

The GreyLit Project: International Co-Operative Challenges in Capacity and Resources

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2nd International Conference on Digital Libraries & Archives
(ICADLA2)

Johannesburg, 17-18 November 2011

Grey Literature (GL)

- Body of literature not found by means of conventional published channels
 - Myriad definitions
 - Online list (www.greynet.org)
- Includes government research, non-profit reports, reports from other primary resource materials
 - Huffine, 2010



Why “Grey”?

- “In between zone”
- “Between extremes of black and white”
 - White = published material
 - Black = ideas and thoughts
 - Giustini, 2011 (http://hlwiki.slais.ubc.ca/index.php/Grey_literature)



GL in Medicine

- Systematic reviews in clinical medicine
 - Specialized literature reviews that focus on a research question
 - Identify, appraise, select, synthesize all high quality research evidence relevant to that question
 - Evidence-base for clinical trials
 - Exhaustive
 - Minimize bias
- Public Health
 - Decision-making



“Findability”

- “Needle in the haystack”
 - in regard to difficulties experienced in finding this kind of material
 - Mathews, 2004
- Digital era makes GL easier to find
- “Credibility” and “reliability” of “authoring/publishing” body now key
 - Huffine, 2010



Credibility

- NYAM Library
 - 1847
 - Gift of 3 vol *Medical and Physiological Commentaries*
 - Martyn Paine
 - One of founders of Medical College of University of NYC

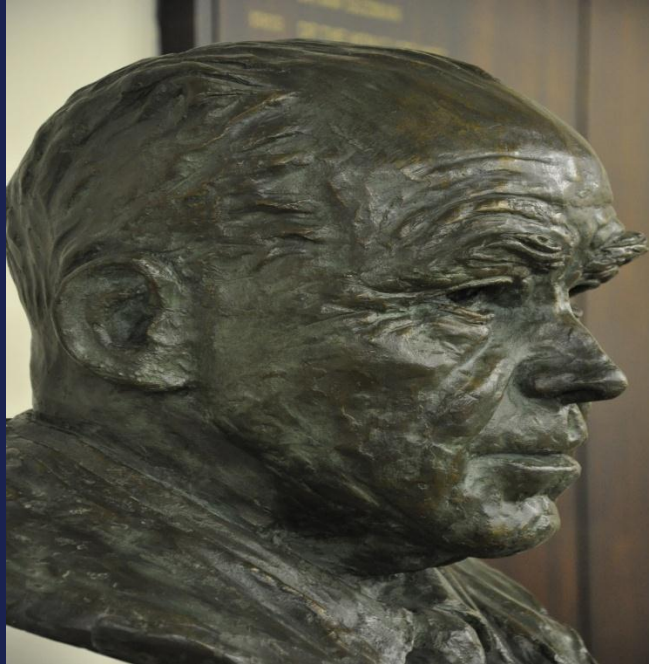


Credibility

- WHSL
 - 1926 (1923)
 - Gazetted into existence by Administrator of Transvaal
 - 600 books from Professor Raymond Dart



Raymond Dart



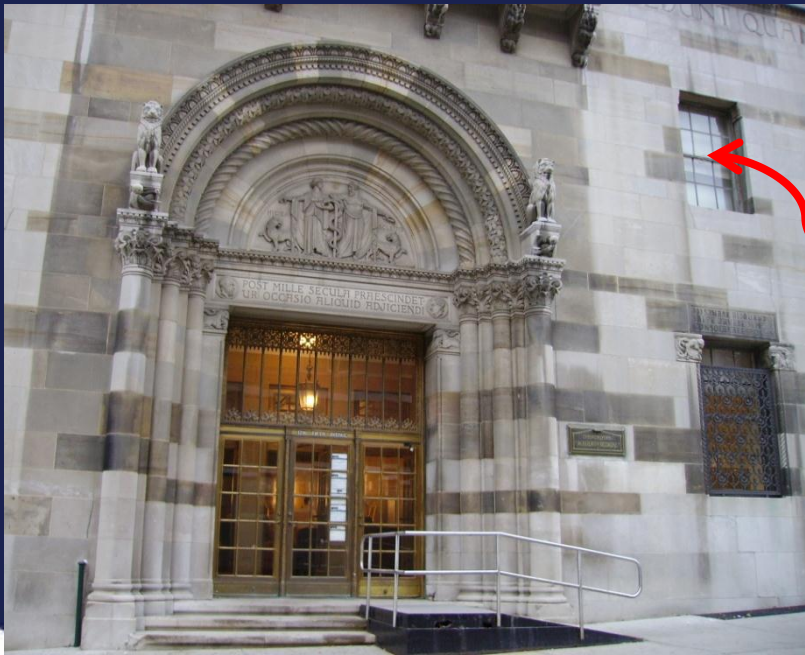
- World renowned anthropologist
- 1925
- Taung skull
- HoD Anatomical Sciences
- Dean
- WHSL (WML) Librarian



