

Searching grey literature: Grey Matters

A summary of

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (2011). *Grey Matters: A Practical Search Tool for Evidence-Based Medicine*. Ottawa: ON.



National Collaborating Centre
for Methods and Tools
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des méthodes et outils

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Categories:

Tool, Search

Date posted:

May 30, 2012

Date updated:

September 12, 2017

Tool

Relevance For Public Health

Public health professionals can use this grey literature checklist to identify Canadian and international organizations with relevant unpublished reports and resources. Searching and synthesizing grey literature can help professionals develop an enriched and comprehensive evidence base to inform decision making.

Description

Developed by the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH), [Grey Matters: A Practical Search Tool for Evidence-based Medicine](#) is a checklist to use when searching grey literature reports that are not accessible through bibliographic databases. *Grey Matters* is a comprehensive list of Canadian and international government health technology assessment (HTA) websites, health economics resources and health prevalence or incidence databases.

Created by the Information Services team at CADTH, this checklist serves to:

- ensure retrieval of relevant government, evidence-based agency reports that may not be indexed in bibliographic databases;
- document the grey literature search process so that is transparent and reproducible; and
- ensure a standard and systematic approach to searching grey literature.

Grey Matters includes Canadian and international websites with tips on searching websites and Internet searching.

Implementing the Tool

Who is Involved?

Librarians, project specialists and others involved in searching for information as part of an evidence review or rapid review process would benefit from using this tool.

Steps for Using Tool

The *Grey Matters* checklist is organized by topic, with drop-down boxes to document success when retrieving grey literature reports. Topics include:

- health technology assessment agencies
- health economics
- clinical practice guidelines
- drug and device regulatory approvals
- advisories and warnings
- drug class reviews
- clinical trials
- Canadian drug formularies
- databases (free)
- statistics
- miscellaneous (Internet searching, open access journals, ethics)

These summaries are written by the [NCCMT](#) to condense and to provide an overview of the resources listed in the [Registry of Methods and Tools](#) and to give suggestions for their use in a public health context. For more information on individual methods and tools included in the review, please consult the authors/developers of the original resources.

Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

Evaluation

Information not available

Validity

Not applicable

Reliability

Not applicable

Methodological Rating



Not applicable

Tool Development

Developers

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health
Website: <http://cadth.ca/>

Method of Development

Information Specialists at CADTH developed *Grey Matters* to support the increasing relevance of grey literature in evidence-informed decision making.

Release Date

2008

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Resources

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Title of Primary Resource | Grey Matters: A Practical Search Tool for Evidence-Based Medicine |
| File Attachment | None |
| Web-link | http://cadth.ca/en/resources/grey-matters |
| Reference | Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (2011). <i>Grey Matters: A Practical Search Tool for Evidence-Based Medicine</i> . Ottawa: ON. |
| Type of Material | Online tool |
| Format | On-line Access |
| Cost to Access | None. |
| Language | English |
| Conditions for Use | Copyright © 2012 Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health |

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