GLIMPSES OF GREY LITERATURE

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Abstract

The articles discuss about the value and its importance of grey literature as sources available in many different forms of scholarships. In today's context understanding its glimpses, its development, its definition, A-Z types and searching, identifying and locating options in the digitized world are revisited.

1. Introduction

Grey literature is composed of formally unpublished materials. It is information which is not channeled through traditional ways of publishing or not under distributor's control. Normally some of these kinds of information are in the form of report, policy literature, unpublished working papers, and newsletters, documents of governments, speeches, and catalogues from various trades to business, or any information forms which falls in these categories so on so forth.

2. Why grey literature ?

As term "grey literature" in a sense is referred in the context of its nature as uncertain statutes of this information which is outside the publishing arenas and not trusted in peer viewed process. It is still a good source of information and valuable in many cases and disciplines particularly in field of medicine it is most hounded information- a stitch in times saves nine though many times, it may provide data not found in the commercial publishing. Hence its importance is felt in research as a information useful and by browsing various sources though it is not indexed and often difficult to locate through searches in commercial databases. By definition from various quarters it is :



"...literature that is not formally published in sources such as books or journal articles."- Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions

The 'Luxembourg definition' offers a widely accepted description for grey literature as 'that which is produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in print and electronic formats, but which is not controlled by commercial publishers, i.e., where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body

3. Importance of Grey literature

1. It is an important source of information due to the uniqueness of the content that gets published.
2. It can sometimes be more current information and faster time for dissemination
3. Many tend to follow the grey route of publishing methods;
4. It is innovative information in times of challenges;
5. It fills the void of information needed in time;
6. It is in expensive in online modes.

Grey literature is an important source of information for large-scale review syntheses. However, there are many characteristics of grey literature that make it difficult to search systematically. Further, there is no 'gold standard' for rigorous systematic grey literature search methods and few resources on how to conduct this type of search.

'Grey Literature is best described by the type of document it embodies. It also refers to informally published written material, not indexed by major

database vendors IEEEXplore & ACM2 digital libraries. It is usually attributed to government, academia, pressure groups, trade unions, industries and is not rigorously peer reviewed. However a detailed examples of the GL are explained in point 4.

Other examples of Grey literature are reports (progress, market research), theses, conference proceedings, technical specifications and standards, official documents, company white papers, discussion boards and blogs.

The sources you select will be informed by your research question and field of study, but should likely include, at a minimum, theses and dissertations.

A grey literature search plan was developed to incorporate four different searching strategies:

(1) Grey literature databases,

(2) Customized Google search engines,

(3) Targeted websites, and

(4) Consultation with contact experts.

4. A- Z Exploration of Grey Literature :

A
Abstracts
Advertorials
Announcements
Annuals
Article

B
Bibliographies

J Journals :
- Articles
- Grey Journals
- In-house Journals
- Non-commercial Journals
- Synopsis Journals

R (continued)
- Feasibility Reports
- Governmen
- Reports
- Intelligence Reports
- Internal Reports
- Official Reports
- Policy Reports



B (continued)
Blogs
Booklets
Brochures
Bulletin Boards
Bulletins
C
Call for Papers
Case Studies
Catalogues
Chronicles
Clinical Trial :
- Source Document
Codebooks
Conference Papers
Conference Posters
Conference Proceedings
Country Profiles
Course Materials
D
Databases
Data Papers
Datasets
Datasheets
Deposited Papers
Directories
Discussion Papers
Dissertations
Doctoral Theses

K
K-blogs
L
Leaflets
Lectures
Legal documents
Legislation
LibGuides
M
Manuals
Memoranda
N
Newsgroups
Newsletters
Notebooks
O
Off-prints
Orations
P
Pamphlets
Papers :
- Call for Papers
- Conference Papers
- Deposited Papers
- Discussion Papers
- Green Papers
- White Papers
- Working Papers

Patents
Policy Documents
- Progress Reports
- Regulatory Reports
- Site Reports
- Stockbroker Reports
- Technical Reports

Reprints
Research Memoranda
Research Notes
Research Proposals
Research Registers
Research Reports
Reviews
Risk Analyses
S
Satellite Data
Scientific Protocols
Scientific Visualizations
Show cards
Software
Specifications
Speeches
Standards
State of the Art
Statistical Surveys
Statistics
Supplements
Survey Results
Syllabus
T
Technical



