

Grey Literature for Epidemiologists

Webinar for the Council of State and Territory Epidemiologists

April 2, 2020

About Me

Cecilia Vernes

- Education Coordinator
- Public Health Coordination Office of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine
- Based at University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, MA



U.S. National Library of Medicine

*National Network of Libraries of Medicine
Public Health Coordination Office*

A few details about the course

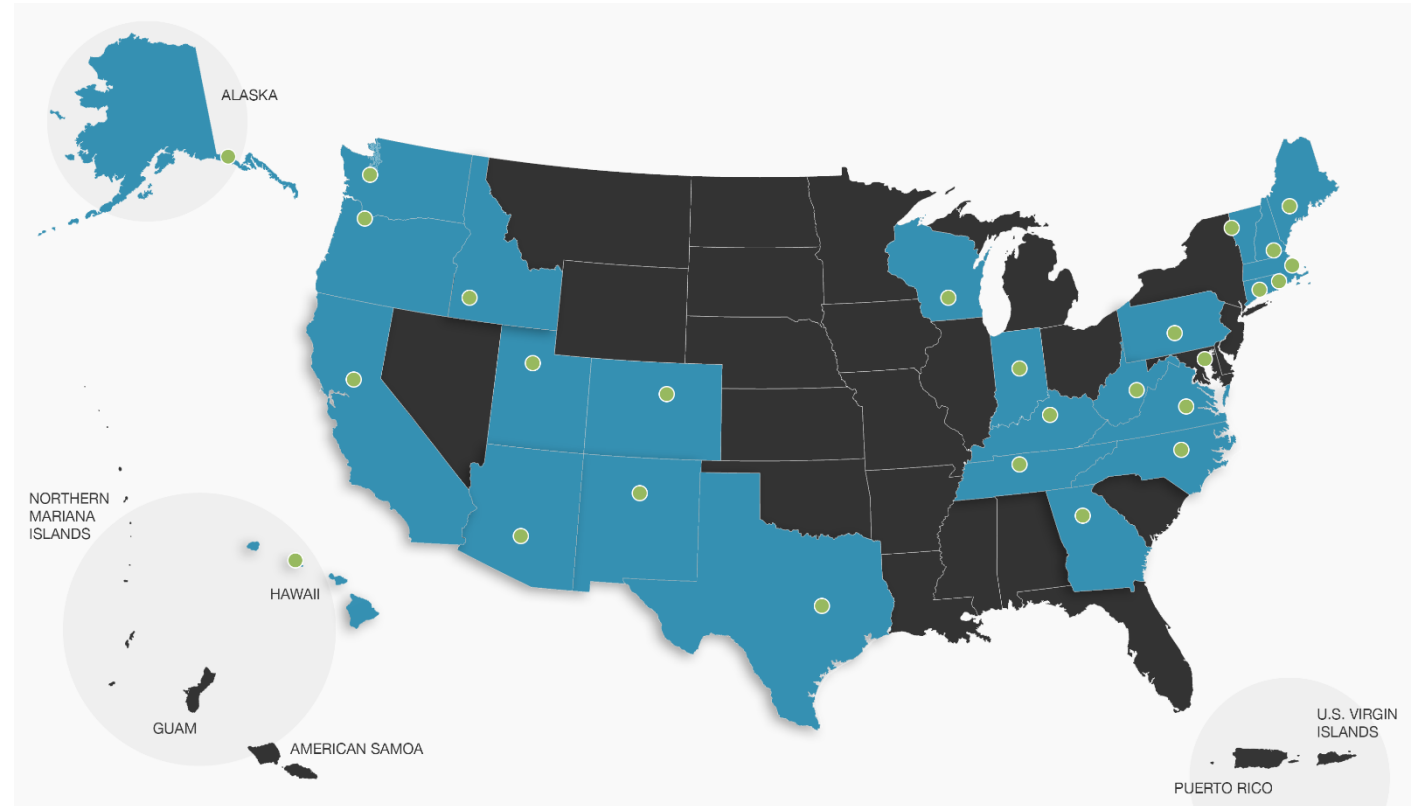
The webinar will be recorded and made available online to the CSTE membership.

