

# Document supply of grey literature and open access: ten years later

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## Abstract

**Purpose** – The paper aims to investigate the impact of the open access movement on the document supply of grey literature.

**Design/methodology/approach** – The paper is based on a comparative survey of five major scientific and technical information centres: The British Library (UK), KM (Canada), INIST-CNRS (France), KISTI (South Korea) and TIB Hannover (Germany).

**Findings** – The five institutions supplied less than 1.8 million supplied items in 2014, i.e. half of the activity in 2004 (–55 per cent). There were 85,000 grey documents, mainly conference proceedings and reports, i.e. 5 per cent of the overall activity, a historically low level compared to 2004 (–72 per cent). At the same time, they continue to expand their open access strategies. Just as in 2004 and 2008, these strategies are specific, and they reflect institutional and national choices rather than global approaches, with two or three common or comparable projects (PubMed Central, national repositories, attribution of DOIs to datasets, dissertations and other objects). In spite of all differences, their development reveals some common features, like budget cuts, legal barriers (copyright), focus on domestic needs and open access policies to foster dissemination and impact of research results. Document supply for corporate customers tends to become a business-to-business service, while the delivery for the public sector relies more, than before, on resource sharing and networking with academic and public libraries. Except perhaps for the TIB Hannover, the declining importance of grey literature points towards their changing role – less intermediation, less acquisition and collection development and more high-value services, more dissemination and preservation capacities designed for the scientific community needs (research excellence, open access, data management, etc.).

**Originality/value** – The paper is a follow-up study of two surveys published in 2006 and 2009.

**Keywords** Document supply, British library, Grey literature, CISTI, INIST

**Paper type** Research paper

## Introduction

The past decade was a period of major changes and challenges for academic libraries and scientific and technical information (STI) centres. The handling of grey literature may be a good indicator for these transformations insofar as it is not driven by the financial interests of commercial publishing. What STI centres do with grey literature reveals strategic choices as well as public policies regarding scientific documentation.

Ten years ago, in 2005, I conducted a first survey on the handling of grey literature by five major document suppliers[1], with special attention to holdings, services and projects in the emerging environment of open access (Boukacem-Zeghmouri and Schöpfel, 2006). At that time (figures from 2004), the supply of conference proceedings, reports, dissertations, etc. was more or less a small part of the overall activity but the survey revealed different and divergent approaches and developments, especially regarding open access projects related to grey literature.

A follow-up study with the same “big five” STI centres conducted four years later confirmed these differences. In

2008, the five centres supplied together 2.45 million items, with nearly 250,000 grey literature (9 per cent), a slight increase in percentage compared to the first survey. Based on the 2008 statistics, I distinguished three situations:

- (a) High-level supply, low proportion of grey material (British Library).
- (b) Medium-level supply, low proportion of grey material, especially conference proceedings (CISTI, INIST, KISTI).
- (c) Medium-level supply, significant proportion of grey material, especially reports (TIB) (Schöpfel and Prost, 2009, p. 187).

The supply of dissertations was more or less insignificant.

Each STI centre had started carrying out its own open access strategy. Some were engaged in national repository projects, in the field of dissertations (British Library [BL], KISTI), scientific publications (CISTI) and research reports (TIB). Other initiatives were limited to a specific research domain (UK PubMed Central hosted by the BL) or to a service provision based on partnerships and conventions (INIST). The development of grey collections was generally linked to these open access strategies, e.g. deposit of grey items, digitization of print documents and metadata harvesting, often together with other libraries and document suppliers (Schöpfel and Prost, 2009, p. 188). Beside open repositories, I identified two other common features: the development of document supply as a long-tail service and the interest for primary research data (e-Science).

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Development comprises both continuity and change. Open access has become an important part of scientific communication, and institutional repositories and open journals are here to stay[2]. Scientific institutions, funding bodies, governments and international organizations have established open access policies or intend to do so. At the same time, academic libraries and public STI centres have to cope with two other major challenges, namely, research data management and budget restrictions[3].

After a general review on studies on open access and document supply published last year (Schöpfel, 2014), I will focus once more on grey literature for the same reasons as ten years ago: grey holdings and related services need particular investments and efforts, and, at the same time, grey material is increasingly available on the web. For both reasons, grey literature may be a sensitive indicator for the evolving strategies and policies of STI centres.

We can add one last word on grey literature. In the following, this term will cover theses and dissertations, reports, conferences and working papers, as the most representative types of grey literature, defined as documents:

[...] produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in print and electronic formats, but [...] not controlled by commercial publishers i.e. where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body (Schöpfel and Farace, 2010)[4].

