GreyNet's Journey into the Field of Grey Literature: A Run-Down to 2025 and A Run-Up to 2026

Over the past thirty plus years, GreyNet International serves subject based communities producing, processing, distributing, preserving, and bringing awareness to the value of grey literature for science and society.

Grey literature a field in information science, shares many definitions much like other fields of science. It is published on all levels of (non)government, academics, business and industry in textual and non-textual formats not controlled by commercial publishers, that is where publishing is not the sole activity of the producing body. Early on, GreyNet moved from a demand-side perspective on grey literature to a supply-demand side perspective. This in itself broadened the range of stakeholders from librarians and documentalists to include the authors and researchers along with their publishing organizations. It is in this way, that grey literature could distance itself from ephemera and vanity press.

Owing to the support of its associate members and established partnerships with leading organizations, GreyNet has been able to enhance the status of grey literature publications by including their associated research data and audio-visual counterparts. GreyNet adhered early on to the implementation of the FAIR principles: Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability by assigning rich metadata and digital persistent identifiers such as the DOI, ORCiD, and ROR-ID to its publications. GreyNet International became a DOI minter via DataCite in 2018 and has since instructed and encouraged its author-researcher base to apply for their ORCiD and ROR IDs.

The Strength of Research and Publication

Over the past three decades GreyNet has launched and organized a series of international conferences, seminars, and workshops in order to confront and resolve the problems and issues dealing with grey literature. Their results and outcomes have appeared published in print and digital formats via multiple document types now housed in repositories, data archives, portals, and on GreyNet's website.

GreyNet's current **Open Data Project 2025-2026** has identified twenty grey literature document types that it has published over the years. These include:

- Biographical Notes
- Conference Papers
- Datasets
- Video Presentations
- Journal
- Databases
- Conference Proceedings
- Data Papers
- Conference Abstracts
- Conference Slides
- Conference Posters
- Newsletters
- Conference Memoranda
- Workshops
- Program Books
- Business Reports
- Project Slides
- Directories
- Registries
- Seminars

PUBGREY

Registry of Publishers in Grey Literature

Another ongoing project that originated in 2023 resulted in the 1st edition of PUBGREY, a Registry of Publishers in Grey Literature. Here, GreyNet set out to identify those organizations among its community of practice that consider themselves publishers. In 2024, the 2nd edition of PUBGREY sought to further emphasize that organizations producing and publishing grey literature should openly acknowledge their role as publishers. In 2026 and in collaboration with the Global Forum for Publishers in Grey Literature, the 3rd edition of the PUBGREY Registry will appear. Please consider entering a record of your organization in this **special edition**.

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Global Forum for Publishers

PubForum'26 – Global Forum for Publishers in Grey Literature

GreyNet International is pleased to formally announce that the Global Forum for Publishers in Grey Literature will be held at TIB – Leibniz Information Centre for Science and Technology in Hannover, Germany on June 8-9, 2026. PubForum'26 will provide a joint platform for stakeholders in grey literature. Publishers in grey literature from various sectors and levels of (non)government, academics, and business are invited to participate. The list of document types they produce and publish both in digital and non-digital formats is ever increasing, much like their diverse coverage of topics concerning science and society. Publishers in grey literature are in the forefront of information and scholarly communication. They are not only responsible for the review process but also for rich metadata and persistent identifiers unique to their publications, authors, organizations, and funders. For ongoing developments in the program and planning visit the **Global Forum for Publishers in Grey Literature**. For those interested, the **1st Call for Papers** is now open!

Season's Greetings,

Join GreyNet in 2026 on its journey onward into the field of grey literature ☀