Give one or more example of topics for which you are interested in finding grey literature
Searching for grey literature

Robin Parker, WK Kellogg Health Sciences Library
Hannah Steeves, Schulich School of Law
Learning Objectives

● Understand what is meant by grey literature
● Identify sources for grey literature
● Assess results of searches
● Learn at least one new tip for searching!
The Fourth International Conference on Grey Literature (GL '99) in Washington, DC, in October 1999 defined grey literature as follows: "That which is produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in print and electronic formats, but which is not controlled by commercial publishers."

From: http://www.greylit.org/about
"...specialists in the field generally tend to describe grey literature rather than define it."
Examples

- Annual reports
- Blogs and social media
- Conference proceedings and abstracts
- Electronic communities (email listservs, forums, etc.)
- Informal communications (conversations, emails, letters)
- Newsletters
- Reports & publications from governmental and non-governmental organizations
- Thesis and dissertations
- Technical reports and standards
- White papers
- Patents

From: http://guides.library.ubc.ca/friendly.php?s=greylitforhealth
Which examples of grey literature will be most relevant to your research - select up to 3

- Standards and technical reports
- White papers
- Theses and dissertations
- Conference presentations or posters
- Social media
- Government or NGO reports and publications
- Practice Guidelines
Tools and Resources

- CADTH: [https://www.cadth.ca/resources=finding-evidence=grey-matters](https://www.cadth.ca/resources=finding-evidence=grey-matters)
  - This checklist includes national and international HTA web sites, drug and device regulatory agencies, clinical trial registries, health economics resources, Canadian health prevalence or incidence databases, and drug formulary web sites.
- UofT: [https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=577919&p=4123572](https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=577919&p=4123572)
CANADA

PLEASE SELECT

The Alberta College of Family Physicians (ACFP). Tools for Practice http://www.acfp.ca/WhatWeDo/ToolsforPractice.aspx
Filter by "year" or "category" using options in the left-hand menu.
[Language: English]

PLEASE SELECT

Scroll down to view list of completed reports or use the keyword search box in top right corner.
[Language: English]

PLEASE SELECT

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH). Search
Selected Web Checklists for Grey Lit

- SRC Grey Literature - Tips and Checklist

- Grey Matters: A Practical Search Tool for Evidence-Based Medicine
  - http://www.cadth.ca/resources/finding-evidence-is/grey-matters

- Grey Matters Light: Top 14 Resources for Evidenced Based Medicine Searching
  - http://www.cadth.ca/media/is/cadth_Handout_greymatters_light_e.pdf

- Grey Literature - Ontario Public Health Libraries Association

Adapted from Sarah Bonato's presentation April 24, 2015
Maritimes Health Libraries Association; Continuing Education Session
Selected Institutional Depositories For Grey Literature

• **CARL - ABRC** (list of Canadian institutional repositories)  

• **OAlster – From OCLC**  

• **OpenDOAR** (The Directory of Open Access Repositories)  
  – Worldwide directory of academic open access repositories  

• **SHERPA** – Simple full-text search of UK repositories  
  – [http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/index.html](http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/index.html)

Credit: Sarah Bonato
Exercise

Select one of the preceding Institutional Repositories (or meta-repository search) and do a basic search on your topic of interest
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Searched; nothing relevant found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searched; relevant results found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not searched; not relevant to topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searched; results may be a peripheral interest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sources for Searching Drug/Clinical Trials Data

- FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research: http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OfficeofMedicalProductsandTobacco/CDER/default.htm

- ISRCTN Register:
  Randomized controlled trials and other studies to assess the efficacy of health care interventions around the world – http://www.isrctn.org/

- EU Clinical Trials Register:
  Registered clinical trials in the European Union – https://www.clinicaltrialsregister.eu/

- World Health Organization International Clinical Trials Registry Platform Search Portal (ICTRP): Consolidates records from 17 international trial registries in one location - http://apps.who.int/trialsearch/

Credit: Sarah Bonato
Sources for Searching Drug/Clinical Trials Data

ClinicalTrials.gov
- Registry and results database of federally and privately supported clinical trials conducted in the United States and around the world
  - http://clinicaltrials.gov/

Empirical research has shown that for comprehensive searches, ClinicalTrials.gov should be searched as well as the WHO search portal (Glanville, 2014)

- Refine search to studies with results
- Can try searching individual pharmaceutical trial registries
- Sometimes clinical trial resources do not have results outcomes listed


Credit: Sarah Bonato
Unpublished Health Systems Research

• HSRProj—Health Services Research Projects in Progress
• Browse latest projects
• Browse supporting agencies
• See search tips for more

Credit: Sarah Bonato
GLL (Grey Legal Literature)

Definition 1: Simple

Materials that discuss a legal topic or are produced by an entity that is affiliated with the legal community.

