IS THERE A BORDERLINE BETWEEN GREY AND WHITE LITERATURE?

Lessons learned from the NECOBELAC experience in Europe and Latin America

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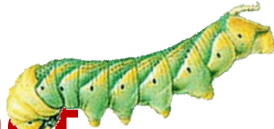**14th International Conference on Grey Literature, Rome - November 29-30, 2012**

Grey and white literature today
How many other colours can be used?

GL before the Internet   **Today**

Limited circulation

Poor editorial quality

Difficult to retrieve

Addressed to small circles

Difficult to define

RICH CONTENT

GL and white literature (WL) freely circulate on the web

The borderline between them becomes more and more unclear

WL is **closer** to GL and viceversa in their new and often controversial vocation of being **open and free** according to different OA publishing models

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New forms of scientific conversation

Old categories are being replaced

☐ authors are asked to deposit their papers in **repositories** and **link scientific data** (data sets) to their research articles

☐ **alternative dissemination patterns** (mobile technologies and social networks) are developed and utilized by all age groups at global level.

**Open access overlapping routes:
Grey –> Green –> Gold**

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e-content, a rainbow of colours

- Black (reserved)
- E-mail
- Grey
- Green OA
- Gold OA
- Platinum OA

Scientific discourse

Identification (identifiers)

Citation (es biobanks, bioresources, blogs)

Use

Back to the future

□ Why do we need to communi

□ Technology helps overcoming some (technical) barriers

□ The challenge is to overcome cultural barriers

□ Open mind – open access – open data

New levels of responsibility arise for all stakeholders

aring information and data for public interest

Training is necessary

□ to **create awareness** on the ethical and technical implications associated with OA publishing, including both white and grey literature.

□ to **provide tools** to cope with the new requirements associated with such new responsibilities

NECOBELAC project

NECOBELAC project in brief

Network of Collaboration Between Europe & Latin American-Caribbean countries

It is a European project (2009-2012)
"Science in Society" working in the field
of PUBLIC HEALTH

It aims to:

- ✓ improve scientific writing
- ✓ promote open access publishing models
- ✓ foster technical and scientific cooperation between Europe and Latin America

www.necobelac.eu

TARGET All actors taking part in scientific communication process

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NECOBELAC and GL

www.necobelac.eu

- The **training experience** carried out within the **NECOBELAC project (2009-2012)** is reported with special focus on the difference between white and grey literature

- **NECOBELAC** methodology (strongly based on the "human factor") can be usefully applied to **GL community**

NECOBELAC key points

▶ **MAIN ACTIONS**
1. Two level training activity
2. Innovative training tools
3. Networking & cooperation activity

interrelated

▶ **BI-DIRECTIONAL APPROACH**
sharing experiences and initiatives
between Europe & Latin America within a common strategy

▶ This approach offers mutual benefits EU-LAC
and supports cultural change in production,
use and dissemination of health information

▶ All project partners contributed to the three main actions
(participating in training, provide contents for training tools, support the network)

