

## Selection and acquisition of grey literature in Kampala International University Library, Uganda

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### Abstract:

The study investigates the selection and acquisition of grey literature in Kampala International University-Uganda. Four research objectives and questions were formulated to guide the study. The literature was reviewed accordingly. A survey research method was adopted for the study. The population used was fifty respondents consisting of all library staff in the KIU library. No sampling technique was used since the entire population was used (census approach). We handed out a questionnaire called "How We Choose and Get Grey Literature at Kampala International University (SAGLKIULQ)" to gather data. The data collected was analyzed and interpreted using simple percentages due to the nature of the variables involved in the study. The finding revealed among others that lack of funds to acquire materials, poor handling, and manpower. The research work recommends that more funds should be made available or allocated to the library to enable the acquire materials for their collections.

**Keywords:** Selection, Acquisition, Grey Literature, university, Library, Utilization, KIU and Uganda

### Introduction

Nwalo (2003) says that picking out books for a library is all about selecting the right stuff from a list of publications. A library should have a clear policy on what kind of materials to get, based on what the institution wants to achieve. Ango and Temitope (2021) explain that acquiring materials for a library is all about getting what the users need, like adding books and other stuff to the collection.

Picking out books and stuff for the library is all about making sure they're useful and what people want. It's a big deal because there's so much stuff out there, plus libraries don't have as much money as they used to, and people

don't have as much to spend either. So, selectors need to make sure they're meeting current demands, thinking ahead, and getting top-notch materials to avoid any biases or mismatches. Just get the right stuff at the right time, ya know? Have identified different processes involved in book selection, including selection by an individual, selection meetings/committees, and specialized groups. When selecting and acquiring materials for government libraries, the aims and objectives of the institution and the number of departments must be considered (Ojebode, 2009; Eze&Eze, 2006).

Academic libraries, researchers, and information professionals in Sub-Saharan Africa are faced with the challenge of providing access to the ever-changing knowledge and information environment, including the information contained in grey literature (Rucinski, 2015). Grey literature, which is often difficult to identify, acquire, and manage, represents a significant source of knowledge that needs to be tapped to bridge the global knowledge gap. In theory and in reality, libraries, information centers, and information specialists must take appropriate action to ensure that all types of knowledge and information are accessible (Rucinski, 2015). Because the main goals of research institutes and universities are knowledge creation, exchange, and dissemination, managing and acquiring grey literature may be essential to this endeavor.

One low-cost, low-barrier technique that could help achieve this goal is the administration and organization of nonprofit grey literature (Rucinski, 2015). By addressing the challenges associated with the identification, acquisition, and management of grey literature, academic libraries and information professionals in Sub-Saharan Africa can enhance access to valuable knowledge resources and help bridge the global knowledge gap.

According to Anyanwu, Zander, and Amadi (2006), the librarian plays a crucial role in choosing and making a purchase of library materials. Selection and acquisition are distinct but interrelated processes in the provision of library materials. Selection is the process of choosing the appropriate materials, while acquisition is the process of obtaining those materials (Anyanwu et al., 2006). Acquisition must come after selection, and the process of selection is contingent upon the kind of library and the demands of its patrons, who may be diverse or homogeneous (Hlwiki, 2012). The phrase "book selection" refers to the process of choosing both books and non-books for the

library. The process of getting books and other materials for the documentation center, archives, or library is known as collection, on the other hand (Manson, 2012). It is how the selected materials are added to the library's collection.

Acquisition of library materials can be carried out through various means, including purchase, gift, exchange, and legal deposit (Anyanwu et al., 2006). In government libraries, the provision of current information to support the proceedings of the parent institution is facilitated by the processes of selection and acquisition (Hlwiki, 2012). An acquisition policy serves as a guide for library employees when they are evaluating possible purchases for the print and non-print items, electronic materials, and other kinds of resources that the library may want to add to its collection (Manson, 2012). Ensuring that the choices of library materials supports the parent institution's information demands is the goal of the acquisition policy. To meet the information demands of their patrons, informational centers and libraries gather a vast array of information resources in print and non-print forms (Anyanwu et al., 2006). The way these materials are arranged is intended to accommodate users of all educational and professional backgrounds. But it doesn't appear that the Cross River State House of Assembly Library places much emphasis on acquiring gray literature (Rucinski, 2015). This is a challenge that needs to be addressed to ensure that valuable knowledge resources are made accessible to users. Notwithstanding the inherent benefits that grey literature can offer for study and skill development, numerous Nigerian government libraries frequently overlook the collection and incorporation of this material (Rucinski, 2015).

