Grey Literature on a Level Playing Field

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**Grey Literature** is a field in library and Information science that deals with the production, distribution, and access to multiple document types produced on all levels of government, academics, business, and organization in electronic and print formats not controlled by commercial publishing *i.e.* where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body.

**GreyNet** is dedicated to Research, Publication, Open Access, Education, and Public Awareness to Grey Literature.
GreyNet
Grey Literature Network Service
Flip the switch, identify grey in a new light

It may not be alarming that the general public is unaware of what constitutes grey literature. What is alarming is when information professionals well into the 21st Century remain in the dark confusing grey literature with ephemera, echoing half-truths that it’s hard to find, that it’s unpublished, that it’s not peer reviewed and of inferior quality to commercial publications. Even inserting personal bias e.g. that they don’t like the term ‘grey literature’. Let’s take a few minutes to shed light on significant developments in this field of library and information science over the last couple of decades.
Grey Literature on the changing information landscape

One should not be surprised by changes in grey literature given the rapid pace of change on the information landscape brought on by advancements in technology and its impact on the production, processing, access, and preservation of grey as well as commercial publications. It could be said that the driving force behind these technological advancements were to a great degree focused on resolving the fundamental problems of information overload and its concomitant loss of information. Two problems seen as interconnected with the supply and demand sides of grey literature.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFORMATION OVERLOAD</th>
<th>INFORMATION LOSS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supply Side Grey</strong></td>
<td><strong>Demand Side Grey</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review process</td>
<td>Good practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curation</td>
<td>Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence based</td>
<td>Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citation analysis</td>
<td>development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altmetrics</td>
<td>Decision making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Search and Retrieval</strong></td>
<td><strong>New Technologies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery services</td>
<td>Technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text mining</td>
<td>Change and Transition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross linking</td>
<td>Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td>Leveraging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open access</td>
<td>Digital archiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open sources</td>
<td>Portals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open data</td>
<td>Repositories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Examples of Grey Research Communities

Grey Literature is highly diverse bridging sectors of government, academics, business and industry. Even within one of these sectors diversity becomes further accentuated. Take for example academics, where research leading to published grey literature extends to disciplines and subject areas in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. As a result, numerous grey literature communities have developed over the years in a concerted effort to facilitate both the supply and demand sides for their grey literature. Let’s look at some examples of the work done by these communities with particular emphasis on the social sciences.
**CASE STUDIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anne Gentil-Beccot</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>High-Energy Physics Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Chavez</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>Karst Information Research Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christiane Stock</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Electronic Theses and Dissertations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcus Banks</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>Blogs and Tweets (Web 2.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniela Luzi</td>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Grey Documents in Open Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnie Carroll</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>Scientific Data and Datasets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bertrum MacDonald</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Use and Influence of Grey Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Rabina</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>Grey Literature in LIS Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joachim Schöpfel</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Assessing Return on Investments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
De Werkgroep Sociaal-Wetenschappelijke Informatie is een overleg van sociaal-wetenschappelijke vakreferenten en informatiespecialisten uit universiteiten en instellingen voor sociaal-wetenschappelijk onderzoek.

KNVI
Koninklijke Nederlandse Vereniging van Informatieprofessionals
Classification Scheme: (Former Cosati/SIGLE)

00 - GENERAL, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
01 - AERONAUTICS
02 - AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHERIES, VETERINARY SCIENCES
03 - ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, PROTECTION AND CONTROL
04 - HUMANITIES (HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION, ETC.)
05 - SOCIAL SCIENCES (ECONOMICS, INFORMATION SCIENCE, PSYCHOLOGY, ETC.)
06 - BIOLOGICAL & MEDICAL SCIENCES
07 - CHEMISTRY
08 - EARTH AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES
09 - ELECTRONICS, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, COMPUTER SCIENCE
10 - ENERGY & POWER
11 - MATERIALS
12 - MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
13 - MECHANICAL, INDUSTRIAL, CIVIL & MARINE ENGINEERING
14 - METHODS & EQUIPMENT
15 - MILITARY SCIENCES
16 - MISSILE TECHNOLOGY
17 - NAVIGATION, COMMUNICATION, DETECTION, COUNTERMEASURES
18 - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - S&T (MULTIDISCIPLINARY)
19 - ORDNANCE
20 - PHYSICS
21 - PROPULSION & FUELS
22 - SPACE TECHNOLOGY
05 - SOCIAL SCIENCES: ECONOMICS, INFORMATION SCIENCE, ETC

