

Four Winds on the Grey Landscape: A Review of Four Information Professionals Their Work and Impact on the Field of Grey Literature

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Introduction

In December 1993, the First International Conference on Grey Literature entitled "Weinberg Report 2000" was convened here in Amsterdam. A special tribute was paid to Alvin M. Weinberg, who in the early 60's chaired President Kennedy's Science Advisory Committee and produced the famous report "Science, Government, and Information: the Responsibility of the Technical Community and the Government in the Transfer of Information".

Along these lines - a decade later - a special tribute is paid at this Fifth International Conference on Grey Literature to four information professionals, who have had long careers in information, who themselves attended and presented papers at the First International Conference on Grey Literature (GL'93), and who have made lasting contributions to specific areas in the field of grey literature. The four are Vilma Alberani, Italy; Peter Auger, United Kingdom; Ulrich Wattenberg, Germany; and Andrei Zemskov, Russia.

Early this summer, each of the four was contacted via GreyNet's office and asked to provide bibliographic, autobiographic and other human-interest reference material in an effort to gather firsthand information for the paper and its subsequent presentation.

Grey Matters in the World of Four Information Professionals

In the 60s these four individuals were starting their careers in the field of information and science. It was a time when the sky was the limit (virtually space), but when the awareness of unchecked and excessive expansion emerged as smog before one's very eyes. Great challenges offset by (un) known consequences required the skills and foresight of professionals in designing and facilitating information and knowledge transfer between and among the sectors of business, academics, and government. It was in the mid-70s that Peter Auger completed his first publication, which would eventually move on to a 4th edition. The grey primer as it were first entitled *Uses of Reports Literature* revised to *Information Sources in Grey Literature* in its 2nd edition. In the early '80s it was with the appointment of Vilma Alberani as Director of the Editorial Services at the Italian National Institute of Health (ISS), where she was able to influence both national and European information policy for the benefit of grey. In the early 90s, Wattenberg returned after two decades of service in Japan turning to the synthesis of his work and that of GMD's initiative to harvest Japanese STI making it available to the West and the rest of the world. This culminated in his edited oeuvre *Japanese Information in Science, Technology and Commerce*. And now, in this, the first years of 21st Century, Andrei Zemskov, stands in the forefront of open source archives, initiating a Russian-German Project to establish a digital archive of Russian mathematical publications entitled RusDML.

Each of the past decades, faced with new challenges, witness to scientific and technical advances embraced by these four information professionals.

Alberani, the European - Notus, the South Wind

Vilma Alberani is perhaps the one person most responsible for organizing a national program in and for grey literature in which collection development, processing, diffusion on the one hand were balanced by reflection, authorship, and dialogue on the other. Vilma's concerns with the implementation of ISO standards for Report and Theses presentations, Report numbers/codes, were among the topics at the National Conferences, which she organized in 1992, 1996, and 1999. Throughout her career, Alberani has (co) authored some eighty articles and fifteen books