People's perceptions of "grey literature" may include "darkness, apathy, indifference, and questionable authority" (Juricek, 2009). This

view, however, might be incorrect because, similar to the "grey matter" of the brain, grey literature can be quite intellectual and important for research and growth in a variety of topic areas (Omeje, 2010; Mason, 2009). Writings that are not indexed by large database vendors or published for profit are referred to as "grey literature" (Juricek, 2009). These materials can include reports, conference proceedings, working papers, and other documents that are often produced by government agencies, research institutions, and other organizations. In numerous Nigerian government libraries, the acquisition and insertion of grey literature are frequently neglected despite their potential worth (Rucinski, 2015). This oversight represents a missed opportunity to enhance the research and knowledge capabilities of these institutions and the communities they serve. Making a valid point about the importance of grey literature publications for libraries, particularly government libraries, in supporting research and proceedings. Grey literature materials are crucial, yet often overlooked, resources. As it is noted, grey literature publications do not have standard identifiers like ISBNs or ISSNs, which makes them more challenging to track down and access for a broader group of clients (Osayande and Ukpebor, 2012; Mason, 2009). In this sense, "literature" refers to these kinds of publications, whereas the word "grey" is used to suggest an idea that is not totally obvious or straightforward (Mason, 2009).

The perception of grey literature as conveying "bleakness, apathy, indifference, and questionable authority" is a common one, as highlighted by Osayande and Ukpebor (2012) and Mason (2009). However, this view may be misguided, as grey literature materials are often produced by reputable organizations, such as government agencies, academic institutions, pressure groups, trade unions, and

industries, which are not controlled by commercial publishing interests. Despite these challenges, government libraries and other information centers must make concerted efforts to acquire and integrate grey literature into their collections to support research and the proceedings of their parent institutions (Osayande and Ukpebor, 2012; Mason, 2009). This will help ensure that valuable knowledge and information resources are made accessible to their users.

The various formats and forms that information might take. According to Panda and Singh (2011), grey literature "remains the most disorganized and unexplored pool of information, despite being the most conventional." Other sources of teaching, learning, research, and scientific knowledge are not formally published or distributed, in addition to the primary, secondary, and tertiary information sources that are frequently found in universities and research institutions. Although these sources are included in academic library collections, researchers, scholars, and students frequently cannot access them.

These resources have been classified and referred to using various terms, such as "vague", "ephemeral", "informal", "non-conventional", "runaway", "invisible", or "half-published" literature (Pandita & Singh, 2011). They are generally considered difficult to define and categorize, but literature has attested to their abundance within academic communities and their usefulness for research. Despite their availability, these grey literature resources often remain underutilized and inaccessible to a broader audience (Pandita & Singh, 2011). This represents a significant challenge, as these materials can be invaluable sources of information and knowledge for researchers, academics, and students.

"A large and heterogeneous group of sources that is also 'grey' for being 'uncertain, vague,

and imprecise" is how Rucinski (2015) defined grey literature. This encapsulates the intrinsic difficulty in identifying and classifying these materials. Experts in fields like education, research, development, and information have acknowledged the potential of grey literature (Rucinski, 2015; Nahotko, 2014; Fatokun & Amusa, 2014; Siegel, 2010). The types of grey literature resources you mentioned are diverse, ranging from scientific and technical reports to unpublished conference materials, standards, patents, statistical resources, and various other forms of documentation (Rucinski, 2015; Nahotko, 2014; Fatokun&Amusa, 2014; Siegel, 2010). This broad and varied nature of grey literature underscores the importance of increasing awareness and accessibility of these resources, as they can be invaluable sources of information and knowledge for researchers, academics, and other stakeholders.

### Statement of the Problem

Libraries house a variety of information resources, both in book and non-book form. One of the most important and regular tasks for librarians is the selection and purchase of these materials, which includes grey literature (Kumar, 2012). However, grey literature poses unique difficulties due to its "poor bibliographic information and control and non-professional arrangement" While the application of bibliographic control through ISBN, ISSN, and report numbers has been somewhat helpful, the organization of grey literature, particularly reports that make up a significant portion of it, remains disorganized. The lack of standardized identification and acquisition processes for grey literature creates barriers for librarians. Your study rightly seeks to investigate the accessibility, selection, and acquisition models for grey literature at Kampala International University in Uganda this is an important area of research, as libraries must employ various strategies and

tools to identify, select, and acquire relevant and quality grey literature resources to meet the needs of their patrons (Kumar, 2012). The process of selecting and acquiring information resources, including grey literature, involves several key components, such as assessing the library's mission, evaluating patron needs, analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of the existing collection, and using appropriate tools to identify relevant and quality materials (Kumar, 2012). Addressing the challenges associated with grey literature is crucial for libraries to build comprehensive and accessible collections.