## Methodology

This second follow-up study largely reproduces the methodology of the former surveys, with the same sample as in the initial study:

- The BL[5].
- The National Research Councils' (NRC) knowledge management (KM) branch, formerly the Canada Institute of Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI)[6].
- The French CNRS Institut de l'Information Scientifique et Technique (INIST)[7].
- The Korean Institute of Scientific and Technical Information (KISTI)[8].
- The German National Library of Science and Technology at Hannover (TIB)[9].

In the past, what these traditional document suppliers had in common was a public mission to collect, preserve, archive and disseminate scientific information through a non-profit ILL and document supply service that is based on a mixed economic model with their income supplied both by public funding and their customers' fees. ILL and document supply networks without holdings and corporate, profit-based suppliers are excluded from the sample.

Also, the methodological approach is the same as our former studies:

- 1 I searched for open source information about the development, services and projects of the sample on the institutional websites, in activity reports and published articles. Some institutions are well-documented, in particular the BL and the TIB, others are less.
- 2 I asked each institution for information on the following topics:
  - Figures on their grey document supply and ILL in 2014.

- Comparison of these figures to the overall supply and ILL (per cent).
  - The recent evolution compared to previous years.
  - Their projects in the area of grey literature.
  - Their open access projects.
  - The impact on the collection of grey literature.
  - The impact on document supply (service offer, pricing).
  - The impact on the bibliographic control of grey literature (cataloguing, record data).
  - The impact on the information system.
- 3 I communicated the data synthesis to the responding institutions for comments and validation.

The results are presented for each institution, followed by some comments.

The survey was conducted between December 2014 and February 2015.

## Findings

The following section presents the main results for each institution based on the responses to our survey, as well as freely available information on the institutional websites, articles and reports. KISTI did not respond in due time so that for them our analysis is limited to open sources.

### The British Library

The BL was created in 1973, through the merger of different components such as the library of the British Museum, the British Patent Office Library, the National Central Library and the National Lending Library for Science and Technology at Boston Spa, the latter two becoming the British Library Document Supply Centre. In 2014, its rich holdings (115.5 million items[10]) contain 10.4 million reports in microform, 269,442 theses, 68.6 million patent specifications and other unconventional items[11]. The quality, uniqueness of the depth and breadth of the BL holdings are highly valued by its users (Tessler, 2013, p. 59).

In total 90 per cent of UK remote users are “totally satisfied” with the British Library Document Supply service. The document supply and monograph lending fulfilment rate is now 72 per cent:

Document Supply income continued to be the Library's principal source of commercial revenue but it experienced a further decline in demand and sales in challenging market conditions[12]. However, the implementation of a new orders management system and the introduction of differential pricing for items supplied from electronic content provided some positive news in the overall performance (British Library, 2014, p. 28).

A recent article states that “since 2000, when the service peaked at four million requests, demand has steadily reduced to the current 3/4 million requests” (Appleyard, 2015). One of the reasons was the decision to cease the provision of “Library Privilege” to overseas users towards the end of 2011, and to replace it with a licensed reduced royalty rate service to academic institutions overseas. The provision of services decreased by 9 per cent between 2012/2013 and 2013/2014.

A recent report on the economic valuation of the BL provides the following figures:

The Library's Document Supply services generated a total of £6.7 million in revenue during 2011/12, of which £4.5 million was sourced from UK

customers. There are some 4,300 Document Supply customers in total, of which 2,164 are based in the UK (Tessler, 2013, p. 24).

The same report estimates that in 2011/2012 the UK and overseas document supply customers attach a value of £5.5 million to the BL services, in terms of replacement cost (p. 28).

**Dataset Programme:** as a founding member of DataCite[13], the BL assigns Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to datasets produced by UK-based research. So far, the BL has registered more than 750,000 datasets[14] (Wilkinson *et al.*, 2010).

#### *Grey document supply*

The BL does not distinguish between document supply of “grey literature” and other document supply, so they cannot provide any figures here. The supply of “grey literature” has been overtaken by open access and the availability of conference and report material on the web, and it is no longer treated as a category of library material for document supply purposes. In fact, as they mention in the survey, they do not use the term “grey literature” any longer because “it feels slightly out-dated”.

#### *Comparison with the overall supply*

N/a.

#### *Evolution*

N/a.

#### *Projects in the field of grey literature*

All projects in the field of grey literature are related to EThOS[15], the UK’s national thesis service, which aims to maximize the visibility and availability of the UK’s doctoral research theses. The BL is developing a national system of DOIs for UK theses and text and data mining (TDM) opportunities to help understand the benefits, opportunities and risks around TDM, as it specifically applies to these theses. The University of Bristol is leading a wider National Compound Collection project to extract chemical compounds from hundreds of UK theses, and the BL is working closely with both Bristol and the project funders, the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), to extract chemical compound information from UK theses to add to the open access ChemSpider database. Another project is about machine extraction of key law phrases and sentence structures from UK theses in the field of Law to help build language-learning tools for Law students. These TDM projects raise some questions:

- Are the desired theses in a location and format that make them suitable? For example, accessibility of the holding repository, file formats and the ease with which sets of theses could be selected, for example, by the subject.
- How will the thesis content be used? Does a new copy need to be made for a project and what copyright applies?
- For which purpose would the use be permitted? Does the new text mining copyright exception apply or does the project need to seek permission from all rights holders?
- Will there be benefits to higher education (HE) stakeholders?

