

NAHLA Leading Edge II: Searching for Grey Literature



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<https://sites.google.com/a/ualberta.ca/grey-literature>

What is Grey Literature?

- 1997 Luxembourg 3rd International Conference on Grey Literature
- 2004 New York, 6th International Conference on Grey literature in New York City
- 2010 Prague 12th International Conference on Grey literature (proposed)

..."[the] manifold document types produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in print and electronic formats

that are protected by intellectual property rights, of sufficient quality to be collected and preserved by library holdings or institutional repositories,

but not controlled by commercial publishers i.e., where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body."

<http://www.greynet.org/home/aboutgreynet.html>

Grey Literature Synonyms

- Gray literature
- Fugitive literature
- Unpublished
- Non-conventional literature
- Non-traditional publications
- Ephemeral publications

Producers of Grey Literature

- Government departments and agencies (e.g. municipal, provincial, national)
- International agencies, NGOs
- Non-profit organizations
- Academic and research institutes
- Professional associations
- Special interest groups / societies/ foundations
- Libraries, museums, archives
- Businesses and corporations
- Think tanks

Types of Grey Literature

- Conference proceedings, Abstracts, Posters
- Preprints, Netprints, E-Archives
- Institutional Repository
- Newsletters
- Research & Technical reports
- Theses and Dissertations
- Translations
- Census, economic and other statistical/ information sources
- Web 2.0: blogs, Tweets, Facebook, etc.
- Annual or activity reports
- Working papers
- Technical standards
- Clinical practice guidelines
- Patents
- Data and statistics
- Presentations
- Field notes
- Laboratory research books
- Academic courseware
- Lecture notes,
- ...and many more.

<http://www.greynet.org/greysourceindex/documenttypes.html>

Life Cycle - Grey to Not-Grey to Grey again sometimes!

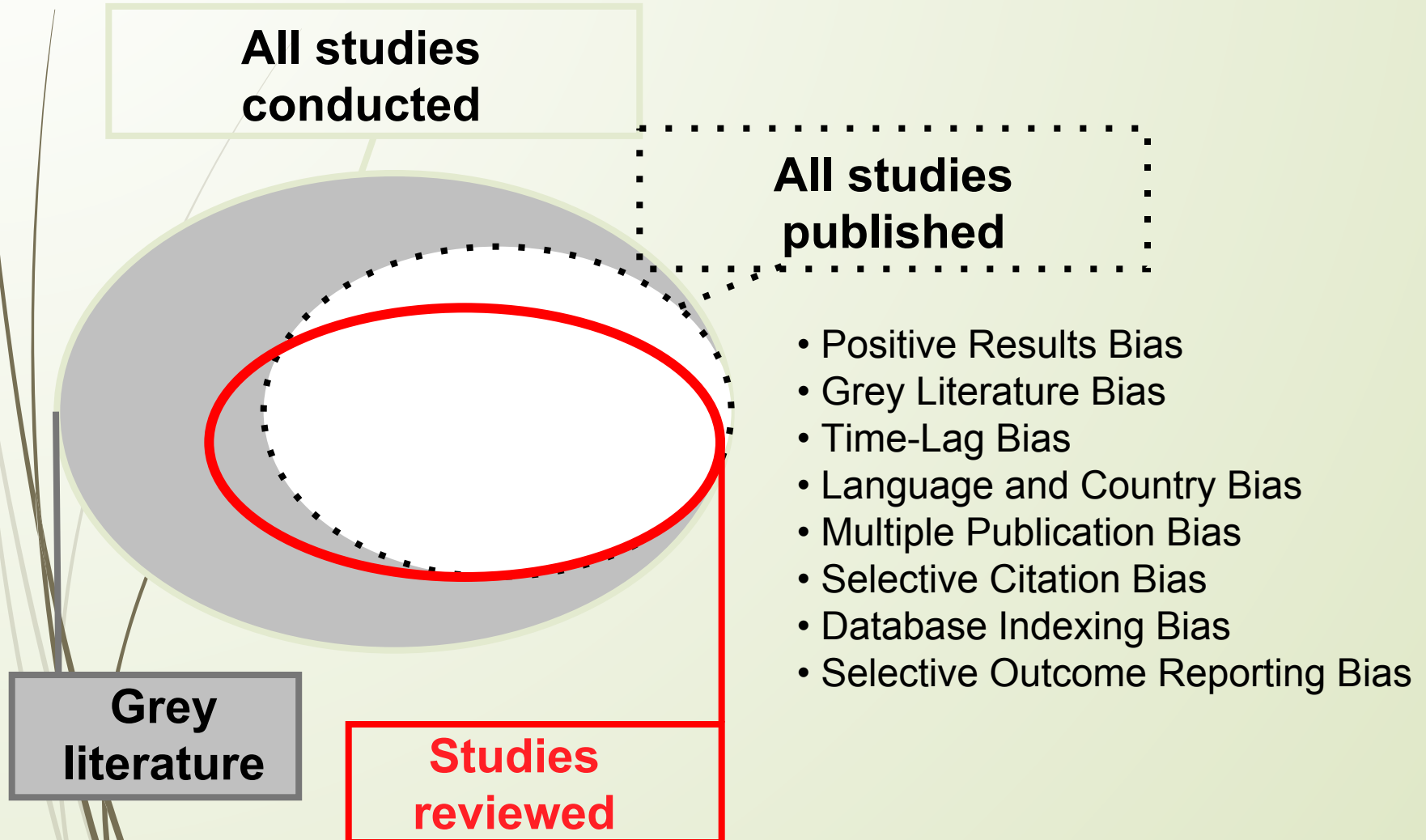
Why Search Grey Literature?

