| Title | : | **Peering through the Review Process: Towards Transparency in Grey Literature** |
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Now that grey literature is readily catalogued, referenced, cited, and openly accessible to subject based communities as well as net users, the claims that grey literature is unpublished or non-published have sufficiently been put to rest. However, now that grey literature has met these former challenges and entered mainstream publishing, it requires in the spirit of science to have a system in place for the quality control of its content. This new challenge has recently been spurred by the IPCC affaire involving the use/misuse of grey literature and is now almost a daily topic in the world media.

The purpose of this study will then be to explore the degree to which grey literature is reviewed and to compare similarities and differences with formal peer review carried out in various degrees by commercial publishers. This study will further distinguish the review process implemented by grey publishers from that of mavericks and vanity press, where personal opinion and pure speculation run rampant.

The method involves a review of the literature on peer view and its subsequent adaptation in the field of grey literature. Key concepts and elements in peer review will form the framework for our content analysis of the

• Roles of editor, reviewer, referee, publisher, author, research community
• Formal aspects of anonymity, (pre-)screening, confidentiality; and
• Service to science by affirming the validity, significance, and originality of content;
• As well as issues dealing with Negative Results, Conflicts of Interest, Embargo, Replication, Self-correcting, Retraction, Plagiarism, Falsification, etc.

These items will be compared on a range/continuum with those in the review process undertaken by grey publishers – often referred to as corporate authors in the sectors of government, non-government, academics, business and industry.

Ultimately, in this attempt to make the review process in grey literature more transparent to a wider public, our study will conclude with a checklist, guidelines, or recommendations for best/good practice as well as the design of an empirical survey that would produce further quantitative results, thus enabling a clearer description and explanation of the (peer) review process in grey literature.