#### *Open access projects*

EThOS aims to provide a national aggregated record of all doctoral theses awarded by UK HE institutions and free access to the full text of as many theses as possible for use by

all researchers to further their own research. There are approximately 380,000 records relating to dissertations awarded by over 130 institutions. Around 140,000 of these (37 per cent) also provide access to the full-text thesis, either via download from the EThOS database or via links to the institution’s own repository. Of the remaining 240,000 records dating back to at least 1,800, three-quarters are available to be ordered for scanning through the EThOS digitization-on-demand facility.

Together with the European Bioinformatics Institute and the University of Manchester, the BL delivers Europe PubMed Central[16], providing access not only to more than three million full-text articles but also to additional content, including biological patents, clinical guidelines, dissertations, research and other reports including 30 million abstracts.

#### *The impact on the collection of grey literature*

The major changes of the collection development – legal deposit of digital publications, web archiving and heritage acquisition – partly impact the collection of grey literature (Brazier, 2012; Green, 2009), especially reports and theses. New reports in microform have not been received in 2013/2014, as the subscription for this content has not been renewed. The BL does not manage reports and conference papers in any specific way, as they consider that the vast majority are freely available via the web.

#### *The impact on document supply*

To respond to changes in the external environment and challenging times for public sector institutions in the UK, the “Document Supply Futures” strategy in 2010 included the “re-engineering of business processes, building on a new e-commerce platform, which provides a modern, online, pay-as-you-go (PAYG) interface and an integrated, system-to-system solution, using an API” and, in 2013, the “introduction of tiered pricing, differentiating between the supply of scanned print and born digital material, bringing down the price to our customers and promoting greater use of electronic content” (Appleyard, 2015).

#### *The impact on the bibliographic control of grey literature*

EThOS thesis metadata is free to harvest via the OAI-PMH data sharing protocol. Most thesis metadata are now harvested from the 100+ institutional repositories in the UK. Extensive de-duplication, normalization and enhancement are done by EThOS at the BL before loading to EThOS. All EThOS data are also added to the BL catalogue, made available for harvesting by other resource discovery services and is indexed by Google Scholar. Some metadata are tied in with funding requirements (for example, sponsor body/funder, supervisor, project ID, author IDs). The BL is moving towards a national approach to applying DOIs to all UK theses, working with UK HE. It is a key piece of metadata, which will make citation easier, unlock valuable data and research content hidden in the pages of PhD theses and allow linking to the underlying research data held in different/various subject or institutional repositories.

#### *The impact on the information system*

In 2008, the BL implemented PRIMO, the Ex-Libris search system, which provides Web 2 functionalities (tagging, adding reviews) and allows cross-searching with other catalogues.

**National Research Council Canada: KM branch**

The KM Branch[17] was established in 1924 as the NRC Canada[18] library at Ottawa, Ontario. In 1967, it officially became Canada's National Science Library. In 1974, it became the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Intelligence (CISTI) and in 2011, it was re-branded NRC's KM branch, bringing together the National Science Library mandate, with the NRC library and records services. Its mission is to contribute to an innovative economy by providing high-value information and knowledge services in the areas of science, technology and health. Its holdings contain over 50,000 journal titles, more than 800,000 monographs and two million scientific and technical reports. KM does not collect theses or dissertations.

Until 2009, KM (as CISTI) was one of the most important global document suppliers. In 2010, it exited the international document delivery business to focus on serving Canadians. From that point, its document-supply partner Infotrieve[19] started providing access to the national science library collection on behalf of NRC. In addition, KM is responsible for delivering a full suite of library, information management and strategic intelligence services to NRC.

*Grey document supply*

In 2014, KM supplied 573 copies[20] from grey literature (conference proceedings). The satisfaction rate was 98 per cent. Though KM has many technical reports, the data indicate that no copies or loans of reports were issued from 2011-2014. This is likely because reports are considered as books in the new *Mobile Library* system. Since 2009, KM has stopped collecting print materials and only acquires electronic materials, so standing orders for conference proceedings were all cancelled.

*Comparison with the overall supply*

The supply of conference proceedings accounts for 3.6 per cent of the overall number of supplied items. As indicated above, until 2010, KM supplied orders submitted from Canadian and international clients. From 2010 onwards, they exited the international document supply business to focus on serving Canadian customers, which explains the low numbers. The estimated total number of supplied items in 2014 was 15,895.

