

Pisa Declaration on Policy Development for Grey Literature Resources

Statement of Intent, April 7, 2014



Introduction

A wealth of knowledge and information is produced by organizations, governments and industry every year, in a wide range of subject areas and professional fields, not published by commercial or professional publishing companies. These publications, data and other materials known as grey literature, are an essential resource for scholarly communication, research, policy making, business and industry, professional practice and civil society. Grey literature is recognized as a key source of evidence, argument, innovation and understanding in many disciplines including science, engineering, health, social sciences, education, the arts and humanities.

Grey literature document types include research and technical reports, briefings and reviews, evaluations, working papers, conference papers, theses and much more, representing an important and valuable part of the research and information ecosystem.

In order to realize the benefits of research and information for scholarship, government, civil society, education and the economy we, the signatories to this declaration, call for increased recognition of grey literature's role and value, particularly its importance for open access to research, open science, innovation, evidence-based policy and knowledge translation.

Points of Action

To achieve the full benefits of grey literature for local, national and global communities we call for and encourage the following:

- Greater commitment to open access by governments and organizations.
- Greater cooperation and co-ordination among organizations engaged in the production, use, collection and management of grey literature.
- New forms of recognition and reward for quality grey literature materials by governments, universities and other institutions.
- Changes to legal deposit and copyright law that enhance the capacities of libraries, collecting services and educational institutions and programs to collect and provide access to grey literature, particularly non-commercial public interest materials.
- Identifying available funding for research involving grey literature.
- Increased support for collection development and long term preservation of grey literature.
- Strategies to tackle link rot and enhance the stability and accessibility of online content.
- Increased investment in infrastructure and new technologies for accessing and using print and digital grey literature.
- Systems for linking data sets to their grey literature publications together with interoperability standards for sharing grey literature.
- Improved standards in the production and bibliographic control of grey literature.
- Development and implementation of interoperable metadata standards in the management of grey literature.
- The use of persistent identifiers and open metadata standards for grey literature.
- Development of best practice guides for the production and dissemination of grey literature.
- Address legal obstacles to the dissemination of grey literature.
- Further strides in licensing grey content for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.

We, the undersigned

