Fishing for Grey Literature:

WHAT ARE WE CATCHING IN CADTH'S RAPID RESPONSE SERVICE?

CHLA/ABSC 2017
Edmonton, AB
May 19th, 2017

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CADTH adheres to the authorship and contribution guidelines established by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).

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Author Conflicts of Interest

None of the authors have any conflicts of interest.

Presentation Outline

- Grey Literature Searching
- The CADTH Rapid Response Service
- Search Process for Rapid Response
- Rapid Response Checklist
- Research Question
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Future Directions
- Limitations
- Conclusion

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Grey Literature Searching

- **Time**
- **Uncertainty**
- **FOMO**

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CADTH Rapid Response Service

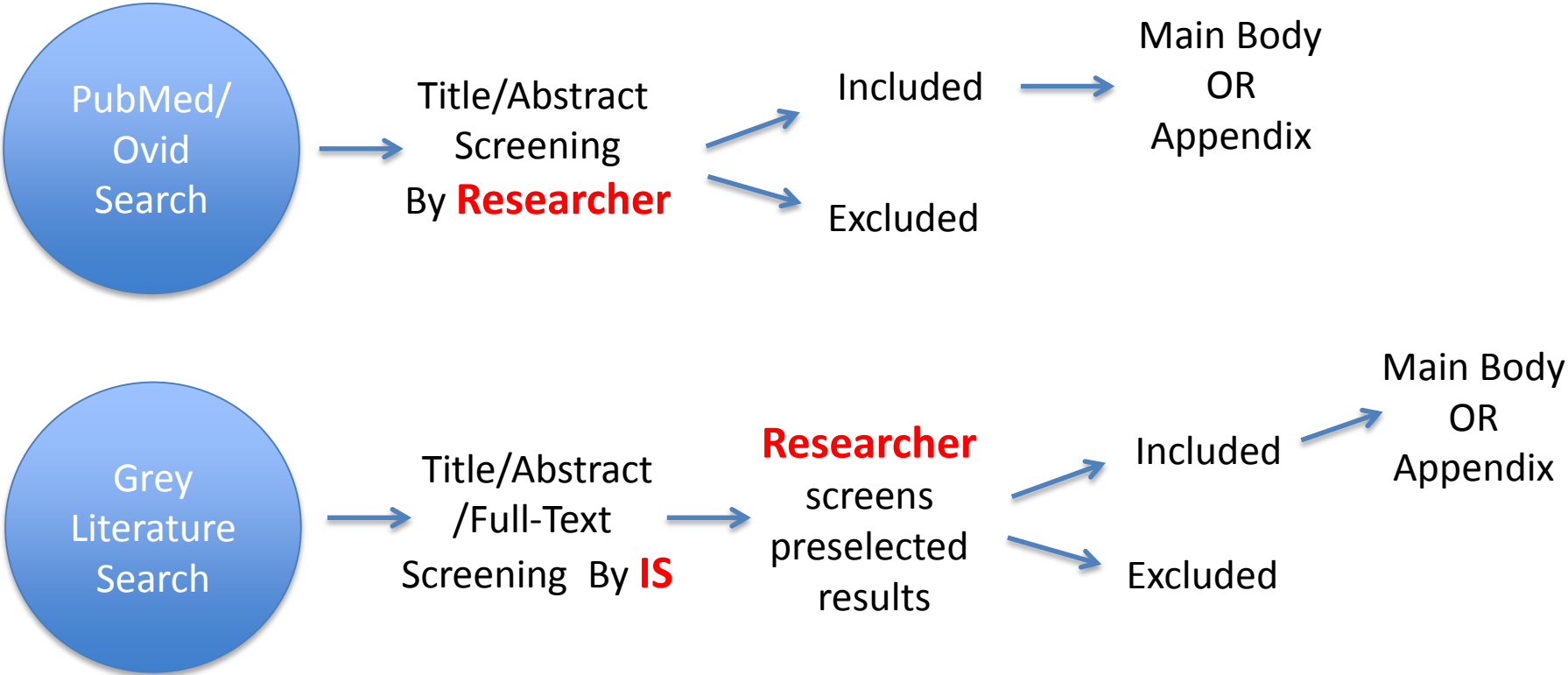| Types of Rapid Response Reports |
|---|
| Rapid Health Technology Assessment |
| Systematic Review & Meta-Analysis |
| Peer-Reviewed Summary with Critical Appraisal |
| Summary with Critical Appraisal |
| Summary of Abstracts (SA) |
| Reference List (RL) |