Action 1

TWO-LEVEL TRAINING ACTIVITY
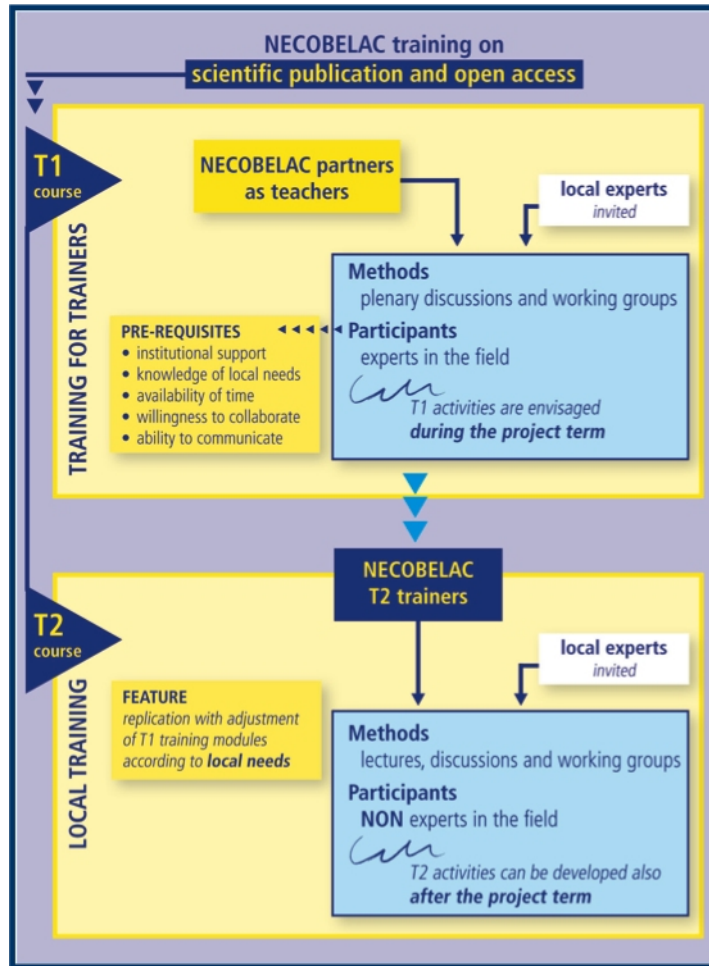

T1

TRAINING COURSES FOR TRAINERS

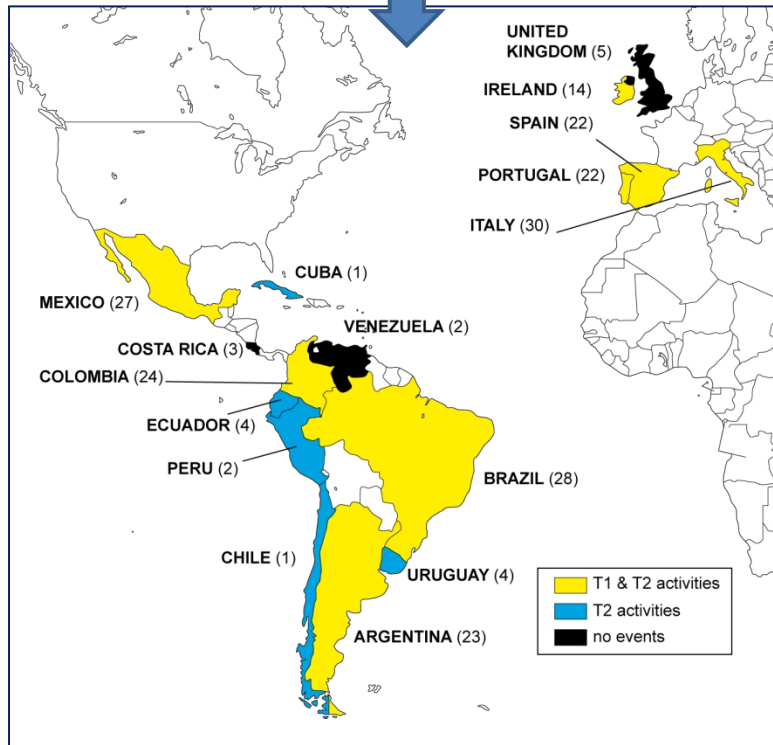**8 courses in EU and LAC**

T2

TRAINING REPLICATION

local training courses, workshops, meetings, etc. 40 replications to date

Figures from NECOBELAC training

8 Training for trainers (T1) →

Brazil	Sao Paolo	2010
Italy	Rome	2010
Colombia	Bogotà	2010
Spain	Madrid	2011
Argentina	Buenos Aires	2011
Portugal	Braga	2011
Mexico	Guadalajara	2011
Ireland	Dublin	2012

UNITED KINGDOM (5)
IRELAND (14)
SPAIN (22)
PORTUGAL (22)
ITALY (30)
CUBA (1)
MEXICO (27)
VENEZUELA (2)
COSTA RICA (3)
COLOMBIA (24)
ECUADOR (4)
PERU (2)
BRAZIL (28)
CHILE (1)
URUGUAY (4)
ARGENTINA (23)