A PDF of the slides can be made available following the session.

Contact Maria Patselikos at mpatselikos@cste.org for more information or if you have questions.

Public Health Digital Library

Alaska Division of Public Health
Arizona Department of Health Services
Boston Public Health Commission
California Departments of Public Health
Colorado Department of Health and the Environment
Connecticut Department of Public Health
District of Columbia Department of Health
Georgia Department of Public Health
Hawai'i Department of Health
Idaho Division of Public Health
Indiana State Department of Health
Kentucky Department for Public Health
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
New Hampshire Health and Human Services
New Mexico Department of Health
North Carolina Division of Public Health
Oregon: Multnomah County Health Department
Pennsylvania Department of Health
Rhode Island Department of Health
Tennessee Department of Health
Texas Department of State Health Services
Utah Department of Health
Vermont Department of Health
Virginia Department of Health
West Virginia Bureau of Public Health
Washington State Department of Health
Wisconsin Division of Health Services



Learning Objectives

- 1. Define grey literature and list three traditional examples**
List an example of a non-traditional source for grey literature
- 2. Identify resources to search for grey literature**
- 3. Describe how grey literature informs epidemiologists' information needs**

Course Outline

1. Learning Objectives
2. Grey Literature Definition
3. Qualities of Grey Literature
4. Types of Grey Literature
5. Why Search for or Use Grey Literature?
6. Searching for Grey Literature
7. Using Google to your Advantage with Advanced Search
8. Google Advanced Search Commands
9. Google Custom Search Engines
10. Search Engines – Not Your Usual Suspects
11. Using News Alerts
12. Covid-19 Resources
13. HIV/AIDS Government Documents Search
14. Chronic Illness and Disease Burden- Google Advanced Search
15. Additional Resources
16. Video Tutorials Recommended

Grey Literature Definition

1999: “That which is produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in print and electronic formats, but which is not controlled by commercial publishers.” <https://www.greylit.org/about>

Prague 2010: "Grey literature stands for manifold document types produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in print and electronic formats that are protected by intellectual property rights, of sufficient quality to be collected and preserved by library holdings or institutional repositories, but not controlled by commercial publishers i.e., where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body."

NIH

U.S. National Library of Medicine

*National Network of Libraries of Medicine
Public Health Coordination Office*

Qualities of Grey Literature

“grey literature is any recorded, referable and sustainable data or information resource of current or future value, made publicly available without a traditional peer-review process”

Based on definition

- Recorded
- Referable
- Sustainable
- Data or Information resources
- Value
- Publicly available
- Without a traditional peer review process

Other characteristics

- Difficult to find
- Must be evaluated
- Quickly available especially online
- Variable formats (flexible)
- Detailed
- No commercial source
- Limited distribution (in most cases)

Types of Grey Literature

Non-traditional

- Blogs
- Emails
- Phone calls
- Text messages
- Toolkits
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Tweets
- And more

Traditional

- Conference Proceedings, including abstracts, papers, posters
- Preprints
- Theses/Dissertations
- Clinical trial registries
- Patent databases
- Institutional repositories
- Government document
- Agency and government reports
- White papers
- Policies & procedures
- Guidelines
- Data sets
- Unpublished clinical data

Why use or search for grey literature?

