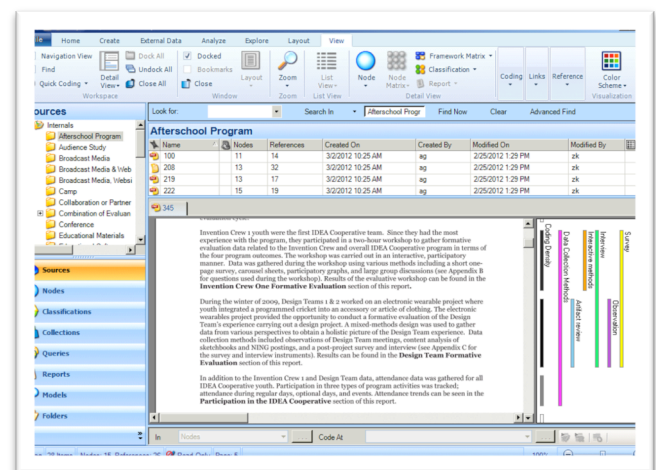
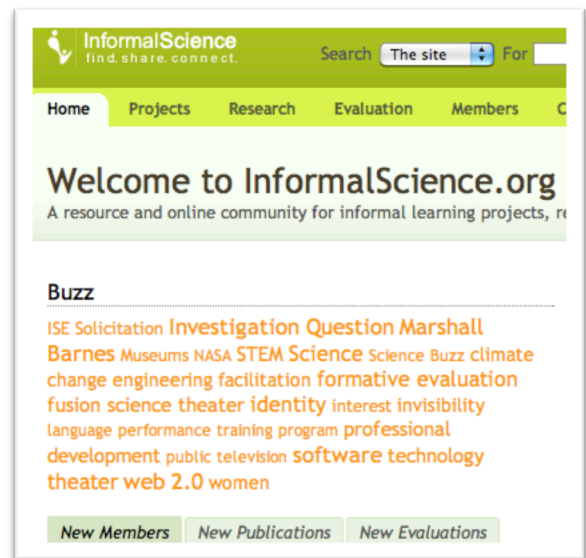
THE BISE PROJECT

HELP US BUILD THE FIELD OF VISITOR STUDIES!

WHAT IS THE BISE PROJECT?

The Building Informal Science Education (BISE) Project is a collaboration between University of Pittsburgh Center for Learning in Out of School Environments, Science Museum of Minnesota, and Visitor Studies Association. The goal of the project is to support the growth and development of the informal science education field through knowledge sharing across informal learning projects and their evaluations. Our work builds upon the website informalscience.org, an online destination for the informal learning field. The site includes member profiles, project pages, a research database, and a repository of evaluation reports.

The BISE Project is designed to begin to share and synthesize lessons learned across projects in the field of informal learning. To date, the Project has produced an extensive coding framework to aid in the syntheses of a growing database of more than 400 evaluation reports. Authors from VSA and the project team are currently conducting analyses in order to produce papers to share with the field. In the next phase of the project, the BISE team will release a coded NVivo database and update the tags on informalscience.org so that others can conduct their own analyses.



BISE NVivo Database

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE BISE PROJECT?

If you carry out evaluations in informal learning environments, consider sharing your evaluation reports through informalscience.org. While the website has science in its name, the site includes evaluations from a wide array of informal learning contexts. **We are especially in need of reports related to art, history, children's museum, and other non-science areas. You can post any kind of evaluation study - front-end, formative, remedial, or summative evaluation.** It doesn't take long to upload reports - take some time to contribute today! You'll build our field by disseminating your work more broadly and contributing to a database that will allow the field to analyze findings across the breadth and depth of our work!

IT'S EASY TO UPLOAD A REPORT! FOLLOW THESE STEPS.

1. Enter Details

Provide basic information for the author, evaluation firm and client organization.

2. Describe & Showcase

Enter the report title, project name, funder and grant number (if applicable) and include a summary of the project impact and findings.

3. Select Evaluation Descriptors

Choose from a list of descriptors or add your own. Descriptors help others to locate your report and provide a tool to find similar reports by audience, venue, subject, study design and methods.

4. Review & Publish

Verify the accuracy of the entered information, make necessary changes and publish your report.

Pro Tip! *You can't save your progress once you've started. Make sure you have all the information and a short summary of the report written when you start. If you encounter any problems use the contact email on the website and someone will quickly help you finish.*

Questions about the BISE Project? Contact Kevin Crowley at crowleyk@pitt.edu



The Summative Evaluation Checklist

- 1) Basics: Report Title; Project title; NSF ID Number (if applicable); Dates (Year of written report, funding start date, funding expiration date); Author; Evaluation organization's name; PI; PI Organization's name
- 2) Evaluation Type: Front-end, Formative, Remedial, Summative, Other
- 3) Audience for the project: Children (specify age range of sample); Adults; Adult-Child groups; Informal education professionals; Formal Education Professionals, etc.
- 4) Project type: Educational program, Exhibit, Afterschool program, Broadcast media, Camp, etc.
- 5) Project setting: Aquarium or Zoo, Anthropology Museum, Radio, community-based organization, etc.
- 6) Science content area: Anthropology, Biological Science, etc.
- 7) Evaluation design: Mixed method, quasi-experiment, post-test, ethnographic study, longitudinal, etc.
- 8) Evaluation questions: what questions about the project were you trying to answer?
- 9) Description of the overall evaluation design, implementation and analyses
- 10) Data collection method(s): Survey, Interview, Focus Group, observation, etc.
- 11) Evaluator type: Internal, external
- 12) Sample descriptions and sample sizes (n)
- 13) Include Evaluation Instruments
- 14) Indicate whether the evaluation instruments were based on other validated instruments or how piloting and validation was conducted
- 15) Indicate whether the evaluation design, methodology, instruments, or specific questions were linked to research or literature in the field
- 16) What analyses were performed on data collected?
- 17) Recommendations or suggestions for improvement (These are recommendations from the evaluator, not a question about improvements in a survey or interview)
- 18) If funded by NSF, indicate which NSF impact areas were addressed: Awareness, knowledge, understanding, engagement, interest, attitude, behavior, skills, other
- 19) Provide an executive summary

This Summative Evaluation Checklist is derived from the work of the Building Informal Science Education (BISE) network, which aims to create deeper connections between evaluation and practice.