Examples include law schools, firms, bar associations, experts blogs, professional organizations, non profits, etc.

Definition 2: Less clear

Materials that are produced as part of the administration of the three branches of government at international, federal, or provincial (or state), or local level.

Examples include documents relating to legislative change or litigation.

*See The elephant in the room: Toward a definition of grey legal literature by Taryn Rucinski for further discussion*
Law Sources

Parliamentary Documents: LegisInfo, NS Legislature (See Legislative Library Catalogue. Other provinces available through Legislation LibGuide)

Blogs: LawBlogs, Health Law Blogs (Provide expert commentary on trending legal topics and insight into future developments)

Professional Associations: NS Barristers Society, Canadian Bar Association

Courts: SCC, NS Courts, CanLII, etc. (case in brief, factums, memos, etc.),

Archival Sources: LLMC, Early Canadiana, HeinOnline, etc.
Engineering Sources

- Standards: ASTM, IEEE, & Finding Standards Guide
- Codes & Regulations: Codes Canada
- Patents: Google Patents (International) CIPO (Canadian) (Also has trademarks, copyright, and industrial design databases for Canada)
Quick Search Terms for Grey Lit

- Care pathway
- Evaluation
- Evidence
- Guideline
- Policy
- Strategy
- Strategic Plan
- Steering Group
- Task Force
- Toolkit
- Whitepaper

- Joint or standing committee
- Report
- Statistical analysis
- Inquiry
- Patent
- Standards
- Backgrounder
- Library sheet
- Proposal

Credit: Sarah Bonato
Other sources - general

- **Canadian Electronic Library** - Canadian gvt and non-gvt publications
- **Dissertations and Theses in Proquest**
- **Scopus** or **Web of Science** - conference proceedings
Exercise

Select one of the preceding subject-specific or general resources and do a basic search on your topic of interest
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Searched; nothing relevant found</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searched; results may be a peripheral interest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Google Scholar is a good place to find grey literature.
Strategically…

● Use Advanced search options to search
  ○ within domains, such as gc.ca or dal.ca
  ○ for specific file types, like pdf or ppt
  ○ using phrases, minus signs (-), within title only, etc.

● Use control-F on resulting documents or websites to navigate quickly to your topic of interest

● Watch your language! eg. “pediatric transition” (about 877 results) vs. “care transition” (about 257,000 results)
Strategically…

- Consider searching google sites from other countries
e.g. https://www.google.co.nz; https://www.google.com.au; https://www.google.co.uk/

Best bests domain limits:
- org
- edu
- int
- gov
- mil

Check out the Dalhousie Libraries video for demonstrations of these tips and more:
https://libcasts.library.dal.ca/Google%20Searching/

Credit: Sarah Bonato
Exclude PubMed results by using search command to exclude hits from specific sites
Exercise

Step 1:
Search 1: Google *United Nations*

Search 2: Use the Google search commands *filetype:pdf* *site:un.org*

Step 2:
Search for the phrase "patents and pharmaceuticals report" (on Google follow it with the search commands, or use Advanced search in Google)

Step 3:
Answer PollEv question "What did you find?"
UNDP WHO Workshop on the Examination of Pharmaceutical Patents: Developing a Public Health Perspective, Meeting Report

Way too many things.
The Test
CRAP or NOT?

Item 1:
Depression and Bipolar Disorder general patient handout

✓ Date: 2014

Item 2:
Wound care guideline

✗ Date: 1925
Recent Alcohol and Drug Workplace Policies in Canada: Considerations for the Nuclear Industry

A report by Barbara Butler and Associates Inc. on the recent changes in arbitralional and legal jurisprudence of workplace policies and testing in Canada

INFO-0831

March 2012
C R A P

Currency  Reliability  Authority  Point of View

- What kind of information is included in the resource?
- Is the content primarily opinion?
- Is the info balanced or biased?
- Does the author provide citations & references?
Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Despite the disgusting, illegal and unwarranted Witch Hunt, we have had the most successful first 17 month Administration in U.S. history - by far! Sorry to the Fake News Media and “Haters,” but that's the way it is!

