

Knowledge Resource Service

Knowledge Management



Alberta Health
Services

not Easy to Find: an Inventory of LibGuides in Canadian Post-

Grey Literature

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**UNIVERSITY OF
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LibGuides: a Brief History

- Pamphlets □ Pathfinders □ LibGuides
- LibGuides
 - Definition: cloud-based web-content management system
 - Purpose: connect users with library resources; increase information literacy
- **2007:** Springshare & Slaven Zivkovic
- **400,000 LibGuides** exist in more than **5,000 libraries**, produced by more than **65,000 librarians** and information specialists, in **78 countries**

LibGuides as a Grey Literature Document Type

| Feature | Grey Literature | LibGuides |
|--|-----------------|-----------|
| Innovative, Unique Content | ✓ | ✓ |
| Rapid Publication | ✓ | ✓ |
| Currency | ✓ | ✓ |
| Freely Available | ✓ | ✓ |
| Unconventional Formats (Blogs and Other Social Media) | ✓ | ✓ |

How Libraries use LibGuides

- **Variety of disciplines:** health sciences, business, education, humanities, engineering, social sciences
- **Worldwide** current events, new technologies, research process, courses and e-book collections
- **Less is More** (best intentions vs. cognitive overload)
- **Nomenclature:** 77%=research guides, 23%=subject guides
- **Usability, feedback** regarding navigation experience
- Optimizing for **mobile environment**



The Investigation: Grey Literature LibGuides within Canadian Universities and Colleges

- **Environmental Scan:** 17 post-secondary Canadian institutions
- **Representative Sample:** 52 library staff (librarians and information specialists)
- **Purpose**
 - How do students and researchers use grey literature?
 - How are sections of existing LibGuides devoted to including grey literature in information-seeking pursuits?



Use of Grey Literature in Post-Secondary LibGuides: Survey Questions

1. Is grey literature mentioned in subject guides/research guides/LibGuides within your institution?
2. If your response to question #1 is yes, please list the top 3 grey literature resources that are mentioned in the subject guide(s)/research guide(s)/LibGuide(s).
3. Do you encourage your students to consult grey literature resources in their research? (if not, please explain why not)
4. What is your discipline/area of study?



Survey Results

- **9 of 17** institutions polled participated in survey
- **52.9%** response rate
- **All respondents** confirmed inclusion of grey literature resources in their research guides/subject guides/LibGuides
- Grey literature comprises **27% (~6.5 hours searching time)** for systematic reviews (Salah et al., 2014)



Top 3 Grey Literature Resources Mentioned in LibGuides (selected list)

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Canadian Council on Learning
- Canadian Health Research Collection
- Canadian Public Policy Collection
- Columbia International Affairs Online
- **Grey Literature Report (NYAM)**
- **Grey Matters Checklist: CADTH**
- **GreyNet**
- Institute of Health Economics
- **OpenGrey**
- Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR)

Various Disciplines

- Biosciences
- Education
- Health Administration
- Health Sciences
- International Affairs
- Medicine
- Neuroscience
- Nursing
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Political Science
- Population & Public Health



Ideas on Promoting Grey Literature in Libguides

- **Library-mediated** ☐ **self-mediated**
- **Usability studies: quantitative & qualitative measures**
- **Collaborating with stakeholders:**
the customer is always right!



Looking into the Future: LibGuides are...

- **unique entities**; currently no competition exists
- **rapidly** replacing static library webpages
- ease of use
- low learning curve
- sustainability
- Flexible (various formats of information dissemination)
- One-stop shopping approach



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