

Kathleen Noma Carlson, University of Arizona College of Medicine, Phoenix, Arizona, USA; Joachim Schöpfel, Université de Lille Sciences Humaines et Sociales, Lille, France; Marcus Vaska, Alberta Health Services, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

The definition of Grey Literature is: "That which is produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in print and electronic formats, but which is not controlled by commercial publishers."<sup>1</sup>

## Sheridan College, Canada: A Sample Best-Practice LibGuide<sup>2</sup>

### Importance of LibGuides for Grey Literature

The past decade has seen a continuous and exponential rise in LibGuides, a content management and library knowledge-sharing system well-represented among several disciplines in academic institutions worldwide. As a type of grey literature (officially receiving this distinction from the GreyNet community in 2016), LibGuides certainly exhibit many grey literature traits, including easy online access, providing up-to-date information, promoting self-learning, and containing information that is often overlooked and neglected. According to the LibGuides Community website, 542,190 LibGuides presently exist worldwide, authored by 137,825 librarians from 4,907 institutions in 70 countries.

#### What is Grey Literature? - Video

Video by Western University

#### Why is Grey Literature Important?

The value of grey literature varies between disciplines, but there are a few ways grey literature is important to academic scholarship.

- Grey literature can be more current than scholarly articles because it doesn't necessarily go through a rigorous review process so information can be produced and disseminated quickly. It's important to know how to evaluate grey literature for your academic assignments to make sure what your citing is reliable (See Evaluate Grey Literature).
- Grey literature produces information on non-mainstream or niche research not typically printed by commercial publishers.

Grey literature can be found for free on the Web, but they can be a challenge to find! (See Find Grey Literature)

#### Who Creates Grey Literature?

Who creates grey literature? Here are a few common authors:

- Government websites (e.g. Public Health Agency Canada)
- Academic institutions
- Institutional Repositories (e.g. SOURCE - Sheridan College, OpenGrey Repository)
- Non-profit organizations (e.g. Children's Wish Foundation)
- Professional organizations (e.g. Health Systems Evidence - McMaster University)
- Research centers

Learn More...

Are you interested in learning more about grey literature? Check out these websites:

- Virtual Grey Literature by Grey Literature Report
- Grey Literature - HELIX International

#### What Are Examples of Grey Literature?

Grey literature encompasses many different types of resources, including, but not limited to, the following:

Standards, bulletins, social media, clinical trials, white papers, conference proceedings, patents, government documents, blogs, dissertations, statistical reports, newsletters, and technical reports.

