

CAISE Inquiry Group

Assessing the Impacts of ISE
Professional Online Communities

caise | center for advancement of
informal science education

U P C L O S E
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
CENTER FOR LEARNING IN
OUT OF SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

Using NSF-funded projects, programs, and products as the subject of inquiry, Inquiry Group participants with a diverse set of expertise meet together to examine and discuss an issue or theme in ISE practice, then prepare knowledge products that document their observations and reflections.



Web Inquiry Group (WIG)

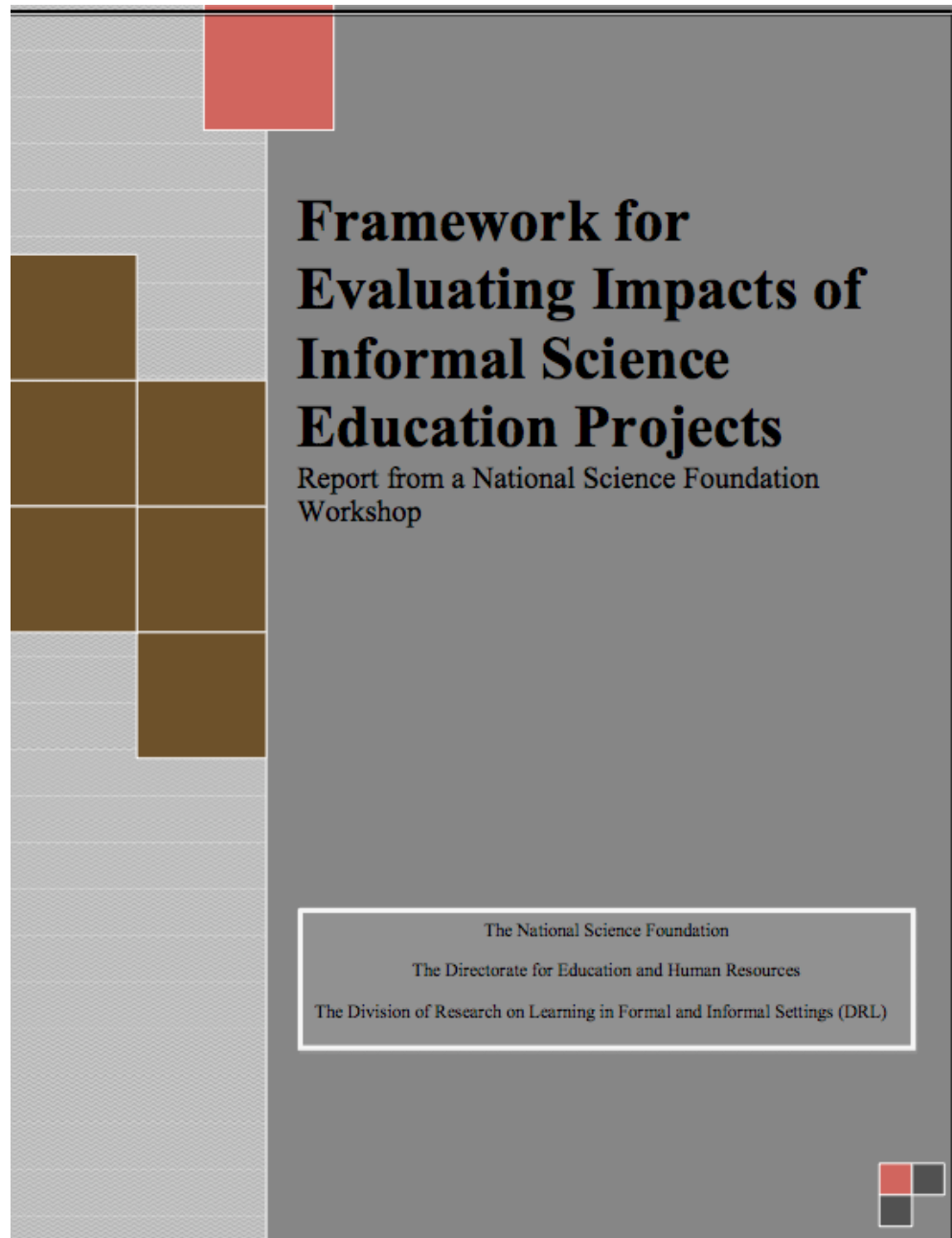
- The primary focus of this Inquiry Group was to think about how best how to conceptualize and evaluate the impacts of professional online learning communities, especially those serving multi-disciplinary informal science education (ISE) communities like ...

Insci.org



InformalScience
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ExhibitFiles A series of four small, colorful square icons representing different exhibit designs or themes.
A community site for exhibit designers and developers



Framework for Evaluating Impacts of Informal Science Education Projects

Report from a National Science Foundation
Workshop

The National Science Foundation

The Directorate for Education and Human Resources

The Division of Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings (DRL)

http://insci.org/docs/Eval_Framework.pdf

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QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

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WIG Preliminary Insights

- We need to typology of professional online communities:
Project-driven, closed, bounded, temporal, top-down vs.
User-driven, open, unlimited, ongoing, bottom-up
- Impact Unit of Analysis - individual, group, field
- “Other” Impact Categories to consider
 - self-efficacy > collective efficacy
 - social capital > social awareness of resources
 - Know-how, know-who, know-what
- Measures -
 - Social network analysis
 - bibliometrics and document analysis of proposals and evaluation reports
 - mentioning of site as ASTC ...

Discuss