- T1 & T2 activities
- T2 activities
- no events

40 Local training replications (T2)

15 countries in the network

4 Europe + 11 Latin America

>200 institutions

Lessons learnt: listen, be flexible, provide support and teaching material

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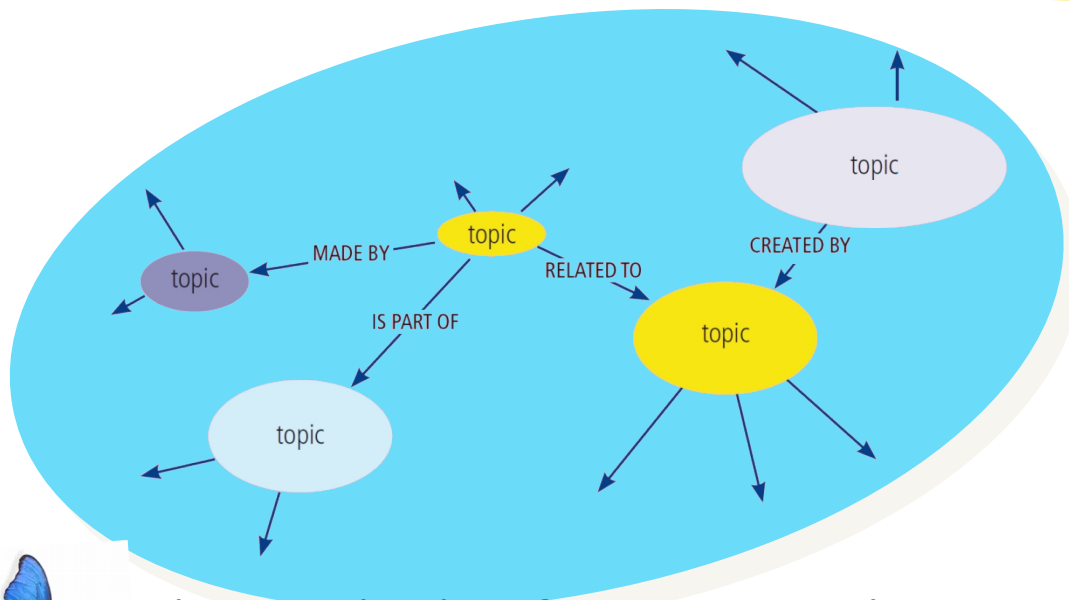
Action 2

INNOVATIVE TRAINING TOOLS
NECOBELAC topic maps

Topic maps are based on sematic web technology
They associate topics and link them to selected online resources

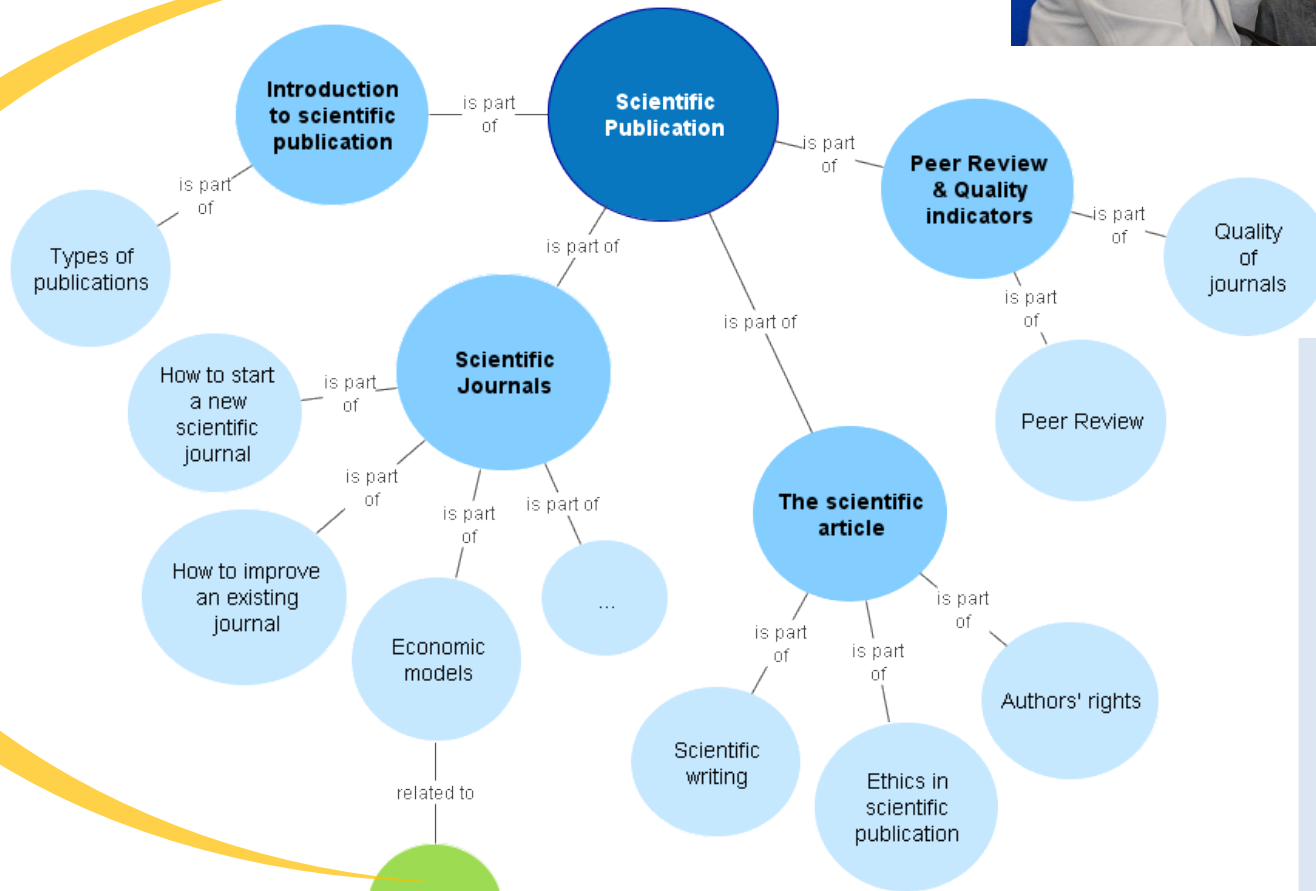**They have a triple SUBJECT-PREDICATE-OBJECT structure**

