

Grey Literature in the Czech Republic

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Abstract

Our paper summarizes and describes activities concerning grey literature in the Czech Republic. The managing organization of the activity is the State Technical Library (henceforth the STL); in the past, it was the STL, which was collecting, publishing and submitting grey literature data into the SIGLE system. The STL was the representative of the Czech Republic in the EAGLE. Now, EAGLE being extinct, there is no coordinated collection of grey literature on the national level since 2005.

The STL complements the role of the Czech National Library, which under the National Digital Library project, aims at accessibility of widespread published documents ("white literature"). On the other hand, the STL intends to deal with literature not acquired through normal bookselling channels (grey literature) and initiated a project for grey literature retrieval.

The project the National Repository of Grey Literature (henceforth the NRGL) is supported by the Ministry of Culture. Its main objective is formation of a digital repository of grey literature in the Czech Republic. The project aims at gathering metadata and possibly full texts of grey documents in the field of education, science and research. The NRGL shall solve the typology of documents collected as well as metadata formats, persistent identifiers, intellectual property issues, SW and HW support, formation of network of collaborating institutions etc.

Close collaboration with representatives of Czech universities has been established. They face the issue of storing university qualification theses, which is one of the segments of typology of documents collected by the NRGL. The National Registry of Theses shall become a component of the NRGL. The STL has also got in touch with further producers of grey literature in the Czech Republic, in particular research institutes of the Academy of Sciences the Czech Republic, the institution covering a major part of production of grey literature in the segment of research and development.

The NRGL should facilitate to research the data on grey literature in the Czech Republic at one place with a single interface, as well as to retrieve the information on the owner of the document and - if possible - the full text of the document, either in electronic form or via the contemporary network of libraries (interlibrary loan, Document Delivery Service etc.).

The NRGL project does not assume retrospective digitalization of grey literature documents. However, we intend to certify the NRGL a trustworthy repository. The aim of the project is to provide services not only to the NRGL contributors, but also to the widest public. The STL has based the project on practice of universities, which had already experience with local repositories. The entire the NRGL project is consulted with the National Library of the Czech Republic as a part of the Czech Digital Library project.

Introduction

Our paper summarizes and describes activities concerning grey literature in the Czech Republic. We present projects addressing grey literature and especially the project the National Repository of Grey Literature (henceforth the NRGL), which solves the State Technical Library¹ (henceforth the STL).

About the State Technical Library

The STL is the central professional library under the governance of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic. It was founded in 1718; it provides library and information services to corporate and individual public, especially those in higher education, research and development. The STL is also a public library dedicated to science and technology, as such it collects and administers state-funded collections of czech and foreign literature and other information resources and sources pertaining to technology and applied natural and social sciences associated with technology.

The STL collections contain over 1.2 million volumes - books, journals, newspapers, scholarly studies, trade information, electronic documents and other publications and texts from the field of technology and applied natural and technology-related social sciences. Historical collection (books and journals published between 1500 and 1920) contains 22 965 volumes.

The STL is centre of digital document delivery system – the Virtual Polytechnic Library working on the basis of multifunctional centre of information services together with co-operative development of decentralized collection of periodicals specialized by subject and document type. The system has special union catalogue of collection of 50 Czech libraries and facilitates ordering by registered users from the Czech Republic.

The STL is host of the Czech National ISSN Centre (ČNS ISSN), which assigns ISSN numbers and registers continuing resources (serial publications) published on the territory of the Czech Republic.