### Purpose of the Study

This study's primary goal is to gain access to Kampala International University Uganda's collection of grey literature. Its particular objectives are as follows:

1. Identify types of grey literature provided in Kampala International University Uganda
2. Describe the procedures used by Kampala International University in Uganda to choose grey literature.
3. Ascertain the acquisition process of grey literature in Kampala International University Uganda
4. Assess the degree to which Kampala International University Uganda uses grey literature.

### Research Questions

1. What kinds of grey literature are available at Uganda's Kampala International University?
2. How does Kampala International University in Uganda choose its grey literature?
3. How can one obtain grey literature at Uganda's Kampala International University?

4. What extent is grey literature utilized in Kampala International University Uganda

## Literature Review

### Types of Grey Literature

Materials on subjects or viewpoints that are obscure or underrepresented in mainstream publications and are generally missing from regular library collections are referred to as grey literature (Aina, 2000). Often called "ephemera," these publications consist of spoken words conveyed through printing or illustration techniques, but not in conventional book, magazine, or pamphlet formats. Ephemera, including bus passes, schedules, and posters, are typically created with a brief lifespan in mind. While grey literature may be of questionable relevance or quality, it can still have a significant impact, particularly in dissertation writing at the university level (Okoroma, 2011).

This is due to the vital issues and perspectives that are often addressed by authors and researchers through this alternative form of literature. The importance of grey literature cannot be overstated, as it provides access to information and insights that may not be available in the mainstream publishing channels. This is especially crucial in fields where conventional publishing outlets may overlook or marginalize certain topics or viewpoints

### Grey Literature and Selection

The process of choosing which resources to add to a library's collection is known as material selection (Ezema, 2002). This decision-making process is typically undertaken by librarians or information specialists, who rely on reviews, collection development tools, and their subject-area expertise to select materials that best serve the needs of their patrons. According to the type of libraries, different

materials may be chosen and acquired. This is because different libraries cater to different types of customers, whether they are homogeneous or diverse.

In academic libraries, the selection process may involve collaboration between librarians and members of the teaching faculty, who provide input on materials relevant to their respective disciplines (Carr, 2007). For large academic and public libraries, the selection process may be streamlined through the use of approved plans or blanket order agreements (Laulos, 2006). These arrangements allow libraries to efficiently obtain resources from publishers, dealers, and vendors to meet the needs of their users in a cost-effective and timely manner. The acquisition of library materials can involve various methods, such as purchase, exchange, or gift (Laulos, 2006). Regardless of the acquisition method, the overall process typically includes budgeting, negotiation with external agencies, and a commitment to obtaining the most relevant and economical resources to support the institution's mission and serve its clientele.

### Grey Literature and Acquisition

According to Carr's (2007) observations, libraries around the world continue to rely heavily on the acquisition of information resources. Printed books will continue to play a major part in libraries and publishing industries for the foreseeable future, even with the growing control of digital versions. Over time, there has been a substantial increase in the body of knowledge regarding the procurement, accessibility, and upkeep of library holdings.

Managing electronic collections and striking a balance between access and acquisition remain major topics of study (Cassell, 2004; Horava, 2005). However, there is still interest in the acquisition of print resources. Dali and Dilevko (2005), for example, have studied the methods used by collection development

professionals in North American libraries to get books from Eastern and Slavic nations. Similarly, Khurshid (2000) has emphasized the need for better linkages between the book business and libraries by highlighting the problems associated with book manufacturing in Pakistan and the challenges libraries experience when attempting to purchase these materials.

To further highlight the intricacies and importance of the print acquisition process, renowned bookseller and importer Mirza (1990) has talked about the challenges faced when distributing books to libraries. Overall, the literature shows that despite the growth of digital formats, printed books continue to be essential to library collections, and acquiring these materials remains a vital aspect of library operations and collection management.

