

Grey Literature Acquisition and Management: Challenges in Academic Libraries in India

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Abstract— Grey Literature is materials and research produced by organization outside of the Traditional commercial or Academic publishing and distribution channels. Common grey literature publication types include reports working papers, government documents and white papers. Grey literature may be made available to the public or distributed privately within organizations or groups, and may lack a systematic means or distribution and collection. There has been increase in the academic and scholarly value placed in grey literature value placed in grey literature as an original and primary source of information. Also the rapid increase of grey literature in virtually all subject areas is becoming a challenge and gradually giving librarians great concern. This paper therefore, examines the nature of grey literature, how grey materials are acquired, and the challenges academic libraries face in the acquisition and management of grey literature. The paper recommends that acquisition of grey materials must be demand - driven, Academic Libraries should contribute to grey literature depositories, create more cataloguing records, and make those available more complete.

Keywords: Grey Literature acquisition and management: Challenges in Academic Libraries in India

I. INTRODUCTION

The term grey literature to describe C.P. Auger in 1975. His concepts focused upon a vast body documents with continuing increasing quantity that were characterized by the difficulty it presents to the librarian. Grey literature has some connection to the brains “grey matter” since so much of it seems highly intellectual and is significant for research and development in many subject areas. Grey literature is used to describe publication not published commercially or index by major database vendors. It is occasionally the sole source for a specific research questions. This is way it is highly imperative for academic libraries in India to acquire these resources against any challenges. Due to the nature of this literature, Academic Libraries have challenges with their acquisition as well as making them accessible. Their management is also a source of worry to academic librarians, this is because it may be ephemeral but it continues to have impact in research, Teaching and Learning on which of the goal of academic libraries revolves.

It is difficult also to define grey literature precisely organizations which produce grey literature prefer to describe it rather than defining it. Grey literature is so called because of its semi published status and can be difficult to locate, which is why researchers refer to it as the “fugitive Literature.”

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF GREY LITERATURE

- 1) Not primarily produce for commercial publications.
- 2) Production as a means of getting a message across rather than publishing as a commercial venture.

- 3) Difficult to acquire
- 4) Not part of a major distribution channels.
- 5) Few, if any bibliographic controls e.g. lack of ISBN or ISSN.
- 6) Not Peer reviewed
- 7) Transient or ephemeral in nature.
- 8) Difficult to find because historically it is not include in commercial abstracting and indexing database.

A. Importance of Grey Literature:-

- 1) Grey Literature has emerged in scope and importance in recent years due to the proliferation of critical information now readily available to organize from e-publishing ventures Grey literature is an important source of information. It can often be produced more quickly as it has greater flexibility. It serves scholars and lay readers alike with research summaries, facts, statistics, and other Data that offer a more comprehensive view of the topic interest. In future grey literature will be more importance as a source of information for much of the world population.
- 2) Grey literature can sometimes be more current than commercially published information. It does not go through the potentially time consuming peer review process undertaken by commercial publishers.
- 3) The importance of grey literature can vary between disciplines. While the Health and medical fields tend to favour traditional publication method through well-known scholarly publishers other fields like disaster management tend to favour the grey literature route.

B. Grey Literature and Academic Libraries in India:

Grey literature stands for manifold document types produced on all levels of government, Academics, Libraries. Universities and other institutions of Higher Education are important producers of grey literature most of the education process at Universities Libraries is base on various written essays and other assignments. This process is usually completed with some sort of written thesis or dissertation, which shows that graduation, is capable of research work and has proper knowledge of the field.

The representation of grey literature in library collection varies considerably: in some specialist and Technical libraries the majority of the collection may consist of grey material, while in other institutions it may be a small percentage of the total holdings. Librarians have traditionally been wary of grey literature, due to the difficulties involved in identifying acquiring, cataloguing and shelving it. One of the most common words that come up in conversation with Academic Libraries about grey literature is “difficult.”

Grey Literature is an often- overlooked resource and does not always figure in the collection development policies or selection guidelines of libraries.

In University libraries many categories of subject, Independent grey literature materials are collected; they not thought of as being ‘grey’ for example, student theses and

dissertations are collected, as well as quite a lot of government documents. Scholarly conference proceedings in subject areas of interest are also collected, and when looking at the Academic environment in aggregate, it would not be surprising to find that than 95% of these are held in college and Universities Libraries.

C. Identification and Acquisition of Grey Literature:

The Implementation of bibliographic control through ISBN, ISSN and report numbers has been somewhat helpful, but also disorganized for instance reports, which make up the lion's share of grey literature, do not as a rule use ISBN, which require a depository. Instead, report numbering was initiated as a means to introduce standardization. The problem is that these numbers were designed to include subject matter, date, form, agency, security, classification, location, and additional data and consequently are quite long and confusing. In addition, given the nature of the literature, some categories contain security restrictions.

With regard to identification and acquisition the so called grey literature is an intermediate between published and unpublished works. Grey literature is published literature but is not published by commercial publishers. The publishers can be individuals, a company a government institution, a research institute, and a foundation. A general rule non-commercial publishers are not members of a publishers association.

By definition there are multiple copies and the work is not rare at least not in the beginning of the publishing process. The context of the text the book with its binding, title page etc. will normally stay with the text. Because the author as a rule is mentioned somewhere and because the context stays intact, the risk of losing this information is smaller than in unpublished works. But the noncommercial publisher is quite hard to find. The publications themselves often do not give any clues where to find the publisher.