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Search Process

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Rapid Response Checklist

Grey Literature Databases

Websites of Relevant Organizations

Internet Search Engine

Trial Databases/ Consultation with Experts

Systematic Reviews

METHODOLOGY   Open Access

Searching and synthesising 'grey literature' and 'grey information' in public health: critical reflections on three case studies

Jean Adams[1,2,3], Frances C. Hillier-Brown[3,4], Helen J. Moore[3,4], Amelia A. Lake[3,4,5], Vera Araujo-Soares[2,3], Martin White[1,2,3] and Carolyn Summerbell[3,4]

SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

METHODOLOGY   Open Access

Applying systematic review search methods to the grey literature: a case study examining guidelines for school-based breakfast programs in Canada

Katelyn Godin*, Jackie Stapleton, Sharon I. Kirkpatrick, Rhona M. Hanning and Scott T. Leatherdale

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Research Question

The objective of this study was to measure the value of the Rapid Response checklist for finding relevant grey literature documents.
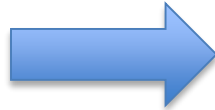
We also wanted to learn…

- What type of grey literature document is most frequently cited?

- Who are the publishers of the cited grey literature documents?

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Methods

73 CADTH summary of abstracts & reference lists

Total number of grey literature documents captured

Total number of grey literature documents cited in appendix and main body

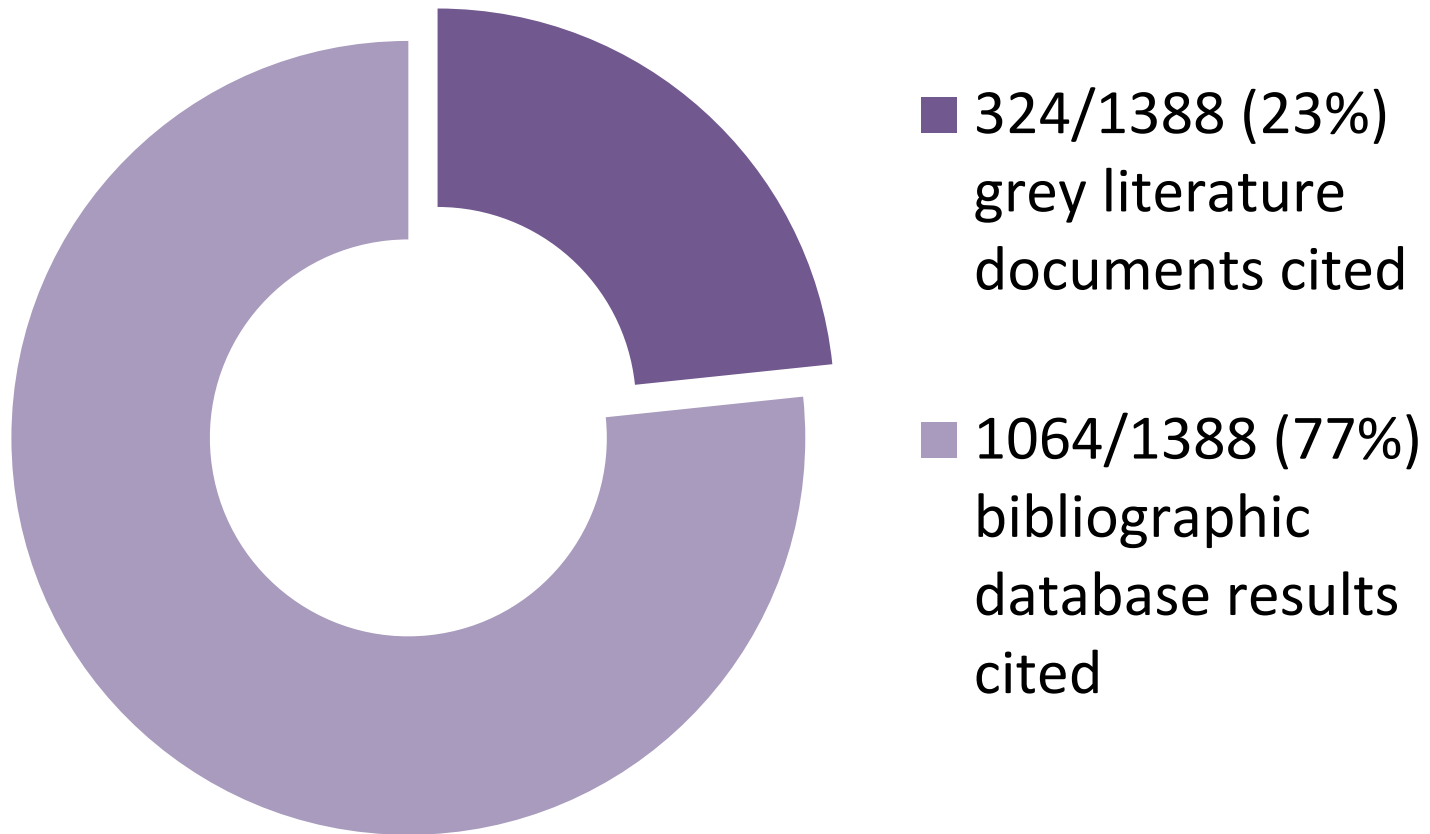Type of grey literature document recorded
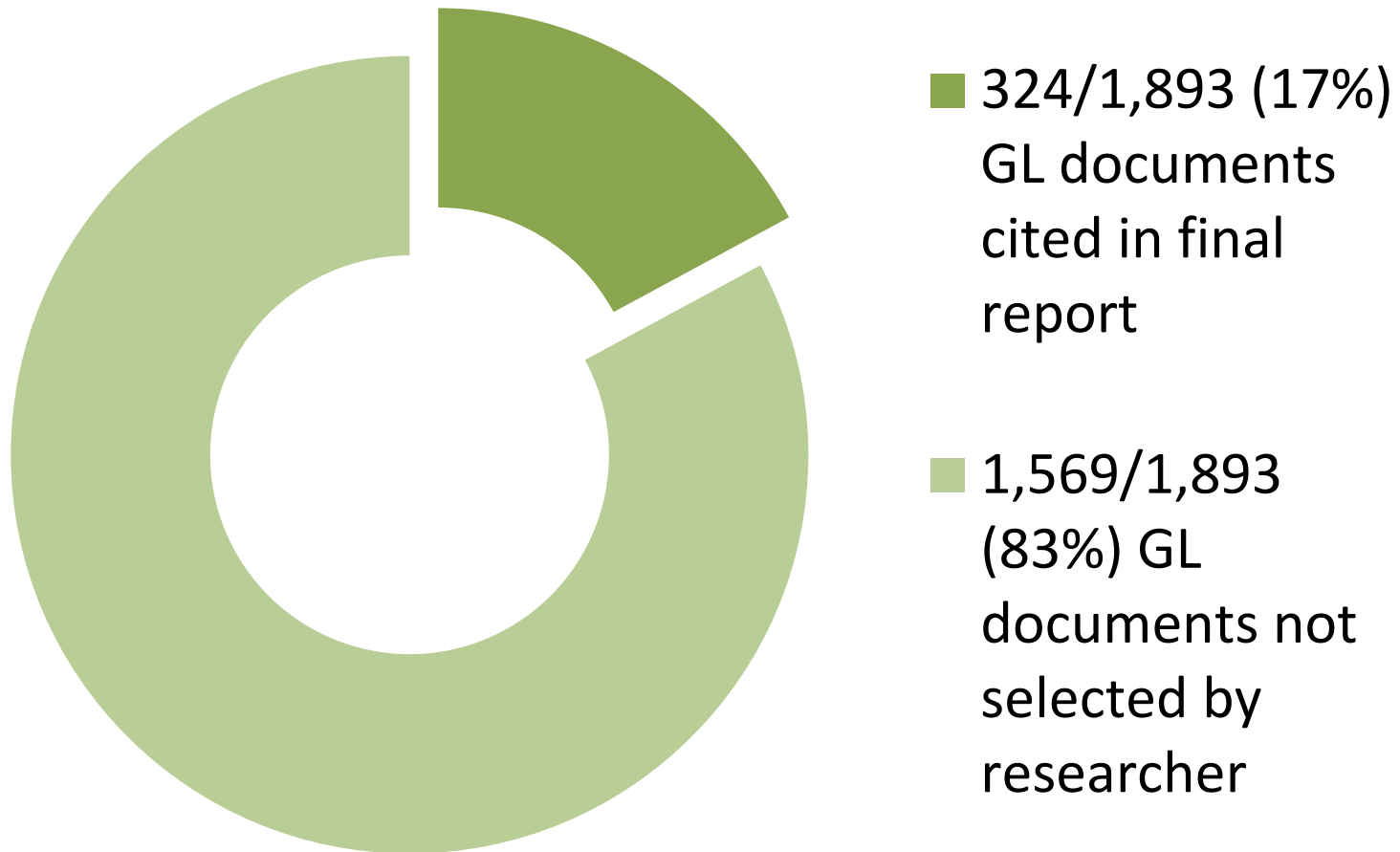
Publishing body recorded

