In the chat box (mouse to the bottom of the Zoom screen to see the chat option) please share one or more example of topics for which you are interested in finding grey literature.
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
Characteristics of GL

"...specialists in the field generally tend to describe grey literature rather than define it."

Author

Content

Formats

Audience

Lifecycle

Bibliographic Control

Distribution

Location
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standards and technical reports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theses and dissertations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference presentations or posters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government or NGO reports and publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice Guidelines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

searched; nothing found
not searched; not relevant
searched; results found
results may be of peripheral interest

PLEASE SELECT

Alberta Health and Wellness. Decision Process provincial reviews –
ongoing and complete
http://www.health.alberta.ca/initiatives/AHTDP-reviews.html
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)
  

• **OAIster** – 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

Poll: Repository search
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/
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
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 (annual reports, podcasts, legal guides, etc.)

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

Archival Sources: LLMC, 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

Poll – subject sources
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 and Poll

Step 1:
Search 1: Google United Nations

Search 2: Use the Google search commands

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 Poll question "What did you find?"
The Test
CRAP or NOT?

Item 1:
Depression and Bipolar Disorder general patient handout
✓ Date: 2016

Item 2:
Wound care guideline
✗ Date: 1925

Currency
- How recent is the information?
- Can you locate a date when the info was created, updated?
- Based on your topic is this current enough?
- Why might the date matter for your topic?

Reliability

Authority

Point of View
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 arbitral and legal jurisprudence of workplace policies and testing in Canada

INFO-0831

March 2012
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?
Images and news reports of tear gas being used on children and families seeking asylum at our border have stunned and shaken pediatricians just as they have so many others across the country. Our statement opposing this inhumane practice: aap.org/en-us/about-th

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Any deaths of children or others at the Border are strictly the fault of the Democrats and their pathetic immigration policies that allow people to make the long trek thinking they can enter our country illegally. They can’t. If we had a Wall, they wouldn’t even try! The two.....
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 offences;
- Prevent Canadians from entering the criminal justice system and receiving criminal records for simple marijuana possession offences;
- Protect public health and safety by strengthening, where appropriate, laws and enforcement measures that deter and punish more serious marijuana offences, 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.

---

8 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 youths 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.

9 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: 1,191,884
- U.S.: 568,410
- JAPAN: 316,721
- REP. OF KOREA: 143,624
- EPO (EUROPE): 160,026

HIGHEST APPLICATION GROWTH RATES

- CHINA: +18.7%
- INDONESIA: +14.1%
- RUSSIAN FED.: +12.9%
- MEXICO: +12.0%
- AUSTRALIA: +10.2%

1 Million+

- China is the first office to have received a million applications in a single year
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.
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
Appraising what you find...

There are some simple ways to evaluate the quality of websites. Things to watch for include:

* Authority: Who is in charge of updating the site and what makes them knowledgeable on this topic?

* Accuracy [Purpose]: Does the website state its purpose and live up to that statement? Also, what kind of links are on the site, and do they match the purpose?
Appraising, continued…

* Coverage: Has the topic been sufficiently addressed, or do you suspect that there are knowledge gaps that the authors may have omitted?

* Date [Currency]: Can you trust that the information is recent and are you certain that someone is regularly updating it?

* Objectivity: Be wary of biased websites and those that are trying to sell you something.
How do you feel about searching for grey literature after this session?

Poll
Questions?

Acknowledgements:
Most content adapted from Sarah Bonato's presentation April 24, 2015
Maritimes Health Libraries Association; Continuing Education Session
CRAP slides created by Leah Boulos and Melissa Helwig