Use of Grey Literature by the LIS Discipline Researchers in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library: A Case Study

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Abstract: - *This study was undertaken to find out the use of grey literature by the Library and Information Science (LIS) discipline researchers in Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library (Dr. BAMUL).The Survey was conducted by using well-structured questionnaires. The study demonstrates and elaborates the various aspects of grey literature; strategies for enhancing the use of grey literature were formulated to guide the study. The sample consisted of 62 Library and Information Science (LIS) discipline researchers from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad (Dr. BAMU).*

Keywords: Grey Literature, Strategies, Library and Information Science (LIS), Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library (Dr. BAMUL)

1.Introduction

Universities are relied on for education, training and manpower development and research for socio-economic development of any nation. For Universities to meet with this responsibility, they need to provide strong literature support to the teaching, learning, research and community development activities. The unit of the university responsible for the provision, management and dissemination of information to support the effective and expeditious attainment of the objectives of the university is its library. The increase in the volume of literature in the library collection has been occurring at an exponential rate in this information age.

Grey Literature

Professionals such as librarians, researchers, and the intelligence community have been using the term "grey literature" to refer to an extensive body of information material that cannot be found easily through conventional channels such as publishers, but which is frequently original and usually recent and provides high quality information (Debachere, 1995). According to (Cooper, 1994), grey literature reports on extensive research, landmark experiments, comprehensive surveys and detailed

investigations. Researchers, students, practitioners and academics are aware that a great deal of valuable information on research and practice is never published in the conventional manner. Thus, redefined and edited versions may appear after a lengthy delay in journal articles or books, but in many cases the original report, paper, or dissertation is the only source. Grey literature, therefore, is often at the cutting edge of what is new (Smith, 1996).

Studies on access and usage of grey literature have attracted wide attention from many parts of the world. Literature on its originality, relevance in the development of science and in solving societal problems, especially from the developed countries is immense. In the developing world, it has started to gain prominence, especially in higher learning institutions and research establishments. There is a pressing need to more effectively manage Grey Literature for higher education and research as they are often not accessible on the web.

1. Review of Literature

The exhaustive and unequivocal definition of the nature and types of material qualified to be defined or described as grey literature could probably form the basis of understanding it. However, there is no certain means of developing a universally- accepted definition or description of grey literature. Grey literature is a term that is probably not widely understood outside the world of librarians in the natural sciences and social sciences. Even within this circle, there are varying degrees of agreement and consensus on what constitutes grey literature (Titlett& Newbold, 2006). Scholars such as McKinney (2005), Der Heij (1985), Aina (2005) and Smith (1996) Wood (1982) (as cited in Samzugi, 2012) have analysed the literature tracing the development of definitions as well as a general description of the term "grey literature". The definitions and descriptions provided will demonstrate how hard and awkward it is to find a comprehensive definition and description.

The term "grey literature" is not new and, perhaps, most people know it by other names. Historically, grey literature is a product of an evolutionary development rooted in the twentieth century science and technology, often being associated with many names. Van der Heijj (1985), for instance, noted that synonyms for "grey" as used in the professional press include "fringe", "ephemeral", "fugitive", "informal", "informally published", "unconventional", "unpublished" and "invisible" literature. Such literature, as indicated earlier, has also been known generally as "report literature" (Mc Kinney, 2005).

Auger (1998), however, opposes the use of the term non-conventional when it comes to grey literature and, instead, states that "documents may be unconventional in many ways and many conventionally published documents show greyish aspects". He argues further that "some of these items are conventional in appearance and can be acquired by placing subscriptions or orders through agents and booksellers". Some people relate it to a situation or a topic that does not fit

into a particular category and is, therefore, difficult to deal with (Tella, 2006). In Europe, for instance, the term has become widely recognized and used as evidenced by German "graueLiteratur", the Italian "Letteraturagrigia" and the French "Litterature grise" (Augur, 1998, Malinowska, 2006), which all imply not published. In the United States, the term has taken longer to be accepted. According to Auger (1998), the term originated from the British librarians and supplanted the longer established American term "reports literature".