This means that diligent search again is more time consuming, because the search for the publishers is more difficult. The collecting society might know the author, but it is likely that a smaller percentage of authors of grey literature are represented by collecting societies than authors of commercially published books.

III. ACQUISITION PROCESS

Acquisition, organization and maintenance of grey literature are one of the toughest tasks for librarians in India. The tracing of these micro documents need the subject expertise on the part of librarians and other library staff. Documentation work has highlighted the importance of these documents and the digital technology facilitation their availability nationally and internationally before librarians can acquire grey literature, they must identify them and locate a source of supply for them. This, finding out about the publication is the first and most basic steps in the acquisition process, and perhaps the most difficult where grey literature is concerned, for by definitions, it does not receive coverage in the usual places where librarians learn about new books, like the publishing trade press or bibliographic listing. In searching for grey literature the acquisition librarian scan daily newspapers, looking for report on conference, seminars and workshops

etc. which many publish proceedings or issue papers and reports. Traditionally the news media is a vital source of information on this events, as well as monitoring published sources like journals, Newsletters and Accession list.

A. Method of Acquisition:

1) Purchase:

This is done through a vendor who goes round to source for conference proceeding bulletins and other grey literature materials which are relevant to the university curriculum/ research.

2) Gifts:

Corporate bodies and individuals who are friends of the academic libraries send their publication to the library. This has helped a lot to boost the grey literature collection of the library.

3) Legal Deposit:

The major avenue for the collection of grey literature publication in the library is through legal deposit. Students /research are mandated to drop the hard and soft copies of their theses and dissertations in the university libraries.

4) Subscription:

Acquisition librarians subscribe to subscription agents who collect grey literature either in digital format or front copies.

5) Resource Sharing:

Libraries engage in resource sharing through the formation of a library consortium. Here, the academic library can go into agreement with other institutions for the purpose of sharing or exchanging grey literature emanating from the participating institution.

6) Online Search:

Internet search is another way of collecting grey literature. This is because transitory and invisible materials on the web are obviously grey and the internet provides access to materials.

IV. MANAGEMENT OF GREY LITERATURE

Grey Literature acquired via the above means is sorted according to its provenance and arranged accordingly.

Specially, undergraduate projects are organized at the reserved book section for further processing and integration into the collection. These resources are products of intellectual activities by every academic department. When they are catalogued, classified, and shelved, the list containing such resource are made available to users.

Further move, master these and Ph. D. dissertations are housed in another section of library researchers, and postgraduate students to use only.

Grey literature of periodical nature is organized and shelved in another special collection unit; these resources have a high frequency of publication literature generated in the university. The library has undertaken the following activities.

- 1) Provide reading rooms.
- 2) Use the inverter to supply electricity to the reading rooms.
- 3) Market such resource available in the library news bulletin.
- 4) Email lists of available resources to the university staff, especially lecturers.

- 5) Assist users in identification and retrieval of desired resources.

V. CHALLENGES

This study was designed to examine the challenges of selection and acquisition of grey literature in Indian university. The identification and acquisition professionals for several reasons. Poor bibliographic information and control non-professional layout and format as well as low print runs are the major setbacks of this literature. Bibliographic control implementation has had so much influence on open source materials, but little or no impact on grey literature. Following are the main challenge grey literature in Indian university.

- 1) Development of national level harvesting services.
- 2) Preservation for long term access.
- 3) Essential and desirable features of repository software, infrastructural requirements.
- 4) Technology obsolete.
- 5) Administration and maintenance.
- 6) Properly not provides accessibility to important raw data, preliminary findings-grey literature which is otherwise difficult to obtain.
- 7) Many research academic libraries do not have policies and strategies to facilitate the capture of digital grey literature, their management, storage and dissemination.

Preservation is often an issue for libraries with grey literature after taking a loose-leaf format, or being simply stapled pages. Nothing deteriorates faster on the library shelf or disappears faster the unbound pieces which do not stand up right on the shelf. Another major challenges are the lack of consensus among librarians on a definition of grey literature.

Improving acquisition and management of grey literature.

Grey literature is an important source of information that the academic library needs to acquire and make them accessible for their users. Ways aimed at improving acquisition and management of grey literature will be explained below.

A. Acquisition

Identification and acquisition of grey literature must be considered separate steps in the collection phase, because a vacuum cleaner approach is not possible acquisition instead must be demand driven. Help is need form to relate availability to user requirement, as well as to shave information about holdings to reduce duplicate acquisitions.

B. Processing

Much ongoing work in the government is aimed at improving scanning, machine aided indexing optical character recognition and machine translation.

C. Dissemination

This in not generally an issue with grey literature since its real difficulties stem from its acquisition and processing.

Grey literature is sometimes available through change agreements with other organization or by subscription. Annual subscriptions are expensive, but convenient if complete subject coverage is needed. Other

facilities used in sourcing for grey literature include UNESCO Book coupon and currently many items can be purchase through book seller and subscription agents calls the scope of the literature is growing.

VI. CONCLUSION

The reasons grey literature is difficult to identify acquire and managed it is recommended that special libraries contribute to grey literature depositories, create more cataloging records, make those that exist complete and move accessible, and cooperate with other special libraries to accomplish this goals all grey literature is not worth collecting, but much that is worth collecting, is still falling through the very large cause of standard academic library acquisition Practice.

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