

A Whiter Shade of Grey:

The Many Shades in Grey Literature and how to improve findability

SWETS

Swets Simplifies

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There are many shades of grey and it is all about findability...

How white and grey relate

Formal Literature

value-adding process relationships (a dissemination/publishing "family")

Gray Literature

conceptual provenance relationships



And its new paradoxes:

- 'white' is not always easier to find than 'grey'
- 'white' is not always 'must have'; often users prefer 'grey'
- There are many shades of grey
- Definition of 'grey' doesn't seem to relate to end-user, who thinks in terms of 'findability'



Findability in the Grey Grid in the old days: searchable=findable



Findability in the Grey Grid, better organised but still pre-web; searchable=findable

SWCTS Swets Simplifies

Grey literature,	Grey literature,
internally	elsewhere
(with good internal index)	(hear-say, tips from peers)
Subscriptions to	Subscriptions to
official publications,	official publications,
in own library	elsewhere
(good library cataloguing)	(inter-library loan)

SWETS Swets Simplifies

Grey literature, internally (Well organized institutional repositories)	Grey literature, elsewhere (Indexed and searchable)
Subscriptions to	Subscriptions to
official publications,	official publications,
in own library	elsewhere
(Fully digital library)	(All is searchable)

In reality - in our Knowledge Community - there are more shades of grey

grey literature/ internal From own institute	grey literature/ elsewhere	grey literature/ outside own expertise
datasets and tech reports, linked bi- directionally to official publications <i>From own institute</i>	Whiter grey elsewhere	Whiter grey outside expertise
esoteric subscriptions other type of subscriptions (to news, websites, etc)	Greyer white elsewhere	Greyer white outside expertise
official publications/ subscribed	official publications/ unsubscribed	official publications outside own expertise

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But never solving the *Recall-Precision Paradox,* instead re-emphasizing it



The Recall-Precision Paradox

Low Recall High Precision





High Recall Low Precision

= total content desired

- = correct content found
- = erroneous content found

The Recall-Precision Paradox



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An overview of some of our corporate customers

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Customers face a complex administration process with every single Publisher

Many relationships:

- Generates unnecessary costs
- Wastes valuable time
- Duplication of effort & content





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- Reduce costs and optimize what you spend
- More control over your subscriptions investment
- Improved management of ejournal licenses
- Enhanced journal processing capabilities



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Information Overload

The user experience without federated search





Problems

- Many separate searches
- Many interfaces
- Many information lists
- Relevant information is hidden
- Duplication of results across sources



Swets, your partner in improved findability



Way Forward for Services Like Those of MuseGlobal, Vivisimo and AquaBrowser

- Provide users with tools to filter the clutter from the desired content
- To be used after the recall has been done
- Through advanced content mining techniques and technologies



The Recall-Precision Paradox

Low Recall High Precision





= total content desired

= correct content found

= erroneous content found

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Examples of Filtering Tools

	Discover		mercury	Se	earch	> Print	> Help
			Results 1 - 10 of 563 for merc	ury, sorted by: relevance 💌			
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Is There a Whiter Shade of Grey?

- Traditional distinction between White and Grey has blurred
- New distinction is between "properly" indexed (i.e. findable) content and not
- The corpus of information is being extended to non-article types; the search scope is being extended beyond area of expertise
- No form of static indexing, however proper, will resolve the Recall-Precision Paradox
- Tools are being developed to help users dynamically improve the Recall-Precision ratio for their particular situation

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Your partner in findability... ...for any whiter shade of grey