



Trends in the use of electronic grey literature (eGL): A case study of ICSSR libraries in Delhi

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) funded libraries in Delhi have an immense resources in the area of social sciences and out of its total collection they have good quantum of grey literature both in print and electronic formats. Grey literature refers to such type of literature which in its nature never published or not published in commercial or popular form. It is a type of information which is not noticed due to proper publication status or standards.

Initially ICSSR libraries in Delhi are creating, organizing, managing and disseminating the grey literature only in print form but after the emerge of information technology and its implementation by libraries now the unpublished material is also available in digital form and made available to its users through proper repositories or websites. Grey literature has its own value in education and research. It contains valuable information which is very useful for researchers, planners and policy makers.

Social Science Institutions in Delhi under ICSSR

- Center for Policy Research, New Delhi (CPR)
- Center for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi (CSDS)
- Center for Women's Development Studies Library, Delhi (CWDS)
- Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi (IEG)
- Institute of Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi (ISID)
- National Social Science Documentation Center, New Delhi (NASSDOC)



Objectives of the Study

- To identify the various types and formats of GL in ICSSR institutions libraries in Delhi.
- To study the use of eGL within libraries of the ICSSR and examine their comparative usefulness.
- To find out the purpose of using eGL.
- To find out the problems faced by users to access the eGL.

Access and Use of Grey Literature at ICSSR Libraries in Delhi

The survey shows that the most useful GL in the ICSSR libraries are research papers, lecture series, annual report, working papers, the survey found many GLs are very useful and more than 50% of the users are using all kind of GL in ICSSR libraries for research work. While less use was found for newsletter, pamphlets and brochures, policy and statement documents. Users in the interview also expressed they find problem in accessing the GL due to Poor bibliographical control, lack of accessibility and readily availability. The respondents suggested that the literacy programme for awareness of GL would be beneficial for them to locate the required resources. The survey also finds that if the resource sharing for GL between the ICSSR institutions can be helpful for better research in social sciences. Nowadays most of the users prefer to use electronic grey literature and libraries also able to provide the literature in e-format because most of the libraries are now receiving the different GL in e-format and also digitized the old collection also. ICSSR or NASSDOC in future can take initiative of establishing a network based acquisition system for GL based on demand.

GL is more valuable when it is readily available in the required formats at the time of work. The use of GL is expanding to a greater extent to fulfill the research objectives of an individual. The respondents who participated in the survey were well attentive of the GL resource. The majority of respondents as per their need for information, time constraints and ease of use prefer to access the GL from their work place. This clearly shows that the users of GL or the research community need better user friendly and real time access.

