



The New York
Academy of Medicine

At the heart of urban health since 1847

Locating Grey Literature at the New York Academy of Medicine Library

Based on an original presentation by
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What is Grey Literature?

Material not published through regular publication or distribution channels

Not books or journals, not promoted the way commercial material is

Comes in the form of reports, background papers, white papers, issue briefs, fact sheets etc.

Sometimes called grey because it does not go through the same kind of peer review process that journal articles do.

What is Grey Literature? Cont'd.

Exists in other areas besides public health, health care, for example:

Sciences in general; physics; energy; urban planning; tsunami digital library

International Grey Literature Conference

Why is Grey Literature Important?

Supplements information from journal articles and books

Often provides population based information such as statistics

Quick turn-around time for publication, especially for the web

Free; sometimes a hard copy available from the publisher; now often free on the web

Why is Grey Literature Important? cont'd

- **Searching grey literature guards against publication bias that occurs because authors are more likely to submit, and editors accept, positive results over negative or inconclusive results for publication.**
- **A related term, "the file drawer problem," refers to the tendency for negative or inconclusive results to remain unpublished by their authors which may show up as Grey Literature.**
- **Therefore, literature searching should include both peer-reviewed and grey literature.**

Types of Publishers

Foundations, such as:

Kaiser Family Foundation, Commonwealth Fund, Annie E. Casey Foundation

Think-tanks, such as:

RAND Corp., King's Fund

Advocacy organizations, such as:

AARP, American Lung Assoc.

Governmental agencies, such as:

AHRQ, CMS, CDC, state and local governments

NYAM's Grey Literature Effort

Conference in 1998

First report published in 1999; now published every other month

Began as service to the Academy research staff

Focus: research areas of interest to the Academy staff, health and science policy, public health, health services research, healthcare for minorities and underserved

NYAM's Grey Literature Effort cont'd

Reports are no longer printed in full for NYAM's collection (space issues)

Reports are cataloged into NYAM's online catalog and OCLC

Grey Literature Report is published every other month electronically

Subscribers; nearly 900, both domestic and international

NYAM's Grey Literature Effort cont'd

Locating grey literature publishers using:

current awareness sites, such as KFF, AHL, iHealthBeat, serendipitous reading, i.e. NYT

Locating grey literature using:

publishers' websites, RSS feeds pushed by publishers, Website Watcher, serendipitous reading

Efforts now to look at Africa for grey literature

Grey Literature from the Evidence Database on Aging Care (EDAC)

- The search box on the EDAC page <http://www.searchedac.org/search.php> searches the grey literature items in the library catalog.
- It is a preset search only for grey literature.
- It is a keyword relevancy search.
- The results are items in the library catalog.

How to Locate Grey Literature at the NYAM Library

Grey literature website at:

http://www.nyam.org/library/pages/grey_literature_report

or

www.greylit.org

NYAM's online catalog at: www.nyam.org/library/

Searches/Examples of Grey Literature

Comparative effectiveness: 46 results back to 2009

<http://www.kff.org/healthreform/upload/7946.pdf>

Care coordination: 113 results back to 1997

<http://www.ahrq.gov/downloads/pub/evidence/pdf/caregap/caregap.pdf>