topic

MADE BY

topic

IS PART OF

RELATED TO

topic

CREATED BY

topic

topic

AREAS

▶ **Scientific publication**
▶ **Open access publishing**

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NECOBELAC topic maps

Scientific publication

Scientific Publication

Introduction to scientific publication — is part of — Scientific Publication

is part of — Types of publications

is part of — Scientific Journals

How to start a new scientific journal — is part of

How to improve an existing journal — is part of

Economic models — is part of

... — is part of

Scientific Publication — is part of — Peer Review & Quality indicators — is part of — Quality of journals

is part of — Peer Review

is part of — The scientific article

Scientific writing — is part of

Ethics in scientific publication — is part of

Authors' rights — is part of

related to

GL authors and issuing organizationsshould **be aware of the entire information life cycle**

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NECOBELAC topic maps

Open access
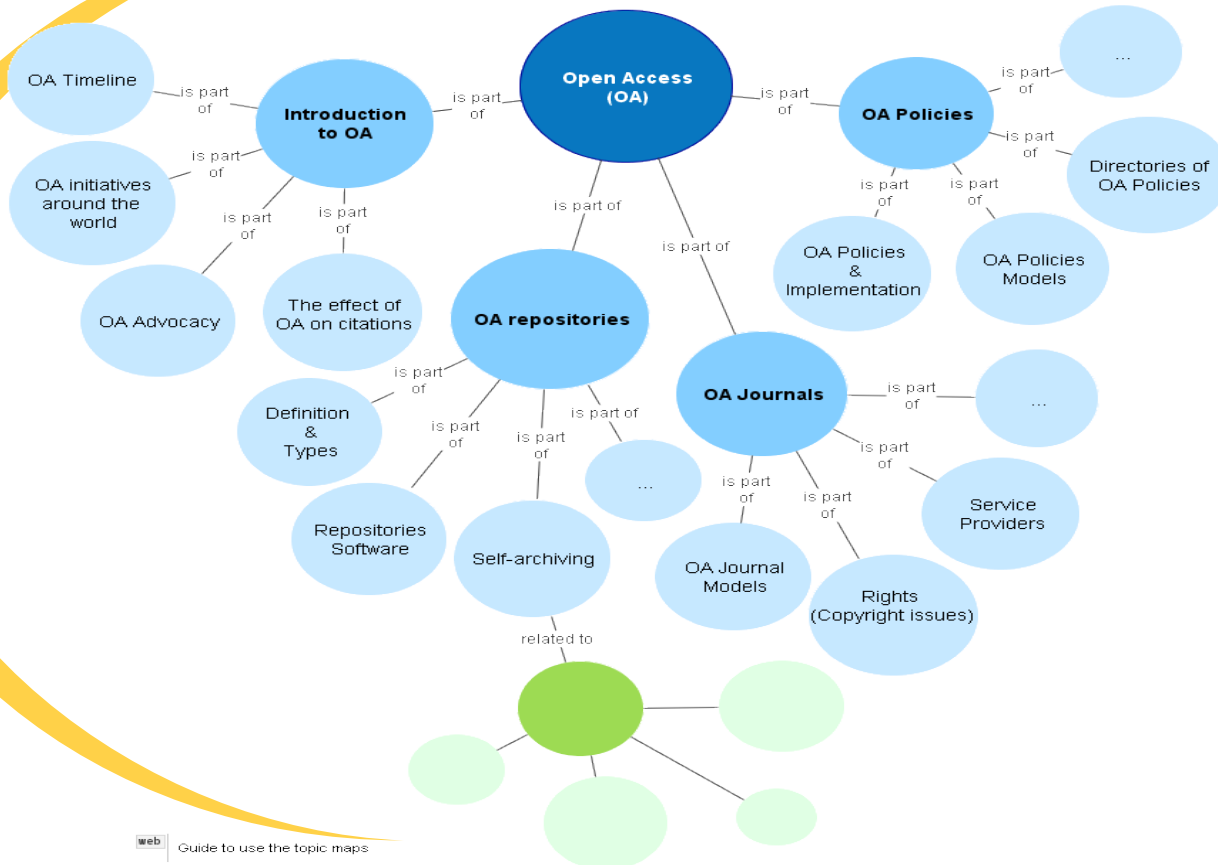
GL authors and issuing organizationsshould **be aware** of OA challanges and opportunities