*Evolution*

Since 2011, the supply of grey items has decreased by 70 per cent (42 per cent from 2013 to 2014). Compared to the overall tendency (-58 per cent), grey item requests have declined by 30 per cent. The satisfaction rate remained stable at around 96-98 per cent. Yet, the most important decline that has been registered is that compared to 2004 and 2008, the 2014 grey literature supply represents only 1-2 per cent of the former activity level.

*Projects in the field of grey literature*

DataCite Canada[21] data registration service provides Canadian data centres and libraries with a mechanism for registering research data and assigning DOIs to them. This includes assigning DOIs to grey literature. KM is the Canadian member organization of DataCite International. As of 30 December 2014, DataCite contains 30,598 datasets with

DOIs assigned by KM, most of them in Life Sciences (DNA sequences and metadata) and from 2013.

*Open access projects*

KM's NRC Publications Archive (NParC)[22] makes NRC publications openly accessible which, besides providing metadata and full text for peer-reviewed journal articles, also includes NRC reports and conference publications. As of 30 December 2014, this repository includes 54,440 records, of which 13,269 (24 per cent) include full text. This includes 6,486 NRC reports, 12,346 conference publications and some students' works. Additional reports have been digitized and NRC is in the process of adding these to the repository. Print reports are gradually deteriorating and NRC is preserving access by depositing electronic copies in the NRC Publications Archive. The repository also contains 305 patent records. KM has established a policy requiring NRC researchers to deposit copies of their peer-reviewed publications and technical reports in NParC. Today, the NRC Publications Archive is a publicly accessible single gateway to NRC's record of research.

KM has created a digital repository, a persistent archive for digital objects of all kinds. This new platform was created to host many different digital collections in a single environment, offering an improved interface which can search each collection separately or the entire repository at once. The digital repository offers new opportunities to publicly share materials that were previously unavailable. It is built on industry standard, open-source technologies making it both robust and flexible, and ensuring its long-term viability. New digital collections are planned and will be released, as they are ready. To make use of this improved infrastructure and to ensure sustainability, the NRC Publications Archive will move to this digital repository platform in 2015.

KM partners with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the National Library of Medicine to provide a national repository, PubMed Central Canada (PMC), for peer-reviewed health and life sciences literature. As such, it is a member of the PubMed Central International network. PubMed Central Canada provides free access to content, and it is one of the locations where CIHR funded researchers can deposit their publications, an obligation under CIHR's Policy on Access to Research Outputs.

*The impact on the collection of grey literature*

No impact.

*The impact on document supply*

No – other than the availability of content via the services described above.

*The impact on the bibliographic control of grey literature*

No specific developments.

*The impact on the information system*

In 2010, KM switched automated document delivery platforms, from *Intellidoc* to the *Infotrieve Mobile Library system*, with different procedures and statistics, which explains why KM is unable to report in the same way as they had been doing in the past. Yet, there is no impact of OA projects on the information system so far.

### The Institute For Scientific and Technical Information

Part of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), the Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (INIST) was created in 1988 “to facilitate access to results from all fields of world research, promote scientific production and provide services to people in Higher Education and Research”[23]. Successor of two former Paris-based STM and SS&H documentation centres, INIST has one of the largest collections of scientific publications in Europe, comprising journals and grey literature (reports, dissertations and proceedings).

Since the last survey, INIST has undergone fundamental changes. Acquisition of print collections and the production of the two main French databases PASCAL and FRANCIS were disrupted, and the focus is now on subscription to e-journals and e-books, on the acquisition of back-files and on the dissemination to HE and research via portals (CNRS portals, ISTEEX platform). INIST also started to invest in the management and preservation of research data, as a member of the international consortium DataCite[24].

French ILL and document supply has shown a significant decline since 2000 (Schöpfel and Gillet, 2011)[25]. The INIST document supply service declined from 700,000 in 2000 to 120,000 in 2013. In 2010, INIST launched a new web-based article-level and ordering platform called RefDoc, with 54 million records and 178,000 journals from 1,823 onwards[26]. Yet, in December 2013, a court decision settled that the agreement with the French copyright agency CFC based on an opt-out model was not compliant with the French intellectual property law. After this decision, RefDoc and the document supply service were suspended. Today, the INIST document supply has become a free-of-charge service for CNRS researchers and based on the CFC authorizations for the French HE and research organizations, while the delivery to corporate or private customers has stopped completely. The legal basis will be an opt-in model, through an agreement with the CFC and licensing with publishers. However, much work has yet to be done (Gillet, 2014).

