The Incorporation of Grey Literature into a Newly Formalized Research Services Program

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Setting the Stage

• Georgetown University: Private, Non-profit, R1 Institution

• Dahlgren Memorial Library (DML) is the Graduate Health and Life Sciences Research Library and serves the Georgetown University Medical Campus (GUMC)

• By the Numbers:
  o DML has a staff of 19
  o Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of GUMC: 6,240
  o Heaviest users are the Medical Students and there are about 800 total
  o Total Georgetown University FTE (Main, Med, and Law): 16,500
Problem Statement (& Questions)

• The omission of grey literature searches and/or sources in review articles can lead to publication bias and validity issues.
  ◦ Health and Medicine Division of the National Academies (formerly IoM)
  ◦ Cochrane Collaboration
  ◦ Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI)
  ◦ Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA)

• Do GUMC researchers have an awareness of grey literature?
  ◦ Quick Ovid MEDLINE search for Systematic Reviews or Meta-Analyses
    • 50 Publications for 2017

• How can DML help increase GUMC researchers’ awareness and support for inclusion of grey literature in their various clinical and research projects?
Learning from the Past

• Mostly informal and reactive
• Online guide since 2012
• Hosted several workshops from 2012-2014
• Medical Education Research Scholars presentation and discussion
Vision and Goals

• We want to be valued as an integral component of quality health and life sciences research by supporting all GUMC researchers, clinicians, and students. We envision this to include grey literature education.
  ◦ Goals
    • Newly revised librarian position
    • Create and implement a new formalized research services program
AAMC & AAHSL Environmental Scan

• Scan of 163 Association of American Medical Colleges and Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
Research Life Cycle Model

**Ideas**
- Literature Reviews (background & exploratory)
- Current Awareness
- Research Productivity Tools
- Identify Potential Collaborators/Mentors

**Funding & Proposals**
- Connecting researchers with funders
- IRB / IACUC Protocol Support

**Experi-Collect**
- Systematic Review Support
- Other Literature Reviews
- Data Management
- Bibliographic Management

**Publish & Present**
- Where to Publish
- Open Access
- Copyright
- Manuscript Preparation

**Impact**
- Citation Analysis
- Altmetrics
- Data Visualization
Awareness via Formal Education

• Train the trainers

• Integrations of Workshops into Research Services Program
  o The Basics of Grey Literature
  o The Inclusion of Grey Literature into Systemic Reviews and how to ensure reproducibility
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Harvest / Brainstorm</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subject Terms (MeSH, Emtree, etc.)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>dnl.georgetown.edu</td>
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<tr>
<td>PubMed MEDLINE</td>
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<td>Embase</td>
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<td>Web of Science</td>
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**Who is your expert?**
(Search PubMed with "Georgetown[Affiliation]" and add keyword for explorations topic.)

**Notes**

**Helpful Articles (primary and secondary)**

**AND**

**2**

**Context:** other areas / disciplines that might help you select additional databases to search

| Business / Economics |
| Education |
| Global Health |
| Law / Legal |
| Policy |

**AND**

**3**

**Common Subject (MeSH) Terms for MEDLINE (in no particular order)**

- Health Status Disparities
- Healthcare Disparities
- Ethnic Groups
- Minority Groups
- Sexual Minorities
- Minority Health
- Vulnerable Populations
- Medically Underserved Area
- Health Services Accessibility
- Socioeconomic Factors

**Statistics, Government Sources, etc.**

** Videos**
Research Tracking

- Statistics gathering
- Knowledge sharing
Drive On Ever Forward

Obstacles / Hurdles

• My position(s)
• Small library with small staff
• The budget

Next Steps

• Needs assessment
• Committee and Departmental Meetings
• Continue to build our integration into the School of Medicine curriculum
• Institutional Repository?
References


• Hartling, L., Featherstone, R., Nuspl, M., Shave, K., Dryden, D. M., & Vandermeer, B. (2017). Grey literature in systematic reviews: a cross-sectional study of the contribution of non-English reports, unpublished studies and dissertations to the results of meta-analyses in child-relevant reviews. BMC Medical Research Methodology, 17(1), 64. doi:10.1186/s12874-017-0347-z


• Schmucker, C. M., Blümle, A., Schell, L. K., Schwarzer, G., Oeller, P., Cabrera, L., ... OPEN consortium. (2017). Systematic review finds that study data not published in full text articles have unclear impact on meta-analyses results in medical research. Plos One, 12(4), e0176210. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0176210