### Grey Literature and Utilization

The interconnected nature of availability, accessibility, and utilization when it comes to information resources, especially in the context of grey literature. Together, these three concepts which are complimentary to one another reflect the intricate link that exists between knowledge and its use. According to Hamutunwa (2013), the growth of an informed populace depends on the availability, accessibility, and efficient distribution of grey literature. Osayande and Ukpebor (2012) emphasize further that for information to be presented acceptably, it needs to be adequate, accessible, and readily available.

However, as you point out, the mere availability of grey literature sources does not necessarily translate to their accessibility, as there may be barriers preventing access (Shaariful, 2012).

According to Farace and Schöpfel (2010), accessibility in this sense includes things like permission, the chance, or the freedom to

access and retrieve data from a variety of sources, such as the internet, media, and libraries. way, eventually making its use easier. This emphasizes how important information is in all contexts and how accessibility and availability of information influence how it is used. Upev, Terna, and Beetseh (2018) have noted that in Benue State University, grey literature is not adequately accessed and utilized by patrons due to the challenges they face, highlighting the importance of addressing both availability and accessibility to ensure effective utilization.

### Methodology

The study was conducted at Kampala International University in Uganda and utilized a survey research design. The population consisted of 50 respondents, including both professional and paraprofessional staff from the university's library. Since the complete population was employed as the sample through a census approach, no sampling was done.

The researcher created the "Selection and Accumulation of Grey Literature Questionnaire (SAGLKIULQ)," a structured questionnaire with two components, as the study's instrument. Personal variables including age, gender, professional status, and area of specialization were given in Section A. Section B comprised twenty items with response options of very frequently (VO), often (O), not often (NT), and not at all (NAT) that were intended to assess the selection and acquisition of grey literature. Simple percentages were employed in the data collection and analysis process to answer the study objectives.

### First research inquiry

Which kinds of grey literature are available at Uganda's Kampala International University? Table 2 displays the analysis's findings.

**Table 2: Distribution of types of grey literature in Kampala International University Uganda**

| S/N |                                    | Available<br>f(%) | Not available<br>f (%) | $\bar{x}$ | Rank |
|-----|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------|------|
| 1   | Gazettes                           | 21(42.0)          | 29(58.0)               | 1.58      | 3rd  |
| 2   | Panel reports                      | 43(86.0)          | 7(14.0)                | 1.14      | 6th  |
| 3   | Budget speech                      | 43(86.0)          | 7(14.0)                | 1.14      | 6th  |
| 4   | Technical reports                  | 40(80.0)          | 10(20.0)               | 1.20      | 5th  |
| 5   | Research report                    | 31(62.0)          | 19(38.0)               | 1.38      | 4th  |
| 6   | Government document                | 45(90.0)          | 5(10.0)                | 1.10      | 8th  |
| 7   | Policy statement                   | 45(90.0)          | 5(10.0)                | 1.10      | 8th  |
| 8   | News letter                        | 46(92.0)          | 4(8.0)                 | 1.08      | 10th |
| 9   | Conference abstract                | 17(34.0)          | 33(66.0)               | 1.66      | 2nd  |
| 10  | Report (white papers, work papers) | 14(28.0)          | 36(72.0)               | 1.72      | 1st  |

*Source: Field survey data, (2022)*

Key: mean  $\geq 1.5$  is agreement on types of grey literature in Cross River house of assembly

Table 2: The types of grey literature in Kampala International University Uganda ranked highest among others were: Report (white papers, work papers) ( $\bar{x}=1.72$ ; rank=1st), majority 36(72.0) the minority 14(28.0) of the respondents indicated that report (white papers, work papers) were not available in the Kampala International University, followed by conference abstract ( $\bar{x}=1.66$ ; rank=2nd), majority 33(66.0) than minority 17(34.0) of the respondents indicated that conference abstracts were not available, and gazettes ( $\bar{x}=1.58$ ; rank=3rd), majority 29(58.0) than minority 21(42.0) of the respondents indicated that gazettes were not available in Kampala International University.

However, the highest lowest variables were; newsletter ( $\bar{x}=1.08$ ; rank=10th), majority 46(92.0) than minority 4(8.0) of the respondents indicated that newsletter were available in the Kampala International University, followed by government document ( $\bar{x}=1.10$ ; rank=8th), majority 45(90.0) than minority 5(10.0) of the

respondents indicated that government document were available, and policy statement ( $\bar{x}=1.10$ ; rank=8th) majority 45(90.0) than minority 5(10.0) of the respondents indicated that policy statement were available in Kampala International University,

The results indicate that not all of the items contributed to the forms of grey literature in Kampala International University Uganda Research Question Two, with a weighted mean of 1.31 against a standard mean of 1.5. What procedures does Kampala International University in Uganda use to choose its grey literature? Table 3 displays the analysis's findings.