Augur (1989) and Malinowska (2006) trace the birth of "grey literature" to "report literature", its forerunner, as the term grey literature only gained currency in the 1970s (Alberani, 2000). In the UK, as noted by Alberani (2000) and Augur (1998), the starting point for the endorsement of the terminology started at a seminar on grey literature held in York in December 1978. The seminar was organized by the European Economic Community, now the European Union, in co-operation with the British Library Lending Division, now known as the British Library.

The most useful and a widely accepted minimal definition before the 1990s was that of Wood (1984), who defined it as "material, which is not available through normal book selling channels". As well as being the subject of haphazard or specialized distribution arrangements, grey literature also has a number of other distinguishing characteristics such as a small print runs, variable standards of editing and production, poor publicity, poor bibliographic control, and poor availability in libraries (Wood,1984). Gibb and Phillips (1978) defined grey literature as material which, in its manner of publication, is "non-conventional".

McKinney (2005) questions the use of this definition since it is "too inclusive" and likely to cover something ephemeral or a printout from an online search, but can exclude literature often be obtained from vendors which are by definition grey literature (McKinney, ibid.). Der Heij (1985) defined grey literature as written materials not issued through regular channel. Similarly, Smith (1995) defined grey literature thus: "Material which cannot readily be acquired through normal bookselling channels, which therefore escapes listing in bibliographies and in print tools, and which is therefore difficult to identify and obtain." Attempts to re-define grey literature to take into account new developments include the one which came out of the 1996 Grey Works Workshop. This definition refers to non-conventional literature considered to be publicly available information, which may not be available through normal channels or systems of publication and bibliographic control (Smith, 1996). The US Interagency Grey Literature Working Group (IGWG 1995) has defined grey literature as foreign or domestic open source materials that are usually available through specialized channels and may not enter the normal channels or systems of publications, distribution, bibliographic control or acquisition by booksellers or subscription agents (IGWG, 1995).

2. About DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Marathwada University established in the year 1958, along with its library was renamed as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University in January 1994. The Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library (BAMUL) has a total collection of more than 4 lakh books, and subscribes to 200+ journal titles. It holds 4641 Ph.D theses and 45,000+ back volumes of periodicals and more than 5000 manuscripts.

3. Scope of the Study

The present study is limited to Research students of Library and Information Science (LIS) discipline in Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library, Aurangabad.

4. Objectives of the Study

It specifically focused on the following objectives:

➢ To examine the Grey Literature usage by the LIS researchers in Dr. BAMU Library.

➢ To find out the purpose of using the Grey Literatureby the LIS researchers in Dr. BAMU Library.

5. Methodology

Present study has used survey method. This method plays a significant role in research as can be seen from the statement. The survey method is one of the most effective and sensitive instruments of research survey research can produce much needed knowledge.

Data collection: - To know the needs of students covered, a structured questionnaire was designed and factual questions, opinion questions were asked. The researcher distributed 76 questionnaires to research Scholars and 62 questionnaires duly filled were returned. The time period of the study was December 2017.

6. Data Analysis

The collected data were organized and tabulated by using statistical methods, tables and percentages.

Table: - 1. Frequency of Visiting University library

S. No	Time	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Daily	18	29.03
2	3-4 times in a week	23	37.10
3	Once in a week	16	25.81
4	No Response	5	8.06
	Total	**62**	**100**

Table 1 shows that 23(37.10%) of the Respondents visit the library daily, followed by 18(29.03%) respondents visit the library 3-4 times in a week, 16(25.81%) respondents visit the library once in a week, 05(8.06%) of the respondents have not responded to the question.