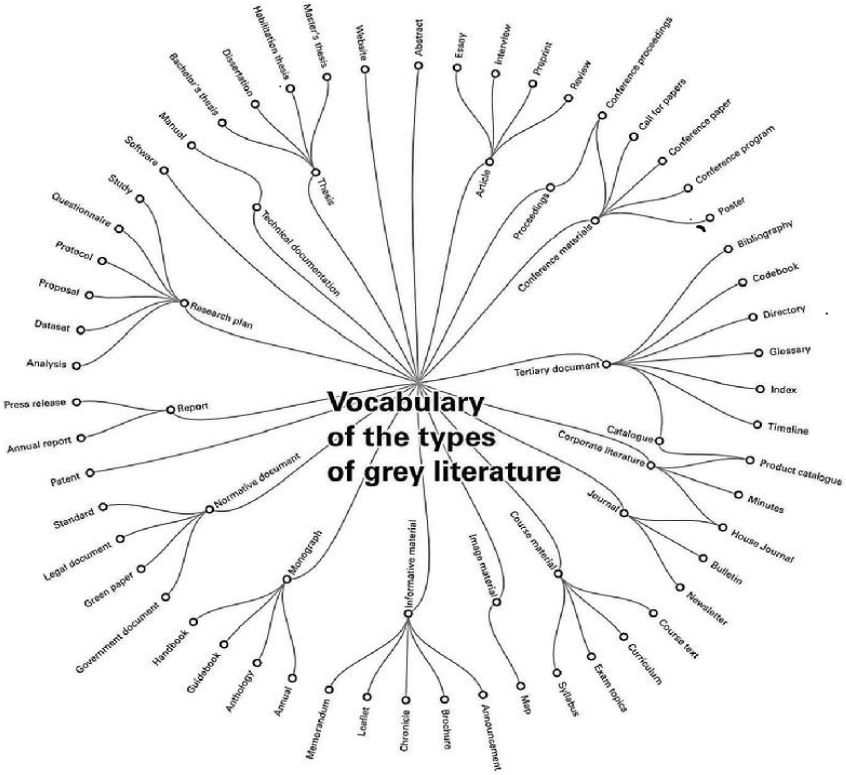
E
E-Prints
E-texts
Enhanced Publications
Essays
ETD (Electronic Theses and Dissertations)
Exchange Agreements
F
Fact Sheets
Feasibility Studies
Flyers
Folders
Forum:- Internet
G
Glossaries
Government Documents
Green Papers
Guidebooks
H
Handbooks
House Journals
I
Image Directories
Inaugural Lectures
Indexes
Interactive Posters
Internet Reveiws
Interviews

P (continued)
Policy Statements
Posters
Précis Articles
Preprints
Press Releases
Proceedings
Product Data
Programs
Project :
- Deliverables
- Information Document (PID)
- Proposals
- Work Packages
- Work Programmes

Q
Questionnaires
R
Readers
Registers
Reports :
- Activity Reports
- Annual Reports
- Bank Reports
- Business Reports
- Committee Reports
- Compliance Reports
- Country Reports
- Draft Reports

T (continued)
Documentation
Technical Notes
Tenders
Theses
Timelines
Trade Directories
Translations
Treatises
Tutorials
W
Website Reviews
WebPages
Websites
White Books
White Papers
Working Documents
Working Papers
Y
Yearbooks





Sources: Grey Literature Typology in Grey net http:// www.greynet.org

Greynet was founded in 1992 to facilitate a communication between people and organization in the field of grey literature in a networked environment.

Its main activity :

- International conference series;
- Creation of web based sources;
- Grey Journal;
- Curricula development;
- Hyper linking of grey literature.

5. Searching for Grey Literature:

As per the definition it always a problem for number of reasons to identify, search, discover, access and evaluate them or bibliographical control and getting access to meta-data of records (Information and its forms) are not uniform and not available and becomes more difficult to access although it is used or referred as one of important sources for research in some fields. Of late with expansion of digital access to literature, digital information and digital access it is gradually floated in individual centres and libraries in its sources and institutional publications. No databases are indexing such information and cataloguing of large collections is not found. But still exploring a expansive search will enable to get access to such grey literature. Libraries are doing a good job to interlinking the access by subject guides, some directories like Open DOAR ,ROAR, Institutional Repositories , subject repositories, academic, open data, open archives contains grey literature are made known.

- Searching varieties of public and private organizations can be explored and various tools and techniques have cropping in to simplify and locate grey literature;
- A systematic review technique
- Library WebPages
- Grey Literature databases
- Consultation With Contact Experts
- Search engines

6. **Evaluating** : Some methods as checklist are derived to evaluate grey literature as per the (**AACODS Checklist)** use are :

   Authority, Accuracy, Coverage, Objectivity, Date, Significance

Conclusion :

Grey literature (GL) is composed of formally unpublished materials. It is a information which is not channeled through traditional ways of publishing or not under distributor's control. Knowing the unknown is the major process which hounding the grey literature. Though many research works have been done but still it is beyond the boundaries of a "Real Resource".



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