An International Journal on
Grey Literature

GreyNet

Contents

'Digital Transformation of Grey Resources'

Data from "Exploring Next Generation Grey" including Questionnaire and Results

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Abstract

The GL2021 Conference[1] offered the many and diverse communities of practice in the field of grey literature a unique opportunity to collaborate in addressing and defining the next phase in the digital transformation of grey literature. In preparation for this conference, a panel session on the future of grey literature was planned on the program; and, in advance, an online survey was carried out among GreyNet's own community of practice in the field of grey literature.

Keywords

Grey literature; scientific and technical information; libraries; archives; museums; advocacy

Subject Area

Library and information sciences

Methods Applied

● **Steps**

A selection of five panel members was made among the GreyNet's community of practice representing difference subject areas and fields of interest. Each of the five invited panelists were asked to provide a topic they consider of significant importance for grey literature. The Panel Moderator checked that there were no duplications among the five topics. Once the topics had been decided, each of the five panelists were then asked to submit two questions pertaining to their topic. This then accounted for the 10 questions in the survey. In order to standardize responses to the 10 questions, the choices of response were limited to:
❑ Strongly Agree ❑ Agree ❑ Uncertain ❑ Disagree ❑ Strongly Disagree
Each response to a question allowed for further comment. The online questionnaire was then launched on the SurveyMonkey platform[2].

● **Sampling strategy**

The link to the online survey was made openly accessible via GreyNet's Distribution List (890 recipients) and social media: Facebook[3] (158 friends), LinkedIn[4] (672 members), and Twitter[5] (1201 followers). While the population of the survey was not controlled, it is considered that all of the potential respondents have some level of affiliation with grey literature. Two reminders were sent out before the close of the survey.

Survey Population	Number of Survey Respondents	Percentage of Questions Answered	Average Number of Comments made per Question
Uncontrolled	40	99.97%	8.2

● **Quality Control**

The survey questions were double-checked by the panel members and the panel moderator. There was no specific control carried out on the data acquired from the survey. None of the categories of responses were grouped or otherwise normalized. All of the recorded comments were in line with the questioning, which may allow one to assume that there is no cause to question the validity of the responses.

Dataset Description

File name:	GL2021 Survey Results
Format:	PDF
Size:	308 KB
Creation dates:	*from 2021-06-20 to 2021-09-14*
Language:	English
License:	CC0 Waiver - no rights reserved
Archive name:	DANS EASY Archive
Publication date:	2021-11-22
DOI:	10.17026/dans-xrg-2gf6
URN:	urn:nbn:nl:ui:13-f3-av5w

Potential Reuse of the Data

The results of the survey could be used in a Position Paper, which may include the formal statements presented by the five panellists[6]. The data can also be useful for other researchers and information professionals interested in the development of scientific and technical information in general and grey literature in particular. Its reuse could be helpful in addressing issues dealing with documentary and cultural heritage, digital preservation, citizen science, peer review, as well as legal and policy matters. On a more critical note, the data is limited by the number of respondents to the survey – 40 in total. It remains a fact that the number of respondents does not formally allow for the expression of results in percentages. The data however remains preserved in a national archive[7], which carries the CoreTrustSeal[8] and by way of this data paper demonstrates compliance with FAIR data principles[9].

Linked References

[1] https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVaYIdfpwZoQwAK2Dsqu-wQ

[2] https://www.surveymonkey.com/

[3] https://www.facebook.com/greynetinternational

[4] https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3718857/

[5] https://twitter.com/GreyLitNet

[6] https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL38n__kpNAudqSttKuvNOPU6MAH7IYWMS

[7] https://easy.dans.knaw.nl/ui/datasets/id/easy-dataset:68541

[8] https://www.coretrustseal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/DANS-Electronic-Archiving-SYstem-EASY-.pdf

[9] https://www.force11.org/group/fairgroup/fairprinciples

Appendix: Exploring Next Generation Grey – Panel Survey Results

Q1

Grey literature is part of the everyday working routine of librarians and information professionals operating in non-academic institutions, for example museums, archives and public libraries.

