

Grey Literature in Special Libraries



Access and Use

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Relevance of the study

- Assumption: special libraries have large paper collections of grey literature
- Question: how accessible is it?
- My experiences
 - Academic departmental library
 - NOAA library

Special Libraries

- 16 Librarians

- 13 Organizations
 - 4 Government Libraries
 - 4 Corporate Libraries
 - 5 Specialized Academic Libraries

- Libraries located in Texas, Michigan and Washington

Interviews

- Interview questions covered
 - Types & amount of GL in library
 - Number of GL users
 - Most used types or collections of GL
 - Access via catalog
 - Borrowing & inter-library loan

Results

- 0 - 90% of special library collections are grey literature
 - Larger GL collection in academic & government libraries
- 0 - 95% of special library patrons using grey literature
 - More used in academic & government libraries
- Reports, conference proceedings & newsletters most used types of GL

Conclusions

- Special Libraries contain varying but often large amounts of GL
- Access is problematic
- Librarian knowledge of collection is key

Recommendations

- Cataloging
 - Especially for important collections
- Repositories!

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