### Arguments for Using Grey Literature<sup>3</sup>

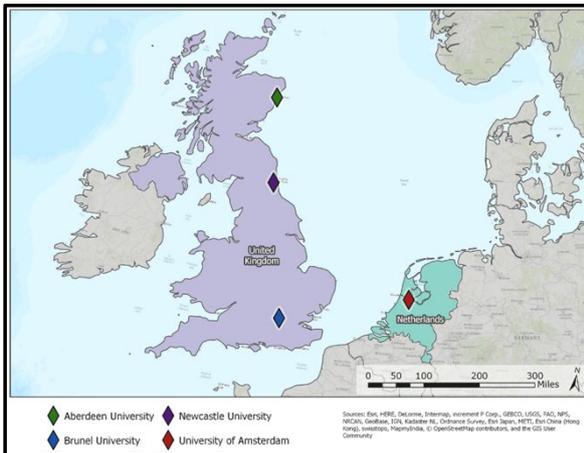
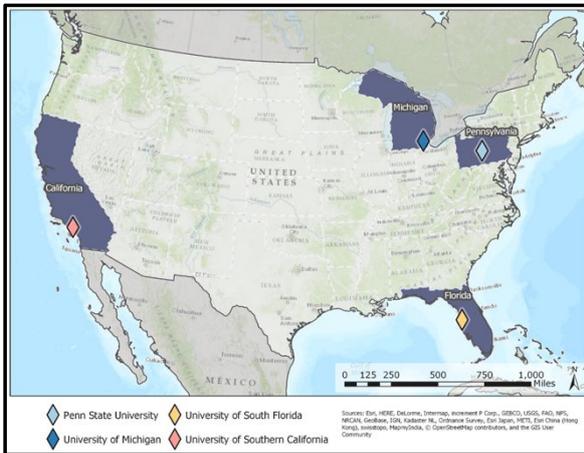
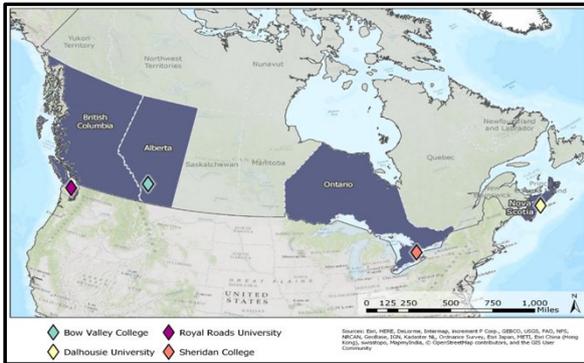
1. Grey literature is an important source of information due to the uniqueness of the content that gets published. Because commercial publishers are looking to make a profit on the materials they publish, they often overlook niche research areas that serve smaller populations. Grey literature is one way to search for information in emerging or less popular research areas.
2. Grey literature can sometimes be more current than commercially published information. It does not go through the potentially time-consuming peer-review process undertaken by commercial publishers, and therefore has a quicker turnaround time for dissemination.
3. The importance of grey literature can vary between disciplines. While the health and medical fields tend to favor traditional publication methods through well-known scholarly publishers, other fields like disaster management tend to prefer the grey literature route.

### Avoiding Publication Bias with Grey Literature.<sup>4</sup>

Also called selection bias or reporting bias, **publication bias refers broadly to bias in what is selected or likely to be published.**

In academic contexts, particularly in the sciences, publication bias refers to the over-representation of positive research studies in systematic literature reviews that consequently lead to inaccurate conclusions.

**Using grey literature is one method of reducing publication bias through inclusion of research that is unpublished, in the preprint stage of publication, or has generally received less exposure.**



### Methodology

The mandate of the GreyNet LIS Education and Training Committee reflects on the various informational pursuits being used in the grey literature community in order to enhance education and training in the field of grey literature. Using the LibGuides Community website as an information portal, an environmental scan was conducted across Canada, the United States, and Europe in the spring of 2017 to locate standalone grey literature LibGuides or subject-specific LibGuides devoting considerable attention to grey material. LibGuides selected for the environmental scan were chosen geographically (to ensure balance across provinces, states, and countries), and were evaluated and critically appraised according to the AACODS checklist.

### Discussion/Conclusion

The poster describes the evidence gathering process undertaken to determine appropriate LibGuides used for analysis, extrapolating common themes and trends universal across all LibGuides.

These include a definition of grey literature, information on how to search for grey literature, grey literature document types, lists of resources, along with any evidence of social media inclusion.

Following our study, we propose a checklist of six necessary elements that should be present across all LibGuides for any academic institution that may wish to follow suit and create either a separate or embedded LibGuide devoted to grey literature for their subject area.

- ### Best Practices Checklist:
- Grey literature definition
  - List of resources
  - Document types
  - Value/importance of grey literature
  - Searching for grey literature
  - How to evaluate/appraise grey literature

