

# Lessons in grey literature: Applying study results to library practice

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## Background

- The authors work with GL in their libraries and study its discoverability and preservation as well as faculty habits and perceptions
- The authors note creation of GL in many formats across a broad range of disciplines
- Faculty use GL to supplement textbooks, communicate with community partners, and in other nontraditional settings
- Academic libraries could expand their roles in fostering these activities

## Our previous research

- [Paper 1](#): Survey of 100+ articles indexes and 100+ institutional repositories (IRs) found GL in most resources but nearly all lacked comprehensive inclusion or adequate methods to limit to GL. Overall searching in the IRs rudimentary at best.
- [Paper 2](#): An online survey of faculty members in a wide variety of disciplines revealed that they are creating, using, and citing many types of GL. Faculty discover it most often via Google Scholar and professional contacts and the most-used types were conference papers, theses and dissertations, and technical reports
- [Paper 3](#): Interviews with faculty members in numerous subject areas found that in addition to using GL, many created it, often for a lay audience. Searching for GL was a particular challenge.



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- Leverage Institutional Repositories (IRs) as place to
  - Deposit GL
  - Archive GL
  - Locate GL
  - Enhance web stability of GL



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- Promote use in teaching and access via course pages
- *“On the teaching-side, I think grey literature, oftentimes, is just way more accessible than peer-reviewed”*



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- Advocate for systematic and thorough inclusion in more databases



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- Develop relationships with others holding GL



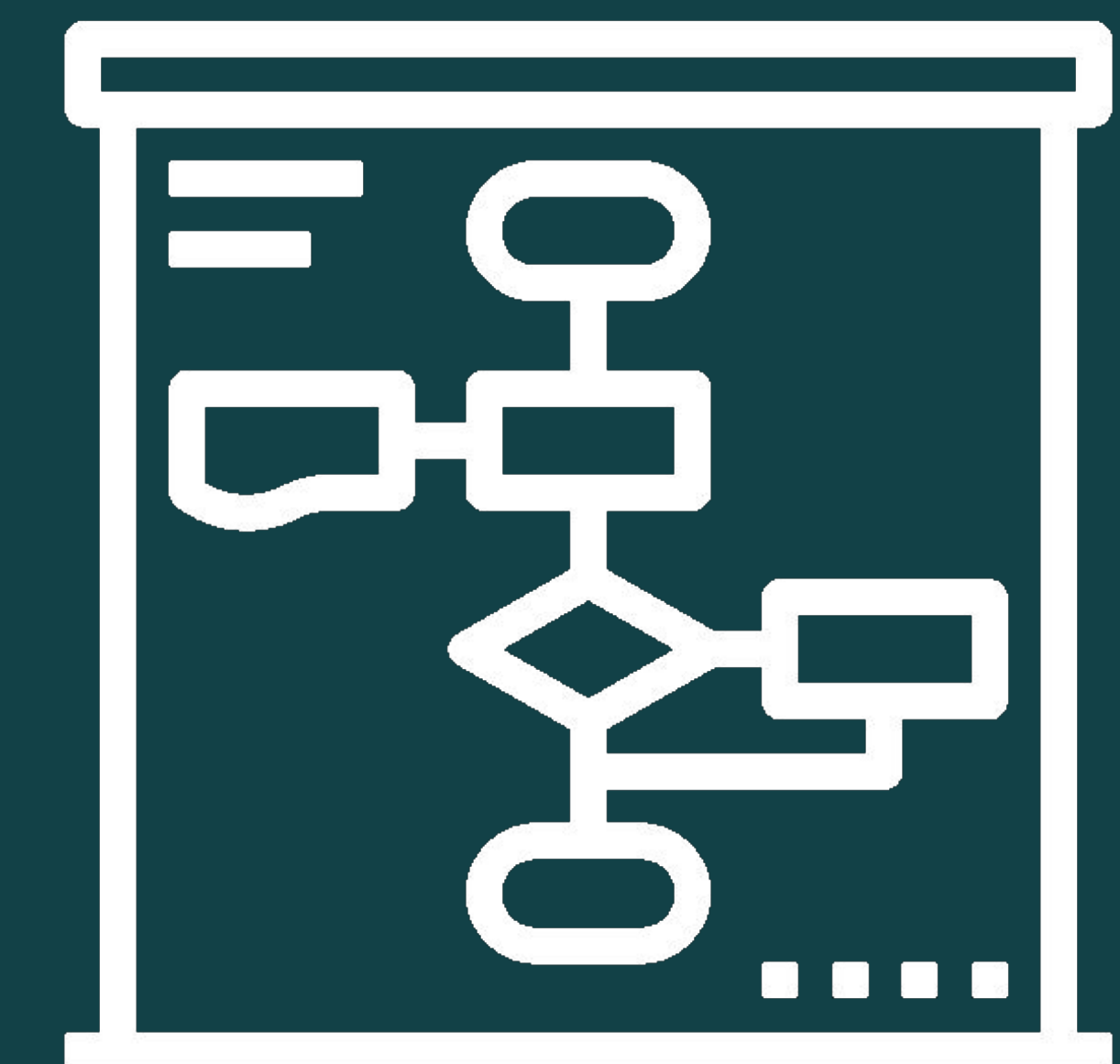
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- Increase awareness of stable locations to store GL such as subject repositories and groups like World Bank



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- Thoughtfully and purposefully emphasize more and new voices
  - Include international works as well as those from indigenous populations.



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- Raise awareness about GL for systematic reviews and strategies for locating it