

# **GREY LITERATURE: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS FOR COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT IN E-ENVIRONMENT**

**M. NATARAJAN**

**Scientist**

**National Institute of Science Communication And  
Information Resources (NISCAIR-CSIR)**

**14, Satsang Vihar Marg**

**New Delhi – 110 067. INDIA.**

**Phone: 91-011-26863521, Fax:26862228**

**E-mail: [m\\_natarajan@hotmail.com](mailto:m_natarajan@hotmail.com)**

# INTRODUCTION

- ♠ Searching and accessing GL always a great challenge
- ♠ Due to ICT, shortfalls in library acquisitions budget - brought to the significance of GL
- ♠ Identification of and access to GL as more and more urgent – 1<sup>st</sup> International GL
- ♠ Growth of Internet and self publishing via WWW
- ♠ Enhanced access, online distribution to any number of users.
- ♠ Discusses problems & prospects of collection development and access in e-environment

# DEFINITIONAL ANALYSIS – Grey Literature

- ❖ Publications issued by government, academia, business & industry, in print and e-formats
- ❖ Not controlled by commercial publishing
- ❖ Scientific GL - newsletters, reports, working papers, theses, govt.documents, bulletins, fact sheets, conference proceedings & other publications distributed free.
- ❖ Semi-published literature which is not formally listed or priced but is nevertheless in circulation – Keenan
- ❖ Information resources that do not categorically fall into what is available via standard traditional or commercial publishing channels.

# BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL

- Contain comprehensive, concrete, and up-to-date information on research findings.
- Detailed information on techniques, methods, measured values and details of experiments are frequently omitted, even when published at later.
- US NTIS issues over 70,000 “unpublished” reports p.a.
- British Library authorities produce around 50,000 documents p.a.
- System for Information on Grey Literature (SIGLE) makes it available approximately 35,000 European reports p.a.

- CERN Library has very important collection of GL with more than 350,000 documents.
- By Open Archive, they framed a submission mechanism for a long-term storage & preservation system with management policy.

These show that the production of GL is increasing.

✳️ Problems to promote - unwillingness & inability on the part of producing organizations to promote their output - for libraries who wish to collect it and for end users.

✳️ Collected through establishing personal contact, collection agents, developing exchange arrangements, undertaking acquisition tours, making use of embassy services in foreign countries, etc.

# COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Need for a clear government policy which would require:

(1) Legal deposit

(2) Funding and

(3) National documentation centers in sectoral fields: e.g. agriculture, S&T, social science, medicine, etc.- Japhet Otiye (U. K)

"The availability of the content of a GL document largely depends on the policy of the generating institution. Institutions may exercise their authority as to whether or not all of their documents should be made [available] for public knowledge. However, their existence should be known." - Pratibha Gokhale (India).

# ACQUISITIONS PROCEDURES

- ❖ Direct electronic submissions
- ❖ Downloading from other GL servers
- ❖ Digitization of paper documents
- ❖ Exchange with other labs (Annual reports)
- ❖ Web Submission options:
  - Bibliographic Notice Input/Update
  - Fulltext document Transfer or Link (TeX, Word, PDF, HTML)
  - Revised version Transfer
  - Alert an e-mail distribution list
  - Forward to Printshop and Mail Office
  - Ask for approval (internal & scientific notes)

# ROLE OF SIGLE

- ✓ **SIGLE** is a bibliographic DB covering European GL in pure & applied natural sciences, technology, economics, social sciences, and humanities.
- ✓ It is a cooperative project of European Association for Grey Literature Exploitation (**EAGLE**)
- ✓ It provides an interdisciplinary reference service of GL
- ✓ Each year approximately 45,000 documents are added.
- ✓ Each member is represented by a national center, which is responsible for collecting GL.
- ✓ At present there are 15 EAGLE centers in European countries.

# ELECTRONIC ENVIRONMENT

- Web and other digital technologies are changing – collection development
- Web-based systems are becoming available for accepting deposits of papers.
- Make institutions easier to discover, manage & preserve.
- Possible to share information globally by compliance with a standard metadata harvesting protocol.
- Julia Gelfand pointed out that science policy sites, scientific protocols, and scientific journalism are examples of GL available on the Web,

# INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES

IRs - collecting, managing, disseminating and preserving scholarly works created in digital form by faculty and students in individual universities and colleges.

Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition examined strategic roles IR play and outlined the viability and long-term impact.

Crow asserts that IR is a natural extension of an academic institution's role as a generator of primary research and lists the four essential characteristics:

- 1. Institutionally defined*
- 2. Scholarly content*
- 3. Cumulative and perpetual and*
- 4. Interoperability and open access.*

IR represents collaboration among researchers, librarians, information technologists, archivists, records managers, administrators and policymakers.

## IRs contd..

Implementation models to consider and software decisions to make.

Free software - ePrints, its solution is focused on the faculty working paper.

Assumes faculty will directly upload their own prepublication for open access eg. CalTech, DL of the Commons at Indiana University.

Another package is DSpace, makes fewer assumptions regarding type of object is being uploaded.

Berkeley Electronic Press offers a commercial solution and the software is compliant with key standards.

OSU Knowledge Bank would “archive and facilitate access to the many types of digital intellectual content being generated by units of the University.”

UK's JISC established Focus on Access to Institutional Repositories (FAIR) programme – to explore the role & challenges associated with disclosure, sharing, including IPR. JISC funded a one-year project called RoMEO (Rights Metadata for Open archiving), specifically looked at the self-archiving of academic research papers.

## ***NATIONAL AGENCY***

Producers realize they might take the following steps:

- To produce reports to a better bibliographic and physical standard
- To be less restrictive in what they release
- To announce documents through local publicity and by sending copies to appropriate secondary sources
- To send copies to national depositories – both copyright libraries & organizations with a special interest to their work
- To have large print runs

Need for specialized organisations to collect, have bibliographic control and for the provision of document delivery services of GL.

They fall into **three** categories:

1. National centers specializing in GL
2. National or International centers specializing in particular subject fields
3. National centers attempting to develop comprehensive collection of literature (including GL) in all subject fields.

# INDIAN SCENARIO OF E-PRINTS

Few research institutes - IISc, IITs, IIMs, few scientific organizations have started creating their GL in e-form.

Mostly the software used is either e-prints or Dspace.

Information Library and Network of UGC has started collecting the Theses and Dissertations and making them available in e-format.

The Vidyanidhi (Meaning 'Treasure of Knowledge' in Sanskrit) Project is to facilitate the creation, archiving and accessing of doctoral theses.

It is envisioned to evolve as a national repository and a consortium for e-theses through participation and partnership with universities, academic institutions and other stake holders.

It developed a mechanism for depositing and accessing digital thesis from anywhere, anytime.

It is developing software tools and information resources for e-publishing, archiving and accessing academic research.

## **ADVANTAGES**

- ❖ Easy to post, bypass the slow review/publishing process
- ❖ Inexpensive to prepare, available freely without subscription fees
- ❖ Easy to distribute, easy to search
- ❖ Can be rapidly updated, corrected or extended
- ❖ Wider access to research material, higher impact for research material
- ❖ Papers which are freely accessible are cited more readily
- ❖ Safe long-term storage and facilitation of research sharing

## **DRAWBACKS**

**Coordinated national bibliographic control is lacking and access is not optimal**

**Internet publishing is only in its nascent stages**

**Most of GLs are not accessible from National level libraries**

**Lack of an organised “one stop shop” or portal to this knowledge.**

## **LEGAL ISSUES**

- breach of confidentiality and official secrets;**
- personality and image rights;**
- data protection, copyright and database right;**
- moral rights, defamation;**
- obscenity and race hate material;**
- contempt of court; and trade marks and domain name disputes.**

# CONCLUSION

- **GL provides information for making decisions**
- **www.greynet.org has been launched, assisting students, librarians, publishers and researchers in the study, use and production of GL.**
- **The International Journal on Grey Literature (now The Grey Journal) was launched - to serve as a forum for discussions of all aspects of GL**
- **Collection depends on the co-operation and co-ordination**
- **Introducing a common IR portal for GL - by having some policy at national level to deposit the e-copy.**
- **The countries collection can be made available.**
- **Library professional should take initiative to acquire, process, and have bibliographic control and use of all the information sources available in the form of GL.**

THANKS