**Table 3: Distribution of processes of selecting grey literature Kampala International University Uganda**

| S/N | Yes<br>(f %) | No<br>(f%) | $\bar{x}$ | Rank |
|-----|--------------|------------|-----------|------|
|-----|--------------|------------|-----------|------|

|   |             |          |          |      |     |
|---|-------------|----------|----------|------|-----|
| 1 | Authority   | 46(92.0) | 4(8.0)   | 1.08 | 4th |
| 2 | Accuracy    | 47(94.0) | 3(6.0)   | 1.06 | 5th |
| 3 | Coverage    | 35(70.0) | 15(30.0) | 1.30 | 1st |
| 4 | Objectivity | 45(90.3) | 5(10.0)  | 1.10 | 3rd |
| 5 | Date        | 44(88.0) | 6(12.0)  | 1.12 | 2nd |

Key: mean  $\geq 1.5$  is agreement on the processes of selecting grey literature in Kampala International University Uganda

Table 3: The main processes of selecting grey literature in Kampala International University Uganda ranked highest among others were: coverage ( $\bar{x}=1.30$ ; rank=1), more respondents 35 (70.0) than minority 15 (30.0) agreed that Kampala International University uses coverage as a method of choosing gray literature, followed by date ( $\bar{x}=1.12$ ; rank=2nd), majority 44 (88.0) than minority 6 (12.0) of the respondents agreed that they date is a processes of selecting grey literature. However, the lowest ranked variables include; Accuracy ( $\bar{x}=1.06$ ; rank=5th), majority 47(94.0) than minority 3(6.0) of the respondents agreed that accuracy is After authority ( $\bar{x}=1.08$ ;

rank=4th), a process of choosing grey literature, more respondents 46(92.0) than minority 4(8.0) agreed that authority is a procedure of choosing gray literature. The result, with the weighted mean of 1.31 against the Standard Mean of 1.5 shows that not all the items agreed to the processes of selecting grey literature in Kampala International University Uganda.

### Research Inquiry three

What are the methods of acquiring grey literature at Kampala International University Uganda? The result of the analysis is presented on Table 4.

**Table 4: Distribution of method of acquiring grey literature in Kampala International University Uganda**

| S/N |                                                                | Yes<br>(f %) | No<br>(f%) | $\bar{x}$ | Rank |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------|------|
| 1   | Donation/free distribution by Governmental Organizations (GOs) | 48(96.0)     | 2(4.0)     | 1.04      | 4th  |
| 2   | Non-Governmental-Organizations (NGOs) and individuals          | 46(92.0)     | 4(8.0)     | 1.08      | 2nd  |
| 3   | Bequeath by Prominent Personalities                            | 23(46.0)     | 27(54.0)   | 1.54      | 1st  |
| 4   | Purchase                                                       | 46(92.0)     | 4(8.0)     | 1.08      | 2nd  |
| 5   | Legal deposits                                                 | 48(96.0)     | 2(4.0)     | 1.04      | 4th  |

Key: mean  $\geq 1.5$  is agreement on the method of acquiring grey literature in Kampala International University Uganda

Table 4: The main method of acquiring grey literature in Kampala International University ranked highest among others were: Bequeath by prominent personalities ( $\bar{x}=1.54$ ; rank=1st), majority 27(54.0) than minority 23(46.0) of the respondents

disagreed that prominent personalities is a method of acquiring grey literature in Kampala International University, followed by Non-Governmental-Organizations (NGOs) and individuals ( $\bar{x}=1.08$ ; rank=2nd), majority 46(92.0) than minority 4(8.0) of the

respondents agreed that Non-Governmental-Organizations (NGOs) and individuals is a method of acquiring grey literature.

However, the lowest ranked item include; Donation/free distribution by Governmental Organizations (GOs) ( $\bar{x}=1.04$ ; rank=4th), majority 48(96.0) than minority 2(4.0) of the respondents agreed that donation/free distribution by Governmental Organizations (GOs) is a method of acquiring grey literature, followed by Legal deposits ( $\bar{x}=1.04$ ; rank=4th), majority 48(96.0) than

minority 2(4.0) of the respondents agreed that 2(4.0) is a method of acquiring grey literature. The result, with the weighted mean of 1.15 against the Standard Mean of 1.5 shows that not all the items agreed to the method of acquiring grey literature in Kampala International University.

