

Grey Literature Conference to Convene in New York

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“Work on Grey in Progress”, the Sixth International Conference on Grey Literature (GL6), will be hosted by the New York Academy of Medicine at its conference center in New York City on 6-7 December 2004. The conference will focus mainly on the growing portion of the grey literature that consists of networked information.

Grey literature (information distributed other than through commercial publication) is used daily in the public, academic, and business sectors. In the span of a decade—owing to Internet technology—grey literature has moved from uncharted and untapped resources to the mainstream flow of information. The transition has greatly affected the environment in which grey literature is produced, processed, and exploited. Workflow patterns embedded in grey require innovation by new and long-standing stakeholders. GL6 offers information professionals a platform on which to showcase best practices and benchmarks—hence, “grey in progress”.

The first day of the conference will

DOMINIC J FARACE, *founder of GreyNet*, is organizing GL6.

address “Supply-Side Grey”—perspectives of authors, editors, and publishers. The second day will deal with issues of “Grey on Demand” from the perspectives of librarians, intermediaries, and (Internet) users. Working groups will be included in the program, allowing conference participants to discuss aspects of grey that especially interest them—for example, open archives, mapping of collections, and browser functionality.

The most recent GL conference, held in Amsterdam in 2003, has sparked topics for this year’s conference and has led to two studies undertaken by GreyNet (the Grey Literature Network Service) in cooperation with colleagues at institutions in Europe. The first project is the Grey Literature Survey 2004. Science editors and others are encouraged to complete the survey questionnaire, which is posted at www.greynet.org/pages/2. In the second project, citation analysis is being used to follow the work of authors in the GL conference series and authors whom they have cited in grey and commercial publishing. This project also seeks to determine the value of the GL conference proceedings for promoting research in the field of grey literature by examining its effects on the work of authors. Findings of the projects

will be presented at the December conference.

The GL conference series began as a grass roots initiative a decade ago, and the call for papers remains the hallmark of this international series. Last year, participants from 16 countries representing some 45 organizations attended. Topics related to grey literature in science accounted for one-third of the papers presented at GL5; the topics ranged from general issues in science and technology information (for example, copyright, access, and management) to specific issues arising in particle physics, marine science, and sustainable agriculture. Editorial issues were also discussed, including assurance not only of the scientific quality of grey literature but also of editorial standards to allow easy readability, understanding, and retrieval of documents. The proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Grey Literature are now available via TextRelease, the Program and Conference Bureau, at www.textrelease.com. For individual papers in this conference series from 1994 onward, one can contact The British Library at dsc-conf-infoline@bl.uk.

To obtain further information about GL6 or to register, please see www.greynet.org/pages/2/index.htm. 