



“Grey Voices: Why should we listen?”

CONTENT TAKEN FROM PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP
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Grey Literature

What is it?

- Grey literature refers to both published and unpublished research material that is not available commercially.

Types of grey literature

Announcements	Essays	Pamphlets	Standards
Annuals	Exchange Agreements	Patents	Statistics
Bibliographies	Fact Sheets	Podcasts	Supplements
Blogs	Feasibility Studies	Policy Documents	Surveys
Booklets	Flyers	Posters	Syllabi
Brochures	Folders	Précis Articles	Technical Documentation & Notes
Bulletin Boards	Glossaries	Preprints	Tenders
Bulletins	Government Documents	Press Releases	Tests
Call for Papers	Grant Proposals	Proceedings	Theses
Case Studies	Green Papers	Product Data, Warranties	Timelines
Catalogues	Guidebooks	Programs	Trade Directories
Chronicles	Handbooks	Project proposals, reports	Trade Journals
Codebooks	House Journal	Questionnaires	Trade Manuals
Conference Papers	Image Directories	Registers	Translations
Conference Posters	Indexes	Reports	Treatises
Conference Proceedings	Internet Reviews	Reprints	Videos
Country Profiles	Interviews	Research Memoranda & Notes	Webinars
Course Materials	Leaflets	Research Proposals	Website Reviews
Curriculum Materials	Lectures	Research Registers	Webpages & Websites
Databases	Legal documents	Reviews	White Books
Datasets	Legislation	Risk Analyses	White Papers
Datasheets	Manuals	Satellite Data	Working Documents
Diaries	Memoranda	Scientific Protocols	Working Papers
Directories	Newsgroups	Scientific Visualizations	Work Packages & Programs
Discussion Papers	Newsletters	Show cards	Yearbooks
Dissertations	Notebooks	Software	
E-Prints	Off-prints	Specifications	
E-texts	Orations	Speeches	
Emails			

Why is grey literature important?

- **Grey literature** is recognized as a key source of evidence, argument, innovation, and understanding in many disciplines including science, engineering, health, social sciences, education, the arts and humanities.
- **Publication bias** is usually addressed when unpublished material is included. In scientific and medical research, studies which are large and/or have positive outcomes are more likely to be published than those that are small or negative.
- Combats the “if it hasn’t been published it hasn’t been done” Murdoch, 2010
- “An important tool for hearing voices of oppressed and under-represented groups” Magnuson, 2009

Grey literature can be...

- **Primary sources:** Original material on which other research is based. Examples: diaries, patents, surveys, speeches, birth certificates, letters, interviews, music scores.
- **Secondary sources:** Generally written after the fact with the benefit of hindsight. Interpretations & evaluations of primary sources. Not evidence but a discussion of and commentary on, evidence. Examples: commentaries, criticisms, newspaper articles, position papers, standards.

Grey literature also includes...

Dark data

- Undiscovered – lost within an organisation. Nobody knows where it is or if it even exists or it could be existing in an obsolete format.
- Data that might be deliberately concealed by its owners for personal use or gain.

Black and grey sources

- **'Black' Databases**

- Web of Science, Medline, Web of Science, CINAHL, PsycInfo, Scopus, ProQuest

- **'Grey' databases**

- Factiva – newspapers
- Ausstats – ABS statistics
- AustLii – legislation
- Standards Online
- PsycExtra – grey lit from APA
- Popline, ToxNet, TRID – smaller subject specific databases

More sources....

- **Repositories** –espace at Curtin which holds digital theses and research papers
- **Catalogues** –Australian National Library which often collects grey literature in paper form
- **Conference proceedings** – COS Conference Papers Index
- **Websites** – Trove, clinicaltrials.gov,
- **Google**
 - Organisations, associations, professional bodies & centres
 - Networks, discussions groups, forums, directories
 - Individuals, experts, enthusiasts, contacts



Searching for grey literature...

