Title : Glimpses of Veterinary Grey Literature: Piecing Together Bibliometric Data

for a Clearer Image

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Problem: The relative importance and uses of veterinary grey literature remain largely undocumented. Only one study has been published on this issue using bibliographic citations from journal issues published in 2000 and adhering to a very narrow definition of grey literature (Pelzer and Wiese, 2003, JMLA, 41(9): 434-441). It produced an estimate of the percent of grey literature in veterinary medicine but made no attempt to determine uses of the literature.

Goal: To produce an estimate of the percentage of the veterinary literature that is grey, using bibliometric methods and the consensus definition from GL conferences in 1997 and 2004. To try to determine the uses and value of veterinary grey literature in research, clinical and educational applications.

Research Method/Procedure: This research will re-examine the bibliometric study using data from journal issues published in 2007 and the expanded GL consensus definition. Article references are retrieved using SCOPUS. References will be categorized as grey or non-grey plus specific citation type (for example, article, proceeding, or book). These cited works will also be categorized according to their focus: clinical, research or education. In addition, required readings for specialty board preparation will also be analyzed, using the expanded GL consensus definition.

Costs Related to the Project: Primary costs are personnel costs for data extraction and analysis. Expected costs are \$15,000

Anticipated Results: Preliminary data analysis of a clinical journal title indicates a percentage of nearly 53% grey literature; analysis of a research-focused title indicates a grey literature percentage of nearly 45%. Both are much higher than the 2000 data study. We anticipate that complete results will confirm the considerable importance of veterinary grey literature across clinical, research and educational endeavors.