

THE  
NEW YORK  
ACADEMY  
OF MEDICINE

HEALTHY CITIES.  
BETTER LIVES.

November 28-29, 2016 | 18<sup>th</sup> International  
Conference on Grey Literature

INSTITUTE FOR URBAN HEALTH  
FELLOWS  
LIBRARY

# The GreyLit Report: Understanding the Challenges of Finding Grey Literature

Danielle Aloia, MSLS | Robin Naughton, PhD

# AGENDA

**Introduction**

**Literature Review**

**Data Collection**

**Results & Analysis**

**Conclusion**

**Recommendation**

# INTRODUCTION

## **The Academy Grey Literature Report**

- Produced since 1999
- Captures timely grey literature
- Bimonthly report to subscribers

# INTRODUCTION

## Research Purpose

- Systematic review searching
- Nature of grey literature searching
- Types of grey literature searching

## Research Questions:

- What challenges do researchers face when trying to find greylit?
- How are researchers searching for greylit?
- To what extent does the GreyLit Report help researchers?



# LITERATURE REVIEW

## Articles Analyzed

- GreyLit sources: 297
- Search strategies: 57



# LITERATURE REVIEW: SEARCH STRATEGIES

57 articles on search strategies found

- Searches should include: online databases, web search engines and websites, repositories, OPAC, experts, and handsearching. (Mahood, 2010)
- 1.5 hrs avg. time spent searching one greylit source. (Saleh, 2014)
- Searching just the title field in Google (allintitle:) produces the best results for greylit and the bulk of greylit reports are found after page 35. (Haddaway, 2015)

# LITERATURE REVIEW: SEARCH REPORTING

Reporting of search results vary

- Majority of respondents only reported one search detail. (Briscoe, 2015).
- Recommended reporting:  
name, URL, dates searched, search terms, and results.
- Develop a search plan. (Godin, 2015)

# DATA COLLECTION

## Participants:

- 12 interviews; 14 participants (11 Females 3 Male);
- Librarians, Information Professionals, Researchers
- UK, Australia, USA, Canada

## Data Collection:

- Remote interviews (phone & Skype)
- Audio recorded





# RESULTS & ANALYSIS: TOPICS

## Topical searches of interest

- Multiple responses per participant
- Specific to topics within participant's field
- Themes
  - Clinical Medicine
  - Health Care
  - Policy
  - Public Health

# RESULTS & ANALYSIS: GREYLIT REPORT

## Experience with the GreyLit Report

- Recommends: 50% (6)
- Current awareness tool: 50% (6)
- Good experience: 42% (5)

## Other Resources Indexed

- Conference Proceedings
- Datasets
- Webinars

# CONCLUSION

- Variety of methods to find grey literature
  - GreyLit Report is 5<sup>th</sup> most cited
- Searching Google is #1, followed by contacting experts
- GreyLit Report is seen as an alert or current awareness resource. Highly recommended by librarians
- Recommend:

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

Briscoe, S. "Web searching for systematic reviews: a case study of reporting standards in the UK Health Technology Assessment programme." *BMC Research Notes* 8 (2015): 153. doi:10.1186/s13104-015-1079-y.

Godin, K, Stapleton, J, Kirkpatrick, SI, Hanning, RM, and Leatherdale, ST. "Applying Systematic Review Search Methods to the Grey Literature: A Case Study Examining Guidelines for School-Based Breakfast Programs in Canada." *Systematic Reviews* 4 (2015): 138. doi:10.1186/s13643-015-0125-0.

Haddaway, NR, Collins, AM, Coughlin, D, Kirk, S. "The role of Google Scholar in evidence reviews and its applicability to Grey Literature Searching." *PlosOne*, v. 10, no. 9 (2015): e0138237.

Mahod, Q, Van Eerd, D, Irvin, E. "Searching for grey literature for systematic reviews: challenges and benefits." *Research synthesis methods*, v. 5, no. 3 (2014): 10.1002/jrsm.1106.

Saleh, AA., Ratajeski, MA, and Bertolet, M. "Grey Literature Searching for Health Sciences Systematic Reviews: A Prospective Study of Time Spent and Resources Utilized." *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice* 9, no. 3 (2014): 1-10.

# QUESTIONS?

Danielle Aloia, MSLS

[daloia@nyam.org](mailto:daloia@nyam.org)

@daloia

Robin Naughton, PhD

[rnaughton@nyam.org](mailto:rnaughton@nyam.org)

@rnaughton