Grey Literature – GL Cited in Information Science’s Master Degree Dissertations at PUC-CAMPINAS from 1995 to 2000: a Bibliographical Analysis

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Introduction
To publish the results of its research is a commitment that the scientists are compelled to fulfil. Currently, the indicators of the scientific activity are in the center of the debates (MACIAS-CHAPULA, 1998). Grey literature is one of the most dynamic aspects of scientific productivity. This paper presents a quantitative study, focusing the use of grey literature in master degree of the Librarian and Science Information Post Degree Course of the PUC Campinas, during a period of six years, 1995-2000, into a population of 71 dissertations.

Objective
Analyze the citation patterns of grey literature in Information Science’s master degree dissertations at PUC-CAMPINAS.

Method
The literature cited in the bibliographical references was divided in two blocks: white literature, periodicals and books, and grey literature, dissertations and thesis, documents, events, research reports and projects, legislation, standardization and works of course conclusion, for the applications of the bibliometric techniques. White or conventional literature received 3512 citations and grey literature or not-conventional appeared in 1586 citations, of which 24 documents was not possible to identify the origin, of total of 5122 bibliographical citations (ALMEIDA, 2000).

A citation analysis was performed in an Access database composed by 5122 bibliographical references of all dissertations from 1995 to 2000 (RAVICHANDRA RAO, 1986).

The citation analysis based on data count and proportions were developed. For the purpose of the present work white literature was not analyzed in detail, neither the subject of grey literature.

The variables were: type of literature (white or grey), type of document, language, temporality of citations and producer institution (CASADO, 2006).

Results

A total of 1586 citations were grey almost 30%:

![Figure 1 – Data collected by literature category](image)

The biggest source of all citations were thesis and dissertations with 30,32%:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document type</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis and dissertations</td>
<td>474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documents</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Documents</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars, congresses, etc</td>
<td>426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislation</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Reports</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Study</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1586</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Portuguese was the most referred language at documents more than 80% and the second one was English with 13,76%, unfortunately in this paper were not possible to compare with white literature:

![Figure 2 – Language of grey literature citation](image)

More than 60% of the reference was considered up to date, using a threshold of 9 years, and event papers were the category with the biggest increase:
The two major producers identified were PUC-CAMPINAS with nine in ten citation and SNBU (National Symposium of University Libraries) with 5% of grey literature.

**Conclusion**

It can be concluded that the GL play a role as of source for IS studies, based on our results it was possible to analyze data and raise issues for further exploratory research in sensible themes like endogenity of scientific production at PUC-CAMP or the function of invisible colleges framing research activities, as well as identify the contribution of grey literature for IS development (MACIAS-CHAPULA, 1998).

**References**


