

Title	Towards a Prague Definition of Grey Literature
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Session One	
Paper 1	

Problem/goal - Grey literature is difficult to define. The most common definition, the so-called 'Luxembourg definition', was discussed and approved during the 3rd International Conference on Grey Literature in 1997: "(Grey literature is) 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".¹ In 2004, at the 6th International Conference on Grey literature in New York City, a postscript was added: "...not controlled by commercial publishers i.e. where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body". As for the earlier definition from the U.S. Interagency Gray Literature Working Group (1995), the main characteristic of this definition is its economic perspective on grey literature, based on business, publishing and distribution models of the disappearing Gutenberg era. Grey literature is not a specific category of document but a specific (non commercial) way of access and dissemination of information. The definition of grey literature is an economic definition, nothing else. With the changing research environment and new channels of scientific communication, it becomes clear that grey literature needs a new conceptual framework.² During the last GL conferences, several communications raised the question of how to (re)define grey literature, under different perspectives. But so far, there is no conceptual work on grey literature on the Internet, in open archives, on the social Web. Our contribution fills the gap.

Research method/procedure - Our project applies a two-step-methodology. First of all, we provide a state of the art of terminology and definitions of the last decade, especially (but not exclusively) based on contributions to the GL conference series (2003-2009) and on original articles published in The Grey Journal (2005-2010). To this state of the art, we shall add a multi-facet analysis of the problems raised by these definitions. Secondly, we shall conduct an exploratory survey with a sample of scientists, publishing and LIS professionals from the TextRelease Author Directory 1994-2010 and through the GreyNet listserv, with a focus on new business models, publishing vectors and distribution channels. Our intention is to assess attitudes towards and usage of the Luxembourg/New York definition and to gather elements for a new definition.

Anticipated results - Based on the state of the art and the survey data, we shall make a proposal for a new definition of grey literature ("Prague definition"). This definition should be functional, systemic, context-sensitive and linked to new business models, e.g. with regards to e-commerce (long tail) and the open access principle. Maybe it is too early yet to provide a consensual definition of grey literature with respect to the new, post-Gutenberg environment. Nevertheless the growing corpus of GL studies provides sufficient evidence to propose at least a controversial concept of grey literature in 2010.

Bionote(s)

Joachim Schöpfel obtained his Ph.D. in psychology from the Hamburg University in 1992. During his studies in psychology, he participated in research on bilingual children of Turkish immigrants in Hamburg, of the German minority in Denmark, and in a French-German High School in Versailles, France. From 1991 to 2008, he worked at the French Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (INIST-CNRS) in different positions in database production and library management, at last as head of the e-publishing and document supply department. During the same time, he was lecturer at the University of Nancy. At present, he is senior lecturer in information and communication sciences at the Charles de Gaulle University of Lille 3. He published on GL, document delivery, digital libraries, scientific publishing, usage statistics and professional development. Email: joachim.schopfel@univ-lille3.fr

¹ See J. Schöpfel & D. J. Farace (2010). 'Grey Literature'. In M. J. Bates & M. N. Maack (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences, Third Edition*, pp. 2029-2039. CRC Press.

² J. Schöpfel & C. Boukacem-Zeghmouri (forthcoming). 'Assessing the Return on Investments in GL for Institutional Repositories'. In D. Farace & J. Schöpfel (eds.), *Grey Literature in Library and Information Studies*. De Gruyter Saur.