More data to include
and consider in meta-
analyses

Newer information is
made available more
quickly, like during a
public health emergency

May be more current
than the latest
published research

Often has no or little
cost

When writing
systematic reviews

Implementing a new
program to address
some public health
needs

Grey literature in grant
proposals

Finding collaborators

Tracking new trends in
research

Grey literature when
dealing with an
outbreak

May be the only source
for specific local
information



U.S. National Library of Medicine

*National Network of Libraries of Medicine
Public Health Coordination Office*

Some Grey Literature Sources

Dissertation and Theses Databases

Web of Science for conference proceedings

ProQuest

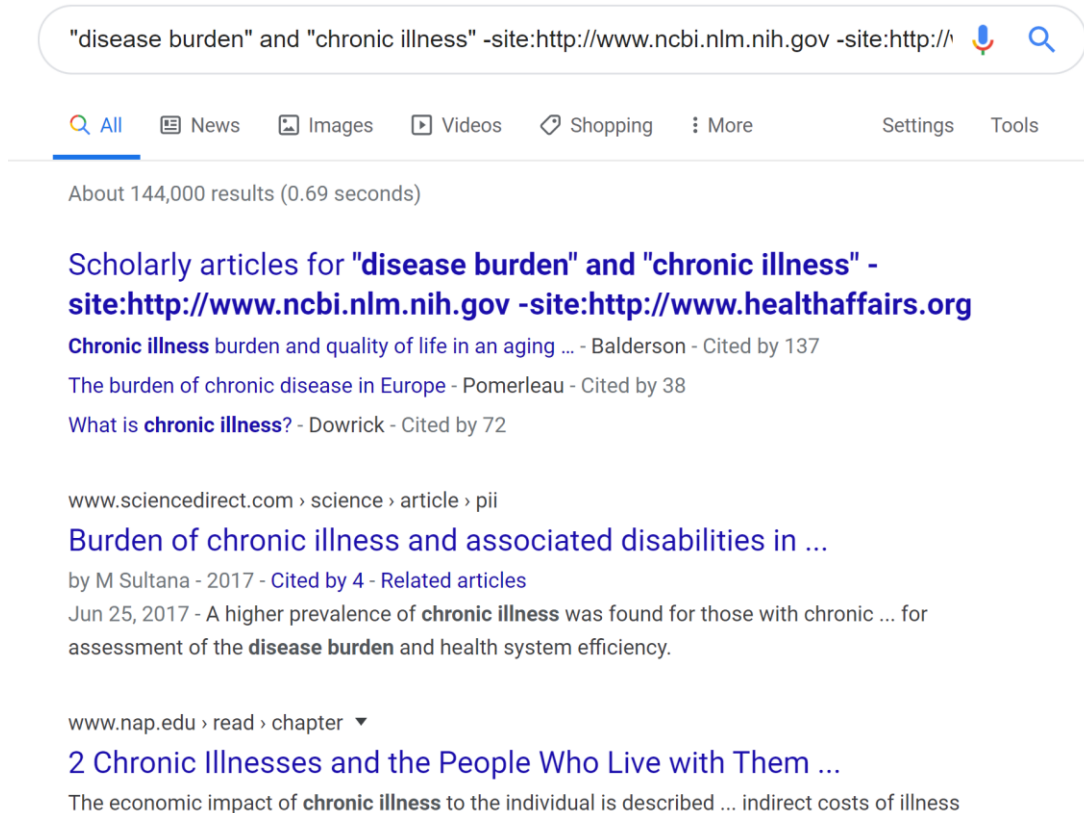
Institutional Repositories

Government websites

Non-profit websites

Google Scholar

Using Google to your Advantage with Advanced Search



"disease burden" and "chronic illness" -site:http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov -site:http://

All News Images Videos Shopping More Settings Tools

About 144,000 results (0.69 seconds)

Scholarly articles for **"disease burden" and "chronic illness"** -
site:http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov -site:http://www.healthaffairs.org

Chronic illness burden and quality of life in an aging ... - Balderson - Cited by 137

The burden of chronic disease in Europe - Pomerleau - Cited by 38

What is **chronic illness**? - Dowrick - Cited by 72

www.sciencedirect.com › science › article › pii

Burden of chronic illness and associated disabilities in ...

by M Sultana - 2017 - Cited by 4 - Related articles

Jun 25, 2017 - A higher prevalence of **chronic illness** was found for those with chronic ... for assessment of the **disease burden** and health system efficiency.

www.nap.edu › read › chapter ▾

2 Chronic Illnesses and the People Who Live with Them ...

The economic impact of **chronic illness** to the individual is described ... indirect costs of illness

For best results:

1. Sign into Google and remove your web history
2. Browser Extensions
3. Delete cookies and tracking history
4. Disable JavaScript
5. Use a private/incognito browser mode

Google Advanced Search Commands

- Build the search string
- Decide to what to include, exclude; a site, source, or term
- Add a statement to exclude all PubMed citations
 - **-site:https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov**
- For a more complete listing of advanced search commands there is no specific Help page in Google but this link has some of the main ones.

