The Impact of Grey Literature in Advancing Global Karst Research

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/todd_chavez/26/
The Impact of Grey Literature in Advancing Global Karst Research

An Information Needs Assessment for a Globally Distributed Interdisciplinary Community
What is Karst?

Caves  topography  water  maps
geology  environment  aquifers
erosion  limestone  RAIN
dissolution  geography
bedrock  Sinkholes
acids  groundwater  Carbonate
rock  hydrology  resource
DOLOMITE  contamination
Terrain  subsurface  human  impact  Speleology
The Karst Information Portal (KIP) will link the global karst research community with an open-access and integrated information resource designed to advance karst, cave and aquifer studies.
Information Needs Assessment

Conducted to guide development of the Karst Information Portal...

Purpose
- Define information content needs
- Assess role of grey information sources
- Define desired web services

Method
- “Snowball” sampling (11 initial targets)
- Web-based
- Piloted January 2006
- Administered August-September 2006
### Occupation/Affiliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation/Affiliation</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caver</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Manager</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Student</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Agency</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry Researcher / Consultant</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum / Institute</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarian / Information Professional</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activist</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>66</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Geographic Distribution

- **Malaysia**: 4%
- **Australia & New Zealand**: 33%
- **US & Canada**: 44%
- **Europe**: 20%
- **Belgium**, **Ireland**, **Netherlands**, **Romania**, **Switzerland**, **United Kingdom**
Locating Information

Respondent Library Use

- **Library Type**
  - Personal: 52
  - Academic: 44
  - Public: 12

- **Traditional Channels**
  - Books: 43%
  - Journals: 57%

- **Internet**
  - 98.4%

- **Personal Communication**
  - 87.1%

- **Conferences & Meetings**
  - 82.3%

"Grey Channels"
96.6% Use Grey Information

Top Four Grey Information Sources

- Proceedings: 86.2%
- Trip/Cave Reports: 82.8%
- Theses/Dissertations + Maps: 81.0%

To the statement, “Grey literature is a very important source of information to karst researchers …”

70.9% agree
89.3% Produce Grey Information

Top Four Grey Information Sources

Proceedings: 80.8%
Trip/Cave Reports: 76.9%
Images + Speeches/Invited Talks: 65.4%

Most Commonly Produced Grey Information Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Type</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference Proceedings/Papers</td>
<td>80.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip &amp; Cave Reports</td>
<td>76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speeches or Invited Talks</td>
<td>65.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Images</td>
<td>65.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maps</td>
<td>61.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Proposals</td>
<td>57.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theses/Dissertations</td>
<td>53.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association/Organization Publications</td>
<td>48.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletters</td>
<td>46.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cave Entrance Databases</td>
<td>44.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Applications</td>
<td>44.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n=56
Preservation & Access

Where do you archive the grey information that you produce?

75.5% Personal Archiving Space

28.3% No Formal Archiving

Most Difficult Grey Information Types to Access

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Type</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theses/Dissertations</td>
<td>51.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Proceedings/Papers</td>
<td>46.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governmental Reports</td>
<td>42.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Governmental Reports</td>
<td>40.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cave Entrance Databases</td>
<td>36.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip &amp; Cave Reports</td>
<td>32.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign-Language Translations</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association/Organization Publications</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maps</td>
<td>26.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-1923 Karst Papers</td>
<td>26.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n=49
The Karst Information Portal (KIP) As Grey Literature Repository

Would you use the KIP as a personal digital repository?
- Yes 43.6%
- No 20.0%

Respondents expressing conditions ... 32.7%

Concerns Fueling Conditions
- Data Sensitivity 62%
- Copyright Protection 23%
- Accuracy & Reliability 15%
- n=55
Context for Grey Literature in the KIP Project

**Include Grey Content?**
- Very Important: 34
- Important: 21
- Not Important: 1

**Digitize Key Grey Resources?**
- Very Important: 37
- Important: 14
- Not Important or No Opinion: 2

**Evaluate Grey Resources?**
- Very Important: 24
- Important: 21
- Not Important or No Opinion: 7
Thank You!

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Lechuguilla Cave 3-D Profile  
Toporobot Computer Assisted Cave Cartography