JCOIN Quick Lesson | Literature Searching: Grey Literature and Google Scholar

Vocabulary List

**Commercially published literature:** Literature published where publishing is the primary activity of the producing body.

**Evidence-based practice:** Objective, balanced, and responsibleuse of current research and the best available data to guide policy and practice decisions and improve outcomes.” (Crime and Justice Institute at Community Resources for Justice, 2009)

**Grey literature:**

1. “Literature that is not formally published in sources such as books or journal articles” (Higgins & Thomas, 2023)
2. “That which is produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in print and electronic formats, but which is not controlled by commercial publishers, i.e., where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body” (International Conference on Grey Literature, 1997; 2004, as cited in Snook, L., 2023)
3. Information produced outside of traditional publishing and distribution channels. (U of G Library, 2023)

**Meta-analysis:** A meta-analysis uses statistics to combine data from multiple studies and summarizes the results from individual studies. Meta-analysis is considered the highest quality of evidence and the least subject to bias.

**Open access sources:** Freely available resources.

**Peer-reviewed literature:** The source was reviewed by other experts in the field, called peers, before it was published.

**Pre-prints:** Full drafts of a research paper that are shared publicly before they have been peer reviewed. A type of grey literature.

**White paper:** A report from either the government, academic, or corporate sectors. A type of grey literature.

**References**

Higgins, J., & Thomas, J. (2023). *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*. Cochrane Training. Retrieved August 24, 2023, from <https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current>

Snook, L. (n.d.). *LibGuides: Grey Literature: What is Grey Literature?* Retrieved October 5, 2023, from <https://libguides.exeter.ac.uk/c.php?g=670055&p=4756572>

U of G Library. (2023, January 19). *What Is Grey Literature*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0m2wVKzkbA>