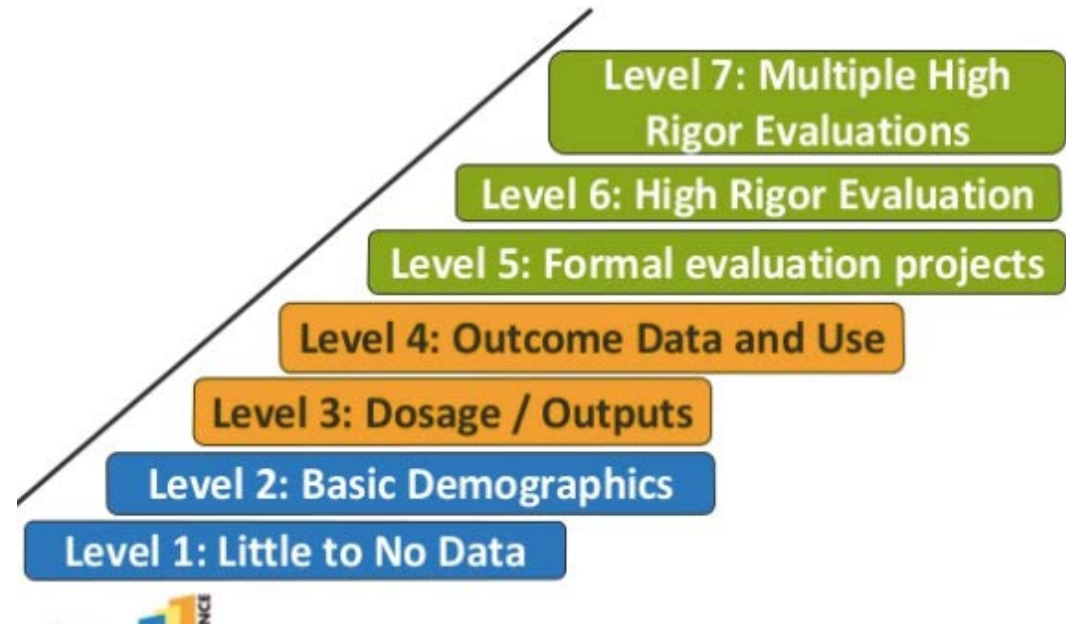INSTITUTE *of*
Museumand**Library**
SERVICES

