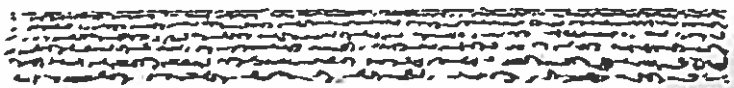


Seventeenth International Conference on Grey Literature

A New Wave of Textual and Non-Textual Grey Literature

The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Amsterdam, December 1-2, 2015



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Foreword

A NEW WAVE OF TEXTUAL AND NON-TEXTUAL GREY LITERATURE

As the internet becomes increasingly grey and every cloud now has a grey lining, there arises the need to address a new and challenging wave of textual and non-textual grey literature. GL17 will examine a number of new types of textual grey literature both web-based and submerged in the sea of social networks. No less attention will be drawn to the expanding quantity of non-textual grey literature accessible in visual, audio, and diverse data formats and frequencies. Actually, in order to grasp this new wave of grey literature it may be even more advantageous to look at the convergence of these new types of textual and non-textual content rather than focus separately on each. The problems textual grey literature faced and addressed over the past quarter century are to a certain extent very similar to what non-textual grey literature faces today. The wide range of graphics, photographs, and other data-intensive grey literature is obscure, hard to find, and often short lived because it lacks proper indexing and sustained access. Such non-textual grey literature requires interpretation and documentation, which can in part be achieved by linking and crosslinking to their related textual counterparts. In this way, grey literature becomes leveraged and its value and return on investment made transparent.

While bridging textual and non-textual content is technically possible, it also requires an information policy in place that supports these new digital assets. Likewise, information professionals and practitioners must be able to (re)appropriate human resources and streamline their workflow in innovative ways. These should allow for content and feedback generated in social networks and in particular the information communities served.

The Seventeenth International Conference on Grey Literature welcomes participants, authors and researchers to share their experience and vision on how to channel this new wave of grey literature.

Grey Literature citations in the age of Digital Repositories and Open Access

Silvia Giannini and Stefania Biagioni, Institute of Information Science and Technologies ISTI-CNR;
Sara Goggi and Gabriella Pardelli, Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale, ILC-CNR, Italy

About ten years ago we studied the impact of grey literature (GL) on conventional literature by observing the impact of grey citations in two different scientific fields, «after the growth in the use of the WWW» (Di Cesare et al. 2005). Over the last decade the international scientific community and its players have undergone (and still undergo) essential changes with respect to the representation and dissemination of knowledge. The formalization of the Open Access (OA) model dates back to the beginning of the last decade: OA is a movement born in the 1990s with the purpose to contrast the monopoly of commercial publishing houses thus making knowledge accessible for free without violating the intellectual property rights or threaten the quality of a scientific work. Along with the success of OA, the prototype of the 90s eprint archives evolved into the current digital repositories (institutional or subject based). The new paradigms of scientific communication and the most advanced computer science technologies fostered the achievement and use of these novel infrastructures: in particular, institutional repositories have gained a specific and relevant role in storing, preserving and disseminating scientific information.

The international Declarations of Budapest 2002, Bethesda 2003 and Berlin 2004 contributed to the definition of OA principles and opened the way to the movement from a normative point of view thus fostering the promulgation of national laws and European legislation as well (reference n° 2012/417/UE). Nowadays many academic and research institutions choose to adhere to the OA organization by issuing policies which compel to deposit/file their research products in OA repositories. Nevertheless the debate on this themes is extremely heated and many issues still need to be cleared up: from problems related to the quality of open access products, the peer-review processes, the integration between the OA world and the evaluation of research to – last but not least - the impact of citations of OA works (Guerrini 2010; De Bellis 2005; Eysenbach 2006). In our current digital era bibliographic citations has gained a strategic role within the mechanisms of scientific communication, especially due to the implementation of the citation indexing services (Cassella 2011). Citation has thus become «...the currency in scientific communication trade. It is a small denomination bill (quoting does not cost that much) but with a very high symbolic buying power...» (DeBellis 2014)¹. Besides it is undeniable that from a bibliometric point of view the two more widely recognized and used standards are those based on the number of citations per article and on the Impact Factor (IF) per journal.

