

GreyGuide Repository and Portal:

Advancements and Impact Assessment 5-Years On

Dominic Farace, GreyNet International, Netherlands

Stefania Biagioni and Carlo Carlesi, Institute of Information Science and Technologies, ISTI-CNR, Italy

This text is licensed under the Creative Commons license: [CC-BY-SA-4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/), via <http://repozitar.techlib.cz/record/1298>.

A Synopsis

Our response to this Call for Papers is much in part prompted by the title of the series: ‘Conference on Grey Literature and Repositories’¹. GreyNet International by its very mission is dedicated to research, publication, open access, education, and public awareness to grey literature². And, GreyNet is a content provider to a number of repositories – one of which is the GreyGuide³, whose system provider and technical developer are co-contributors to this presentation.

There is however yet another reason why GreyNet seizes the opportunity to respond to this Conference Call. GreyNet International and NTK, the National Library of Technology, have a longstanding relationship dating back a decade. It was at GreyNet’s 10th International Conference in Amsterdam (2008) that a paper was presented on ‘Grey Literature in the Czech Republic’⁴ followed at GreyNet’s 11th International Conference in Washington D.C. (2009) with the presentation on a ‘System of Grey Literature in the Czech Republic’⁵, which we have come to know as NRGL. In 2010, NTK took on GreyNet Associate Membership and in that same year hosted the 12th International Conference on Grey Literature⁶ in Prague. In 2013, GreyNet expanded its infrastructure to include a Resource Policy Committee (RPC)⁷ in which NTK is represented. The RPC further serves as the Steering Committee for the GreyGuide Repository and Portal. And in the following year, NTK became one of the founding signatories to the ‘Pisa Declaration on Policy Development for Grey Literature Resources’⁸. It can be further mentioned that since 2015, The Grey Journal (TGJ) publishes a special Winter issue, which comprises the proceedings of NTK’s annual conference series on Grey Literature and Repositories⁹. Coverage of this journal is in Scopus, Thomson Reuters as well as other A&I services. TGJ is licensed by EBSCO, a leading provider of research databases and e-journals.

¹ <https://nrgl.techlib.cz/conference/11th-conference-on-grey-literature-and-repositories/>

² <http://www.greynet.org/>

³ <http://greyguide.isti.cnr.it/>

⁴ <http://greyguiderep.isti.cnr.it/dfdloadnew.php?ident=GreyGuide/GLP/2009-GL10-02&langver=en&scelta=Metadata>

⁵ <http://greyguide.isti.cnr.it/pejsova-3/>

⁶ http://greyguide.isti.cnr.it/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/GL12_Conference_Proceedings.pdf

⁷ <http://www.greynet.org/home/aboutgreynet.html>

⁸ <http://greyguiderep.isti.cnr.it/pisadecla/listaiscritti.php?order=name>

⁹ <http://www.greynet.org/thegreyjournal/previousissues.html>

Ladies and gentlemen - colleagues, this somewhat circuitous introduction to the topic of our presentation has its reasons, which will become clearer further along in this discourse.

Let's now have a look at developments in chronological sequence that have impacted the GreyGuide since its launch five years ago.

In early 2013, the GreyGuide project was undertaken in an effort to create a repository of proposed and published good practices in grey literature. The first prototype¹⁰ was launched in the close of that same year.

In 2014, the GreyGuide also became GreyNet's web access repository¹¹ enabling a number of its in-house, web-based collections to become online, openly accessible through the addition of metadata allowing for one step search and browsing. These collections now include:

- GGP – Guide to Good Practices in Grey Literature¹²
- BIO – Who is in Grey Literature¹³
- GLA – Conference Abstracts¹⁴ - International Conference Series on Grey Literature
- GLP – Conference Papers¹⁵ - International Conference Series on Grey Literature
- RGL – Resources in Grey Literature¹⁶ - (Generic, Multidisciplinary)

In early 2015, the GreyGuide also became GreyNet's web access portal¹⁷ providing online, open access to a range of documents published over the past fifteen years. These publications were either previously only web-based or stored in GreyNet's inhouse archive. Now they appear on the GreyGuide Portal under the heading Document Share:

- GL SlideShare Series¹⁸
- GL Conference Proceedings¹⁹
- GL Program Books²⁰
- GL Poster Series²¹
- GL Advertisements²²
- Other GreyNet Publications²³ - *such as Newsletters, etc.*

¹⁰ <http://greyguiderep.isti.cnr.it/linkdoc.php?idcode=2014-GL15-008&authority=GreyGuide&collection=GLP&langver=en>

¹¹ <http://greyguiderep.isti.cnr.it/>

¹² <http://greyguiderep.isti.cnr.it/listtitoli.php?authority=GreyGuide&collection=GGP&langver=en&RighePag=100>

¹³ <http://greyguiderep.isti.cnr.it/listtitoli.php?authority=GreyGuide&collection=BIO&langver=en&RighePag=100>

¹⁴ <http://greyguiderep.isti.cnr.it/listtitoligl.php?authority=GreyGuide&collection=GLA&langver=en&RighePag=100>