- Answered: 39
- Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	41.03% 16
Agree	41.03% 16
Neither agree nor disagree	5.13% 2
Disagree	10.26% 4
Strongly disagree	2.56% 1

Total Respondents: 39

Q2

**In academic institutions, the affirmation of open science and open access principles significantly
favor the production, publication, and retrieval of grey literature.**

- Answered: 39
- Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	28.21% 11
Agree	38.46% 15
Neither agree nor disagree	20.51% 8
Disagree	7.69% 3
Strongly disagree	5.13% 2

Total Respondents: 39

Appendix: Exploring Next Generation Grey – Panel Survey Results

Q3

It will be difficult to find material in the library, whose process and handling is predominantly
dependent on library resources.

- Answered: 38
- Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES⁻	RESPONSES⁻
⁻ Strongly agree	18.42% 7
⁻ Agree	28.95% 11
⁻ Neither agree nor disagree	36.84% 14
⁻ Disagree	10.53% 4
⁻ Strongly disagree	5.26% 2
Total Respondents: 38	

Q4

Small prints are an important part of each library and represents a fund of national cultural heritage.

- Answered: 38
- Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES⁻	RESPONSES⁻
⁻ Strongly Agree	26.32% 10
⁻ Agree	47.37% 18
⁻ Neither agree nor disagree	23.68% 9
⁻ Disagree	0.00% 0
⁻ Strongly Disagree	2.63% 1
Total Respondents: 38	

Appendix: Exploring Next Generation Grey – Panel Survey Results

Q5

The majority of future academic, scientific, and technical literature will be grey.

- Answered: 39
- Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	17.95% 7
Agree	20.51% 8
Neither agree nor disagree	28.21% 11
Disagree	23.08% 9
Strongly disagree	10.26% 4
Total Respondents: 39	

Q6

The management of future grey and other literature, information, and data will converge.

- Answered: 39
- Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	17.95% 7
Agree	56.41% 22
Neither agree nor disagree	20.51% 8
Disagree	7.69% 3
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 39	

Appendix: Exploring Next Generation Grey – Panel Survey Results

Q7

Incentives for academics to participate in research published as grey literature must be improved.

- Answered: 39
- Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES⁻	RESPONSES⁻
⁻ Strongly agree	61.54% 24
⁻ Agree	17.95% 7
⁻ Neither agree nor disagree	15.38% 6
⁻ Disagree	2.56% 1
⁻ Strongly disagree	2.56% 1
Total Respondents: 39	

Q8

**Peer-review processes are the most important method for raising the profile of research published
as grey literature.**

- Answered: 39
- Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES⁻	RESPONSES⁻
⁻ Strongly agree	35.90% 14
⁻ Agree	28.21% 11
⁻ Neither agree nor disagree	25.64% 10
⁻ Disagree	7.69% 3
⁻ Strongly disagree	7.69% 3
Total Respondents: 39	

Appendix: Exploring Next Generation Grey – Panel Survey Results

Q9

While often country specific, the legal and policy infrastructure is adequate in terms of funding,
legal understandings, and policy protocols that support grey literature.

- Answered: 39
- Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	0.00% 0
Agree	15.38% 6
Neither agree nor disagree	33.33% 13
Disagree	43.59% 17
Strongly disagree	7.69% 3
Total Respondents: 39	

Q10

The grey literature community should organize or develop an advocacy group that would actively
promote its concerns to policy and decision makers.

