Strategies for Teaching and Learning About Grey Literature, Including the Dissemination and Exchange of Information

Marcus Vaska;[1]   Dean Giustini[2];   Hana Vycitalova[3]
[1]Tom Baker Cancer Centre, Canada; [2]Vancouver General Hospital, Canada;, [3]National Library of Technology, Czech Republic

marcus.vaska@ahs/ca; dean.giustini@ubc.ca; hana.vycitalova.@techlib.cz

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

At GL18, participants provided their views on four questions pertaining to *grey literature* (Rudasill, 2016):

- How can we, in the GL community *, address how to improve global awareness and understanding of GL?

- Can formal learning objectives be established? What are the **Stages of Inquiry** *?

- Can they be expanded to general audiences, and

- What methods can we use to disseminate information on grey literature more broadly?

Stages of Inquiry *

Adapted from ClipArt.com

RESEARCH QUESTIONS/AIMS

To investigate methods of engagement and information exchange by focusing on three activities:

I. Listing educational and promotional activities, along with practical experiences in the realm of grey literature across various disciplines,

II. Doing an environmental scan and literature search to uncover prior work on learning objectives and teaching methods around grey literature; and

III. Exploring how grey literature is represented in Google Scholar (a cross-comparison with Google).

Our blog: http://greynetinformationdelivery.blogspot.ca

Selected Educational/Promotional Activities - Canada
Grey Horizon Current Awareness Blog in Cancer Care
HLWIKI International – Grey Literature
Leading Edge II: Searching for Grey Literature
Role of Grey Literature in Academic Library Collections

Selected Educational/Promotional Activities – Czech Republic
Conference on Grey Literature and Repositories
National Repository of Grey Literature

How we Learn, Teach, and Describe Grey Literature

International GreyNet Community, from GreyGuide 2017

DISCUSSION & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- In the digital era, much *grey literature* can be found on the Web by using search engines. Librarians the world over can raise awareness about how to locate GL more systematically.

- As part of our teaching "how to search for GL", librarians can emphasize definitions of GL, challenges in GL searching and the coverage of search engines beyond Google.

- We plan to share our findings about this topic again in 2018.

GREYLIT COVERAGE BY GOOGLE & GOOGLE SCHOLAR

- GS is reported to have in excess of 144 million citations, pointing to millions of cited *grey literature* documents unavailable in controlled databases.

- Numerous studies have estimated the number, subject coverage and characteristics of documents available in GS.

- We plan to perform cross-comparison test searches to estimate the number of GL documents indexed by GS, while providing updates about its coverage, crawling ("indexing") practices & interface features.
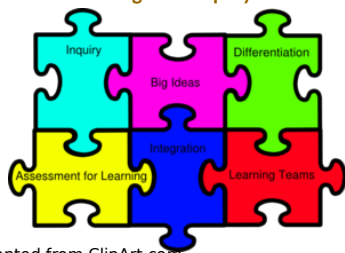
- Search topics will be representative of scholarly disciplines in government, academic and business sectors.

Background: The Rudasill Study 2016

- **How** to improve _global awareness_ of GL

- **Formal learning objectives & Stages of Inquiry ?**

- **Expanded** to general audiences, and

- **Methods to disseminate** information on GL?

Committee Research Aims

I. **LIST** educational, promotional, practical experiences

II. **COMPLETE** environmental scan and literature search

III. **EXPLORE** how GL literature is covered in Google Scholar (a cross-comparison with Google).

The International GreyNet Community 2017

91 authors from 21 countries

- Algeria   Japan
- Australia   Netherlands
- Austria   Norway
- Canada   Pakistan
- Czech Republic   Russia
- France   Slovakia
- Germany   South Korea
- Greece   Sweden
- India   United Kingdom
- Italy   USA

                    Zimbabwe

How We Teach, Learn, & Describe Grey Literature in 46 Words

Selected Educational Promotional Activities

- **CANADA**

Grey Horizon Current Awareness Blog in Cancer Care

HLWIKI International – Grey Literature

Leading Edge II: Searching for Grey Literature

Role of Grey Literature in Academic Library Collections

- **CZECH REPUBLIC**

Conference on Grey Literature and Repositories

National Repository of Grey Literature

GL in Google & Google Scholar

- **GOOGLE SCHOLAR (GS)** has 144 million+ citations and *grey literature* documents **not in** controlled databases.

- **MANY STUDIES** estimate the type of documents in GS.

- **WE WILL COMPARE** GL documents indexed by GS and GOOGLE, coverage, crawling ("indexing") practices & interface features.

- Searches re: government, academic & business sectors.

Future Directions

- Today, *grey literature* is found <u>everywhere on the Web</u>

- Librarians are raising awareness about <u>how to locate it</u>

- In teaching "<u>how to search for GL</u>", librarians can:

  - emphasize definitions of GL

  - challenges in searching for it, and

  - coverage of search engines beyond Google.

- We will share our findings again in 2018

References

Barger, V., & Labrecque, L. (2013). An integrated marketing communications perspective on social media metrics. *Int J Integrat Marketing Communications*, 64-76.

Giustini, D., & Boulos, M. N. K. (2013). Google Scholar is not enough to be used alone for systematic reviews. Online journal of public health informatics, 5(2), 214.

Halevi, G., Moed, H., & Bar-Ilan, J. (2017). Suitability of Google Scholar as a source of scientific information and as a source of data for scientific evaluation—Review of the Literature. Journal of Informetrics, 11(3), 823-834.

Lin, Y., & Vaska., M. (2013). Creating and assessing a subject-based blog for current awareness within a cancer care environment.. *The Grey Journal*, *9*(1), 7-13.

Rudasill, L. (2017). Teaching and learning about grey literature. *GL 18 Conference Posters 18*(1), 114-115