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Benefits from NECOBELAC topic maps

- Generate discussion during the training courses
- Help creating flexible local training programmes
- Provide useful links

Topic maps are:

modular

extensible

flexible

portable

able to be re-purposed
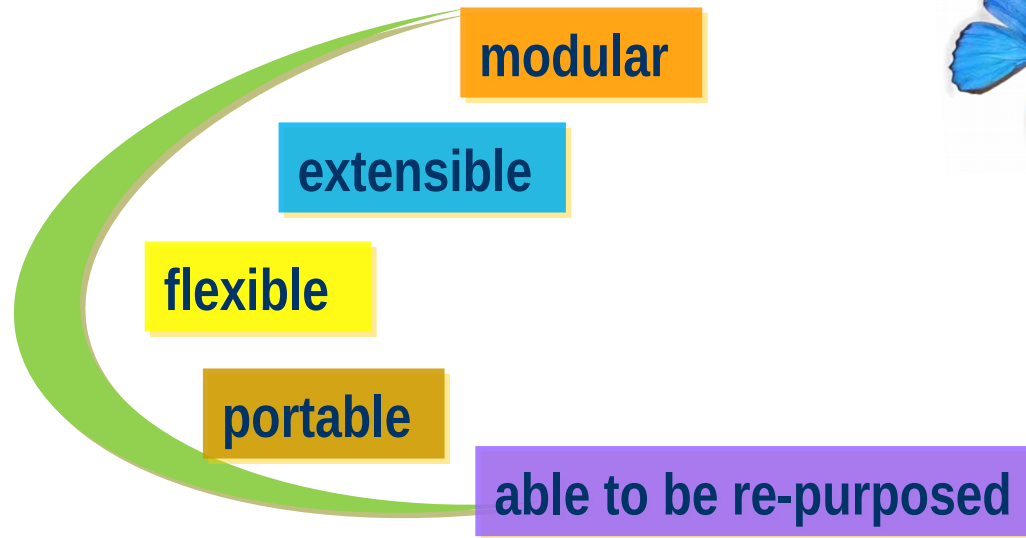
**Topic map contents
can be selected according to information needs of the target**

The LG community can benefit from topic maps

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Guide to use topic maps
SECTION: Training>topic maps>material on TM in PDF and video

Link to full-text

Short description

Scheme

Hints for discussion

http://62.204.194.27/necobelac/indexing.jsp

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NECOBELAC model training program

Structure of NECOBELAC training modules

1. Introduction to scientific publication
   Types of publications

2. Scientific journals
   Starting a new journal
      Online technology management systems
   Improving an existing journal
   Managing a journal
      Editors
      Committees, editorial boards
      Publishers
      Editorial staff, marketing policy, advertisement
         Support to authors
   Economic models
   Quality of journals
   Dissemination and access

3. Scientific articles
   Writing an article
   Guidelines and standards
   Ethics
   Rights (copyright issues)

4. Peer review and quality indicators
   Styles of peer review
   Ethics
   Roles in peer review
      Reviewers
      Editors
      Committees, editorial boards
   Quality of journals
   Metrics