¹⁵ <http://greyguiderep.isti.cnr.it/listtitoligl.php?authority=GreyGuide&collection=GLP&langver=en&RighePag=100>

¹⁶ <http://greyguiderep.isti.cnr.it/listtitoli.php?authority=GreyGuide&collection=RGL&langver=en&RighePag=100>

¹⁷ <http://greyguide.isti.cnr.it/>

¹⁸ <http://greyguide.isti.cnr.it/gl-slideshare-series-2003/>

¹⁹ <http://greyguide.isti.cnr.it/gl-proceedings-2003/>

²⁰ <http://greyguide.isti.cnr.it/gl-program-books-2003/>

²¹ <http://greyguide.isti.cnr.it/gl-poster-series/>

²² <http://www.textrelease.com/advertisements.html>

²³ <http://greyguide.isti.cnr.it/other-greynet-publications/>

In assessing the impact of the GreyGuide over the past five years, we might look to the goal for which the project was first launched – to provide an online guide to proposed and published good practices in grey literature. Strictly speaking, if it had not developed as a web access portal and repository, the GreyGuide project would have since concluded.

However if in our assessment of the GreyGuide, we take into consideration other factors responsible for its growth and development, then we must address its system management, technical support, link to GreyNet's Resource Policy Committee (RPC), its steady increase in records from the GL-Conference Series, as well as GreyNet's migration of other web based content to both the GreyGuide Portal and Repository.

When these factors are further linked to impressive user statistics due in large part to GreyGuide's inclusion in 2016 in the WorldWideScience.org²⁴ Global Science Gateway, as well as the pivotal role the GreyGuide performs in monitoring endorsements to the Pisa Declaration on Policy Development for Grey Literature Resources²⁵, then we are able to arrive at a more complete assessment of the GreyGuide.

We may also recall that prior to the GreyGuide, GreyNet as a content provider had established agreements with two other repositories serving as system providers. They are the OpenGrey Repository²⁶ powered by INIST-CNR in France (2007) with regard to the GL-Conference Preprints and the DANS Easy Archive²⁷ powered by KNAW-NWO in The Netherlands (2008) with regard to GreyNet's collection of published datasets. The experience gained from contacts with these two service providers enabled GreyNet to enter into an open agreement with ISTI-CNR (2013) with regard to the GreyGuide.

It can be further mentioned that in 2015, GreyNet together with today's co-presenters from ISTI-CNR engaged in a research project on Leveraging GreyNet's nine sustained information resources²⁸ - the most recent of which was the GreyGuide. The purpose of that study was to determine the extent GreyNet's stakeholders actually used the resources to which they contributed both financially and content-wise. The results indicated that GreyNet's stakeholders made use of the GreyGuide more often than four of the other nine sustained information resources in the study²⁹. This no doubt had an impact on the decision of GreyNet and ISTI-CNR to integrate the GreyGuide into their workflow.

The Way Forward

In order for the GreyGuide to ensure its position on the information landscape, it must focus on the acquisition of content for both its repository and portal. It is to this end that the GreyGuide turns to NTK's National Repository of Grey Literature (NRGL) and other repositories, special collections, and databases that in whole or part house grey literature.

²⁴ <https://worldwidescience.org/www/desktop/en/search.html>

²⁵ <http://greyguide.isti.cnr.it/pisa-declaration/>

²⁶ <http://www.opengrey.eu/search/request?q=greyneet>

²⁷ <https://easy.dans.knaw.nl/ui/?wicket:bookmarkablePage=:nl.knaw.dans.easy.web.search.pages.PublicSearchResultPage&q=greyneet>

²⁸ <http://greyguiderep.isti.cnr.it/linkdoc.php?idcode=2016-GL17-020&authority=GreyGuide&collection=GLP&langver=en>

²⁹ <https://doi.org/10.17026/dans-zbf-kqwj>

The GreyGuide proposes a plan of action that will serve as its roadmap from this point in time:

1. To include all RPC member repositories on the GreyGuide Portal;
2. To integrate the tasks of the GreyNet's RPC and GreyGuide Steering Committee and further identify other potential organizational members;
3. To seek new avenues of acquisition for the GreyGuide repository in order to populate the new RGL (Resources in Grey Literature) collection or introduce new collections to the repository. For example, to include the author preprints from the Special Winter issue of The Grey Journal in the GreyGuide.
4. To further develop the GreySource Index³⁰, a subject based listing of linked resources in grey literature. It is this index, which provides the general public with immediate exposure to grey literature; and explore ways of effectively using the GreySource Index in order to populate the GreyGuide Repository;
5. To adequately address the inclusion of non-textual materials such as audio and visuals in the GreyGuide;
6. To incorporate the GreyGuide in workshops and other training modules in order to demonstrate its value for research in the field of grey literature, and
7. To find effective ways of capturing use and usage statistics from other sources, such as Scopus, Google Analytics, Web of Science, OpenAIRE³¹, etc.

³⁰ <http://www.greynet.org/greysourceindex.html>

³¹ <https://www.openaire.eu/>