

Library Ask & Learn

Grey Literature Guide

Grey literature covers a wide range of information published or produced by various sources e.g. health institutes, international agencies, non-profit organisations, local and national government and professional bodies. Examples of grey literature can be (but are not limited to):

- archive material
- conference proceedings
- dissertations and theses
- guidelines
- market research reports
- policy information
- reports

Searching for grey literature does require time and effort. These types of sources may not be surfaced within a library catalogue or subject specific database, but may be found within specific websites responsible for producing or publishing the information. Listed below are links, both general and subject specific to help you:

[CORE](#): facilitates free unrestricted access to research by aggregating open access research outputs from repositories and journals worldwide.

[Grey Source Index](#): hosted on the Grey Net website, the index enables access to resources categorised by broad subject disciplines.

[Open Grey](#): open access website offering functionality to search across grey literature produced in Europe. Covers the fields of science, technology, biomedical science, economics, social science and Humanities plus preprints from the GreyNet International conferences in full text.

Conference Proceedings

[Web of Science](#): database with the functionality to search for [conference proceedings](#). You can search specifically within the Conference field.

Gateways and search engines

These are very useful to search widely but using site navigation and advanced search techniques can help to ensure your search is more targeted.

Google: for a wide general search across the internet use [Google advanced search](#).

Google Scholar: to run a search across scholarly literature from a range of sources including academic publishers, universities and repositories use [Google scholar advanced search](#)

[Semantic Scholar](#): an academic search engine which uses artificial intelligence to allow you to search across scientific publications and resources retrieving high quality and targeted results.

Repositories

[OpenDOAR](#): quality-assured global directory of academic open access repositories

[ResearchOnline@GCU](#): access research held within the University research repository

Theses

[EThOS](#): British Library site which enables free searching of UK PhD theses with option to access full text where available. Register or login to order an electronic version of a thesis. Use the **advanced search** to search by Thesis Title, Abstract, LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Headings) and Subject Keyword. Access [our guidance](#) for links to search for Non-UK theses.

Health specific

Clinical Trials

[ClinicalTrials.gov](#): produced by the US National Library of Health indexes trials in the United States and worldwide.

[CenterWatch](#): a searchable database of listings of worldwide industry and government-sponsored clinical trials. Sponsors use this service to inform patients and their caregivers about ongoing clinical trial opportunities, which volunteers can then review and inquire about participation.

[Current Controlled Trials](#): allows users to search, register and share information about randomised controlled trials. Access to all the information on this site is free.

[Knowledge Network](#): national knowledge management platform for health and social care in Scotland. Access to electronic resources such as journals and databases requires Athens authentication. To search for grey literature use the [Portals and Topics tab](#) to search across a range of open access links and resources.

[National Institute for Health Research](#): overarching entity which collectively represents all publicly-funded research in the NHS. Using the 'Be part of Research' site offers functionality to search for research carried out across the United Kingdom.

[Trials](#): an open access, peer-reviewed, online journal from BioMed Central that covers the performance and findings of randomized controlled trials.

Practice Guidelines

[Guidelines](#): provides concise clinical guideline summaries of major primary and shared care guidelines in the UK. Additionally, European guidelines from some of the major independent professional bodies are also summarised and included. Summaries of guidelines from NICE, the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN), independent professional bodies, and expert-led working party groups are developed for use in clinical practice.

[National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence \(NICE\) Guidance](#): covers three main areas: public health, health technologies and clinical practice.

[SCIE practice guides](#): free online resource which bring together information, research and current good practice about particular areas of social care. The guides give users the opportunity to develop their own knowledge about what works well and apply it effectively in their day-to-day work.

[Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network \(SIGN\) Guidelines](#): development and dissemination of national clinical guidelines containing recommendations for effective practice based on current evidence.

[Turning Research Into Practice \(TRIP\)](#): lets you identify the high quality clinical evidence for clinical practice.

Referencing Help

For help referencing any sources of grey literature you have located check our [Harvard Referencing guide](#)