

## The Ubiquity of Grey Literature in a Connected Content Context

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### ABSTRACT

Ubiquitous or pervasive computing has become a new paradigm in computer science and networking and seeks to embed computers into all functions of daily life, where the technology may be invisible. This "calm technology" allows for some powerful new products and ways of doing things. In the library, publishing, and information arenas this may mean potentially transforming the bibliographic organization and how scholars find and use information. The social and cultural enhancements ubiquitous computing offers is very pronounced in information rich sectors. Grey literature is an example of nontraditional publishing and creative output that has benefited from the attention of how new models in human-computer interactions and computer supported cooperative work blend many different disciplines, contribute to new emerging areas and record that evolution. This paper will explore how context-aware computing supports specific products such as grey literature. Applying the work of Mark Weiser, Paul Dourish and Anne Galloway and reviewing hybrid applications that incorporate new interfaces, displays, operating systems and wireless communications we can explore where and how grey literature fits in and what may soon become possible for a new generation of grey literature.

### Definitions and Relationships

This paper was to have been the last paper delivered in the last session of a conference celebrating a decade of work in grey literature and you ask why all this emphasis on ubiquity as a frame of reference for new models. So it may not be a perfect fit in this session which is not about roadmaps for the future, but we will take a journey anyway and try and make it fit in this session about models of grey literature. Well, in this last decade we have moved from celebrating unique elements in grey literature to seeing and concluding that more is grey than less. We also have observed and experienced that the availability of information and instructional technologies and the changing landscape of organizational infrastructures and cultures have directed and influenced us and our colleagues, especially in the sciences, to researching, composing, and disseminating our work in very individualized or institutionally branded packages rather than in bulk publishing outputs, once the milestone of journals, books and monographic series. Publishing has changed rather radically and the economics of traditional commercial and academic publishing is challenged because the financial models can no longer be sustained and intellectual property and digital management rights now encourage authors and contributors to retain their rights. We all know that value-added enhancements made by professional publishing enterprises add great benefits, but the digital age demands different controls. The methods associated with online publishing, archiving and discovering reading habits all related to grey literature is what the focus of this paper is about in a connected content context.

### Ubiquitous Computing

Ubiquity or ubiquitous claims to mean "existing everywhere or inescapable" and when applied to computing and technology suggests that the horizon for access and creativity is completely open. Some writers have noted it is descriptive of a paradigm shift "where technology becomes virtually invisible in our lives."<sup>1</sup> There are many different categories of indicators that reinforce the concept of connectivity and networking and can be summarized by access, learning, society, economy and policy.

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<sup>1</sup> Marcia Riley, "Ubiquitous Computing: An Interesting New Paradigm,"  
[http://www.cc.gatech.edu/classes/cs6751\\_97\\_fall/projects/say-cheese/marcia/mfinal.html](http://www.cc.gatech.edu/classes/cs6751_97_fall/projects/say-cheese/marcia/mfinal.html)