- Access to global literature
- Often free (but sometimes very expensive)
- Currency
- Great coverage of niche/ non-mainstream topics
- More detailed reporting
- Mitigate publication bias

“... published trials tend to be larger and show an overall greater treatment effect than grey trials. This has important implications for reviewers who need to ensure they identify grey trials, in order to minimise the risk of introducing bias into their review.” (*Hopewell S, et al, 2007*)

Publication and Reporting Biases

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Tips & Guides

- CADTH. Grey Matters: a practical tool for evidence-based searching

<https://www.cadth.ca/resources/finding-evidence/grey-matters>

- Grey Matters Light https://www.cadth.ca/media/is/cadth_Handout_greymatters_light_e.pdf

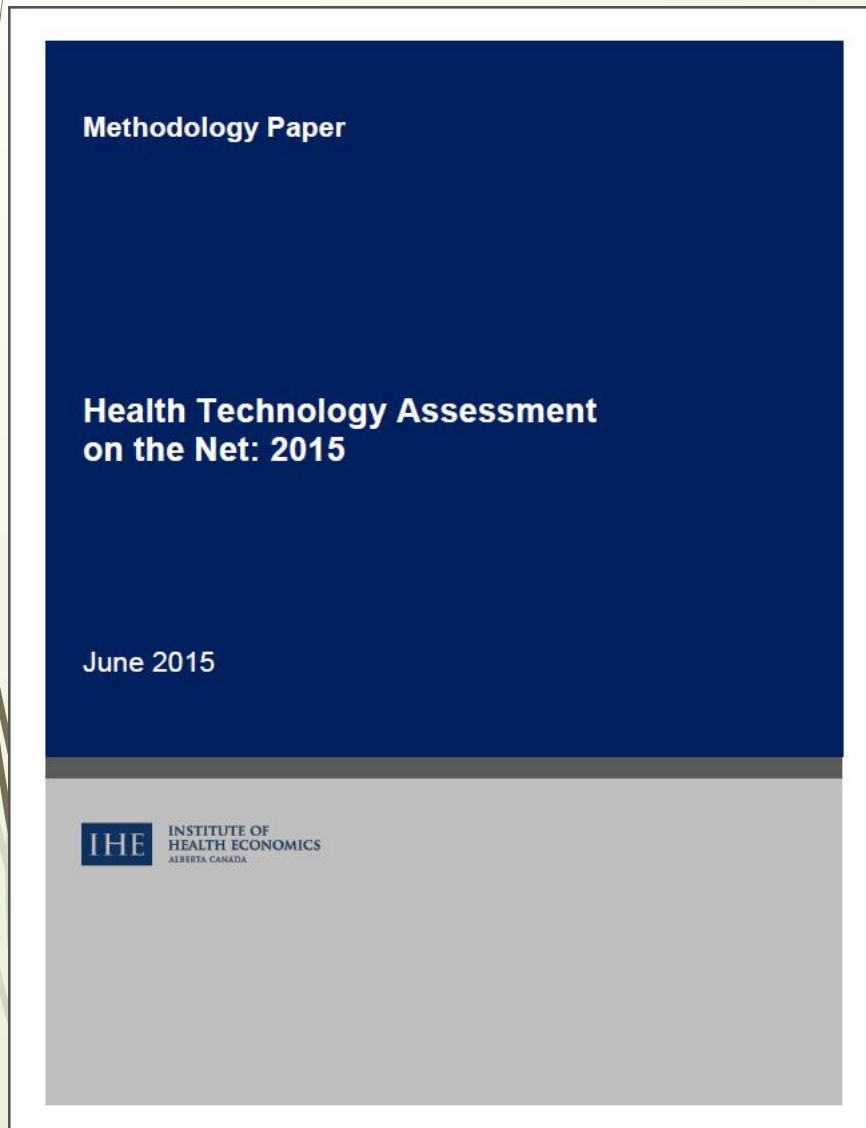
- Subject Resources for Searching for Grey Literature by Dean Giustini, UBC