| College/University  | Background   | Authority   | Accuracy  | Coverage  | Objectivity   | Last Update                               | Significance  |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bow Valley College, Calgary, Alberta, Canada<br><a href="http://bowvalleycollege.libguides.com/grey-literature">http://bowvalleycollege.libguides.com/grey-literature</a> | Bow Valley College was established in 1963-1964, and presently consists of 2 campuses (North and South West) in Calgary, Launching as a business and education vocational college, Bow Valley currently offers certificate and degree programs in 25 disciplines, ranging from Aboriginal studies to science, math, and the environment. | The Grey Literature LibGuide was created by librarian Kelley Wadson, and includes a collection of material from several sources, well-represented and cited as required. The tags assigned to this guide include faculty, grey literature, health, literature review, open access, publication bias, research, science, social science, staff.          | The methodology of the guide is unique in that the Google search box contained on the LibGuide's homepage has been customized to limit results to resources compiled in the guide as well as additional grey literature resources available online. Wadson's guide provides links to core grey literature sources in the areas of social science, humanities, business, education, and political science. The guide is thus explicit, appropriate for research, offering an accurate, unbiased interpretation and analysis. | Via a tab structure, this LibGuide takes the user on an exploratory tour of grey literature, providing a succinct definition of the field, a representative example of 10 common grey literature document types, and links to a small collection of monographs, including <i>Grey Literature in Librarian and Information Studies</i> . Two additional sub tabs, <i>Avoiding Publication Bias with Grey Literature</i> , and <i>Grey Literature Search Strategies and Techniques</i> , round out the information contained within this first tab. <i>General and Interdisciplinary Sources of Grey Literature</i> provides links to 9 directories, databases, repositories and registries. The remaining 5 tables on the LibGuide shy away from a general discussion and overview, focusing instead on core grey literature sources from specific subject disciplines. These include <i>Government and Intergovernmental Organizations</i> , <i>Key Grey Literature Sources for Open Data &amp; Statistics</i> , <i>Social Science &amp; Humanities</i> , and <i>Business &amp; Economics</i> | With a sub-tab devoted to <i>Avoiding Publication Bias with Grey Literature</i> , this guide is certainly objective, balanced in presentation, with no opinions, either by Wadson as guide creator, or any of the grey literature experts mentioned throughout. | August 4, 2017; accessed January 24, 2017 | This LibGuide is of high value and undoubtedly meaningful for both new and experienced grey literature researchers. Further, it enriches the grey literature field by strengthening its position in a number of disciplines. The guide has considerable impact, influencing the work of librarian and information specialists, particularly in the Canadian context that are looking to develop a stand-alone LibGuide devoted to grey literature for their institutions.<br><br><b>Unique Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coverage of grey literature monographs (including <i>Grey Literature in Library and Information Studies</i>, edited by Dominic Farace and Joachim Schöpfel. It is the only LibGuide that makes mention of this book</li> <li>• Contains a separate tab on <i>Avoiding Publication Bias with Grey Literature</i></li> <li>• Links to Dean Giustini's presentation, <i>Finding the Hard to Find: Searching for Grey Literature</i></li> <li>• Links to a 2003 article, <i>The Invisible Web: Uncovering Sources Search Engines Can't See</i>. This paper's purpose is two-fold: it shows the importance of the open access movement towards unveiling grey literature and also how grey literature can supplement the mainstream, commercially published material.</li> </ul> |
| Royal Roads University, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada<br><a href="http://libguides.royalroads.ca/greylit">http://libguides.royalroads.ca/greylit</a>                 | Originally commissioned as a navy training establishment in 1940, the Royal Roads Military College existed for 55 years, before being refurbished into a University in 1995.   | This LibGuide, created by Will Meredith, is primarily a collection of material from several sources, information which as been well-represented and cited as required. Meredith does present his own views in a subsection entitled Caution, where he discusses the need to always evaluate whatever one finds on the web, in particular grey material. | Meredith's definition of grey literature is taking from the Grey Literature International Steering Committee (GLISC), which gives the guide an accurate and authoritative stance. Further, an in-house produced video, <i>Using Google to Find Grey Literature</i> , adheres to and accepts the fact that Google continues to be used as a quick reference ready method of locating information.  | While this guide is not nearly as elaborate as other resources in this genre, it does cover a succinct overview addressing <i>What is Grey Literature. The Value of Grey Literature, and How to Find Grey Literature</i> . Along with listing 9 common types of grey literature, Meredith expands with a subsection on the importance of the rise of social media. In addition, 3 value statements (uniqueness of content, currency, and importance) are presented as reasons why grey literature is held in such high esteem by researchers.   | This guide is certainly objective, balanced in presentation. Supplemented with the Caution section, Meredith's standpoint is clear, with no unstated or unacknowledged bias.  | April 26, 2017; accessed January 24, 2017 | This guide enriches the grey literature field by referring to grey literature resources (i.e. The GLISC document), and including a video on searching for grey literature resources via Google, which other creators of grey literature LibGuides may not have considered including. While the guide could perhaps be considered more of a typical, representative example of the nature of grey literature in academia today, it nonetheless has considerable impact.<br><br><b>Unique Features</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choice of source (Grey Literature International Steering Committee (GLISC) when defining grey literature</li> <li>• Caution subsection when considering The Value of Grey Literature</li> <li>• Social Media (video) on Using Google to Find Grey Literature</li> </ul>   |

