SEARCHES OF ELETRONIC DATABASES OF RESEARCH LITERATURE

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SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

- Literature search is a key step in performing good authentic research.

- The available published data are enormous

➔ choosing the appropriate data is an art.

- Literature search for research planning and identification of research problem
  - FORMULATING THE RESEARCH QUESTION
  - TYPES OF MEDICAL LITERATURE
  - METHODS OF LITERATURE SEARCH
  - TYPES OF SEARCH

1. DATABASES
# OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

Databases

- A database is a tool for collecting and organizing information related to a particular subject or problem.
  - contain a huge amount of information in the form of entire texts, abstracts, books, bibliographies or citations
  - allow convenient searching and reading directly on the computer

- Databases: PUBMED, SCOPUS, Web of Knowledge – Web of Science, …

- Each of the databases has different search engines and allows access to information or sources of information.

PubMed
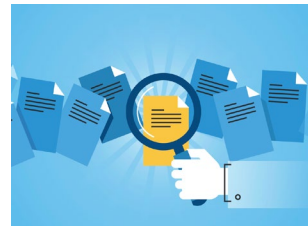
- a free resource, the public online since 1996

- biomedical and life sciences literature, more than 30 million citations and abstracts

- develop and maintain - the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI)

- PubMed facilitates searching across: MEDLINE, PubMed Central (PMC), Bookshelf

- PubMed User Guide: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/help/

Scopus

- bibliographic, abstract and citation database of Elsevier publishing house

- one of the youngest, largest abstract and citation databases

- 24,600 active titles and 5,000 publishers

- an independent review board.

- Allows: simple search, advanced search, author's search, searches by workplace, search for citations, search for h -index

Web of Science

- a collection of databases

- index the world's leading scholarly literature

- Thomson Reuters

- All journals - strict criteria

2. OTHER SEARCH TOOLS

Google Scholar

- Google Scholar provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature.

- Features of Google Scholar
  - Search all scholarly literature from one convenient place
  - Explore related works, citations, authors, and publications
  - Locate the complete document through your library or on the web
  - Keep up with recent developments in any area of research
  - Check who's citing your publications, create a public author profile

- Guide to use:
  https://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/help.html#searching

Google Books

- a service from Google Inc. that searches the full text of books and magazines that Google has scanned, converted to text using optical character recognition (OCR), and stored in its digital database.

- December 2004: was announced

- October 2019: more than 40 million titles.

- Guide to use: https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/43729?hl=en

3. PERSONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES

Citation management

- Citation management software - "bibliographic software", allows you to organize, store, and retrieve information, such as citations for books, articles, and Web sites.

- Common bibliographic software
  - EndNote
  - Zotero
  - Mendeley
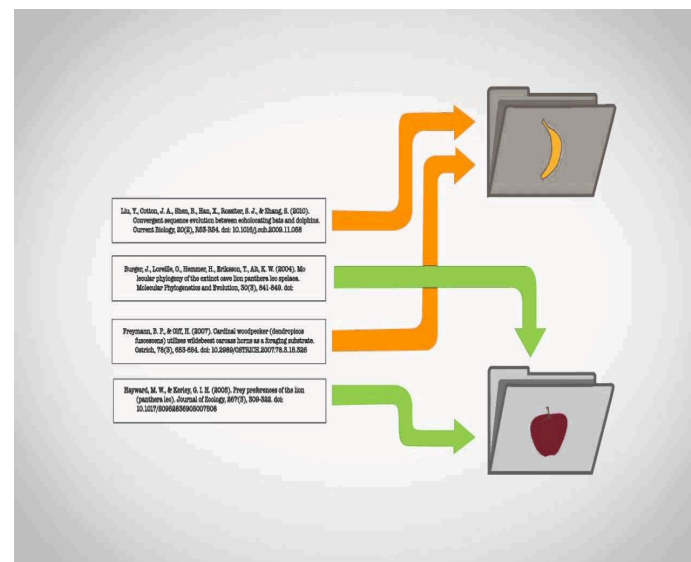
Zotero

- A project of the Corporation for Digital Scholarship.

- A free, open-source research tool

- Zotero allows users to:
  - cite sources such as: articles, websites, and images
  - organize references into collections
  - collaborate with other researchers
  - store up to 3MB free of PDFs attached to references
  - import references from research databases and websites
  - insert citations into a word processing document and then automatically format them in a citation style

- It automatically detects content in your web browser, allowing you to add to your personal library with a single click.

- Guide to use: https://www.zotero.org/support/

or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjpYtqZCtxU&feature=youtu.be

EndNote

- software used to manage your references and format your bibliography, produced by Clarivate Analytics.

- The latest version at UTAS is EndNote X9

- available with a 30-day free trial.

- EndNote enables you to:
  - transfer and store references from electronic databases and library catalogues
  - insert citations to Word as you write
  - change styles easily and format a bibliography
  - View, annotate your PDFs and find fulltext
  - sync your library and work across devices and platforms

- Guide to use:

  https://endnote.com/

Mendeley

- Mendeley is a free reference manager and academic social network.