#### Research Inquiry four

To what extent is grey literature utilized in Kampala International University Uganda

The result of the analysis is presented on Table 5.

**Table 5:** Distribution to what extent is grey literature utilized in Kampala International University Uganda.

| S/N |                        | Very often | Often    | Not often | Not at all | $\bar{x}$ | Rank |
|-----|------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------|
| 1   | Gazettes               | 9(18.0)    | 7(14.0)  | 30(60.0)  | 4(8.0)     | 3.42      | 1st  |
| 2   | Panel report           | 13(26.0)   | 29(58.0) | 6(12.0)   | 2(4.0)     | 3.06      | 5th  |
| 3   | Budget speech          | 19(38.0)   | 27(54.0) | 3(6.0)    | 1(2.0)     | 3.28      | 2nd  |
| 4   | Technical reports      | 14(28.0)   | 29(58.0) | 5(10.0)   | 2(4.0)     | 3.10      | 4th  |
| 5   | Research report        | 22(44.0)   | 20(40.0) | 5(10.0)   | 3(6.0)     | 3.22      | 3rd  |
| 6   | Working paper          | 14(28.0)   | 24(48.0) | 10(20.0)  | 2(4.0)     | 3.00      | 6th  |
| 7   | Conference proceedings | 13(26.0)   | 20(40.0) | 16(32.0)  | 1(2.0)     | 2.90      | 7th  |
| 8   | Theses                 | 8(16.0)    | 16(32.0) | 20(40.0)  | 6(12.0)    | 2.52      | 8th  |

**Source:** Field survey data, (2022)

Key: mean  $\geq 2.5$  is agreement on the extent of grey literature utilized in Kampala International University.

Table 5. The main extent of grey literature utilized in Kampala International University Uganda ranked highest among others were: Gazettes ( $\bar{x}=3.42$ ; rank=1st) followed by Budget speech ( $\bar{x}=3.28$ ; rank=2nd) and Research report ( $\bar{x}=3.22$ ; rank=3rd). However, the lowest ranked variables include; Theses ( $\bar{x}=2.57$ ; rank=8th), conference proceedings ( $\bar{x}=2.90$ ; rank=7th) and Working paper ( $\bar{x}=3.00$ ; rank=6th). The result, with the weighted mean of 3.06 against the Standard Mean of 2.5 shows that the items contributed to the extent of grey

literature utilized in Kampala International University Uganda.

#### Discussion of findings

Regarding the first study question, the results are consistent with Aina's (2000) assertion that grey literature, also known as alternative literature, is composed of works on subjects or points of view that are either unknown or neglected in mainstream publications and are frequently missing from library collections. These materials, which are produced by printing or graphic methods and are frequently referred to as ephemera, are

spoken communications that do not follow the conventional book, periodical, or pamphlet formats. The majority of ephemera, such as bus passes, schedules, and posters, are made with temporary usage in mind.

According to Okoroma (2011), grey literature papers are frequently ephemeral and transparent, and they are not always easily obtainable through conventional publishing channels like libraries, bookstores, or catalogs. This lack of mainstream distribution is a common trait among the various forms of grey literature. Grey literature encompasses a wide range of materials, including academic works, pre-prints, committee reports, technical reports, government documents, conference papers, dissertations, theses, market surveys, news bulletins, company documents, web content, data sets, and electronic communications. These resources are typically not produced or distributed through conventional retail channels, making them harder to locate and access. This unique nature of grey literature, as you have highlighted, is what makes it both relevant and challenging to obtain. The data and information contained within these documents are often highly valuable, but their "grey" status means they may not be as widely disseminated or readily available as traditional, commercially published materials.

Mason (2007). The term "grey literature" can indeed bring to mind a sense of "bleakness, apathy, indifference and questionable authority," which is an important perspective to consider. Grey literature is not controlled by commercial publishing interests, as it is typically issued by government agencies, academic institutions, pressure groups, trade unions, industries, and other non-commercial entities. These publications, including articles and information published on the internet,

lack a commercial purpose and are not mediated by a commercial publisher.