Google Search Operators: The Complete List (42 Advanced Operators)

- <https://ahrefs.com/blog/google-advanced-search-operators/>



U.S. National Library of Medicine

*National Network of Libraries of Medicine
Public Health Coordination Office*

Google Custom Search Engines

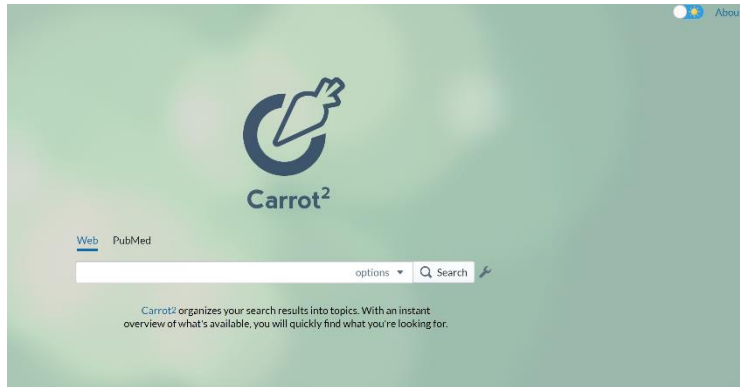
Ontario Public Health Libraries Association

- <http://www.ophla.ca/customsearchusstates.htm>
 - Search Engine to search all US State .gov websites

Harvard Kennedy School Library and Knowledge Services, Think Tank Research

- https://guides.library.harvard.edu/hks/think_tank_search

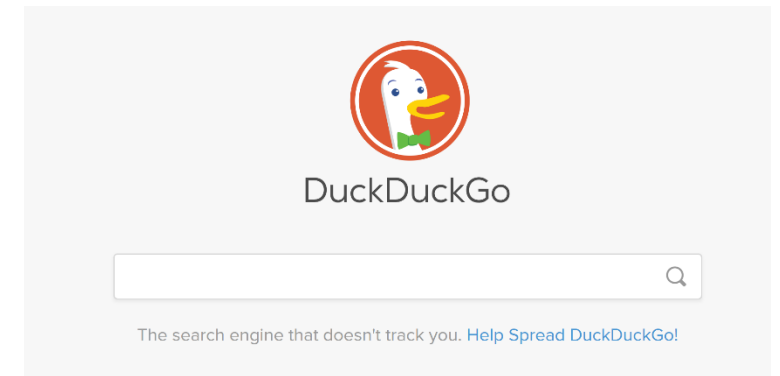
Search Engines – Not the Usual Suspects



<https://search.carrot2.org>



<https://www.dogpile.com>



<https://www.duckduckgo.com>

Using News Alerts

- Google News Alerts – to alert of news
- The more you read and select certain articles the more the search engine will add similar articles to your list.
- Useful when news media announces a new finding that is yet to be published.
- Report of a preprint in this article
: <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2020/3/31/coronavirus-intermittent-distancing-study/>



Came up in my newsfeed automatically as my feed has ‘learned’ I focus on this topic.



U.S. National Library of Medicine

*National Network of Libraries of Medicine
Public Health Coordination Office*

Covid-19 Resources

ild
ring
rbor
boratory

BMJ Yale

HOME | ABOUT | SUBMIT | ALERTS / RSS

medRxiv

THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

Search



Advanced Search

Caution: Preprints are preliminary reports of work that have not been certified by peer review. They should not be relied on to guide clinical practice or health-related behavior and should not be reported in new media as established information.

COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 preprints from medRxiv and bioRxiv

<https://connect.medrxiv.org/relate/content/181>

NIH

U.S. National Library of Medicine

National Network of Libraries of Medicine
Public Health Coordination Office

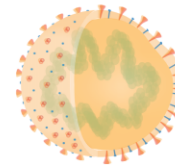
LitCovid

Ex: Remdesivir



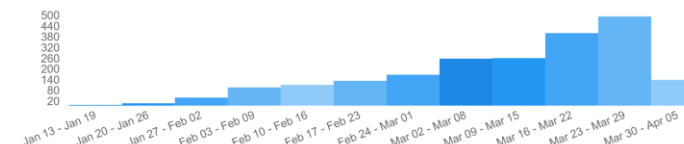
NIH NLM

GENERAL INFO MECHANISM TRANSMISSION TREATMENT CASE REPORT EPIDEMIC FORECASTING



LitCovid is a curated literature hub for tracking up-to-date scientific information about the 2019 novel Coronavirus. It is the most comprehensive resource on the subject, providing a central access to [2170](#) (and growing) relevant articles in PubMed. The articles are updated daily and are further categorized by different research topics and geographic locations for improved access. You can read more at [Chen et al. Nature](#) (2020) and download our data in [TSV](#) or [RIS](#) format.

WEEKLY PUBLICATIONS



LATEST PUBLICATIONS

MECHANISM

Neuroinfection may potentially contribute to pathophysiology and clinical manifestations of COVID-19.

Steardo, Luca et al. • Acta Physiol (Oxf)

GENERAL INFO

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/research/coronavirus/>

HIV/AIDS Government Documents

Find US-focused government
reports and guidelines
covering AIDS/HIV

Strategy:

Search for resources using:
Google Custom Search
Engine by

Ontario Public
Health Libraries Association

Search term: HIV/AIDS



About 292,000,000 results (0.42 seconds)

[HIV/AIDS | IDPH](#)

dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/hiv-aids

HIV/AIDS. HIV remains a serious infectious disease in the world and here in Illinois. The good news is that there has been a great advance in knowledge and the ...

[HIV/AIDS Program Homepage](#)

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OAMain.aspx>



Mar 6, 2020 ... Welcome to the Office of **AIDS** (OA). OA is a division within the California Department of Public Health, Center for Infectious Diseases. OA works ...

[HIV/AIDS Prevention - HIV/AIDS Trainings for Licensure ...](#)

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/.../HIV/Training>



HIV/AIDS Education and Training in a Classroom Setting. Location and Contact Information, Hours, Cost, Details. Anacortes (Skagit County).

[Georgia's HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Section | Georgia Department of ...](#)

<https://dph.georgia.gov/.../georgias-hiv-aids-epidemiology-section>



Feb 19, 2020 ... Overview The **HIV/AIDS** Epidemiology Section (HAES) at the Georgia Department of Public Health, is responsible for managing the state ...

[HIV/AIDS](#)

<https://www.state.nj.us/health/hivstdtb/hiv-aids/statmap.shtml>

Information about the prevalence of **HIV/AIDS** in New Jersey, at the state, county, and municipal levels.



U.S. National Library of Medicine

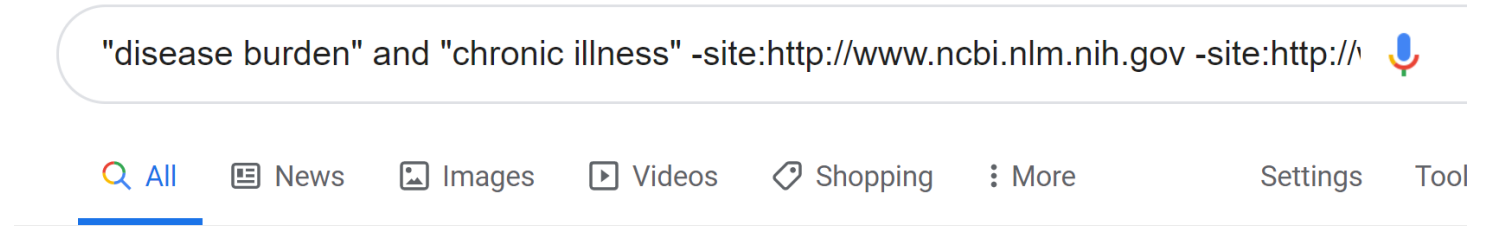
*National Network of Libraries of Medicine
Public Health Coordination Office*