SCIENTIFIC WRITING

➡ **Introduction to scientific publication**

➡ **Scientific journals**
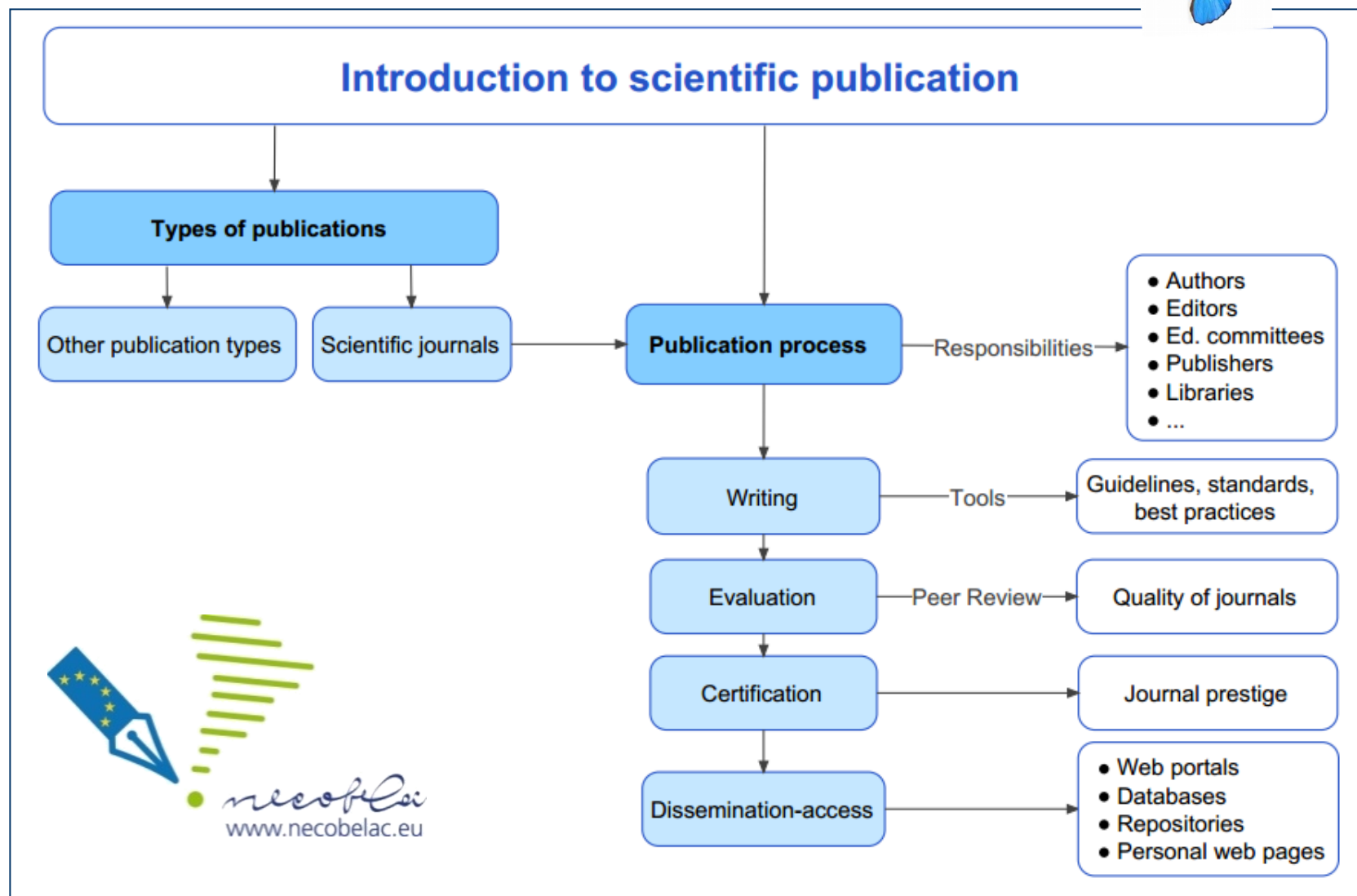
➡ **Scientific articles**