| College/University   | Background  | Authority   | Accuracy   | Coverage  | Objectivity  | Last Update                               | Significance   |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia<br><a href="http://dal.ca.libguides.com/systematicreviews/greylit">http://dal.ca.libguides.com/systematicreviews/greylit</a>                          | Dalhousie University, with a historical motto of Ora et Labora (Pray and Work) was founded as a college in 1818 and is one of Canada's oldest educational institutions. While no official guide devoted solely to grey literature presently exists, 26 guides contain grey material in their resource listings, including engineering, community health, environmental studies, politics, architecture, nursing, as well as the importance of supplementing information located for systematic reviews.                       | The guide was produced by a team of 3 librarians, namely Robin Parker, Melissa Helwig, and Jackie Phinney, all of whom specialize in medicine and its associated disciplines.   | The guide provides a pathway for how one could embark on a quest for grey material, beginning with a grey literature definition, and placing heaving emphasis on Canadian grey literature resources. Of particular interest is a section devoted entirely to Grey Literature Searching Checklists, including the infamous <i>Grey Matters</i> , produced by the CADTH  | The LibGuide offers a reinterpretation of the commonly held grey literature definition created by GreyNet in 1997, taken from a recent article discussing grey literature in systematic reviews. The remaining 3 boxes down the centre column provide a carefully selected list of resources focused on government organizations, reports, directories, repositories, conference proceedings, theses, and dissertations. The page is balanced out via a vide on How to Search with Google.  | While the guide gives only a cursory overview of the wealth of grey literature content in the health sciences field, it is undoubtedly objective, balanced in presentation, with no opinions mentioned by any of the three librarians involved in its creation.  | July 17, 2017; accessed February 12, 2017 | This LibGuide fulfills its purpose of serving as a path to guide the perhaps novice user to grey content on a journey of what grey literature content should be further explored when embarking on a literature review, inviting the user to consult with the 3 librarians to obtain further information.<br><br><b>Unique Features</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Source of grey literature definition (taken from a 2017 article discussing the role of grey literature in systematic reviews, in lieu of the traditionally accepted definition from GreyNet</b></li> <li>• <b>Section devoted to Grey Literature Searching Checklists (including CADTH's <i>Grey Matters</i>, SRC, and the OPHLA)</b></li> </ul>   |
| Sheridan College, Brampton, Ontario, Canada<br><a href="http://sheridancollege.libguides.com/c.php?g=509087&amp;p=3481770">http://sheridancollege.libguides.com/c.php?g=509087&amp;p=3481770</a> | Sheridan College, founded in 1967, has expanded dramatically from an initial pool of 400 students to 22,000 full-time and 17,000 students spread over 4 campuses. The devotion to grey literature at Sheridan is substantial. Not only is it mentioned for a specific discipline, social policy, an area that is not necessarily at the forefront of the grey literature stream, an