

Understanding the value of grey literature for public policy in Australia: Initial survey results Julian Thomas and Amanda Lawrence, Swinburne University of Technology; John Houghton, Victoria University; Gerald White and Paul Weldon, Australian Council for Educational Research, Australia

Abstract

The changing role and increasing importance of grey literature for public policy development and implementation in Australia is little acknowledged or understood. With hundreds of organisations across academia, government, NGOs, think tanks, and private research companies now regularly producing policy research and information, it is vital to understand the drivers behind grey literature production and the way it is used in policy development. The other part of the value chain is the immediate and ongoing capacity of users to find and access grey literature and the issues faced by collecting organisations in evaluating and collecting grey literature and making it available to the public. In order to address these issues researchers in Australia are conducting large scale online surveys, and semi structure interviews, with grey literature producers, users and collecting agencies in 2013, focussing on those organisations and individuals who are engaged with grey literature of relevance to public policy issues. This presentation will provide initial results from the data gathered, with a particular emphasis on the survey results of collecting organisations, from those at the National and state level to the many special libraries and online collections established to try to deal with the proliferation of policy related grey literature. It will also attempt to draw out the key findings and implications for improving grey literature production, access and collection across all three areas. This research is being undertaken as part of a three year Australian Research Council funded project, Grey literature strategies: enhancing the value of informally published research and information. Project partners are Swinburne University of Technology, Victoria University of Technology, the National Library of Australia, the National and State Libraries Australasia, the Australian Council for Educational Research and the Eidos Institute.

Grey Literature in European Commission Projects Sara Goggi and Gabriella Pardelli, Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale; Silvia Giannini and Stefania Biagioni, Istituto di Scienza e Tecnologie dell'Informazione, CNR, Italy

Abstract

The latest recommendations issued by the European Commission go towards the revision of their policy on dissemination and preservation of scientific information: the aim is to promote access to the results of the community-funded research by especially implementing the open access policy within 'Horizon 2020', the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020). The growth of "fast" documentation - which is not long-term preserved or not available in stable URLs and repositories - pushed the European Commission to produce a set of guidelines for the management of documentation at-large and of specialised documentation produced within funded projects in particular. Those guidelines try to conciliate the visibility of the project activities in two directions: "a) better quality and user-friendliness of project websites, triggering higher popularity b) better visibility for the projects and the European Commission due to a more standardised format". The EC guidelines proved to be a very useful tool for optimizing and handling information on the dedicated portals of the community-funded projects: the general recommendations, for example, focus the attention on the importance of using social media as well as webmaster tools and virtual meeting facilities (as web streaming) and of adopting an "eu" domain. Moreover, specific directives are given not only for the structure of the project homepage but often for the web site framework as well: homepage, project overview, consortium, management structure, scientific methodology and expected documentation. Given this scenario, the web sites of these projects represent an essential vehicle for both the acquisition and the diffusion of grey literature and could also become an important resource within an European infrastructure able to overcome the disconnected and scattered nature of their content in order to optimise their riutilization. Although the term "grey literature" (GL) has never been explicitly mentioned in the Commission guidelines, it is widely known that a good amount of documentation produced within the EC projects is made up of deliverables, e-

newsletters, brochures, posters, flyers, videos, project factsheets, photographs. Starting from this condition, this paper analyses the GL production available on European Projects dedicated web sites, using a sample of projects selected from EU-CORDIS. The aim of the survey is then to identify, measure, evaluate the usability and availability of grey literature provided by the European Commission projects web sites in order to verify whether this type of literature is compliant with EU recommendations. It is also important to assess to which extent grey literature is reusable for “nourishing” the European platform infrastructures devoted to the storage, dissemination and conservation of such research products.

Back to Grey: Disclosure and Concealment of Electronic Theses and Dissertations Joachim Schöpfel, Charles de Gaulle University Lille 3 / ANRT – GERiCO and Hélène Prost, CNRS, France

Abstract

The open access (OA) principle requires that scientific information be made widely and readily available to society. Defined in 2003 as a “comprehensive source of human knowledge and cultural heritage that has been approved by the scientific community”, open access implies that content be openly accessible and this needs the active commitment of each and every individual producer of scientific knowledge. Today, the success of the open access initiative cannot be denied. Yet, in spite of the growing success of the open access initiative, a significant part of scientific and technical information remains unavailable on the web or circulates with restrictions. Even in institutional repositories (IR) created to provide access to the scientific output of an academic institution and central vector of the so-called green road to open access, more or less important sectors of the scientific production are missing. This is because of lack of awareness, embargo, deposit of metadata without full text, confidential content etc. This problem concerns in particular electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) that are disseminated with different status – some are freely available, others are under embargo, confidential, restricted to campus access (encrypted or not) or not available at all. While other papers may be available through alternative channels (journals, monographs etc.), ETDs most often are not. Our paper describes a new and unexpected effect of the development of digital libraries and open access, as a paradoxical practice of hiding information from the scientific community and society, partly while sharing it with a restricted population (campus). The study builds on a review of recent papers on ETDs in institutional repositories and evaluates the availability of ETDs in a small panel of European and American academic IR, networks and institutions. Thus it provides empirical evidence on this reality of restricted access. Yet, its main objective is to propose a model of independent variables affecting decisions on embargo and on-campus access, together with a table of different degrees of (non) open access to ETDs in institutional repositories. We discussed for years if the Web would facilitate access to grey literature or not, and if so, if grey literature would become white and disappear. Three years ago, we suggested that the definition of grey literature can survive the Web and open access (Prague Definition). This year, we show how the Web, contrary to all expectations and hopes, can increase barriers to scientific information and hamper dissemination of electronic theses. In Back to grey..., We try to explain this return to grey literature in terms of different degrees of secrecy related to intellectual property, legitimate interests, expected exploitation and trade secrets, adapting the SPARC approach to openness of scientific journals to electronic theses.