➡ **Peer review and quality indicators**

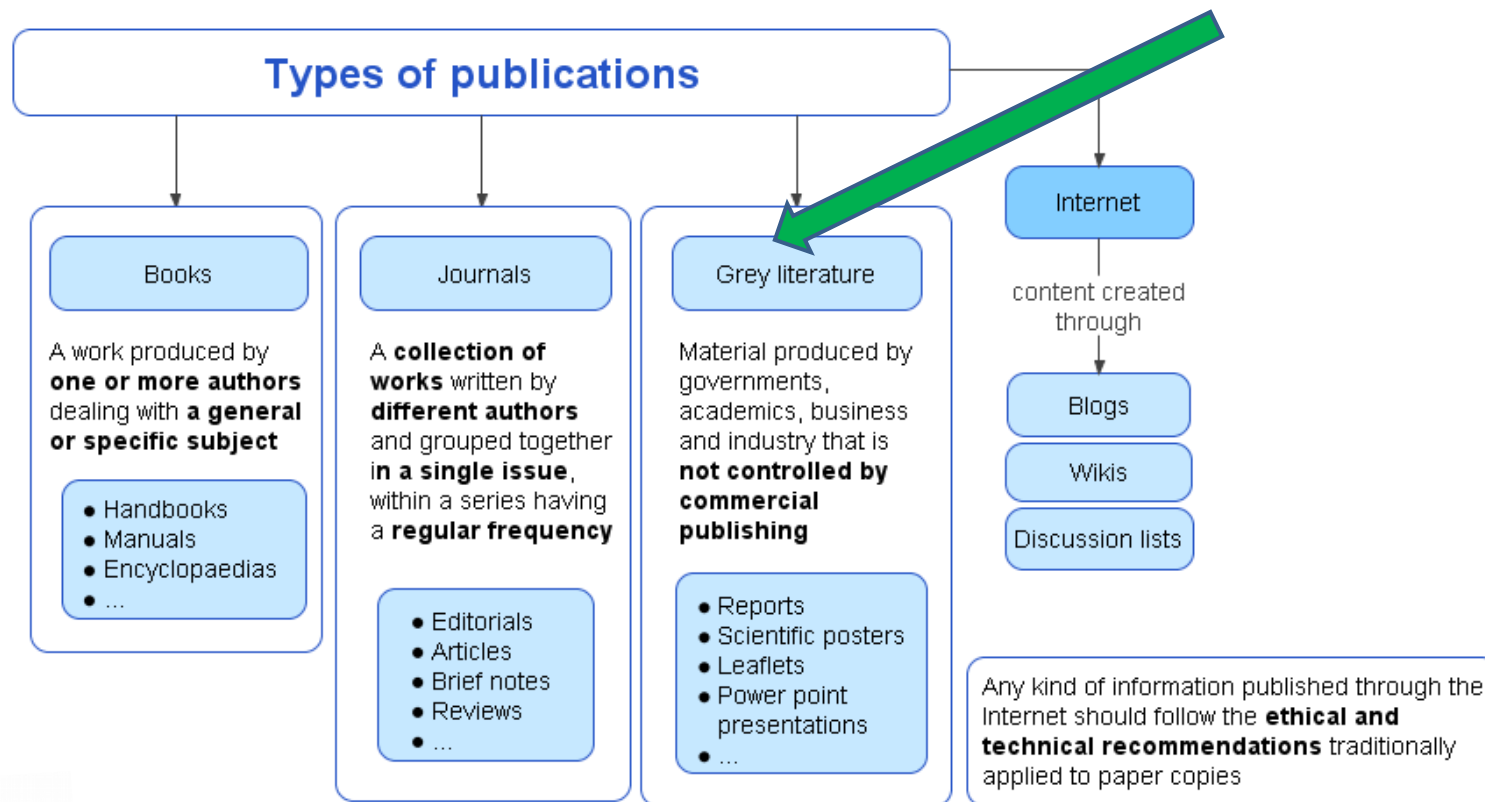**Scientific writing rules in GL and WL are the same** (the level of application changes)

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Introduction to scientific publication

- Types of publications
  - Other publication types
  - Scientific journals
- Publication process — Responsibilities →
  - Authors
  - Editors
  - Ed. committees
  - Publishers
  - Libraries
  - ...
- Writing — Tools → Guidelines, standards, best practices
- Evaluation — Peer Review → Quality of journals
- Certification → Journal prestige
- Dissemination-access →
  - Web portals
  - Databases
  - Repositories
  - Personal web pages

www.necobelac.eu

NECOBELAC topic maps on scientific writing

Types of publications

Books

A work produced by **one or more authors** dealing with **a general or specific subject**

- Handbooks
- Manuals
- Encyclopaedias
- ...

Journals

A **collection of works** written by **different authors** and grouped together in **a single issue**, within a series having a **regular frequency**

- Editorials
- Articles
- Brief notes
- Reviews
- ...

Grey literature

Material produced by governments, academics, business and industry that is **not controlled by commercial publishing**

- Reports
- Scientific posters
- Leaflets
- Power point presentations
- ...

Internet

content created through

Blogs

Wikis

Discussion lists

Any kind of information published through the Internet should follow the **ethical and technical recommendations** traditionally applied to paper copies

NECOBELAC model training program

OPEN ACCESS

Structure of NECOBELAC training modules

1. Introduction to open access
- Meaning/definition
- Origins and timeline
- OA initiatives around the world
- Advocacy
  - The effect of open access on citations

2. OA Repositories
- Definition and types
  - Subject repositories
  - Institutional repositories
  - Data repositories
- Repository technologies and standards
- Repository software
- Repository development and management
- Service providers (repositories)
- Journals-Repositories coexistence
- Self-archiving
  - Copyright issues

3. OA Journals
- OA Journals models
- Online Management systems
- Economic models to support OA journals
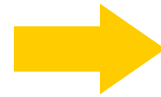- Service providers (journals)
- Copyright issues

4. OA Policies
- Introduction
- Models
- How to implement an OA policy
- Directories of OA policies
- Examples in public health and related disciplines
- The effect of OA policies on authors' behaviour
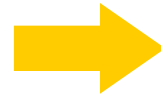
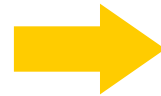➡ **Introduction to Open Access**

➡ **Open Access Repositories**

➡ **Open Access Journals**

➡ **Open Access Policies**

OA publishing models represents the greatest challenge for GL dissemination

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Example of topic map on OA reposities