entire guide, entitled <i>About Grey Literature</i> , goes into considerable detail about finding, citing, and evaluating grey resources. | Authored by Karen Lints, a librarian with subject guide authorship in 36 different disciplines, her role certainly qualifies her as an authority on information resources for selecting appropriate grey literature resources in all of these disciplines. In addition, Lints maintains an extensive social media presence and currently sits on the executive board of the Ontario Health Libraries Association. | Lints' guide is almost like a pathway, taking the user through an introduction to grey literature, how to locate and cite it, and finally, means of accurately and appropriately evaluating them. It is very interactive, and every single source is well cited and documented. Stylistically it offers a solid balance of image and text. Further, Lints includes a Feedback tab directly on her site (via a brief survey users are asked to fill out), therefore showcasing that the guide has been created for the user, and not just by the librarian. | Begins with a standard definition, taken from the GreyNet grey literature conference series, with an embedded video, <i>What is Grey Literature</i> . The <i>About Grey Literature</i> page informs users on who creates grey literature, why it is important, along with common grey literature types. Further, Lints suggests that the user begin with a search engine to determine the type of grey literature material most pertinent in a specific discipline. <i>Find Grey Literature</i> is devoted entirely to searching tips on effectively using Google. The final section, <i>Evaluate Grey Literature</i> , contains the CRAAP (Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy Purpose), a common rubric for determining the feasibility of websites. Interestingly, no mention to the standard AACODS checklist for evaluating and appraising grey literature is made. | This guide is highly objective, presenting multiple points of view for how to tackle grey literature searching. However, no personal opinions, biases, or viewpoints from Lints are presented, and every resource listed seems to have been carefully illustrated in order to convey the grey concept to a novice researcher. Even the images outlying the guide (grey with white envelopes) is sourced. | August 18, 2017 (accessed March 16, 2017) | Lints' guide is a prime example of what a LibGuide should look like and the information it should contain. A truly noteworthy example, crating awareness and enticing all users to understand, realize, and accept the role of grey literature not only in the health sciences, but countless other disciplines beyond.<br><br><b>Unique Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Incorporating social media (i.e. YouTube videos) to visually reinforce key aspects of grey literature</b></li> <li>• <b>Examples of grey literature are presented as a Wordle Cloud in lieu of an itemized list</b></li> <li>• <b>A handout on tips and tricks of using Google to search for grey literature</b></li> <li>• <b>A section on Citing Grey Literature (including a video on plagiarism)</b></li> <li>• <b>A section on Evaluating Grey Literature, supplemented with a Common Craft video.</b></li> <li>• <b>The CRAAP test (common for evaluating websites) is used in lieu of the standard AACODS checklist</b></li> <li>• <b>Feedback section enticing readers to provide their comments and suggestions</b></li> </ul> |

