Science Metrix

Informational Interview with Chantale Tippett at Science Metrix

Could you describe your role? Senior research analyst focusing on bibliometrics. Term used for evaluating programs for funders in US and Canada in the development sector. Small company of 16 people working on a variety of projects including those in the water sector. Distribution is 20% developing and 80% development due to funders available, with the evaluation project being much larger.

Example: African Development Bank water sector: Use OECD criteria to evaluate programs against gold standard, involving data collection studies. Visits to 10 countries including Malawi to meet with stakeholders in the government and NGOs via stakeholder interviews. Secondary analysis and portfolio look at evolution of funding towards the bank and write synthesis report. Very intense in very short time frame due to length of projects.

What kind of skills do you consider most relevant in your current job? Some studies are in unrelated field to person's background so need to leverage other people's expertise. Basic research skills and stats skills, need to maintain open dialogue with client

Are there challenges about the ethics of responsible reporting of the project when the funder is often the client? Not working with the direct end user of the program reduces potential for bias. However there are also issues with data availability which can impact the conclusions of the report depending on the quality of data input within the programme.

What pieces of advice would you give a current Masters/PhD student when applying for jobs within global health? Straight from masters hard to get into evaluation as requires a lot of expertise so want strong qualitative and quantitative (50:50 used) skills; critical analysis is number one skill

What are the main recruitment practices of evaluation companies/institutions? Open recruitment through their website, firm is contract based so hard to manage work flow vs staff so need flexible approach with wide variety of skills to bring in from a list of CVs kept on file.

General Advice: Network with those people whose work you are really interested in, personal approach, understand the team and working culture of the organisation and match your application to those values

Small sized consulting company.   Website: http://www.science-metrix.com/