INNOVATIVE MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL) TOOLS

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CROWDSOURCING

Crowdsourcing is known to be a great way to solicit ideas from strangers, but it can also be used as a reporting tool. In addition to encouraging greater civic engagement, it saves time on data collection and provides larger geographic reach.

EXAMPLES

Open source software that leverage SMS mobile phone technology:
Frontline SMS: www.frontlinesms.com
RapidSMS: www.rapidsms.org

Platforms for mapping citizen and stakeholder communications:
Ushahidi: www.ushahidi.com
Ideascale: www.ideascale.com

MICRONARRATIVE ANALYSIS

MEL Professionals aim to remove bias from evidence generation; that is why the collection and aggregation of thousands of short stories from citizens and the inclusion of their own interpretation of the stories offers an innovation in interpreting data.

EXAMPLES

SenseMaker:
SenseMaker is a software that detects patterns in information, thereby enabling micro-narrative analysis.
www.sensemaker-suite.com by Cognitive Edge

Global Giving Story Tools:
www.globalgiving.org/story-tools/

MOBILE DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

Data collection has never been more innovative with Mobile Data Collection (MDC) software applications. Some of the innovative features of MDC include automatic geographical tagging, photography, videos, and audio to generate quick, real-time, inexpensive, and widely-available evidence.

EXAMPLES

https://www.teamscopeapp.com/

https://opendatakit.org/

https://www.kobotoolbox.org/

https://www.dimagi.com/commcare/

CREATIVE M&E

Creatively measuring and evaluating the results of a project can take place with non-conventional tools (e.g. poetry, photography). Such tools should be considered in MEL, especially when generating case stories to document impact.

EXAMPLES

Sport and Development:
In addition to being a website dedicated entirely to the field of sport and development, this website boasts a creative toolkit for MEL **here**