Partnership

New York Academy of
Medicine (NYAM) Library

Witwatersrand Health
Sciences Library (WHSL)



The Grey Literature Report Aug 1999

<http://www.nyam.org/library/online-resources/grey-literature-report>



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Current Grey Literature Report

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Vol. 13, No. 5 - September 2011

The publications in the report can be found in [The New York Academy of Medicine's Library Catalog](#).

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The following are our recent grey literature acquisitions:

AARP Public Policy Institute

[Rx price watch report : trends in retail prices of generic prescription drugs widely used by Medicare beneficiaries 2005 to 2009 - 2011](#)

AARP

[State health insurance exchange websites : a review, discussion and recommendations for providing consumers information about quality and performance - 2011](#)

Active Living Network

[The economic benefits of open space, recreation facilities and walkable community design - 2010](#)

[The potential of safe, secure and accessible playgrounds to increase children's physical activity - 2011](#)

[The power of trails for promoting physical activity in communities - 2011](#)

Library

About the Library

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US Food and Drug Administration: Strategic Priorities

2011 – 2015



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Submission Notes:

The Institutional Repository (IR)

- Stores and preserves ... institutional assets including unpublished or otherwise easily lost (“grey”) literature
 - Ubogu & Roberts, 2008
- WIReDSpace
 - Wits Institutional Repository on DSpace



Wits IR

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WIReDSpace

Wits Institutional Repository
environment on DSpace

WITS Institutional Repository on DSpace(WIReDSpace)

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School of Public Health

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- [Centre for Health Policy \(CHP\)](#)
A multi-disciplinary health policy research unit based in the School of Public Health