http://hlwiki.slais.ubc.ca/index.php/Grey_literature

- OPHLA Public Health Grey Literature Sources

<http://www.ophla.ca/pdf/Public%20Health%20Grey%20Literature%20Sources.pdf>

HTA on the Net



- Provides an extensive list of resources that can be used to collect information for a health technology assessment
- http://www.ihe.ca/download/health_technology_assessment_on_the_net_2015.pdf
- 2016 available in May

Preliminary Searches

Google

- add these to your topic- site: .org .ca .gov file: pdf
- limit to last year
- see other options in Advanced Search

Google Scholar

- limit to Title

“Our findings show that GS results contain moderate amounts of grey literature, with the majority found on average at page 80...We recommend that searches of article titles focus on the first 200 to 300 results.”

Haddaway NR, Collins AM, Coughlin D, Kirk S. The Role of Google Scholar in Evidence Reviews and Its Applicability to Grey Literature Searching. PLoS One. 2015 Sep 17;10(9):e0138237. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0138237

Grey Literature Report

- New York Academy of Medicine Library
- Published every 2 months
- Health services research and public health topics

<http://www.greylit.org>

OpenGrey

- System for Information on Grey Literature in Europe (SIGLE)
- Open access to SIGLE bibliographical references of reports and other grey literature (GL) produced in Europe
 - <http://www.opengrey.eu/>

Archiv-It

- Health Sciences Grey Literature Collection (U of A Libraries)

<https://archive-it.org/collections/3346>

Mainstream Databases

- PubMed - bibliography [pt], free full text [sb]
- CINAHL (\$) -abstract, bibliography, dissertation
- Cochrane Library – TRIALS, protocol
- CRD - HTA database, NHS EED, DARE
- EMBASE (\$) - conference paper, proceedings
- Web of Science (\$) – bibliography, meeting abstract
- Scopus (\$) - conference papers, patents

(your topic) AND (meeting OR abstract* OR poster* OR conference* OR proceeding* OR poster* OR congress* OR symposi* OR workshop* OR seminar*)*

Specialized Databases

- Clinical Trial Registries – e.g. ClinicalTrials.gov
- Practice Guideline Sources– e.g. NGC.gov
- Proceedings – e.g. OCLC ProceedingsFirst(\$)
- Research Registries – e.g. BEME
<http://www.bemecollaboration.org/Reviews+in+Progress/>
- Theses – e.g. ProQuest Dissertations and Theses
- Government Information customized Google search.
Carleton University, MacOdrum Library <https://library.carleton.ca/find/government-information>

