How to Keep up with Grey Literature in the Academic Library

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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.

Challenges

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

Examples of Repositories
- The New York Academy of Medicine
- Open Grey
- The Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR)
- WorldWideScience.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

Examples of Databases
- 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 (uses resources outside of Carleton’s collection)
- Scopus (worldwide coverage available of scientific, technical, medical and social sciences literature)
- OCM: Columbia International Affairs Online (includes working papers, occasional papers, policy briefs, conference proceedings)

Evaluation

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

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Includes unpublished research

How to find it?

Observations and Theses Global
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How to stay up to date?

Social media
- Google Alerts
- RSS feeds
- Monitor changes to webpages

Locate key authors
- Academic networking
- Listserves
- Blogging
- BloggingEngine.org
- Podcast searching
- Specialized directories

References