| College/University  | Background  | Authority   | Accuracy   | Coverage  | Objectivity   | Last Update  | Significance   |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p><b>University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States</b><br/> <a href="http://guides.lib.umich.edu/greyliterature">http://guides.lib.umich.edu/greyliterature</a></p>   | <p>The A. Alfred Taubman Health Sciences Library delivers high-quality health and biomedical information services to the University of Michigan's academic health sciences schools, basic and clinical research, bioinformatics and clinical translational science, and the U-M Health System (UMHS). Informationists and librarians are integrated as active partners, collaborators, and library faculty into the teaching, learning, and research initiatives of the Medical School, the School of Nursing, the School of Dentistry, the College of Pharmacy, the School of Public Health, the School of Kinesiology, and UMHS.</p>  | <p>The Grey Literature LibGuide was created by Carol Shannon, and it appears that she is on a team of health sciences librarians. Ninety-eight LibGuides in the health sciences have been created by the team. Contact information is provided for the librarian.</p> | <p>A definition of Grey Literature is provided on the Overview page with links to: Finding Grey Literature Evidence and Assessing for Outcome and Analysis Reporting Biases When Comparing Medical Interventions: AHRQ and the Effective Health Care Program. The New York Academy of Medicine's Grey Literature Report Grey Literature producing organizations Grey Source Index.</p>   | <p>There is an explanation of how to search for grey literature which the guide explains is sometimes difficult to find. The side tabs provides links to the following resources: Grey literature databases and websites Conference materials and resources Clinical Trials and Registered Regulatory Research Reports and Reviews Other resources including social media, and dissertations</p>                            | <p>Ms. Shannon is thorough in her analysis of grey literature resources. She links to guides by fellow librarians and informationists at the University of Michigan, for example her link to the U.S. Census and Demographic LibGuide was created by the political science librarian at the Hatcher Graduate Library.</p> | <p>The guide was last updated on February 24, 2017. Accessed January 25, 2017.</p>                               | <p>Grey Literature is invaluable to your research: it is part of the overall evidence base and functions as an alternative source that may be used to overcome possible bias presented by published information.</p> <p>The bulk of the information on this Grey Literature LibGuide is related to the health sciences, but there are general resources (databases for dissertations and Scopus and Web of Science, which provide broad coverage of subjects), plus links to more technical (i.e., engineering) and hard science resources on the <b>other resources page</b>.</p>   |
| <p><b>University of Pennsylvania, Penn Libraries, Grey Literature in the Health Sciences</b><br/> <a href="http://guides.library.upenn.edu/c.php?g=475317&amp;p=3254238">http://guides.library.upenn.edu/c.php?g=475317&amp;p=3254238</a></p> | <p>The Robert Wood Johnson Pavilion was the first phase of the growth of the Medical School and houses the Biomedical Library, classrooms and offices. Built in 1969 the eight story brick façade, mansard-like slate building is 161,228. The Biomedical Library-Johnson Pavilion is one of fourteen libraries at the University of Pennsylvania. It provides services and collections to support research, education, and patient care decisions for the University of Pennsylvania Health System, the Schools of Medicine and Nursing, Biomedical Graduate Studies and the Department of Biology. In addition to online databases, as well as classes in accessing biomedical information.</p> | <p>Grey Literature in the Health Sciences: Overview is a guide to locating and evaluating grey literature (or gray literature) in the health sciences.</p>  | <p>There are five tabs across the top of the guide and the tab labeled 'Sources' has multiple entries nested below it. Additional tabs include 'Tips for Finding It' (grey lit) which also includes a box on grey lit producing organizations. A small box at the bottom explains how to obtain full text of grey lit by asking your librarian. A third tab is 'Evaluating It' and an example of a good report is also given on this page on the screening and diagnosis of gestational diabetes mellitus.</p> | <p>The 'Sources' tab lists eight resources which are sub-tabbed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General sources and databases</li> <li>• Conference proceedings</li> <li>• Institutional repositories</li> <li>• Clinical trials</li> <li>• Clinical practice guidelines</li> <li>• Drugs and devices</li> <li>• Statistics and datasets</li> <li>• Search engines</li> <li>• Feedback and Contact</li> </ul> | <p>The guide presents a great of information under the 'Sources tab' and does not appear to show any personal librarian opinion or personal involvement.</p>  | <p>Last updated: June 14, 2016. Maybe the summer months is when all LibGuides are updated at Penn Libraries.</p> | <p>The link to <i>AHRQ's Finding Grey Literature Evidence and Assessing for Outcome and Analysis Reporting Biases When Comparing Medical Interventions</i> is a comprehensive document on the 'Evaluating It' page.</p> <p>It includes research summaries for consumers, clinicians, and policymakers that are available for the following health conditions: Breathing conditions; Cancer; Development delays, ADHD, Autism; Diabetes; Digestive System Conditions; Functional limitations and physical disabilities; heart and blood vessel conditions; Mental health; Muscle, Bone and Joint Conditions; Pregnancy and Childbirth; and Renal Disease.</p> |