Library Catalogues

- AMICUS
- WorldCat
- WHO http://www.who.int/library/databases/wholis_tutorial/en/
- British Library
- National Library of Medicine-LocatorPlus
<http://locatorplus.gov/>

Conferences

- Online conference planners, conference reporting notes, synopsis, and presentation
- Industry, vendor, manufacturer, association websites
- E.g. Wait time - CFHI - Taming the Queue
http://www.cfhi-fcass.ca/NewsAndEvents/Events/Taming_of_the_Queue.aspx

Health Policy / System

- Health Systems Evidence

<https://www.healthsystemsevidence.org>

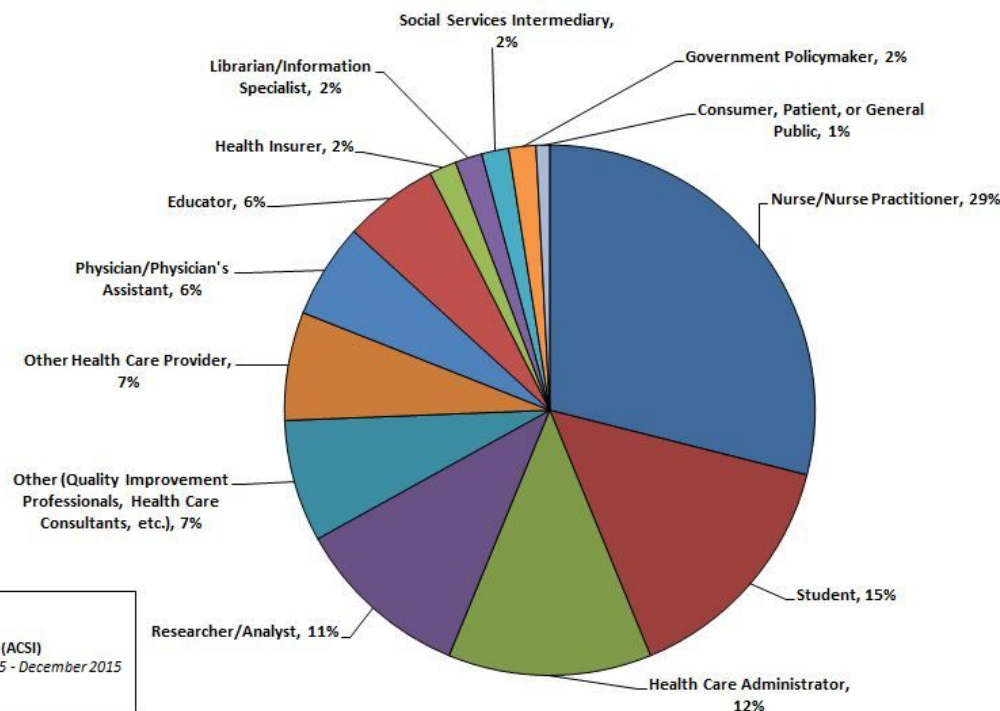
- syntheses of research evidence to inform:
 - governance, financial arrangements, and delivery arrangements within health systems
 - implementation strategies to support change in health systems

AHRQ Innovation Exchange

<https://innovations.ahrq.gov>

- ...to speed the implementation of new and better ways of delivering health care.

Innovations Exchange Users By Role



N = 121
Data Source: American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI)
Based on period January 2015 - December 2015
Updated January 13, 2016

Leading Practices Database

<https://accreditation.ca/leading-practices>

innovative practices from the former Health Council of Canada Health Innovation Portal.

Aggregator: DocuTicker

- “Handpicked selection of 'grey literature' published by government agencies, think tanks, NGOs, research institutes and other public interest groups”

<http://www.docuticker.com>

- Ceased operation in 2016.
- Archive - DocuBase is available: <http://web.docuticker.com/go/docubase/>

Alerts & Awareness Tools

- Limit searches by date range: Google Advanced – last 24h, week, month(s), year;
- E-mail alerts & RSS feeds
 - Set up alerts in databases such as Cochrane, CRD, TRIP, GoogleAlerts
 - RSS feeds: ClinicalTrials.gov, PubMed, Medscape, journals
- Webpage change detection services
 - <https://versionista.com/>
 - <https://visualping.io/>
 - [Page Monitor Chrome extension](#)

Documentation & Reporting

- Do keep track & keep it simple
- Cut-&-paste URL
- Useful (& non-useful) search terms, websites, databases
- Do save the full-text files - they can disappear!!
- Record number of results viewed or used

An Example

Brien SE, Lorenzetti DL, Lewis S, Kennedy J, Ghali WA. Overview of a formal scoping review on health system report cards. *Implementation Science : IS*. 2010;5:2. doi:10.1186/1748-5908-5-2.