- **Google is useful but can't find everything.....**

Challenges in searching....



- Grey literature is sometimes called **fugitive** literature as it literally must be hunted down.
- Even though more and more of GL is now made publicly and freely available, it is still challenging to identify, locate and access grey literature

- Searching Google

- Google can be searched in the following way:

- Vaccination rural Australia filetype:pdf OR site:gov**

- “petrol sniffing” and “grey literature”**

- Grey literature search engines

- MedNar - <http://mednar.com>
 - The Grey Literature Report - <http://greylit.org/> (American focus)
 - Open Grey <http://www.opengrey.eu/> (European focus)
 - Grey Literature Network Service <http://greynet.org/>

Keep it simple

- “Sit-stand desks” rather than:

SEARCH I		SEARCH II	
<i>Activity-permissive workstations</i>	<i>Workplace</i>	<i>Workplace SB</i>	<i>Intervention</i>
"pedal device*" OR "pedal machine*" OR "stepping device*" OR "stepping machine*" OR "pedal exercise machine*" OR treadmill* OR "activity permissive" OR activity-permissive OR "height adjustable" OR height-adjustable OR "standing desk*" OR "standing hot desk*" OR "active workstation*" OR "standing workstation*" OR "walking workstation*" OR sit-to-stand OR sit-stand OR "sit to stand" OR "sit stand" OR "walk and work"	Workplace* OR worksite* OR company OR companies OR office* OR worker* OR employee* OR "call cent*" OR job OR jobs	"workplace standing" OR "workplace sitting" OR "office standing" OR "office sitting" OR "sedentary office*" OR "sedentary workplace*" OR "occupational sitting" OR "work posture" OR "work sitting" OR "sitting at work" OR "VDU work*" OR "VDT work*" OR "VDU user" OR "VDU users" OR "VDT user" OR "VDT users" OR "VDT office*" OR "VDU office*" OR "VDT operator*" OR "VDU operator*" OR "video display unit work*" OR "video display terminal work*" OR "video display unit user" OR "video display unit users" OR "video display terminal user" OR "video display terminal users" OR "video display terminal office*" OR "video display unit office*" OR "video display terminal operator*" OR "video display unit operator*" OR "visual display unit work*" OR "visual display terminal work*" OR "visual display unit user" OR "visual display unit users" OR "visual display terminal user" OR "visual display terminal users" OR "visual display terminal office*" OR "visual display unit office*" OR "visual display terminal operator*" OR "visual display unit operator*" OR "computer terminal user*" OR "computer terminal work*"	Intervention* OR program* OR trial* OR study OR studies OR RCT OR random*

Theses and Dissertations Sources

Some useful sources include:

- Trove
- PQDT – Proquest Dissertations and Theses
- ND LTD – Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations
- Open Access Theses and Dissertations
- EThOS – Electronic Theses Online Service
- Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet
- Australian Open Access Repositories
- Databases that index theses – CINAHL, PsychInfo

Conference Papers Sources

- The British Library
- Organisations and Associations
- Google
- Databases that index conference proceedings
 - Web of Science
 - Scopus
 - COS Conference papers index

How can I **EVALUATE** grey literature?

AACODS

- Authority
 - Accuracy
 - Coverage
 - Objectivity
 - Date
 - Significance
-
- What about peer –review?

Searching for clinical trials

Trial Registers and repositories of results - Many of the clinical trial registers include information about trials that are in progress as well as those that have been completed. Examples include:

- CENTRAL, the [Cochrane Central Register of Controlled trials](#)
- [Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry \(ANZCTR\)](#)
- [Clinicaltrials.gov](#) (a service of the U.S. National Institutes of Health)
- [ICTRP](#) (the International Clinical Trials Registry Platform through WHO). Note that although ClinicalTrials.gov is included in the WHO ICTRP portal, there are additional features in Clinicaltrials.gov and hence both should be searched separately

To find grey literature you need...

- Patience



- Persistence