Table: - 2. Purpose of Grey LiteratureUse

S. No	Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Teaching/Study	16	25.81
2	Research Work	33	53.23
3	Publication needs	11	17.74
4	No Response	2	3.23
	Total	**62**	**100**

Table 2 shows that 33(53.23%) of the respondents use grey literature for their Research work, followed by 16(25.81%) used grey literature for teaching and study, 11(17.74%) of the respondents used grey literature for publication needs, 2(3.23%) not responded. Hence, it can be inferred that a majority of the Respondents use the grey literature for their research work.

Table: - 3. Use / Access of Grey Literature

S. No	Use / Access of GL	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Most Frequently	8	12.90
2	Frequently	38	61.29
3	Moderately	11	17.74
4	Occasionally	4	6.45
5	No Response	1	1.61
	Total	**62**	**100.00**

Table 3 shows that 38(61.29%) of the respondents access the grey literature frequently, followed by 11(17.74%) access the grey literature moderately, 08(12.90%) of the respondents access the grey literature most frequently, 04(6.45%) Occasionally access the grey literature, 01(1.61%) not responded. Hence, it can be inferred that a majority of the Respondents access the grey literature frequently

Table: - 4. Satisfaction of Accessing Grey Literature

S. No	Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Highly satisfied	17	27.42
2	Satisfied	29	46.77
3	Average	10	16.13
4	Not satisfied	6	9.68
	Total	**62**	**100.00**

Table 4 shows that 29(46.77%) of the respondents are satisfied for accessing grey literature, followed by 17(27.42%) of the respondents highly satisfied for accessing grey literature, 10(16.13%) of the respondents average and 6(9.68%) of the respondents not satisfied. Hence, it can be inferred that a majority of the Respondents satisfied accessing grey literature.

Table: - 5. Difficulties of Accessing Grey Literature

S. No	Difficulties	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Sources are classified under different subjects	07	11.29
2	No systematic arrangement for grey literature	14	22.58
3	No Difficulties for Accessing Grey Literature	41	66.13
	Total	**62**	**100.00**

Table 5 shows 41(66.13%) of the respondents have no difficulties for accessing grey literature, followed by 14(22.58%) respondents have difficulty in no systematic arrangement for grey literatureand followed by 07(11.29%) respondents difficulty in sources are classified under different subjects.

Table: - 6. GL collection is Up-to-date and Recent collection.

S. No	Rating	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Excellent	12	19.35
2	Good	41	66.13
3	Fair	09	14.52
	Total	**62**	**100.00**

Table No.6 shows that 41 respondents 66.13% of the total sample rating that the grey literature

collection is good in the library. While another 12 respondents (19.35%) rating that the grey literature collection is too excellent for them. 09 respondents (14.52%) rating that grey literature collection is fair in the library.

Table: - 7. GL collection is Adequate and comprehensive collection.

S. No	Rating	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Excellent	15	24.19
2	Good	35	56.45
3	Fair	12	19.35
	Total	**62**	**100.00**

Table No.7 shows that 35 respondents 56.45% of the total sample rating that the grey literature collection is good adequate and comprehensive collection in the library. While another 15 respondents (24.19%) rating that the grey literature collection is too excellent adequate and comprehensive collection for them. 12 respondents (19.35%) rating that grey literature collection is fair adequate and comprehensive collection in the library.

7. Findings of the Study

On the basis of responses received from respondents the following important findings can be noted:

➢ The study reveals that majority of researcher's purpose of using grey literature for their research work needs.

➢ A majority of the respondents accessing the grey literature frequently.

➢ A majority of respondents did not face any problems while they were using or

accessing grey literature in the university library.

➢ It was found that a maximum number of users were satisfied with the accessing grey literature in the university library.

8. Conclusion

This study gives a snapshot of the use of grey literature by the LIS Discipline Researchers in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Library. It is clear that most of the researchers accessinggrey literature for their study, teaching and research needs. 34% of the researchers expressed problems while accessing grey literature in the university library. The infrastructure of grey literature stack section needs to be developed for better arrangement of grey literature collection. The study also indicates that most of users were satisfied with the using the grey literature.

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