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Results from 73 Reports

1. How much grey literature was cited in total?
2. How much grey literature was cited from the results sent?
3. What types of grey literature documents were most frequently cited?
4. How much cited grey literature came from websites of relevant organizations on our Rapid Response (RR) checklist?

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1. How much grey literature was cited in total?

- 324/1388 (23%) grey literature documents cited

- 1064/1388 (77%) bibliographic database results cited

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2. How much grey literature was cited from the results sent?

- 324/1,893 (17%) GL documents cited in final report

- 1,569/1,893 (83%) GL documents not selected by researcher

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3. What types of grey literature documents were most frequently cited?

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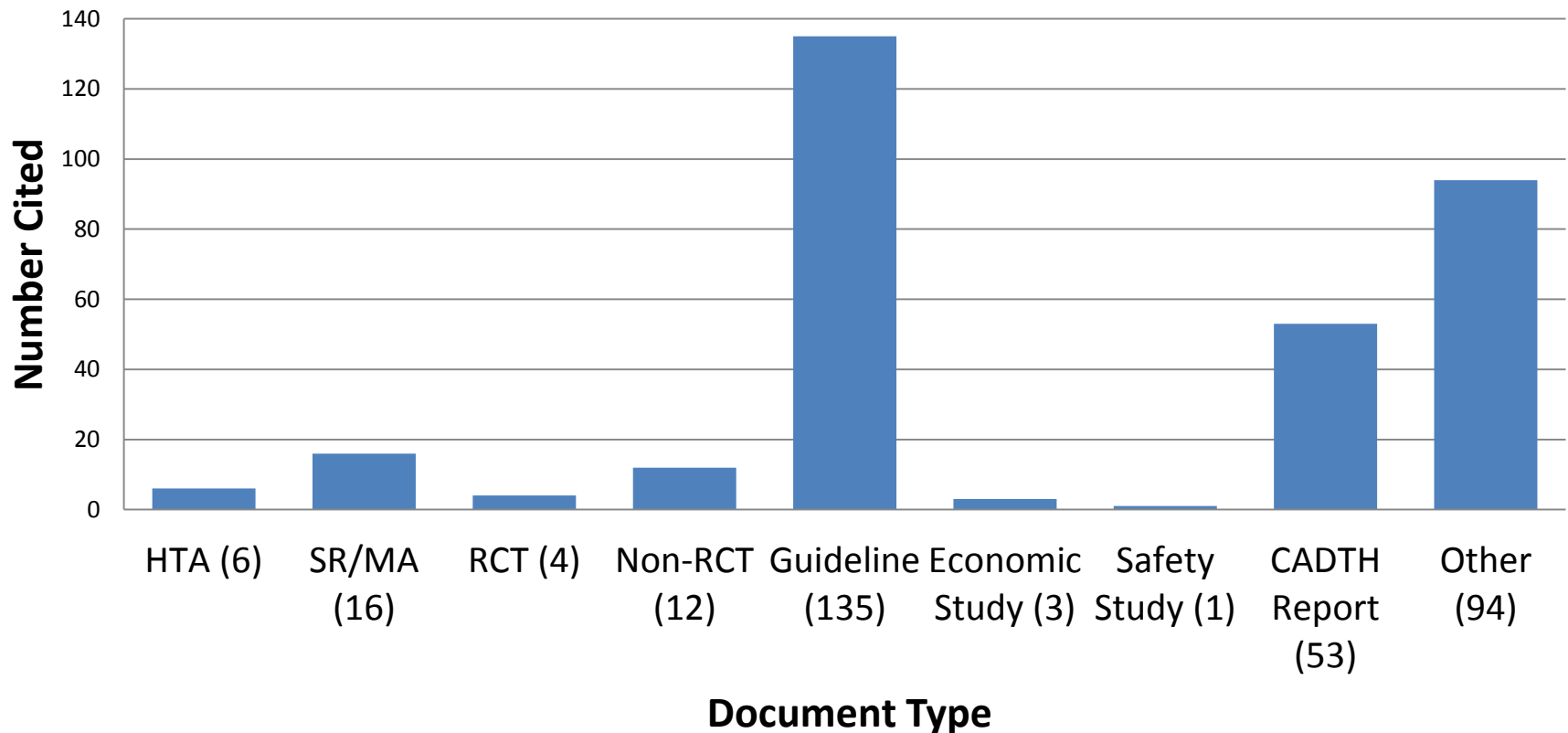# 4. How much cited grey literature came from websites of relevant organizations on our RR checklist?

■ 40% Cited Grey Literature documents from relevant organizations on the RR checklist

■ 60% Cited Grey Literature documents found through Google or Grey Literature Databases