#### Grey document supply (2012)

In 2012, INIST supplied a total of 1,900 grey items to its customers: 969 conference proceedings, 701 dissertations and 230 reports. Also, 109 (27 per cent) dissertations were provided by backup libraries from other countries.

#### Comparison with the overall supply

These items represented 1.2 per cent of the overall supply of 153,471 fulfilled requests.

#### Evolution

In the past, the proportion of grey literature in the INIST document supply has always been rather low, between 3 per cent (2004) and 3.5 per cent (2008). From 2012 to 2013, this percentage declined even more, falling to only 0.2 per cent (187 items, mainly proceedings and reports). The reason for this near extinction of grey document supply was a decision in 2013 to stop all delivery of items without ISBN or ISSN, i.e. more or less all grey material and above all, the dissertations. This decision followed a very controversial debate in social media and public forums between librarians and authors about the INIST fee-based supply of documents that are or should be freely available in open archives. The reader may be

reminded that the CNRS, the mother organization of INIST, is also in charge of the national OA platform HAL.

#### Projects in the field of grey literature

INIST continues to host and develop OpenGrey[27], the OA successor of the former SIGLE database. New sources and resources have been added to the database, with a growing number of links to the full text. For some items, the document is deposited and preserved on the OpenGrey server. The figures from December 2014 are: OpenGrey totals 1,014,821 records (+47 per cent since 2008), with 49,900 links to the full text (5 per cent, mostly French dissertations in medical sciences and UK theses, via imported EThOS metadata) and 323 preprints from the international conferences on grey literature[28].

Furthermore, since 2008, the content of the INIST OA platform for French scientific and technical reports LARA[29] has doubled, from about 1,000 to 2,000 reports issued from several institutions and holdings (deposits and retro-digitization). For better visibility, a specific LARA section will be created in the HAL repository (CCSD).

#### Open access projects

In 2013, INIST made freely available its bibliographic records of the Répertoire d'Art et d'Archéologie (1972-1989) and of the Bibliography of Art database co-produced with the Getty Foundation (1990-2008). Today, 559,750 records in the history of art and archaeology are disseminated on the OA platform OpenBibArt[30], covering nearly four decades of international publications (1972-2008).

In 2013, in reaction to the controversial debate about INIST document delivery, RefDoc has been linked to other OA repositories. The French institutional archives HAL[31], Persée[32], Revue.org[33] and Orbi[34] and an archive at the University of Liege, are harvested on a daily basis and linked with references already on RefDoc. The link to the OA article as a PDF is provided for users. In early 2015, PMC[35] will be linked to RefDoc.

#### The impact on the collection of grey literature

The acquisition of grey literature was suspended.

#### The impact on document supply

Limited to public HE institutions and CNRS.

#### The impact on the bibliographic control of grey literature

N/a.

#### The impact on the information system

INIST and ABES are working with academic libraries in the Ministry committee called BSN8[36] (digital scientific library) to design a French end-user based document supply platform and new functionalities will be developed in RefDoc for document delivery to streamline the academic network.

### The Korean institute of science and technology information

The KISTI[37] has been providing STI services since 1962 together with R&D in the field of scientific communication. KISTI hosts the Korean STI portal called the National Digital Science Links (NDSL)[38] with more than 80 million items, mostly journal articles and patent information, including grey literature, such as conference proceedings, technical reports or trend analyses for the corporate and scientific sectors,

although there are no theses or dissertations; this grey literature is 10 per cent of the total ingest in 2009, (Yoo, 2010). Moreover, NDSL contains links to more than 4.5 million scientific datasets, mainly in life sciences and chemistry.

The document delivery service run by KISTI (NIDS) supplies items from KISTI's own holdings (83 per cent), from Korean libraries (6 per cent) or from international suppliers (11 per cent). In 2008, there were 815,250 orders (Yoo, 2010). One per cent of the items supplied from the KISTI holdings in 2008 were grey literature (reports, standards, dissertations). A STI centre with significant research activity, KISTI also produces grey literature, such as reports on the STI market, proceedings from events and other papers.

#### *Grey document supply*

N/a.

#### *Comparison with the overall supply*

N/a.

#### *Evolution*

N/a.

#### *Projects in the field of grey literature*

In August 2008, KISTI became the national agency for the deposit and preservation of Korean R&D reports and other unpublished papers. At the end of 2014, KISTI announced a research project with Elsevier for the content mining of KISTI's scientific and technical reports. From 2010 on, KISTI has developed an R&D activity in the field of research data management and preservation and established a national Science Data Advisory Committee.

#### *Open access projects*

KISTI launched the national portal called Open Access Korea (OAK)[39] and hosts the OAK Central platform for 40 open access journals with more than 5,000 articles[40]. The OAK portal holds about 300,000 items, journal articles, monographs, multi-media, etc. harvested from 23 institutional repositories and OA journals (Hwang *et al.*, 2014).