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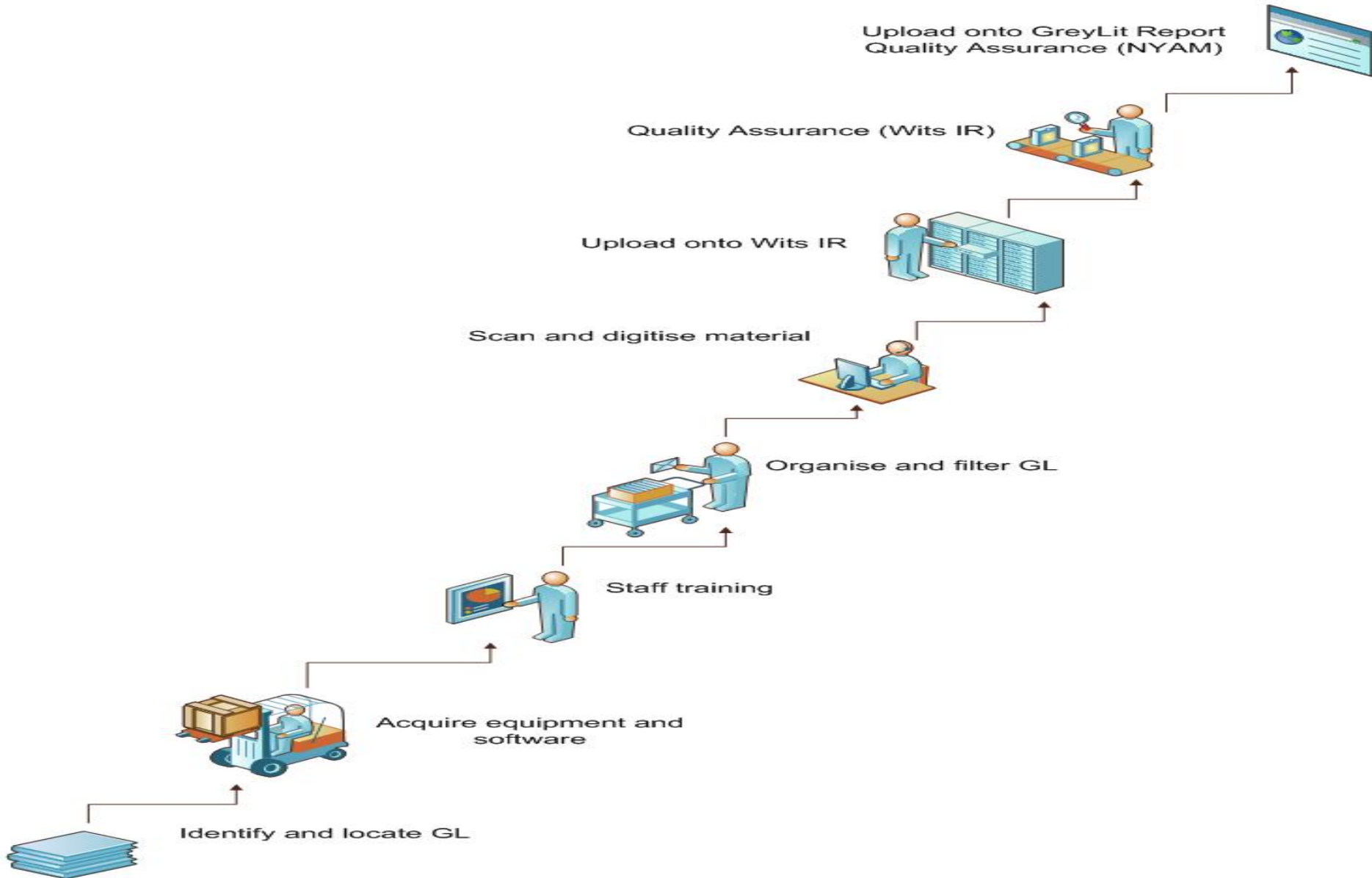
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African Challenges with IRs

- Slow uptake
 - Issues relating to acceptance of electronic information
 - Absence of institutional strategies and policies
 - Inadequate technical infrastructure
 - Copyright and IP concerns
 - Lack of awareness/understanding of concepts involved
 - Lack of funding
 - Chisenga, 2006



WHSL Workflow



Challenges facing WHSL

- Geographic isolation from Wits Digitisation Centre
 - Equipment
 - Exchange of information; Communication
- Geographically dispersed Health Sciences campus
 - Communication (Who does what; what is where?)



5th Avenue NYC 9th International Urban Health Conference 2010

“HIV and Slums Team ☺ and WITSies”



Quality Assurance: Centre for Health Policy (FHS)

Centre for Health Policy (CHP)

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The Centre for Health Policy (CHP) is a multi-disciplinary health policy research unit based in the School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. CHP is recognised by the South African Medical Research Council (MRC) as the Research Group in Health Policy.

Sub-communities within this community

- [HIV/AIDS \(CHP\)](#)

Collections in this community

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Opportunities for WHSL



- Virtual accessibility
- Technological capacity
- HR capacity
 - Reskilling
- “ ‘n Boer maak ‘n Plan”
 - “Intrapreneurship”
 - Resourcefulness
- Enthusiasm
- NYAM Library Partnership



- “It is fair to say that the ease of access to information is one measure of how much societies value that information”
 - Banks, 2005
- The nation’s health is a significant contributor to the nation’s wealth

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