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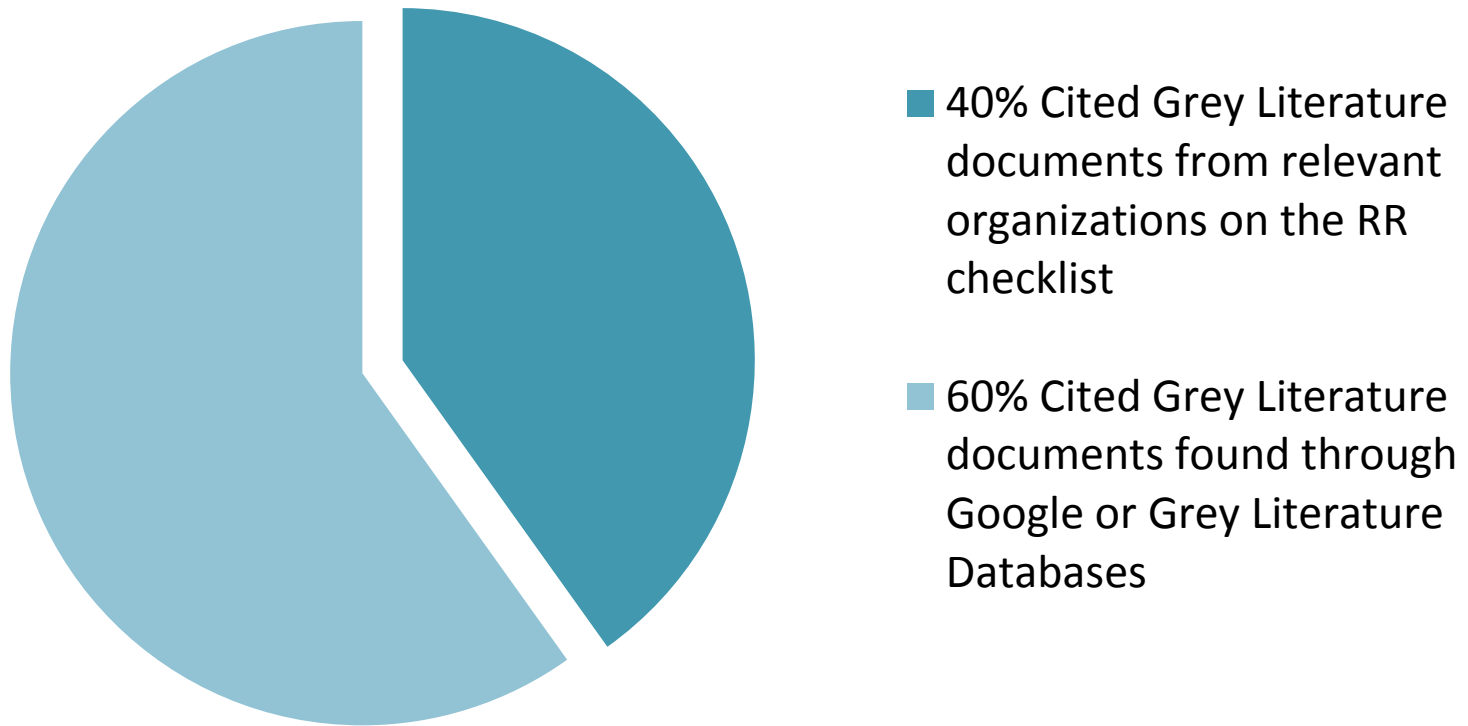
Discussion

Usefulness

- We should be searching for grey literature.
- Focus efforts on finding guidelines through the grey literature search.

Time

- The RR search process is finding relevant grey literature but we may be spending too much time looking.

NOMO FOMO

- Be more selective in what we send researchers. If in (a lot of) doubt, leave out!

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Future Directions

1. Can we rely on the grey literature databases to have up-to-date repositories so we can search fewer individual websites?

2. Are there grey literature documents that the researchers are not citing but using for their own background knowledge?

3. Does additional time spent searching for grey literature result in more being cited?

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Limitations

1. Unless indicated by the searcher, we do not know where the grey literature documents were found.

2. Possibility that some grey literature documents are useful to the researcher but are not cited.

3. Possibility that some cited grey literature documents were found by the researcher.

4. Variation in grey literature selection methods of individual Information Specialists.

5. Sample taken from a specific point in time. Seasonal topics, newsworthy topics, etc.

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Conclusion

- A formalized grey literature search approach is useful for finding relevant grey literature.

- The screening of grey literature by the Information Specialist could be more selective.

- Allow searching of some websites to be optional to allow efforts to be focused on websites of higher relevance.

- Direct more effort to finding guidelines through the grey literature search.

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References

1. Adams J, Hillier-Brown FC, Moore HJ, Lake AA, Araujo-Soares V, White M, et al. Searching and synthesising 'grey literature' and 'grey information' in public health: critical reflections on three case studies. Syst Rev [Internet]. 2016 Sep 29 [cited 2017 May 12];5(1):164. Available from: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5041336

2. Godin K, Stapleton J, Kirkpatrick SI, Hanning RM, Leatherdale ST. Applying systematic review search methods to the grey literature: a case study examining guidelines for school-based breakfast programs in Canada. Syst Rev [Internet]. 2015 Oct 22 [cited 2017 May 12];4:138. Available from: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4619264

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Questions?