6:52 AM - 17 May 2018

32,375 Retweets 136,764 Likes

CanadianMedicalAssoc
@CMA_Docs

We have long known the health impact of tobacco on Canadians’ health and the CMA is pleased to see these important changes going forward, especially in regard to plain packaging. #CDNHealth #CDNPoli

Min. Petitpas Taylor
@CDNMinHealth

Plain and standardized packaging is one step closer with Royal Assent of #BillS5. This is a priority of mine — it will further reduce the appeal of tobacco, particularly for young people. Find out more: ow.ly/eJHH50ic9UL #ecigarettes

1:15 PM - 23 May 2018

5 Retweets 5 Likes
The federal Task Force has developed a discussion paper, Toward the Legalization, Regulation and Restriction of Access to Marijuana, which includes the following objectives for the new regime for legal access to marijuana:

- Protect young Canadians by keeping marijuana out of the hands of children and youth;
- Keep profits out of the hands of criminals, particularly organized crime;
- Reduce the burdens on police and the justice system associated with simple possession of marijuana offenses;
- Prevent Canadians from entering the criminal justice system and receiving criminal records for simple marijuana possession offenses;
- Protect public health and safety by strengthening, where appropriate, laws and enforcement measures that deter and punish more serious marijuana offenses, particularly selling and distributing to children and youth, selling outside of the regulatory framework, and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana;
- Ensure Canadians are well-informed through sustained and appropriate public health campaigns, and, for youth in particular, ensure that risks are understood;
- Establish and enforce a system of strict production, distribution and sales, taking a public health approach, with regulation of quality and safety (e.g., child-proof packaging, warning labels), restriction of access, and application of taxes, with programmatic support for addiction treatment, mental health support and education programs;
- Continue to provide access to quality-controlled marijuana for medical purposes consistent with federal policy and Court decisions; and
- Conduct ongoing data collection, including gathering baseline data, to monitor the impact of the new framework.

Marijuana is the most commonly used illegal substance in Canada. 43% of Canadians claim to have used marijuana at some point in their life, despite almost a century of prohibition. Canadian youth has the highest rate of marijuana use among 29 developed countries. Almost a quarter of the population aged 15 to 24 years reported past-year use.

According to a Stats Canada report, there were 73 thousand marijuana-related criminal offences (67% of all police-reported drug offences) in 2013.
Can you determine who the author/creator is?
What are their credentials?
Who is the publisher or sponsor?
Is this publisher or sponsor reputable?
PATENTS

TOP 5 PATENT OFFICES

CHINA
U.S.
JAPAN
REPS OF KOREA
EPO (EUROPE)

250,000
750,000
1,100,000

HIGHEST APPLICATION GROWTH RATES

CHINA +18.7%
INDONESIA +14.1%
RUSSIAN FED. +12.3%
MEXICO +12.0%
AUSTRALIA +10.2%

APPLICATIONS FILED
PATENTS GRANTED

2.9 MILLION
+7.8%
1.2 MILLION
+5.2%

1 Million+
- China is the first office to have received a million applications in a single year
What is the intent of the article? (persuasion, selling something, etc.)?
What is the domain? (.edu, .com, .gc.ca, etc.)
Are there ads on the website or resource?
Is the author presenting fact or opinion?

CRAP or NOT?
Website titled: How to Naturally Manage Manic Depression? Dr. Knife

Today and tomorrow, I'm hosting a free presentation all about what I've created to be the fastest and most authoritative way to become a Certified Essential Oil Coach.

And you're invited! Click Here to Register

Whether you're in pursuit of essential oil mastery or you want to build an essential oil business, this is a must-see presentation. Plus, I've set aside a half hour to answer your questions.

Like I said, no charge and you can register here.
Exercise

After looking at the following image, identify the 4 elements of CRAP by clicking on where this information might be located in the image.

(Currency, Reliability, Authority, Point of View)
Identify the 4 elements of CRAP (Currency, Reliability, Authority, Point of View) by clicking on where this information might be located in the image.
AACODS Framework

Stands for:
– Authority
– Accuracy
– Coverage
– Objectivity
– Date
– Significance

By Jess Tyndall - Has been adapted by NICE to evaluate grey lit
– Source and more info
http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/pmg8/chapter/appendix-1-checklists

Credit: Sarah Bonato
How do you feel about searching for grey literature after this session?
Questions?

Acknowledgements:
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Maritimes Health Libraries Association; Continuing Education Session
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