

Grey Literature Session, Fall 2004

What is Grey Literature?

Publications are non-conventional, fugitive, and sometimes ephemeral.

May include, but are not limited to the following types of materials:

- reports (pre-prints, preliminary progress and advanced reports, technical reports, statistical reports, memoranda, state-of-the art reports, market research reports, etc.)
- theses and dissertations
- conference proceedings
- technical specifications and standards
- grant proposals
- non-commercial translations
- agency or association newsletters
- bibliographies
- technical and commercial documentation
- official documents not published commercially (primarily government reports and documents)

In other words, grey literature can be seen as information resources that are not always easily available or formally published.

Why is Grey Literature Important in Public Health?

Grey literature can often be the first and only source of information on a public health or health policy topic.

Grey publications may contain comprehensive, concrete, and up-to-date information on research findings.

While a formal publication may follow later, in many cases these papers are never made publicly available.

PORTALS & GRANDPARENTS of Grey Literature

NYAM (NY Academy of Medicine) Grey Literature – <http://www.nyam.org/library/greylit/>

Grey literature catalogs and list of links to publications pages of many of the organizations and agencies producing grey literature in the fields of Health Policy and Public Health. Sources include, among others: Urban Institute, Commonwealth Fund, Center for Studying Health System Change, US General Accounting Office, National Academy Press, AHRQ.

See <http://www.nyam.org/library/greylit/greylitorgs.shtml> for a list of organizations producing grey literature

NICHSR (National Information Center on Health Services Research & Health Care Technology) – <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/nichsr.html>

Established by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to improve "...the collection, storage, analysis, retrieval, and dissemination of information on health services research, clinical practice guidelines, and on health care technology, including the assessment of such technology."

Of particular public health interest:

- **Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce** – <http://phpartners.org/>
Provides a gateway to aid the public health workforce with timely, convenient access to information resources to aid them in improving the health of the American public.

MEDLINEplus – <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>

NLM's consumer health information service. Provides online access to information on health topics, drug information, medical dictionaries, directories, and other information.

National Academies Press (NAP) – <http://www.nap.edu/>

NAP publishes reports issued by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Research Council, as well as over 200 books a year on a wide range of topics in science and health policy.

GrayLIT – <http://www.osti.gov/graylit/>

The GrayLIT Network makes the gray literature of U.S. Federal Agencies easily accessible over the Internet. It taps into the search engines of distributed gray literature collections, enabling the user to find information without first having to know the sponsoring agency.

Government Printing Office (GPO) Access – <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html>

GPO produces, procures, and disseminates printed and electronic publications of the Congress as well as the executive departments and establishments of the Federal Government.

OTHER GREY LITERATURE SOURCES

Dissertations & Theses

- Dissertation Abstracts (UW database)
- UW Libraries Catalog – <http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/history/diss.html>
- Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) – <http://www.theses.org/>

Conference Proceedings

- NLM Gateway – <http://gateway.nlm.nih.gov/gw/Cmd>
- UW Library catalog: search "Public Health Congresses" in Medical Subject Heading mode – <http://catalog.lib.washington.edu/search/j?SEARCH=Public+Health+Congresses>
- Google – <http://www.google.com>

Bibliographies

- NLM bibliographies – <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/resources.html>

Technical & Commercial Documentation

- National Technical Information Service (NTIS) – <http://www.ntis.gov/>
- NTIS through UW CSA database – http://mdl.csa.com/htbin/ids63/procskel.cgi?fn=f_quick.html&cat=ntis&ctx=/wais/idstmp/ctxAAAkfa4QH

Other Government Publication Sources

- Gov't publications page in UW libraries – <http://www.lib.washington.edu/govpubs/>
- UW Gov't & Law page – <http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/GovLaw/>
- Catalog of Government Publications – <http://www.marcive.com/webdocs/webdocs.dll>

Newsletters

HPAP (Health Policy Analysis Program) publications:

- Vital Signs – http://depts.washington.edu/hpap/vital_signs/vital_signs.html
- Pulse Report – http://depts.washington.edu/hpap/vital_signs/pulse_indicators.html
An ongoing review of the performance of Washington's health care system published every 2-3 years.
- Northwest Public Health – <http://healthlinks.washington.edu/nwcp/hph/>
Biannual publication from UW School of Public Health & Community Medicine.

Misc Resources

GreyNet – <http://www.greynet.org/pages/1/index.htm>

Supports a grey literature listserv.