Repositories management and use equally applies to all types of literature
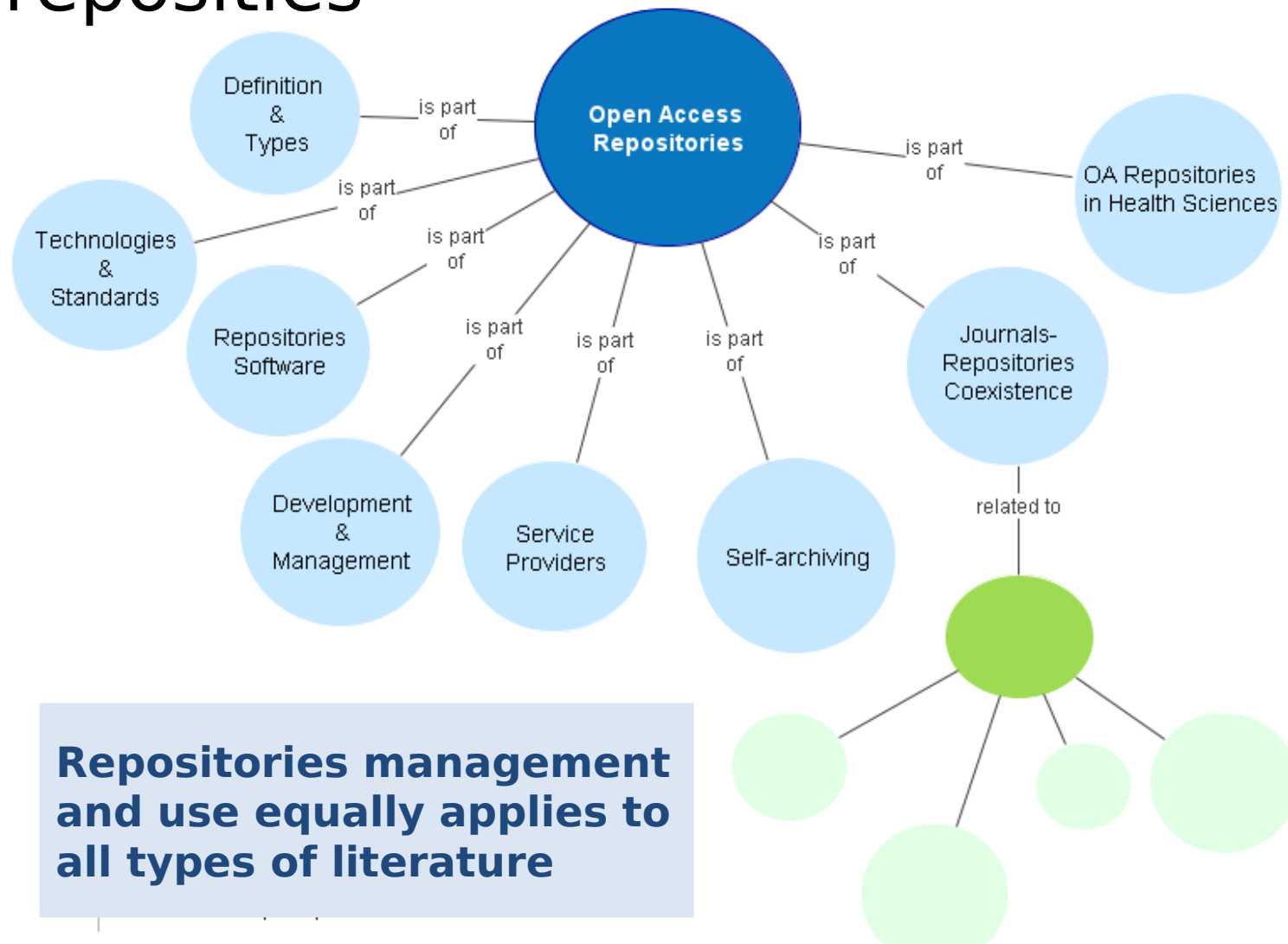
Final considerations

Internet reduces distinctions between GL and WL and increases authors responsibilities

Training plays a fundamental role for all stakeholders (authors, editors, librarians) to create awareness on innovation benefits

Training (in a wide geographical area) is a way of learning from different experiences and focus on the core requirements of the scientific communty

NECOBELAC represents a sustainable model to improve scientific communication (including both GL and WL) according to local needs through institutional support and strong community engagement

To know more about NECOBELAC training across Europe and Latin America
ISTISAN report 12/26

Rapporti ISTISAN
12/26

Training in scientific writing and open access publishing: the NECOBELAC project experience in Europe and Latin America

Edited by Paola De Castro for the NECOBELAC working group

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Thank you

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