#### *The impact on the collection of grey literature*

N/a.

#### *The impact on document supply*

N/a.

#### *The impact on the bibliographic control of grey literature*

N/a.

#### *The impact on the information system*

KISTI built infrastructures for dissertations, reports, datasets (*Hub of Large Scale Test Data Centre*, launched in September 2010) and open access journals (XML full-text workbench).

### **The German national library of science and technology Hannover**

With its rich holdings of scientific and technical literature, patents and other material, TIB Hannover, Germany's National Library of Science and Technology, today ranks as one of the world's largest specialist libraries and one of the most efficient document suppliers in its subject areas. The TIB has been working closely with the academic library of the University of Hannover for over 40 years. In 2015, they

will finally merge into a single institution with shared staffing, management and strategies. For the TIB, this merger will be the opportunity to develop its research activities in the field of library and information sciences (Rosemann, 2013).

Based on evaluation and auditing, the TIB continues to develop open access to scientific information, national licences for journal and book collections, long-term preservation and retro-digitization of heritage material and management of research data. In the field of document supply, the TIB together with two other special libraries, launched in 2008 a one-stop-shop for corporate customers in the field of STM and economics called Goportis[41], a portal with the potential to become the central gateway to networked document supply for both corporate and public customers (Meyer, 2009).

Rosemann and Brammer (2010) and, more recently, Brammer and Olf (2014) have provided an overview on the development of document delivery in Germany since 2003 and, in particular, of the TIB document supply and interlibrary loan service. They show that document delivery requests decreased steadily from 2006 to 2012, falling from 480,000 to 210,000 (-56 per cent). The rate of satisfied requests remained stable, with 85-90 per cent fulfilled orders.

On the campus, the quality of the local document supply service is appreciated (Neumann, 2012). Like other academic libraries, TIB has started to transform its building and space into a user- and learning-friendly environment (Franzkowiak, 2012).

#### *Grey document supply*

TIB supplied about 75,000 grey items in 2014. Also, 26,000 have been delivered through traditional academic interlibrary loan, 49,000 via the TIB document supply service GetInfo and the Subito network.

#### *Comparison with the overall supply*

These items represent 37 per cent of the overall supply (202,000 satisfied requests). The percentage is higher for interlibrary loan (48 per cent) than for document supply (33 per cent).

#### *Evolution*

The overall document supply decreased by nearly 60 per cent between 2004 and 2014. Yet, even though the number of grey documents delivered decreased as well, their proportion increased steadily from 27 per cent in 2004 to 37 per cent in 2014.

#### *Projects in the field of grey literature*

N/a.

#### *Open access projects*

Another initiative of the TIB is cooperative workshops for students and scientists to develop their information literacy, especially in the field of open access publishing (Luca and Koch, 2014).

#### *The impact on the collection of grey literature*

N/a.

#### *The impact on document supply*

The TIB increased existing cooperation with partners such as Subito[42] and the FIZ[43] AutoDoc service to extend the offer of content and to deal with insufficient licences or rights management. The TIB also started to prepare a new

document supply strategy called “TIB Full Text Supply 2020” that will take into account the decreasing demand for traditional document supply and legal barriers.

*The impact on the bibliographic control of grey literature*  
N/a.

*The impact on the information system*

Following the amendment of the German Copyright Law in 2008, a greater differentiation of orders was required by customer group, supplying country and form of delivery. “Therefore, the associated examination of licences and legally compliant delivery necessitated a software solution” (Brammer and Olf, 2014, p. 77).

**Discussion**

**Document supply**

Figures are incomplete, and not all are up to 2014. It is difficult, therefore, to get a clear idea of the actual number of requests fulfilled by the “big five”. Yet, based on the published statistics, less than 1.8 million items were supplied, half of that in 2004. This decrease is a general phenomenon, except for KISTI that increased from 300,000 to more than 600,000 orders. Moreover, for the BL, KM, INIST and the TIB the decrease accelerated from 2008 onwards. KM outsourced the document supply to Infotrieve (now the US-based Copyright