ADS, Archaeology Data Service - Fieldwork Reports (Grey Literature Library)
AIP, Archaeological Investigations Project
Andronikos - Excavations on Grey Literature
Australian Policy Online
Canadian Evaluation Society
Center for the History of Psychology, Special Interest Collection
Criminology Library Grey Literature, University of Toronto
EIGE, Resource & Documentation Centre
ELAR, Endangered Languages Archive
Gray Literature Database, School of Law
GreyNet Collection of Conference
IMLS Grey Literature/DSpace Project
Information for Practice
LAOAP, Latin American Open Archives Portal
Legal Information Systems and Legal Informatics Resources
Museum of Underwater Archaeology
Open Folklore Project
National Archeological Database
Milwaukee-based Public Policy Forum
PADI, Preserving Access to Digital Information
ThreeSOURCE, Research and Resource hub for Alberta's third sector
Welcome to challenges on the Grey Horizon

In the spring of 2014, a workshop held in Pisa, Italy addressed challenges to policy development of grey literature resources. A 15 point document that has come to be known as the Pisa Declaration was drawn-up and has since been signed by over 140 signatories from some 70 organizations in 30 countries worldwide. The Pisa Declaration has since been translated and published in 20 languages. GreyNet being one of the signatories to the Pisa Declaration carried out a study to assess and further leverage its own information resources. This presentation concludes with a brief review of the outcome of that study.
Pisa Declaration 2014
Policy Development for Grey Literature Resources

• **Organizational commitment** to open access, to further cooperation and coordination between and among grey literature communities, sharing open data standards.

• **Commitment to research and education**, where recognition and reward is associated with quality grey literature, and where attention is given to good practices in the field.

• **Commitment to address and safeguard legal issues** inherent to grey literature by exploring the various types of licensing agreements now available and by fostering constructive relations with commercial publishers.

• **Commitment to sustainability linked to a financial prerequisite**. Identifying funding and grants for special collections and repositories, commitment to long term preservation, and investments in new technologies.

• **Firm technical commitment**, a guarantee to continued online services and further crosslinking of textual and non-textual content. A commitment, which ranges from tackling broken links to facilitating interoperability - regardless of the system or portal in which grey literature and its accompanying data are housed.
Policy Development for Grey Literature Resources
An Assessment of the Pisa Declaration

In the spring of 2014, a workshop took place at the Italian National Council of Research in Pisa. The topic of this event dealt with policy development for grey literature resources. Seventy participants from nine countries took an active part in the workshop – the outcome of which produced what is today known as the Pisa Declaration.

This fifteen point document arising from the input of those who attended the workshop sought to provide a roadmap that would help to serve diverse communities involved in research, publication and the management of grey literature both in electronic and print formats.

140 information professionals representing 74 organizations from 30 countries have endorsed the Pisa Declaration

Translated and published in 21 languages

What impact has this document had on library and information practice?
Leveraging Grey Resources
Leveraging Grey Resources

Don’t wait to assess your information resources, don’t rush your assessment, and don’t stop the assessment process.

You’re competing on an ever changing information landscape and the use of the cognitive tool of leveraging resources enables you to act effectively on behalf of your organization.

Understanding the needs of your stakeholders is important, no less important is to know how and if they use the resources developed, enhanced, and sustained by your organization.
No longer should we be resigned that grey literature is hard to find, but instead how can we best search and access it. No longer hold in question its worth and value, but instead set out the review process it has undergone. And, no longer hesitate as to whether it is published or not, but instead cite and reference grey literature – make it openly public – isn’t that what published means?
Thank You

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