This lack of commercial involvement, while contributing to the perception of "greyness," is also a defining characteristic of grey literature. It means that these materials are often produced and disseminated outside the traditional publishing channels, which can raise concerns about their authority and reliability.

On research question two, the finding is in agreement with Ezema (2002, 2011) and Carr (2007).

The kind of library and the demands of its patrons have a significant influence on the choice and purchase of library materials. The primary goal of every library is to serve its own distinct user base, which may or may not be heterogeneous. In academic libraries, the selection process may involve a collaborative effort between librarians and members of the teaching faculty, who contribute expertise in their respective academic disciplines (Carr, 2007). For very large academic and public libraries, Ezema (2002, 2011) suggests that the selection process is often guided by an approved plan or a blanket order plan, which helps to ensure a comprehensive and systematic approach to building the library's collection.

Also the finding supports the assertions of Laulos (2006) who discusses the processes involved in selecting, ordering, and receiving materials for libraries or archival collections, emphasizing that these tasks are usually conducted through purchase, exchange, or gift. This process often includes budgeting and negotiating with external agencies, such as publishers, dealers, and vendors, to secure resources that meet the institution's needs economically and efficiently.

Similarly, Anyanwu et al. (2006) identified common channels or methods for acquiring

library materials in academic libraries, which include purchase, gift, exchange, legal deposits, and professional association. They emphasized that the selection of documents must be aligned with the current needs of users. In academic libraries, this responsibility typically falls to academic services librarians. Each librarian is assigned a Dewey range, giving them ownership and responsibility for the selection and maintenance of materials within their specific subject area.

Research question three, the finding supports the assertions Carr (2007) highlights the acquisition of information resources as a fundamental activity for libraries. Despite predictions about the decline of printed collections in favor of digital formats, libraries worldwide continue to acquire and maintain extensive book collections, alongside managing other reading formats.

Printed books remain central to library collections and the publishing industry, and this is expected to continue in the foreseeable future. The literature on the acquisition, access, and management of library collections has expanded over the years, with much of the discourse focusing on access versus acquisition and issues related to electronic collection management (Cassell, 2004; Horava, 2005).

Interest in the acquisition of print materials persists as well. For instance, Dali and Dilevko (2005) explore how collection development specialists in North American libraries obtain books from Slavic and Eastern European countries.

Also Tella (2006). This is indeed one of the toughest tasks for librarians in the African context.

The tracing and locating of these "micro documents" require subject expertise and specialized knowledge from librarians and other library staff. The inherent nature of

grey literature, being less visible and readily available through traditional channels, adds to the difficulty in identifying and acquiring these valuable resources. The importance of grey literature has been underscored by documentation work, and the advancements in digital technology have facilitated their increased availability and accessibility both nationally and internationally.

Research question four, the finding is in congruent with Osayande and Ukpebor (2012) and Upev, Terna, and Beetseh (2018) regarding the importance of information availability, adequacy, and accessibility for its effective utilization. State, for information to be accepted and used, it must be presented in a way that is acceptable and accessible to the target audience. Information is a vital commodity in every environment, and its use is largely determined by its availability and accessibility. Building on this, Upev, Terna, and Beetseh (2018) found that in the case of Benue State University, grey literature is not being adequately accessed and utilized by library patrons due to the challenges they face in accessing this information. This emphasizes how vital it is to guarantee the accessibility, sufficiency, and availability of information resources, especially grey literature, to promote their broad use and influence.

Grey literature is not necessarily accessible just because it is available. Even if a source is available, access can be restricted for various reasons (Shaariful, 2012). Permission, possibilities, or the right to access and obtain information from a variety of sources, including the internet, radio, advertisements, bulletins, publications, libraries, and information centers, can all be considered aspects of accessibility. Farace and Schopfel (2010) assert that use and accessibility show a dedication to the importance and caliber of research, together with a duty to share such work as broadly as feasible with everyone

who could find it useful or be interested in it. However, each of these aspects can be viewed from different perspectives.

### Conclusion

The study highlighted several challenges hindering the selection and acquisition of grey literature at Kampala International University Library in Uganda. These challenges included inadequate selection and acquisition of materials, a shortage of professionals, and insufficient manpower, among other issues. The efficacy and efficiency of the process of choosing and acquiring grey literature are adversely affected by these aspects.

### Recommendations

The study's conclusions led to the following recommendations being made: The selection and acquisition of grey literature should be done by the librarian from time to time for proper management of the collection. The library should be properly organized collection so it can be accessible by their users.

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