In this scenario, it seemed interesting to investigate once again the “world” of scientific citations for proving if - and eventually to which extent – this “revolution” in the communication of knowledge might actually reflect on the GL approach to citations. Today institutional archives allow to store and make accessible any research “product”, whether “official” publications or various types of grey literature: from the more traditional technical reports or dissertations to the newest datasets, experiments, software, web sites, blogs.

Our hypothesis is then driven by the idea that grey literature, more easily identified and accessed, may have a greater visibility. Similarly it is possible to assume a greater impact of GL citations on the overall total of citations.

This work measures grey citations in the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 and then describes the features of GL documents cited in two different areas of knowledge: Computational Linguistics and Computer Science. With the aim to survey a wide and varied range of resources, we selected a sample data based on the bibliographic references of articles contained in 4 journals - all indexed by the ISI Web of Science and with an Impact Factor over the last three years - and two proceedings of international conferences held in 2012 and 2014.

¹ From the Italian original work: «...moneta corrente nel commercio della comunicazione scientifica ufficiale. Moneta di piccolo taglio (costa poco citare), ma dal potere d'acquisto simbolico non indifferente...» (DeBellis 2014).

Bionotes

Silvia Giannini graduated and specialized in library sciences. Since 1987 she has been working in Pisa at the Institute for the Science and Technologies of Information "A. Faedo" of the Italian National Council of Research (ISTI-CNR) as a librarian. She is a member of the ISTI Networked Multimedia Information Systems Laboratory (NMIS). She is responsible of the library automation software "Libero" in use at the CNR Research Area in Pisa and coordinates the bibliographic and managing activities of the ISTI library team. She cooperates in the design and development of the PUMA (Publication Management) & MetaPub, an infrastructure software for institutional and thematic Open Access repositories of published and grey literature produced by CNR. Email: silvia.giannini@isti.cnr.it



Stefania Biagoni graduated in Italian Language and Literature at the University of Pisa and specialized in Data Processing and DBMS. She is currently a member of the research staff at the Istituto di Scienza e Tecnologie dell'Informazione "A. Faedo" (ISTI), an institute of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) located in Pisa. She is head librarian of the Multidisciplinary Library of the CNR Campus in Pisa and member of the ISTI Networked Multimedia Information Systems Laboratory (NMIS). She has been the responsible of ERCIM Technical Reference Digital Library (ETRD) and currently of the PUMA (Publication Management) & MetaPub, a service oriented and user focused infrastructure for institutional and thematic Open Access repositories looking at the DRIVER/OpenAire vision, <http://puma.isti.cnr.it>. She has coauthored a number of publications dealing with digital libraries. Her activities include integration of grey literature into library collections and web access to the library's digital resources, including electronic journals and databases. She is a member of GreyNet since 2005. Since 2013 she is involved on the GreyGuide Project. Email: stefania.biagoni@isti.cnr.it



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Gabriella Pardelli was born at Pisa, graduated in Arts in 1980 at the Pisa University, submitting a thesis on the History of Science. Since 1984, researcher at the National Research Council, Institute of Computational Linguistics "Antonio Zampolli" ILC, in Pisa. Head of the Library of the ILC Institute since 1990. Her interests and activity range from studies in grey literature and terminology, with particular regard to the Computational Linguistics and its related disciplines, to the creation of documentary resources for digital libraries in the Humanities. She has participated in many national and international projects including the recent projects:- BIBLOS: Historical, Philosophical and Philological Digital Library of the Italian National Research Council, (funded by CNR); - For digital edition of manuscripts of Ferdinand de Saussure (Research Programs of Relevant National Interest, PRIN - funded by the Ministry of Education, University and Research, MIUR). Email: gabriella.pardelli@ilc.cnr.it