For better or for worse?: Effects of the Legal Deposit Act no. 20/2002 and e-publishing on access to grey literature in Iceland Stefánía Júlíusdóttir, University of Iceland, School of Social Sciences, Iceland

Abstract

This paper presents the findings of studies carried out by the author on the effects of the enforcement of the Legal Deposit Act no. 20/2002 on the 1st of January 2003, and the effects of e-publishing, on bibliographic access and access to the items themselves. In 2002 she investigated the % of dissemination of knowledge

created in Iceland in the period 1944-2001 (sampling years: 1944, 1969, 1979, 1989, and 2001) in the following categories: commercial literature published in Iceland, commercial literature published abroad (as found in the Web of Science), and grey literature (GL) published in Iceland, patent applications, and standards. The findings indicated that the % of grey literature, patents and commercial publications issued abroad, increased steadily during this period, while the percentage of commercial publication issued in Iceland decreased as a % of the whole of the knowledge output. By 2001 the % of GL had not grown as much as expected and it was suspected that in-house publishing carried out in organizations and businesses that had not been delivered to the National and University Library of Iceland (NULI) according to the Legal Deposit Act no. 43/1977 might be the reason for this anomaly. Therefore the author investigated whether publications listed on the homepages of two institutions of economic importance to the country, the Marine Research Institute and the Institute of Economic Studies at the University of Iceland had been delivered, catalogued and made accessible in NULI, as they should have been according to the Legal Deposit Act no. 20/2002 and the Acts on the National and University Library no. 71/1994, and no. 142/2011. The findings indicated that with the move of the production process to the institutions themselves and the advent of e-publishing, GL was no longer delivered to NULI as it had been during the period of paper publications; when the printing presses were responsible for the deliveries to NULI. The aim of the 2002 Legal Deposit Act was to increase deliveries of publications to NULI by stipulating delivery of publications regardless of publishing media; and thereby increase access of authorities and the public to all Icelandic publications. The reverse seems to be happening. The scope of the 2002 Legal Deposit Act is narrower than that of previous such acts in Iceland, because it does not stipulate delivery of intranet publications, although the delivery of publications, such as guidelines, detailed research handbooks important when assessing the outcome of research, interim reports, etc., was and still is stipulated when they are issued on paper. The outcome is that entire research projects may be carried out in Iceland without access to any publication on it being available to authorities and the public; they are either issued in-house while the research is ongoing or abroad when the final findings have been reached. Another effect of e-dissemination seems to be that some kinds of publications for example newsletters are no longer issued as such, because the news is now publicized on the intranets or the Internet. The overall effects are that contrary to expectations there is less access now in the e-age than in the paper age when all publications were delivered to NULI and catalogued in the Icelandic national bibliography. This development calls for an amendment to the 2002 act on legal deposit.

Scholarly publishing behaviour in Slovakia – Are we ready for repositories? Jana Ilavská, Marcela Kopecká, Miriam Ondříšová, Jaroslav Šušol, Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Philosophy, Slovakia

Abstract

Institutional repositories are regarded as one of major conceptual and technological revolutions in the field of scholarly publishing, enabling quick and widespread dissemination of research results. In order for the repositories to become this revolutionary tool, it is necessary that they get full political and financial support from the academic institutions' managements as well as a wide acceptance from the academics, university teachers and researchers. At the Comenius University in Bratislava, the oldest and the largest university in Slovakia, we are preparing a project of new institutional repository. In order to find out about the prospects of such an endeavour, we plan to make an enquiry on its feasibility from both the above-mentioned points of view – 1. state of the art of repositories implementation in Slovakia, 2. the acceptance of electronic publishing channels within the complex of manifestations of publishing behaviour and 3. willingness/readiness of researchers to share data and sources. Publishing behaviour represents an important part of information behaviour of information users. While information behaviour in the broadest sense is usually defined as a complex of various ways of interaction between a human as an actor of information processes and the information, the publishing behaviour is a specific component of this phenomenon, that occurs on the production side of information / communication spectrum. It is possible to explore the publishing behaviour

using various approaches, quantitative and qualitative methods, analyzing the subjective interpretation of reality among authors themselves (sociological or ethnological methods based on questionnaires, surveys or interviews) or measuring hard data in the form of publishing outputs / production. One of the principal approaches towards research in publishing behaviour is the application of quantitative methods of scientometrics or bibliometrics that are usually put into a broader context. Scientometrics and bibliometrics are not new disciplines, but very current at the moment in Slovakia, vividly discussed in the academic circles due to the fact that some of their methods and indicators are being recently used as an important part of university management and of allocation of financial resources from the level of ministry of education. We will apply both sociological and bibliometrics methods on publishing data from Comenius university in our research. It should lead to defining the patterns of publishing behaviour of authors in the academic environment, with respect to the particularities in humanities / social sciences, natural sciences and technical disciplines.

Session Four