Faculty Experiences With Grey Literature: A Mixed Methods Approach
Kristen Cooper, Amy Riegelman, Wanda Marsolek, Shannon Farrell, and Julie Kelly
University of Minnesota

INTRODUCTION

- Grey literature is that which is produced on all levels of government, academics, business, and industry in print and electronic formats, but which is not controlled by commercial publishers.
  - Conference papers
  - Technical reports
  - White papers
  - These and dissertations

IMPORTANCE

- Challenging to locate
- Typically more timely than traditionally published work
- Researchers use it but are resistant to citing it
- Systematic reviews guidelines mandate inclusion of grey literature and recommend librarian participation

METHODS

- Study examined how University of Minnesota faculty find, cite, and create grey literature
- Disciplinary differences
- Random sample of 57% of tenure and tenure track faculty (n = 1300)
- Distributed via Qualtrics
  - Multiple choice and open ended survey questions
  - Disseminated via email with 1 reminder message
- A survey question asked respondents if they would agree to a follow-up interview.
- 60 minute in person interview conducted and recorded

SURVEY RESULTS

DO YOU USE GREY LITERATURE?

WHAT TYPES OF GREY LITERATURE DO YOU USE?

WHAT ARE THE REASONS YOU DO NOT USE GREY LITERATURE?

HOW DO YOU FIND GREY LITERATURE?

DO YOU EVER CITE GREY LITERATURE?

WHAT ARE THE REASONS YOU DO NOT CITE GREY LITERATURE?

NEXT STEPS

- Continue interviewing faculty. Sample questions include:
  - Are there guidelines about citing grey literature in your disciplines?
  - Are you aware of disciplinary trends regarding preprints in your area? If yes, what are they?
  - Describe challenges you have encountered when finding or accessing grey literature.
- Transcribe interview recordings and analyze

REFERENCES