

"Garbage in, garbage out" applies not just to computer programming but also to evaluation instruments in-house prepared without outside expert consultancy. This thought struck me as I read the National Science Foundation Program Report 1.2 (Apr/77) "Exploratory Research and Systems Analysis," from which the below diagrams are taken. Note especially the two-pronged "validation" process, thus described (p.16): "needs not only quality control of input, which is provided by peer review of proposals, but also quality control of output as supplied by product and program evaluation." This jargon from applied research and systems analysis is easy to translate into educational terms. And the whole is important not just for adequate operation of a school, but also for any social ministry, including the local church.

