

Grey is the New Black: How to Keep up with Grey Literature in the Academic Library

Aleksandra Blake, MLIS, Subject Specialist

Definition

"Information produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in electronic and print formats not controlled by commercial publishing i.e. where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body." —*ICGL Luxembourg definition, 1997. Expanded in New York, 2004.*



Why keep current?

- Helps monitor changes in your field
- Locate experts
- Rapid publication turnout
- Both industry and government focus
- Up-to-date with current affairs
- Generated by all levels of government
- Includes unpublished research

Evaluation

- Authority
- Accuracy
- Coverage
- Date
- Objectivity
- Significance



Examples of Repositories

- The New York Academy of Medicine
- Open Grey
- The Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR)
- World Wide Science.org
- Grey Matters (Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health)
- Registry of Open Access Repositories
- Council of European Social Science Data Archives
- ScholarlyCommons
- University of Toronto Research Repository
- GreyNet International
- Policy Horizons Canada

Challenges

- Scope
- Focus
- Spelling (gray OR grey)
- Not included in indexes
- Web longevity
- Audience
- Format



How to find it?

Examples of Databases

- Dissertations and Theses Global
- IEEE Xplore Digital Library (narrow down to "conference publications")
- CURVE (Carleton University Repository Virtual Environment)
- Government Information (use Carleton's Google custom search engine)
- Business Source Complete (select publication type "Grey literature", also search market reports and company information)
- WorldCat (covers resources outside of Carleton's collection)
- Scopus (worldwide coverage available of scientific, technical, medical and social sciences literature)
- CIAO Columbia International Affairs Online (includes working papers, occasional papers, policy briefs, conferences proceedings)

How to stay up to date?

Social media



Monitor changes to webpages



RSS feeds



Locate key authors

- Academic networking
- Listserve
- Blogging (BlogSearchingEngine.org)
- Podcast searching
- Specialized directories

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