| College/University   | Background   | Authority   | Accuracy   | Coverage   | Objectivity   | Last Update   | Significance  |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>University of South Florida, Shimborg Health Sciences Library, Grey Literature</b><br/> <a href="http://guides.lib.usf.edu/grey_literature">http://guides.lib.usf.edu/grey_literature</a></p>                          | <p>The University of South Florida (USF) Tampa library serves as the main research center. In addition to the Tampa Library, there are three affiliated regional libraries and two special libraries. The Hinks and Elaine Shimborg Health Sciences Library, serves the needs of USF Health consisting of the College of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health according to the website. The College of Pharmacy admitted its first class of pharmacy students in 2011 and the library serves these constituents as well as those in the schools of physical therapy and biomedical sciences.</p> | <p>Grey Literature is literature that is unpublished or published in sources that are not typically included in bibliographic databases. This guide describes the definition of grey literature on the home page. The purpose of this Grey Literature LibGuide is to direct users to health sciences focused literature that might otherwise be lost because it is not indexed in commonly used tools such as PubMed, CINAHL, Web of Science, etc.</p>                          | <p>There are eighteen health sciences LibGuides created by a team of four librarians. By clicking on the 'My Librarian' button it takes the user to the creator of the Grey Literature LibGuide Ms. Allison Howard. Her email and telephone number are available. On the Grey Literature guide home page users are able to schedule a one-on-one consultation with a librarian one assumes it with Ms. Howard but it is unclear.</p> | <p>There is only one page on the Grey Literature guide. On this page there is a box with six tabs that include conference proceedings, databases, global indices that include a sub-listing of regional indices, reports, research registers, and other which include links to Gray Matters and OpenDOAR. On the left hand margin of the page there is access to drug information and other pharmacy resources, health journal databases which require an USF log-in, and point-of-care resources like Dynamed, and Micromedex which also require log-in and PubMed point-of-care tools. A small search box in the left hand margin links to an A to Z Database list at USF.</p>   | <p>The guide does not appear to have any personal biases of Ms. Howard.</p>               | <p>Last updated: November 21, 2016. Accessed January 25, 2017</p> | <p>The 'Research Registers' tab links to a wealth of information including pharmacology registers like Eli Lilly Clinical Trial Registry and Glaxo Smith Kline Clinical Study Register. The European Union Clinical Trials, clinical.trials.gov, and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials are also among the eleven registries listed.</p>  |
| <p><b>University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, United States</b><br/> <a href="http://norris.usc.libguides.com/c.php?g=293836&amp;p=1955999">http://norris.usc.libguides.com/c.php?g=293836&amp;p=1955999</a></p> | <p>The Health Sciences Libraries (HSL), composed of the Norris Medical Library and the Wilson Dental Library, provide information support for USC Health Sciences faculty, students, and staff. HSL services are designed to anticipate and be responsive to the individual's information needs for teaching, learning, research and healthcare. Additionally, the HSL serves the health science information needs of the USC University Park Campus community and provides limited access to our resources and services to the general healthcare community and the public.</p>                 | <p>The Grey Literature Resource Guide: Guides to Searching Grey Lit was created by Karen Saric, a member of the Research and Instruction Team. They have created 93 LibGuides in the health sciences. There are tabs across the top of the guide and a specific 'Help' tab that provides contact information for a librarian. There is also general contact information for the research team including messaging in the lower right corner and requests for consultations.</p> | <p>On the tab 'Guides to Grey Lit' which acts like a home page there are definitions of what Grey Literature is and how beneficial it can be to research, how it is produced, distributed, accessed. There is a wonderful diagram of the types of Grey Literature when searching and also resources on this page that will assist researchers in how to search for Grey Lit.</p>   | <p>Under the 'General Resources' tab they explain 'where to begin.' There are two boxes, one that says 'Databases' and the other that says 'Lists of Databases' that are different. Upon further review Databases is for indexing grey literature such as white papers, policy documents, summaries and global health topics. The Lists of Databases is that just a list of resources. They also have another box 'Search Engines' that function similarly to Google, but contain features and filters useful for retrieving globally dispersed grey literature documents. These resources are organized first by broadest global perspective, and then by range of topic coverage from broadest to narrowest. There are additional boxes on this page 'Google Tools,' PubMed Tools, and Other which are resources that can be used to get in contact with researchers or to search for unpublished study information.</p> | <p>The guide is objective with a wealth of grey literature information and resources.</p> | <p>Last Updated: March 17, 2017 Accessed: Jan. 27, 2017</p>       | <p>This LibGuide does have an abundance of information but will researchers be able to find what they are looking for? There is a lot of information to sift through.</p> <p>The diagram on the home page provides a visual representation of the <b>various sources and types of grey literature commonly searched when conducting a systematic review.</b> The image was obtained from: Rose Relevo Slide Presentation from the AHRQ 2011 Annual Conference September 20, 2011.</p> |

