

DRC sponsored project evaluation workflow: external phase

The evaluation of sponsored projects occurs in two phases; first during and immediately after a project's sponsorship period, and second in the period spanning from one to three years after completion. These phases serve different purposes. The first, internal phase offers frameworks for accountability, project tracking, and optimizing student and faculty research and teaching outcomes. The second, external, phase outlined here is designed to offer longer feedback loops to help Digital Research Services and the DRC to evaluate our processes for project selection, management and promotion. It does this by evaluating responses to a sponsored project outside of its initial incubation and early steps.

The workflow takes the form of a timeline of follow-up questions to be posed of each project at the point of one, two, and three years after the end of sponsorship. At each year, a different facet of a project's output can be evaluated. After three years, this process will offer a holistic picture of a project's afterlife. The three sets of questions are designed to evaluate the teaching and research impact of a project. Project PIs will assist DRS staff in compiling answers to these questions. The process of compiling that information will be informal rather than mandated and formalized.

Years one and two: Pedagogical and research impact

Was your project used in a classroom setting? How?

Was your dataset used in a classroom setting?

Has any of the classroom response to your work prompted fresh research in the area or method that you employed?

Have students, whether originally included in the project or not, engaged with it or its materials since the end of its sponsorship by the DRC?

What feedback, if any, have you received about your work that came out of a classroom?

Has there been any media or social media response to your work, whether as tweets, blog posts, reviews, &c?

Year three: Research impact **

- Has your project been cited? By whom and when?
- Have there been responses or rebuttals to your project?
- Have other projects come about since yours ended that took a cue, whether in method or subject matter, from yours?
- Has there been subsequent research that drew on your work, including by you?
- Finally, when you look at the afterlife of your project over the past three years, what do you wish had happened differently?

***Note on evaluating research impact:*

We will also undertake our own evaluation of the research lifecycle of each project. In accord with UH's *50 in 5* initiative, we will mine faculty PI CVs for citations, use citation counts from the IR, check for citations independently online, ask faculty to report whether they use their projects for departmental merit reviews, and if they receive intra- or extra-mural research awards for work that came from or involved their DRC projects. We will track all the criteria that *50 in 5* takes into account. These include evaluating:

- publications
- citations
- awards
- casebooks
- cited performances, and
- research expenditures.

It is important to note that the compiled set of evaluations is not intended to serve as a complete or final picture of a project's worth. Instead it is intended to help DRS and DRC think strategically about how to adjust the management of sponsored projects in future cycles.

Compiling responses to these questions will allow DRS and the DRC to gauge the extent of each project's success and that of the DRC's ongoing sponsored projects program as a whole.