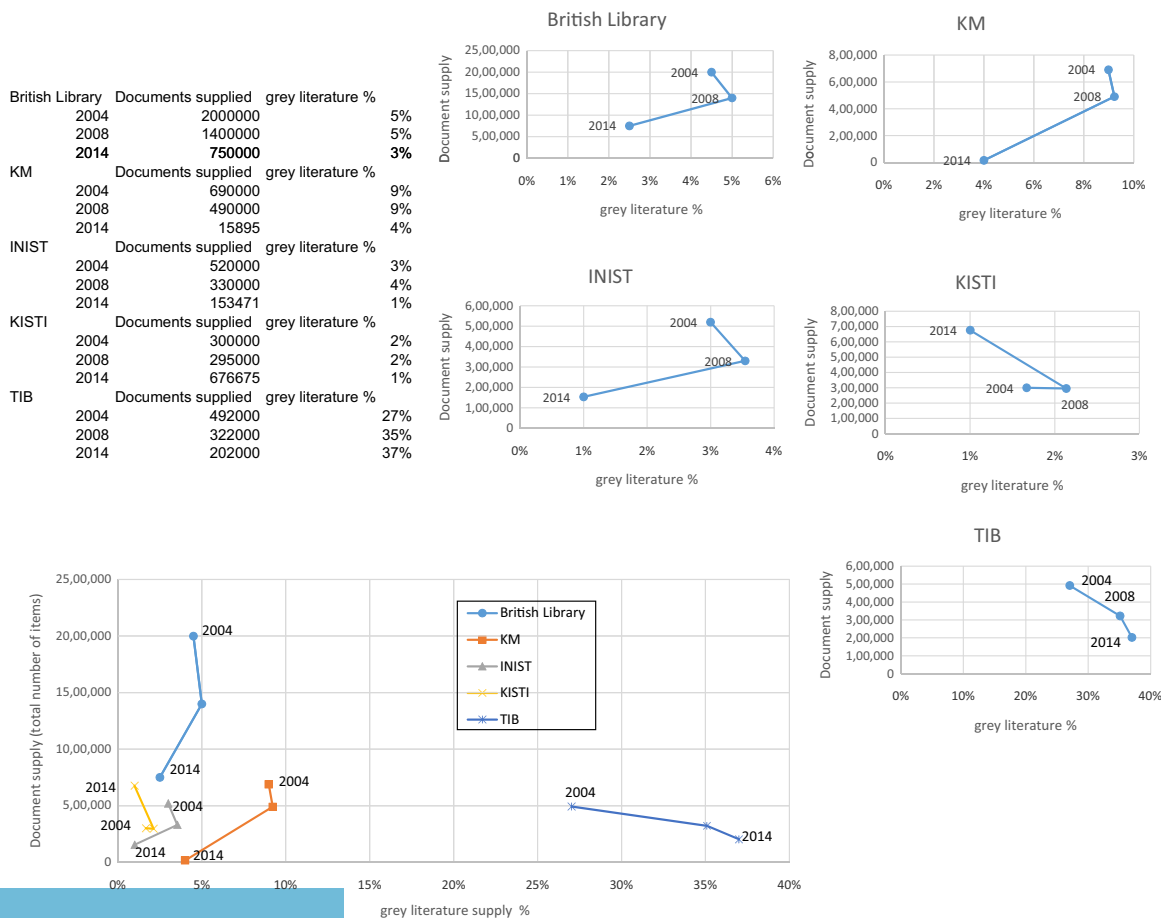
Clearance Centre), while INIST suspended the document supply and then limited it to the domestic HE and research sector.

**Grey literature**

It has become even more difficult to estimate the part of document supply of grey literature. The BL considers that the concept of grey literature does not make sense any longer. The KM system processes one part of grey literature like published books, without distinction. INIST stopped the supply of grey literature because of legal problems. A very prudent estimation is that in 2014, these document suppliers delivered together less than 85,000 grey documents, mainly conference proceedings and reports, i.e. 5 per cent of the overall activity, a historically low level compared to former years. This amount would be 28 per cent of the 2004 grey document supply.

Figure 1 presents the synthesis of real and estimated figures on document supply. Four institutions have low- to medium-level supply with a low proportion of grey material (KM, INIST, KISTI and BL). The TIB has a medium-level supply with a significant proportion of grey material. Except for the TIB, the part of grey literature of the overall document supply decreased for all institutions between 2004 and 2014.

**Figure 1** Document supply and grey literature per cent



### Open access

The five institutions continue to expand their open access strategies. Just as in 2004 and 2008, these strategies are specific and reflect institutional and national choices rather than global approaches. Yet, their strategies share two or three common or comparable projects, such as PubMed Central (BL and KM); national repositories (KM and KISTI); or attribution of DOIs to datasets, dissertations and other objects (BL, KM, INIST, TIB; KISTI is an affiliated member of DataCite).

### Information system

According to the available information, the development of the document supply systems was primarily to maintain or adapt existing systems instead of changing them – except for KM where the former CISTI software was replaced by Infotrieve's *Mobile Library* software.