- Function:
  - Automatically generate bibliographies
  - Collaborate easily with other researchers online
  - Easily import papers from other research software
  - Find relevant papers based on what you're reading
  - Access your papers from anywhere online
  - Read papers on the go, with our iOS and Android apps

- Installation and Quick Start Guide:https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gv6_HuCYExM

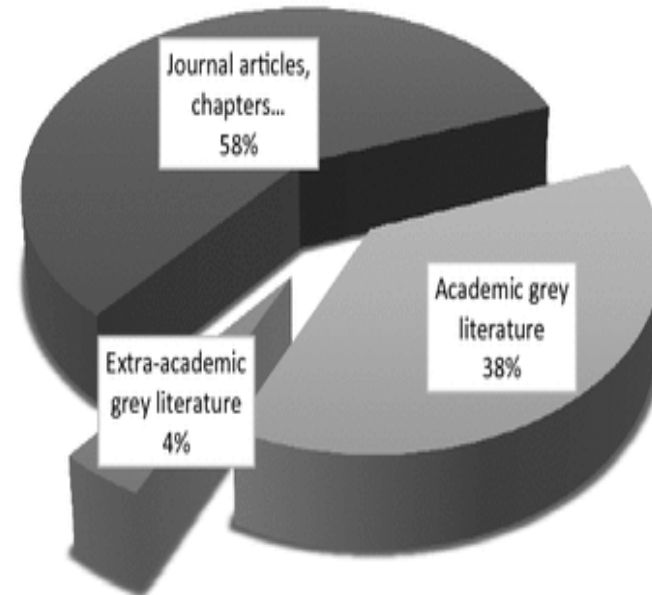# 4. GREY LITERATURE

Grey literature

Figure 1. "Shades" of grey literature
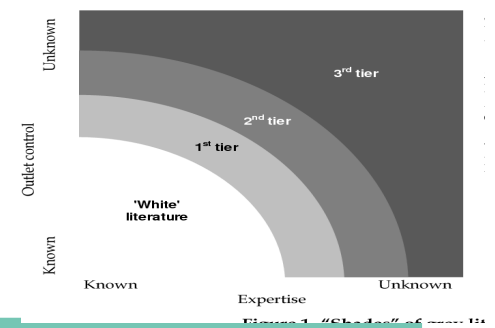
- Information produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in electronic and print formats not controlled by commercial publishing i.e. where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body.

   (defined by the Luxembourg Convention 1997)

- Examples:
  - conference abstracts,
  - presentations,
  - proceedings;
  - regulatory data;
  - unpublished trial data;
  - government publications;
  - reports.

Journal articles, chapters... 58%

Academic grey literature 38%

Extra-academic grey literature 4%

Where to search for grey literature

- To search across the websites of governments and organizations, use the resources:
  - Google
  - WorldCat
  - Other sources: By geographic coverage, International, Statistics and data sources.

- Another way:
  - to identify organizations - search their websites—paying close attention to website sections with names like "Documents", "Reports", and "Library".
  - Consider government agencies, non-profits, professional associations, research institutes, and other organizations.

5. HINARI ACCESS
TO RESEARCH FOR HEALTH

Hinari programme

- Launched in 2001

- Managed by the World Health Organization (WHO)

- 4,600 journals, 12,500 books and 110 other information sources

- 125 countries, areas and territories.

- free or very low cost online access - developing countries.

- Free collections - titles in health sciences

- Available at www.who.int/hinari

Request an author's copy

- no access to the articles - email (short, clear and polite).

- The general format:
  - why you think reading the article(s) will be valuable
  - why you're asking the professor's assistance
  - show your awareness that this is an imposition (try to make ones a more graceful)

- "request paper' at Researchgate

6. SOURCES
WITH ETHICAL PROBLEMS

Sci-Hub

- a website that provides free access to millions of research papers and books, without regard to copyright

- by Alexandra Elbakyan in 2011 in Kazakhstan

- used worldwide extensively.

- papers in Sci-Hub library: more than 83,770,089

- artificially restricted by copyright laws.

- The European Commission - "Piracy Watch List".

Library Genesis (libgen)

- a digital library, that gives you free access to millions of books as ebooks

- Accused of pirating and granting free access to articles and books

- District Court - Libgen to shut down and to suspend use of the domain name (libgen.org)

- alternate domains

- Link for guide: https://librarygenesis.net

SUMMARY

DATABASES: PUBMED, SCOPUS, WOS

OTHER SEARCH TOOLS: GOOGLE SCHOLAR, GOOGLE BOOKS

PERSONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES: MENDELEY, END NOTE, ZOTERO

GREY LITERATURE

HINARI ACCESS TO RESEARCH FOR HEALTH PROGRAMME, REQUEST ANA AUTHOR´S COPY

SOURCES WITH ETHICAL PROBLEMS: SCI-HUB, LIBRARY GENESIS

- Literature search provides not only an opportunity to learn more about a given topic but provides insight on how the topic was studied by previous analysts. It helps to interpret ideas, detect shortcomings and recognise opportunities. In short, systematic and well-organised research may help in designing a novel research.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION ☺