- Answered: 40
- Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	47.50% 19
Agree	37.50% 15
Neither agree nor disagree	12.50% 5
Disagree	2.50% 1
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 40	

Twenty-Fourth International Conference on Grey Literature

Publishing Grey Literature in the Digital Century

National Library of Medicine
Lister Hill Auditorium, 5-6 December 2022
Bethesda, Maryland USA

Conference Announcement

For over three decades, authors and researchers in the field of information have addressed the many challenges in publishing grey literature. In so doing, they have confronted core issues. Is grey literature published literature, and if so, how is it published; how does it differ from commercially published literature; and foremost how can it stay abreast with the technological developments that will ensure its access, uses, and preservation for scholarly research and citizen science well into the 21st Century.

The response to such questions lies in the collaboration and integrated roles of publishing bodies and their affiliate libraries and information centers, where grey literature is produced and processed. While currentness is inherent to grey literature in that it is situated at the cutting edge of research, and while it is comprehensive in that it captures the corpus of both the research process and issuing results, grey literature publishing often lacks the financial resources and technical expertise afforded commercial publishers.

Due consideration should be given to shared workflows grounded in an understanding and commitment that production and publication constitute two integral parts in publishing today's digital grey literature. GL2022 will address the components of such shared workflows embedded in FAIR data principles and implemented by diverse communities of practice in this our digital Century.

Related Conference Topics

e-Publishing – *AV-Portals, Blogs, Data Archives, Repositories, etc.* **Digital Publications** – *Clinical Trials, ETDs, Data Papers, Preprints, etc.* **Research and Metadata** – *Datasets, Databases, PIDS, DOI, ORCiD, ROR-ID, etc.* **Stakeholders and Policies** – *Content and Service Providers, Authors and Researchers, OA, CC, FAIR, etc.* **Communities of Practice** – *Agriculture, Biomedicine, Economics, Fisheries, Physics, Library and Information, etc.*

GL2022 Conference Dateline

Mar. 31	April 11	April 20	April 25	Nov. 1st	Nov.15	Dec. 5-6
Call for Papers Closes	Program Committee Meeting	Author and Session Notifications	Call for Posters Opens	Early Registration Closes	Conference Papers and Posters Due	GL2022 Conference Convenes

On behalf of *GreyNet* and the International Conference Series on Grey Literature, 1992–2022

ONLINE SURVEY

Digital Publishing and Grey Literature: On the War in Ukraine 2022

This study aims to build a better understanding of digital publishing and grey literature, whereby the War in Ukraine 2022 serves as a use case. Grey Literature is produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in diverse digital formats that are not controlled by commercial publishing. Survey respondents have the opportunity to answer 10 questions that take about 3 minutes to complete.

PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

Confidentiality
The results will not be publicly shared, will be de-identified, and published only in aggregate. Your identity will be kept confidential to the extent provided by law and your identity will not be revealed. All results and any related publications from this study will be anonymous.

Risks and benefits
There are no anticipated risks, nor are there any compensation or other direct benefits to you as a participant in this survey. This study may help you contribute to the aggregation of digital publishing and grey literature on the War in Ukraine 2022. This study can help to improve the understanding digital publishing and grey literature through a better understanding of how you and your organization publish on the War in Ukraine 2022.

Voluntary nature and withdrawal
You can withdraw your consent to participate at any time without consequence. You are free to withdraw from this study at any time without penalty and free to decline to answer particular questions. If you have questions about this research protocol, please contact **info@greynet.org**.

Survey Questions

1. Do you consent to take part in this study on the terms described above in the Participant Consent Form?
2. What is your organization's name and (if applicable) the acronym?
3. What is the URL of your organization's homepage?
4. Has your organization published one or more documents on the 2022 War in Ukraine?
5. If so, please provide a hyperlink or DOI to one of the publications?
6. What document type best describes the publication? (e.g., Blog, Podcast, Report, Policy Document, etc.)
7. Does the publication contain research data?
8. Does the publication in whole or part consist of audio-visual material?
9. Are you an author, co-author, or editor of the publication?
10. Please enter your name and/or ORCiD along with your email address?

**To complete the survey, please proceed to
https://nl.surveymonkey.com/r/6XCP5QR**

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