ACCESSING GREY LITERATURE

WHAT'S GREY LITERATURE?

Grey literature refers to documents produced by all levels of government and by academics, business and industry, in print and electronic formats that are protected by intellectual property rights, but not controlled by commercial publishers.

EXAMPLES OF GREY LITERATURE

- Blog posts & Tweets
- Census data (research guide)
- Clinical Trials
- Conference Abstracts & Proceedings
- Dissertations/Theses
- Meetings
- White Papers
- Registered Research
- Technical Reports & Systematic Reviews

Here are some effective strategies for finding grey literature:

LIMIT TO A DOMAIN:
- site:org
- site:gov
- site:com

FIND RELATED SITES:
- related:urban.org

LIMIT TO FILETYPE:
- filetype:pdf (or doc, ppt)

SEARCH FOR WORDS IN A URL:
- inurl:rand.org

SEARCH FOR SITES THAT LINK TO SITE OF INTEREST:
- link:academyhealth.org

FIND QUICK INFORMATION ABOUT A SITE:
- info:kff.org

STRATEGY #1: GOOGLE & GOOGLE ADVANCED SEARCH

Google offers a great way to track down grey literature resources. Use the advanced search limits below to focus your search.
Below are some top non-governmental organizations & federal agencies working in the health sciences. Since there is a seemingly endless number of organizations that produce grey literature, searching portals & using Google Advanced searches to identify names can be an effective way to find grey literature when you don’t know where to begin.

Examples of Non-Governmental Organizations:

- Academy Health
- Advisory Board
- American Dental Association
- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Center for Oral Health
- Commonwealth Fund
- Cross Cultural Health Care Program
- Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care
- Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
- National Maternal and Oral Health Resource Center
- National Quality Forum
- New York Academy of Medicine
- Prevention Institute
- Public Health Law Research
- RAND Corporation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Urban Institute

Government Agencies (Federal)

- Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
- Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)
- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Below are some resources that can help you identify organizations and/or search directly for grey literature.

- **Kennedy School of Government Think Tank Search**
  Searches more than 700 think tanks & research centers that generate public policy research & analysis.

- **Grey Literature Producing Organizations**
  A list of grey literature producing organizations from the New York Academy of Medicine.

For more information on grey literature, please contact Rachel Wedeward, MLIS, AHIP at rwedeward@aapd.org.