

# Doktorski radovi u biomedicini - između vidljivog i skrivenog

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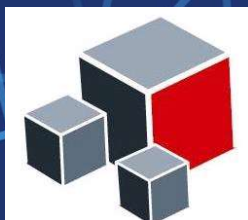


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# Doktorski radovi u biomedicini – između vidljivog i skrivenog



Projekt IP-2014-09-9730  
(2015-2019)  
Croatian Science Foundation



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# Gray US (grey UK) literature: definition

- materials and research produced by organizations outside of the traditional commercial or academic publishing and distribution channels (Auger, 1975).  
„Virtually everything we read outside of journals and books”

Grey literature may be difficult to discover, access, and evaluate as they usually have the following **features**:

- Lack bibliographic control, peer-review, and quality production (rapid publication)
- Have non-standard and non-professional formats and layouts
- Basic information on authors, publication dates, etc. may not be easily identified
- Copyright laws inhibit their electronic storage and download
- There is no commercial source
- They have limited distribution (in most cases)

*Auger, C.P., ed. (1975) Use of Reports Literature. London: Butterworth.*



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# Gray literature: some resources

The annual International grey literature conference series has been organised since 1993 by the Europe-based organisation [GreyNet](#)

[Greynet](#) also produces a journal on grey literature and has been a key advocate for the recognition and study of grey literature, particularly in library and information sciences. *The Grey Journal* (2005, Vol.1)... (print: [ISSN 1574-1796](#), online: [eISSN 1574-180X](#)).

The Grey Journal appears three times a year—in spring, summer, and autumn. Each issue in a volume is thematic and deals with one or more related topics in the field of grey literature. The electronic version on article level is available via EBSCO's LISTA-FT Database ([EBSCO Publishing](#)). *The Grey Journal* is indexed by [Scopus](#) and others.



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# Gray literature: impact

The relative importance of grey literature is largely dependent on research disciplines and subjects, on methodological approaches, and on the sources they use.

In some fields, especially in the life sciences and medical sciences, there has been a traditional preference for only using peer-reviewed academic journals while in others, such as agriculture, aeronautics and the engineering sciences in general, grey literature resources tend to predominate.

In the last few decades, systematic literature reviews in health and medicine have established the importance of discovering and analyzing grey literature as part of the evidence-base and in order to avoid publication bias.

*Paez, A. (2017). ["Gray literature: an important resource in systematic reviews"](#). *Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine*. **10** (3). pp. 233–240.*



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# Are dissertations original?

Doctoral theses are expected to provide an original contribution to knowledge in their field all over the world. However, originality is not well defined.

Creativity introduces a focus on the production of knowledge, which is not just novel but also meaningful.

Innovation is becoming of increasing importance in doctoral theses with the societal shift to knowledge-based economies and introduces the requirement of immediate relevance for economic purposes in doctoral education.

It is often unclear to which extent doctoral theses fulfil these expectations.

*Baptista et al. (2015) Front. Learn. Res. 3: 51-63.*



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# <https://ethos.bl.uk/Home.do>

Various databases and libraries collect and make available print and digital grey literature; however, the cost and difficulty of finding and cataloguing grey literature mean that it is still difficult to find large collections.

The screenshot shows the British Library ETHOS website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "British Library ETHOS - Search" and a search icon. Below this is a search bar with the URL "https://ethos.bl.uk/Home.do". The main header features the "ETHOS e-theses online service" logo and a navigation menu with links for "New search", "Advanced search", "Login / Register", "About", "Help", "FAQ", and "Follow". The main content area includes a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and a "SEARCH" button. Below the search bar are two checkboxes: "Limit search to items available for immediate download" and "Include restricted or embargoed items". At the bottom, there is a video player showing a man in a library setting, with a play button overlay. To the right of the video is a quote: "I wish that there'd been a resource like ETHOS when I was writing my thesis ...". Below the quote is a "Find out more" button.





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## Questions for discussion:

1. To which extent are PhD theses / dissertations important as a source of new (medical) information?
2. Does their limited availability decreases the quality and rigor of making new ones, especially in regard to methodological rigor?
3. How many dissertations are actually published in the form of original scientific articles and to which extent their publication reduces interest in the primary source?
4. To which extent are theses used for making systematic reviews?
5. To which extent are existing dissertations used as a basis for making new PhD theses?





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## Questions for discussion:

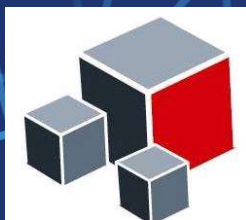
1. To which extent are PhD theses / dissertations important as a source of new (medical) information? **Often very deep contents for new knowledge contribution in a particular area of research but might be very unique and lack of mainstream research popularity among researches.**
2. Does their limited availability decreases the quality and rigor of making new ones, especially in regard to methodological rigor? **It does.**
3. How many dissertations are actually published in the form of original scientific articles and to which extent their publication reduces interest in the primary source? **Most of PhD theses in biomedical/life sciences are published, which reduces interest in the primary source.**
4. To which extent are theses used for making systematic reviews? **Depends on meta-analysis strategy.**
5. To which extent are existing dissertations used as a basis for making new PhD theses? **This is highly variable.**



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# Thank you for your attention!



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