

“Uniform Requirements”

for grey literature:
proposal for the
adoption
of a “Nancy style”

Paola De Castro, Sandra Salinetti

*Istituto Superiore di Sanità
Rome (Italy)*

GL and the Internet “sea change”

Characteristics initially associated to GL have been upset.

PROS

Information retrieval
Document availability

CONS

Increased responsibility
Target no longer under
control

GL: from Cinderella to Princess

Old virtues and new look to enter the realm of science!

OLD VIRTUES *(content)*

Unique content
Original information
Not for profit production

(form) **NEW LOOK**

Pleasant layout
Online availability
Easy retrieval

A flick of magic wand... for Cinderella

Taking off **GREY** ash-dress...

HOW? Creating and applying

*Uniform requirements for the production of institutional reports:
how to write and distribute grey literature*

Draft proposal
to reach consensus
on:

NANCY STYLE...

Nancy style: the secrets of the fairy

- Vancouver style
*Uniform requirements for
manuscript
submitted to biomedical journals*
- ISO standard 5966/1982
*Documentation - Presentation of scientific and technical
reports*
- Personal experience

Why Nancy style?

GOAL

independent and correct
production of institutional reports
in the respect of the basic editorial
principles

TARGET

Authors and issuing
organizations

Nancy style to be introduced at Court

“ SEVEN mice magically transformed into six horses and a coachman led Cinderella to the castle...”

Nancy style to be introduced at Court

Our mice to reach the Castle are:

1. Ethical considerations
2. Publishing and editorial issues
3. Report structure
4. References
5. Non textual material
6. Revision editing
7. Instructions to authors

1. Ethical considerations

They regard responsibilities of the authors of reports and their issuing organizations.

They also take into account the appropriateness of peer review and possible conflicts of interest, privacy and confidentiality.



2. Publishing and editorial issues

- Considerations associated with intellectual property (*copyright*)
- New responsibilities arising from electronic publishing

Burden of each mouse

3. Report structure

The HEAVIEST burden
allowing to reach the desired goal

UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT

A well designed structure includes:

**FRONT
MATTER**

**BODY
OF
REPORT**

**END
MATTE
R**

4. References

Sources of information used in the report

They shall be corrected cited to permit retrieval.

Burden of each mouse

5. on textual material

Tables and figures
playing a significant part
in the understanding of concepts
explained in the text.

**ADDING VALUE to the information
given**

6. Revision editing

It ensures that the technical content of a report is complete, accurate and understandable to the intended audience.

Levels of revision depend on:

- speed in diffusion
- availability of editorial staff
- budget

Burden of each mouse

7. Instructions to authors

They are our coachman:
it is up to him to drive the horses.

All issuing organizations should provide
guidelines
for a correct production of reports

And what about the pumpkin?

It is the **CONTENT** of the document.

FIRST RESPONSIBILITY
of any author or issuing organization

A smart layout and well balanced structure is absolutely useless without any good substance!

YET a good pumpkin can reach the castle to join the party of the noble
(prestigious journal articles and monographs)
only with a flick of the “NANCY WAND”

All guests must follow a proper etiquette!

Conclusions

Nancy style improves:

- quality
- usability
- availability

In one word

It grants GL
NOBILITY
to join the party

and the spell... will not end at midnight!