

Grey Literature from Research Laboratories

A Case Study of the French National HAL Repository

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Abstract

HAL is the national open repository for documents and data from French scientists. The poster presents some empirical evidence on the grey literature produced by 1,272 research laboratories of ten major French research universities and deposited on HAL. The research laboratories represent four scientific domains and ten disciplines. The corpus consists of 1,035,612 deposits on HAL, with 26 different document types. The analysis has been conducted in March 2020 and in March 2021.

The scientometric analysis of this representative corpus of academic publications on HAL shows that

1. One third of the academic publications are part of the grey literature.
2. The accessibility (openness) of this literature is higher than of articles, chapters and books ("white").
3. The annual increase of grey literature is lower than of the other publications.
4. The accessibility of grey literature is growing, but at a slower pace than of articles, chapters and books ("white").
5. Regarding grey literature, significant differences of accessibility and relative importance can be observed between scientific domains and disciplines.
6. Significant differences can be observed between the research laboratories, but more research is needed for the identification of clusters and strategies.

Keywords

Open science, open access, open repositories, research laboratories, grey literature