

A Knowledge Mobilisation Reading List

Compiled by Sarah Morton, Capture Impact- with thanks to the LinkedIn community

This list started with three classics I come back to again and again, and grew from a conversation on LinkedIn where colleagues generously shared what has shaped their thinking. It is organised into the classics first, then by theme. I will update it over time.

The Classics

[Using Evidence: How Research Can Inform Public Services](#)

Nutley, Walter and Davies (Policy Press, 2007)

Still the foundational cross-disciplinary text on how research informs public services. It took a genuinely broad look at the topic at a time when that was unusual, and it has aged remarkably well.

[The Many Meanings of Research Utilization](#)

Carol H. Weiss (Public Administration Review, 1979)

One of the clearest accounts of how research actually interacts with policy. Also one of the most beautifully written articles in this field - something we can all aspire to.

Planning and Frameworks for Knowledge Mobilisation

[Why, Whose, What and How? A Framework for Knowledge Mobilisers](#)

Ward, V. (Evidence and Policy, 2017)

A succinct and widely used framework for thinking about what you want to mobilise and for whom. Practical and immediately applicable.

[Expanding our Understanding of K*](#)

Shaxson, Bielak, Ahmed et al (2012)

A helpful starting point for anyone new to the field, clarifying the many terms used — knowledge translation, knowledge exchange, knowledge mobilisation and more. Sarah Morton is listed as a contributor on this paper.

[Systematic Planning for Knowledge Mobilization](#)

Cooper (RIPPLE Toolkit, 2016)

Not a paper but a practical toolkit that brings together various frameworks useful for planning knowledge mobilisation work.

[The Co-produced Pathway to Impact](#)

Phipps, Pepler, Craig, Cummings and Cardinal (Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship, 2016)

A framework for describing knowledge mobilisation processes, developed by David Phipps and colleagues.

[Using a Knowledge-to-Action Framework to Facilitate the Integration of Genomics in Primary Care](#)

Australian Prevention Partnership Centre (Health Research Policy and Systems, 2020)

A practical illustration of knowledge mobilisation in a complex health system context, recommended for anyone working at the intersection of research and practice in complex programmes.

Practitioner Use of Research

[Practice-based Evidence for Healthcare: Clinical Mindlines](#)

Gabbay and le May (Routledge, 2011)

The first work to really dig into how practitioners use research in practice. Because it was an ethnography, it could show that research is just one influence among many on how people act, and that talking to each other about research is often far more likely to lead to change than the research itself.

[Research-Practice Partnerships in Education: The State of the Field](#)

Farrell, Penuel, Coburn, Daniel and Steup (William T. Grant Foundation, 2021)

For those working in education contexts, a good overview of how research-practice partnerships can facilitate research use.

[Mapping Evaluation Use: A Scoping Review of Extant Literature \(2005-2022\)](#)

Searle, Cooper, Worthington et al (2024)

A helpful recent review for anyone planning knowledge mobilisation around evaluations.

Research Use in Policy

[A Systematic Review of Barriers to and Facilitators of the Use of Evidence by Policymakers](#)

Oliver, Innvar, Lorenc, Woodman and Thomas (BMC Health Services Research, 2014)

A comprehensive and widely cited review of what gets in the way of research being used in policy, and what helps. Essential reading for anyone trying to understand why good evidence does not automatically lead to policy change.

[The Researcher's Guide to Influencing Policy](#)

Mark Reed (Routledge, 2024)

A recent and practical guide to navigating the complex challenge of influencing policy through research.

Impact Assessment

[Progressing Research Impact Assessment: A Contributions Approach](#)

Sarah Morton (Research Evaluation, 2015)

A highly cited and widely used approach to understanding and tracking research impact, drawing on contribution analysis to move beyond simple attribution and build a credible evidence base for the difference research makes.

Impact handbooks

[Creating Meaningful Impact](#)

Julie Bayley (Emerald, 2022)

An accessible and practical guide to developing an impact-literate mindset. Recommended by several colleagues in this field.

[The Impactful Academic](#)

Edited by Wade Kelly (Emerald)

A useful collection for academics thinking about how to build research careers with real-world impact.

Science Communication

Science communication reading list

Multiple authors

These are 20 readings prioritised for graduate students and early career folks looking for somewhere to start with their reading on the science of science communication

To Stretch Your Thinking

Is it Time to Drop the Knowledge Translation Metaphor?

Greenhalgh and Wieringa (Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, 2011)

A critical examination of the assumptions embedded in the way we talk about moving knowledge into practice. Worth reading if you want to challenge your own frameworks.

Decolonization of Knowledge, Epistemicide, Participatory Research and Higher Education

Hall and Tandon (Research for All, 2017)

An important piece for anyone thinking about whose knowledge counts and who gets to define what evidence matters.

A Theory of Organizational Knowledge Creation

Nonaka, Toyama and Byosiore, in Handbook of Organizational Learning and Knowledge, Oxford University Press (2001)

A classic from the organisational learning field that broadens thinking about how knowledge is created and shared within organisations. Available in university libraries.

The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn the World (link to review)

Jonathan Freedland (2022)

An unusual recommendation - a book about knowledge, and what happens when evidence is ignored. Quietly devastating.