The Disease Burden of Chronic Illness

- Use Google's Advanced Search Commands:
 - Terms: "chronic illness" , "disease burden"
 - Exclude: site: <https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>
 - <https://www.healthaffairs.org>

Resulting: search string

"chronic illness" and "disease burden" -
site:https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov –
site:https://www.healthaffairs.org



About 144,000 results (0.69 seconds)

Scholarly articles for "**disease burden**" and "**chronic illness**" -
site:http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov -site:http://www.healthaffairs.org

Chronic illness burden and quality of life in an aging ... - Balderson - Cited by 137

The burden of chronic disease in Europe - Pomerleau - Cited by 38

What is **chronic illness**? - Dowrick - Cited by 72

www.sciencedirect.com › science › article › pii

Burden of chronic illness and associated disabilities in ...

by M Sultana - 2017 - Cited by 4 - Related articles

Jun 25, 2017 - A higher prevalence of **chronic illness** was found for those with chronic ... for assessment of the **disease burden** and health system efficiency.

www.nap.edu › read › chapter ▼

2 Chronic Illnesses and the People Who Live with Them ...

The economic impact of **chronic illness** to the individual is described ... indirect costs of illness

Additional Webpages and Resources



PDF with links of Public Health Grey Literature Sources

<http://www.ophla.ca/pdf/Public%20Health%20Grey%20Literature%20Sources.pdf>



Health Systems Evidence;

<https://www.healthsystemsevidence.org/>



The Grey Literature Report; 1999-2016, <http://greylit.org/>



World of Science; <https://worldwidescience.org/>



Opengrey.eu; <http://www.opengrey.eu/>



Health Economics Information Resources: A Self-Study Course,
Module 1, Part 2: Key Information Sources

https://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/edu/healthecon/01_he_12.html



PH Partners; <https://phpartners.org>



U.S. National Library of Medicine

*National Network of Libraries of Medicine
Public Health Coordination Office*

Contact Information

Cecilia Vernes, MS-LIS

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

University of Massachusetts Medical School

National Network of Libraries of Medicine

National Public Health Coordination Office

Education Coordinator

cecilia.vernes@umassmed.edu | 508-856-2085 | 617-651-0507

PDHL Blog: [PHDL me this!](#)



U.S. National Library of Medicine

*National Network of Libraries of Medicine
Public Health Coordination Office*

Video Tutorials recommended:

- Part 1: Grey Literature Strategies, by Alissa Link, formerly of BU Alumni Medical Library;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0G9wJ1D7uo>
- Part 2: Additional Grey Literature Sources; by Alissa Link, formerly of BU Alumni Medical Library,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0G9wJ1D7uo>
- Note: One of the sources demonstrated in part 2, POPLINE was retired and is no longer available.

What questions do you have?

References

Farace, D. J. and Schoepfel, J. (Eds.), 2010. Grey Literature in Library and Information Studies. De Gruyter Saur, Germany.

Lin,Y., Vaska, M. (2008), “Tackling the Grey Literature: Tips and Tricks for Uncovering Elusive Material”;
<http://people.ucalgary.ca/~medlib/GreyLit.ppt>

Savić, D., 2017. Rethinking the Role of Grey Literature in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. 10th Conference on Grey Literature and Repositories: proceedings [online]. Prague: National Library of Technology. Available from: <http://nrgl.techlib.cz/index.php/Proceedings>. ISSN 2336-5021. Also published by TGJ (The Grey Journal) Special Winter Issue, Volume 14, 2018.