| College/University                                   | Background  | Authority   | Accuracy  | Coverage  | Objectivity   | Last Update     | Significance   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------|--|
| Brunel University London, United Kingdom             | Public research university, focus on advanced technology, 12,900 students.  | Written by subject liaison librarian; no reference list.  | A short and clear description of main arguments and issues.   | Five boxes on finding grey literature, definition, features, resources and use of grey literature. The box on resources links to six pages on catalogues, conferences, papers, experts, theses repositories and websites.   | Well balanced presentation of main issues.  | July 30, 2017   | A representative example of a short LibGuide on grey literature with the main issues.  |
| Newcastle University, United Kingdom                 | Prestigious public research-intensive university, member of the Russell group, 20,000 students                      | Two liaison librarians for medical sciences, authors of publications and members of research projects | The aim is clearly stated and the LibGuide cites authoritative sources (NHS).   | The LibGuide offers resources and links to grey resources and/or that may be helpful for systematic reviews. Including the home page, the guide contains 12 detailed pages on reports, dissertations, NHS policy & management, patient feedback/opinion, clinical trials, NHS data etc.   | Detailed and balanced presentation of major topics.   | March 21, 2017  | A very detailed and exemplary LibGuide in the field of medical sciences, well connected to the specific organization and political environment, i.e. the UK National Health Service which makes it useful for the Newcastle research community.            |
| Robert Gordon University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom | One of the best modern public universities in the UK, especially regarding employment in the business and industry. | Written by Faculty Information Co-ordinator Autism and Behavioural Science. No reference list.        | This guide aims to explain what grey literature is and how and where to find it. Well written and clearly structured.   | The guide covers nine different topics: general introduction to grey literature, general, theses & other academic works, health: general, and trials, social work & social sciences, business and law, scientific, computing & technical resources, reference management with RefWorks.   | Balanced presentation . The guide states that grey literature can be very useful but reminds issues like quality (no peer review), style, methodology that may limit the usefulness and relevance of grey literature. | July 3, 2017    | Well written LibGuide with specific information for different research communities.  |
| University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands             | Largest and first ranked public university in The Netherlands, 31,000 students.                                     | Written by a special librarian in health sciences, author of seven LibGuides                          | The guide is for students and researchers in Health Sciences (and) provides information about grey literature with an overview of useful resources including references to work from GreyNet International. | The guide covers four main topics (definition, searching, resources, more information) and provides detailed information on 13 pages, including: search methods, Google Scholar, evaluating grey literature, documenting grey literature, citing grey literature, repositories & databases, publishers of grey literature, health data & statistics, and clinical trials. | A balanced presentation . The guide considers grey literature generally as useful information which is not easy to find and needs evaluation (quality assessment).  | August 10, 2017 | A good example for an exhaustive and detailed LibGuide on grey literature in the field of health sciences. No detailed bibliography but some references to presentations and websites on grey literature (including resources from the GreyNet community). |

References:

1. GL'99 Conference Program. Fourth International Conference on Grey Literature: New Frontiers in Grey Literature. GreyNet, Grey Literature Network Service. Washington D.C. USA, 4-5 October 1999.
2. Western University, What is Grey Literature-video?, <https://youtu.be/m9-0ZYnCmA1>
3. Royal Roads University, Value of Grey Literature, <http://libguides.royalroads.ca/greylit/value>
4. Bow Valley College, Avoiding Publication Bias with Grey Literature, <http://bowvalleycollege.libguides.com/grey-literature>