Bringing Evidence Alive:
Grants to States, State Program Reports

Matthew Birnbaum and Lisa M. Frehill

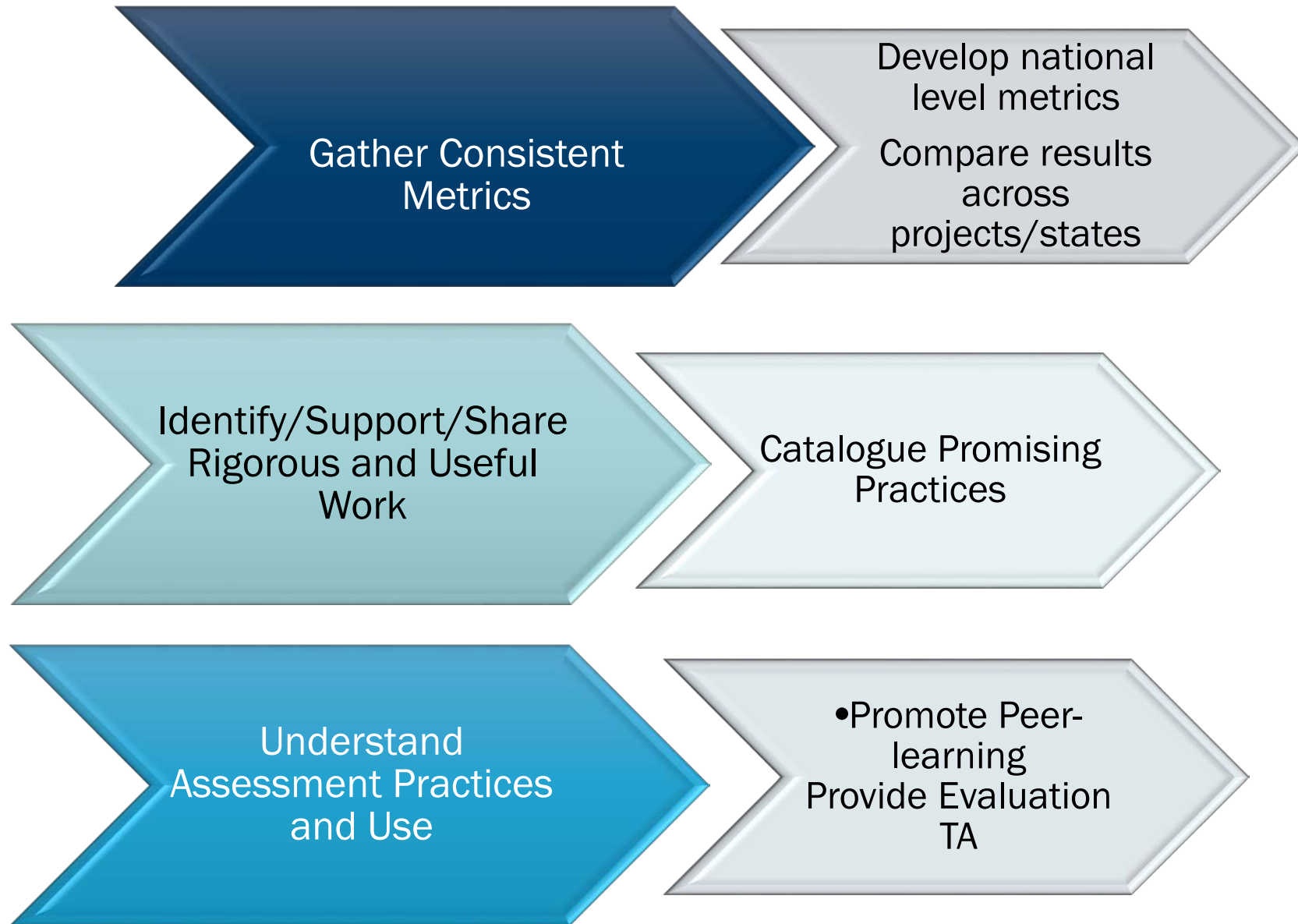Office of Digital Information Strategy /

Impact Assessment and Learning

Partnering, Cooperation, Complimenting: Building Evaluative Capacity Together

- Evolving, 8th Year Together

- IMLS Offices' Collaboration

- IMLS and SLAA Partnership

- Community's Complimentary Knowledge Bases:
  - Library information science
  - Social science
  - Experiential
  - Philosophical

