

Some Types of Grey Literature: a Polish Context

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What is GL?

- ◆ Different terms used to define GL
- ◆ Low uniformity of GL as a group
- ◆ Some features possible to enumerate to describe GL as a group: difficult to identify, to access, to locate; limited editions; inaccessible in bookstores; no bibliographic registration; absent in library and publisher's catalogues; unpublished; fast distribution.

What is GL?

- ◆ Two criteria for distinguish it:
 - Scope: government, scientific, technological or business publications;
 - Type of publisher: non-commercial, publishing is not their main form of activity.

GL in Poland by OPI

1. Reports: scientific, technical, economic, social etc.
2. Conference materials (unpublished)
3. Standards and technical recommendations
4. **Unpublished translations**
5. **Small edition, local journals**
6. Official documents
7. Technical, promotion and advertising documentation
8. Documents in an electronic form
9. **Materials for MSP enterprises**
10. **Underground (prohibited) literature**

GL in Poland: chosen types

- ◆ Prohibited (underground) literature, especially 1939-1945 and 1946-1989;
- ◆ Materials for small business for technology transfer;
- ◆ Unpublished translations into polish;
- ◆ Small journals of local importance.

Criteria for description

- ◆ The adequacy of the definition mentioned;
- ◆ Origin;
- ◆ Role for users;
- ◆ Local importance;
- ◆ Level of 'greyness';
- ◆ Organization and accessibility.

Prohibited (underground) literature 1

- ◆ Adequacy of the definition:
 - Not produced by government, business, nor industry
 - Used to fight against official government bodies
 - As such, it was anti-governmental literature and in a sense can be treated as associated with official bodies.
 - Published by non-publisher institutions.

Small business 1

◆ Adequacy of the definition:

- Business and technical applications
- Publishers are often non-commercial, for whom it is not a basic type of activity
- There is a good adequacy of the definition.

Unpublished translations 1

- ◆ The adequacy of the definition
 - Our interest narrowed to areas of technology, economics, organization, government activity;
 - Translations are not published by owing institutions.

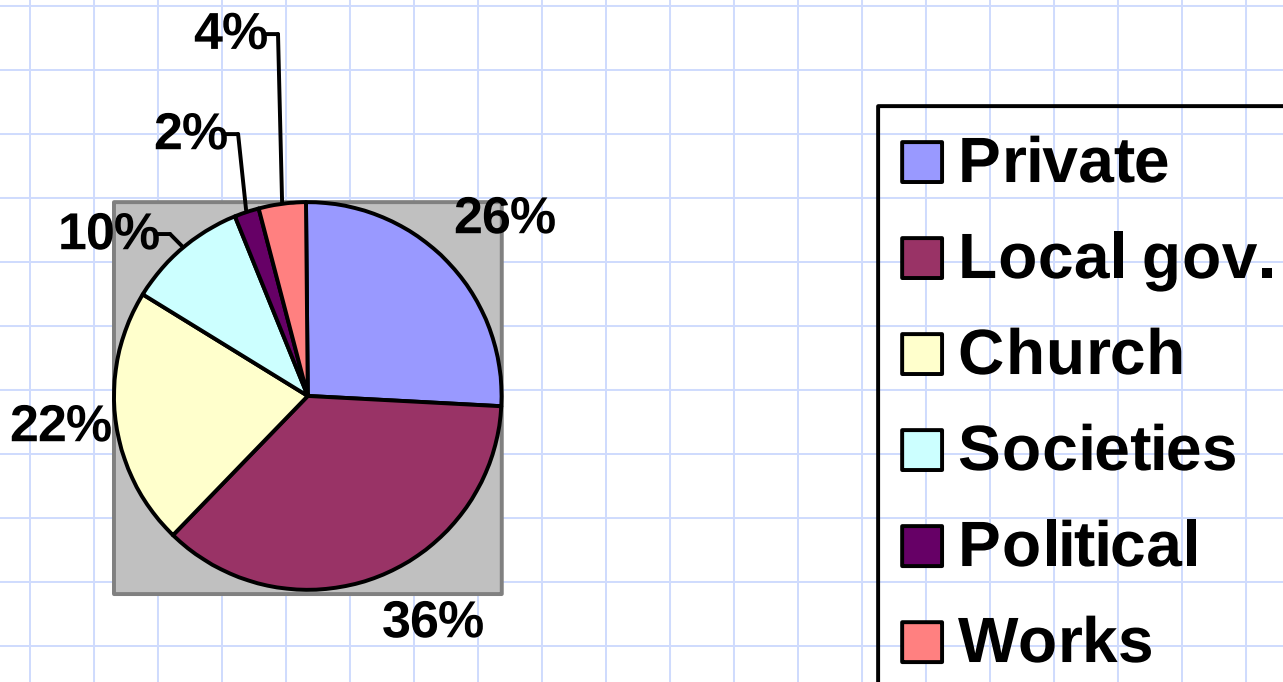
Small local journals 1

◆ The adequacy of the definition

- Publishers are very diverse group: schools, churches, social societies, inhabitants, political parties, industrial plants, minorities; in practice non-commercial, not financially self-sufficient (donations) or based on advertisements;
- Subject matter as different as publishers: usually local information (social).

Small local journals 1

Journal's publishers



Small local journals 5

◆ Level of 'greyness'

- Journals generally not rated among GL;
- Local journals are specific group, because of:
 - ◆ Non-commercial,
 - ◆ Type of publishers,
 - ◆ Limited range of influence

Small local journals 5

Level of 'greyness'

Publisher /profile of local journal	Grey literature Y/N
Council journals	Y
School journals (e.g. in high schools)	Y
Religious and church journals	N
Private journals	N
Society (both learned and social org. journals)	Y?
Political parties journals	N
Industrial plant journals	Y
Economic organizations journals	Y
Minorities journals	N

Small local journals 6

- ◆ Organization and accessibility
 - Journals accessible in public libraries, subscriptions or free distribution;
 - No specific distribution network;
 - Cooperation between publishers, eg. between local weeklies.

Conclusions

- ◆ Particular importance of displayed types of GL in Poland, because of different reasons;
- ◆ Level of 'greyness' is different;
- ◆ Need for information system(s) for the types of grey literature (and some other).