Website searching

Once the relevant studies were selected from the literature database search, we carried out a selective search of relevant websites. Through consultation with our stakeholders, and members of the research team and colleagues, we compiled a list of relevant websites to search (Table 2). We attempted to search websites in a systematic manner, allowing for some variation in search strategies in response to varied website structures. For example, most websites provide research and/or publication links which contain a central repository of an organizations reports, research papers, and/or publications. However, other websites have this material scattered throughout, making it more difficult to uncover. Therefore, our first approach to a website was to consult the site map and look for research and/or publication links. For websites without this link, we took a more sporadic approach, checking all the links for relevant material.

Once hand searching a website's links was complete, we used the website's search engine to attempt to uncover additional material. Once again, different types of search engines required different search tactics. For all websites, we searched the terms 'healthcare quality,' 'performance report,' and 'report card'. For websites that were not specifically healthcare-focused, we added the word 'health' to the specific term. We kept a log of the website searches, saving the links to relevant pages and tracking our progress through the websites.

Table 2 List of Organizations included in the targeted website searching

Europe	United States
European Centre for Health Policy	Center for Studying Health System Change
European Centre for Social Welfare and Policy Research	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Health Impact Assessment Database	Health Policy Institute
International Health Policy Library	National Center for Policy Analysis
International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment	RAND Organization
World Health Organization	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Australia	U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
Australia Health and Aging	U.S. Dept HHS National Institutes of Health
Australian Policy Online	U.S. Dept. Veteran Affairs
Centre for Clinical Effectiveness (Monash University)	Canada
Centre for Health Economics (Monash University)	Centre for Health Services and Policy Research
Monash Institute of Health Services Research	The Fraser Institute
United Kingdom	Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences
Centre for Health Economics (University of York)	Manitoba Centre for Health Policy
Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, University of York	
Institute for Public Policy Research	
King's Fund	
National Institute for Clinical Excellence	
Policy Studies Institute	
UK National Health Service	
UK Health and Wellbeing	
UK National Research Register	

Grey Literature: Challenges

- Information overload
- Time and budget constraints
- No standard methodology
- Unstable producers and sources
- Archiving
- Quality: Peer review?
- Poor search engines
- No controlled vocabulary
- Locating full-text
- Documenting and reporting the search
- Citation (date? author?)

GreyNet

- *... “is dedicated to Research, Publication, Open Access, and Education in the field of Grey Literature”*
 - 18th GL conference: Transparency in Grey Literature
 - November 28-29, 2016, New York NY

<http://www.greynet.org>
- **Grey Guide:** common ground for good practices and resources in grey literature

<http://greyguide.isti.cnr.it/>
- **Grey Strategies:** to develop best practice guidelines for producing and managing grey literature in Australia

<http://greylitstrategies.info/>

Exercises

Work in groups of 2 people, try to find grey literature for these topics, or a topic of your choice:

1. A policy maker is looking for latest comprehensive evidence /report for ways to curb sugar consumption at a population/ public health level.
2. Policy frameworks for physician-assisted suicide
3. A nurse would like to gain a better understanding of any strategic response recommendation for the Zika virus. Can you find a good overview of the current development and recommendation?

Bonus Question

You are in a research team conducting a scoping review of application /implementation of six sigma in health settings.

You're confident with the published materials search, and you want to put your newly learned grey literature resources and searching skills to use.

How do you plan and conduct the grey literature search?

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Thanks!

Any Questions?

Links to Resources are at:

<https://sites.google.com/a/ualberta.ca/grey-literature>