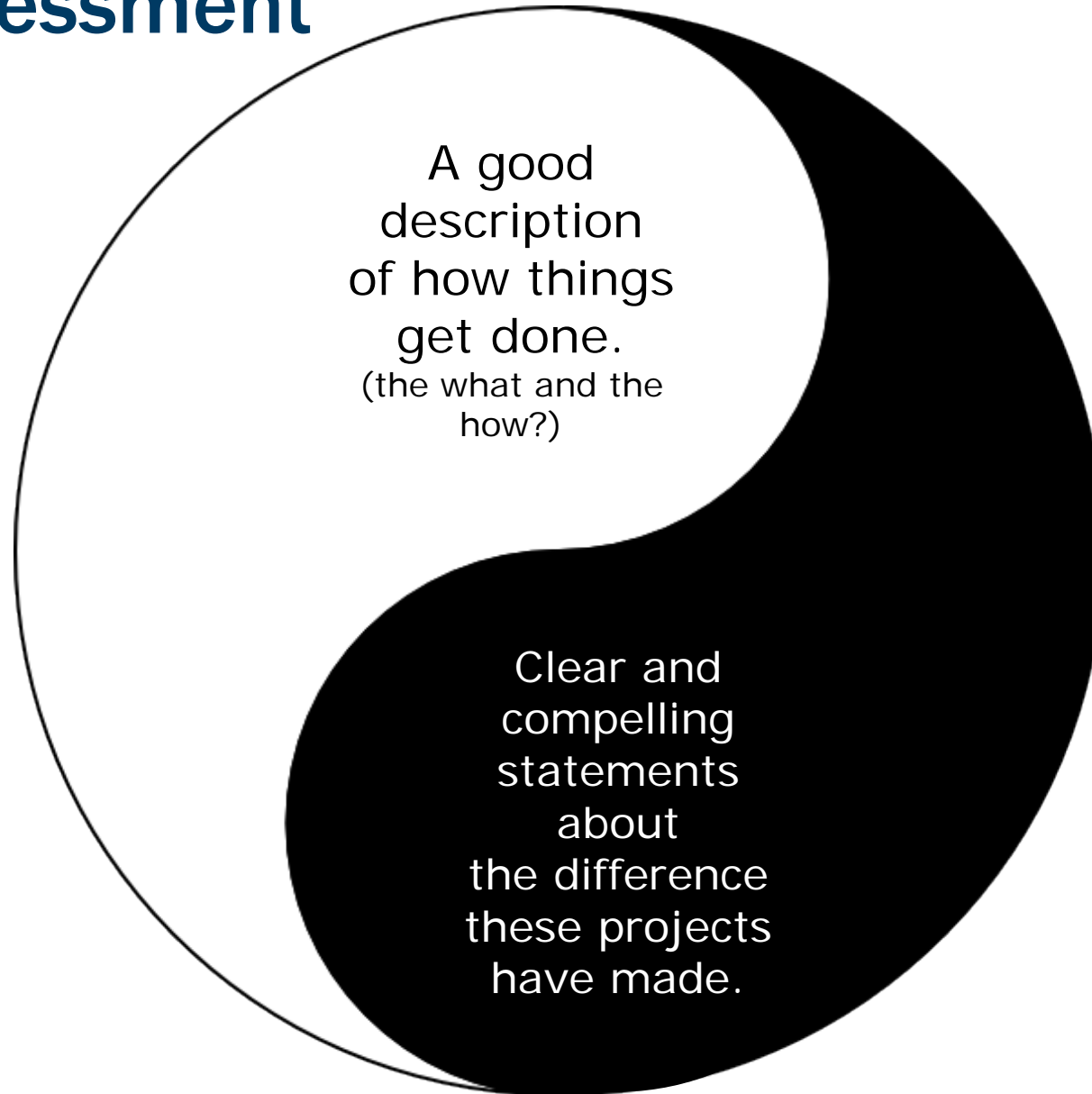**Evaluation Capacity "Ramp"**

Level 7: Multiple High Rigor Evaluations

Level 6: High Rigor Evaluation

Level 5: Formal evaluation projects

Level 4: Outcome Data and Use

Level 3: Dosage / Outputs

Level 2: Basic Demographics

Level 1: Little to No Data

Grants to States' Approach to Results-Based Assessments

Gather Consistent Metrics

- Develop national level metrics
- Compare results across projects/states

Identify/Support/Share Rigorous and Useful Work

Catalogue Promising Practices

Understand Assessment Practices and Use

- Promote Peer-learning
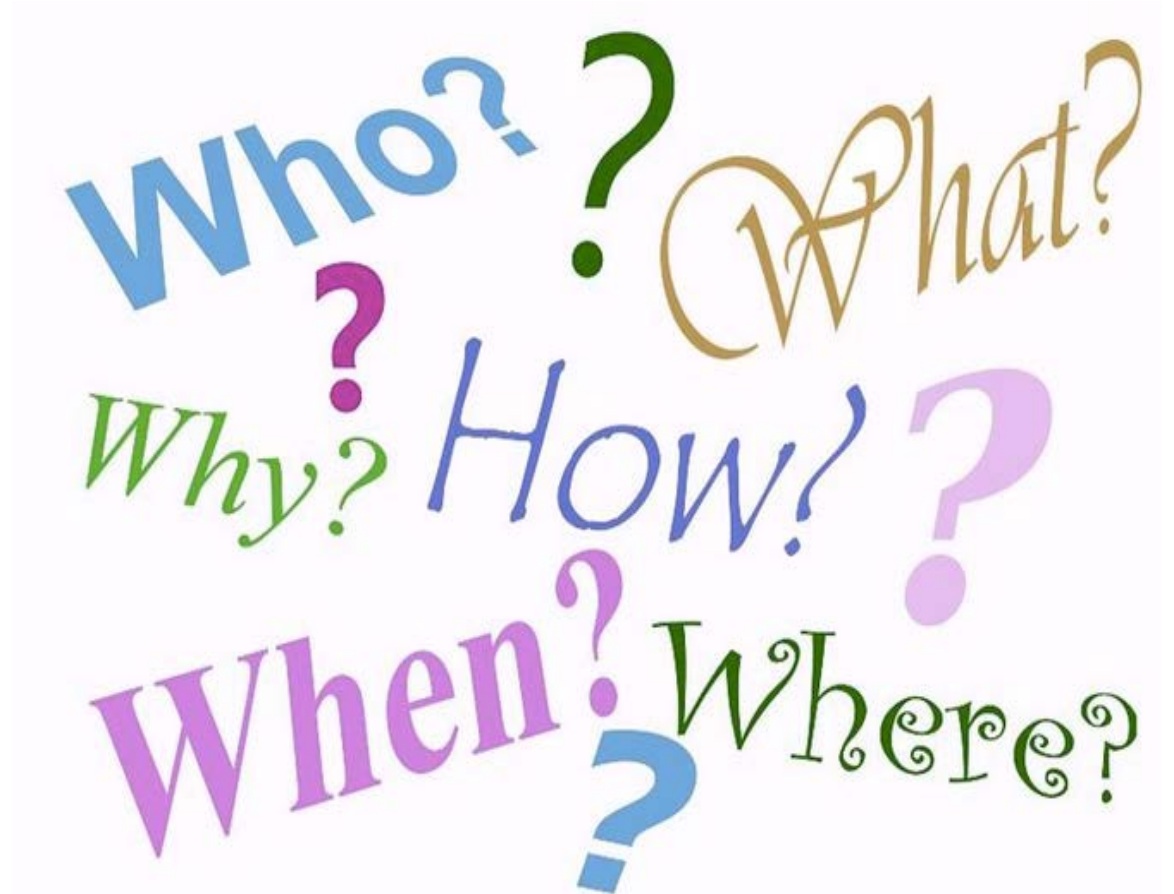- Provide Evaluation TA

Two Parts to Assessment

A good
description
of how things
get done.
(the what and the
how?)

Clear and
compelling
statements
about
the difference
these projects
have made.

Assessing Results with SPR Data

Describe How Things Get Done

- Who
  - Grantees
  - Partners
  - Beneficiaries
- What
  - Subjects
- When
  - Fiscal Years
- Where
  - Implementing locales
- How and How Much
  - Activities
  - Budgets
- Why
  - Focal Areas and Intents

Document Differences Made by Projects

- Provide richer set of data
  - Models
  - Adaptations
  - Promising practices

- Narrative outcome data add nuance to bring projects to life
  - "Important Findings"
  - "Future Planning"
  - "Lessons Learned"

- Formal project evaluations add rigor for assessing claimed results
  - N ~ 90
  - Research design
  - Sampling
  - Data collection
  - Data analysis