### Strategic marketing

Under specific conditions, each of the former “big five” document suppliers elaborated its own institutional answer to the critical questions of strategic management (Drucker, 1954):

- “What is our business?” There is a general shift away from collection development to gateway functions and access management. Document supply is no longer a priority but is at a best part of a global service with a focus on access to information and “content”[44], mainly through open access but also through licensing (INIST). Providing and/or facilitating access to information appears to be the core business, with related issues: dissemination and valorisation of institutional (national) scientific output (KM, KISTI and TIB), KM (KM) and long-term preservation of documents (BL).
- “Who are our customers?” Modern document supply is customer-centred, not service-centred, which implies good knowledge and a clear definition of the customers. During the past decade, at least three institutions (BL, KM and INIST) redefined their user communities, with a strong preference for domestic customers, in particular the national academic community (HE and research), and a clear separation between the corporate and the public sector. Global aspirations are no longer put forward, if not abandoned.
- “What is our added value for customers?” Today, differences appear to outweigh shared values. Each institution develops a distinctive communication strategy to highlight its specific value proposal for the target user community. The only common asset seems to be guaranteed 100 per cent legal compliance of their services and products, through copyright-cleared items and licensing. Two other assets, yet less common, are the shift from information to knowledge and the capacity of long-term preservation of research results.
- “Where should our business go?” A couple of years ago, I established a kind of wish list for modern document supply, with items such as customizable search technology, e-commerce features, improved reporting, automation, re-engineering of the workflows, social media, etc. (Schöpfel and Gillet, 2007). In fact, only one issue on this list appears to be part of the actual strategy of the major document suppliers, i.e. resource sharing and networking, especially on a national or regional level. Their own holdings, if not

discontinued, are considered as part of the network, not as a core asset of the document supply service. The other dominant and shared strategic goals are not directly related to document supply, like research data management or TDM data mining.

### Conclusion

Transition is over, and choices have been made. Ten years ago, document supply was (still) a central part of STI, dominated by public intermediation and the “big five” public institutions, with national roots but global ambitions. This time is gone. Ten years later, the survey reveals a shattered landscape, with two national libraries, two service providers in the national digital research infrastructures and an integrated research, computer and STI centre, each institution pursuing a strategy that responds to its special environment. This environment may vary from one country to another, but there seems to be some common features, such as budget cuts, legal barriers (copyright), focus on domestic needs and open access policies to foster dissemination and impact of research results. Document supply for corporate customers tends to become a business-to-business service, while the delivery for the public sector relies more than before on resource sharing and networking with academic and public libraries.

Except perhaps for the TIB Hannover, the declining importance of grey literature points towards the changing role of these institutions mentioned above. Less intermediation, less acquisition and collection development and more high value services, more dissemination and preservation capacities designed for the scientific community needs (research excellence, open access, data management, etc.). In the short term, this may not be satisfying for the non-conventional grey literature because of problems with metadata, referencing, preservation and broken links. In the mid- and long-term, the semantic web, content mining tools and institutional repositories connected to current research information systems may provide a solution for grey literature. But, this will no longer be a document supply.

### Notes

- 1 The British Library (UK), CISTI (Canada), INIST (France), KISTI (Korea) and TIB Hannover (Germany).
- 2 See Heather Morrison's report on 2014 growth indicators of the open access movement <http://poeticeconomics.blogspot.ca/2014/12/2014-dramatic-growth-of-open-access-30.html>
- 3 For context information, see McGrath (2015).
- 4 See Schöpfel (2011) for a new definition of grey literature.
- 5 [www.bl.uk/](http://www.bl.uk/)
- 6 <https://cisti-icist.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/>
- 7 [www.inist.fr/](http://www.inist.fr/)
- 8 <http://en.kisti.re.kr/>
- 9 [www.tib.uni-hannover.de/](http://www.tib.uni-hannover.de/)
- 10 For this and the following figures, see British Library (2014).



- 11 Such as pamphlets etc., see, for instance, Egan and Stevens (2011).
- 12 For a general overview on UK interlibrary loan and the British Library document supply service, see Appleyard (2010) and Johnson (2011).
- 13 International DataCitation Initiative, member of the International DOI foundation [www.datacite.org/](http://www.datacite.org/)
- 14 See <http://stats.datacite.org/>
- 15 <http://ethos.bl.uk/>
- 16 Europe PMC, former UK PMC <http://europepmc.org/>
- 17 <https://cisti-icist.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/>
- 18 [www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/](http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/)
- 19 [www.infotrieve.com/](http://www.infotrieve.com/) Infotrieve was acquired by the Copyright Clearance Center in November 2014 [www.copyright.com/content/cc3/en/toolbar/aboutUs/newsRoom/pressReleases/press\\_2014/press-release-14-11-06.html](http://www.copyright.com/content/cc3/en/toolbar/aboutUs/newsRoom/pressReleases/press_2014/press-release-14-11-06.html)
- 20 Extrapolated from cumulated figures January-November 2014.
- 21 <http://cisti-icist.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/services/cisti/datacite-canada/index.html>
- 22 <http://dr-dn.cisti-icist.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/home/>
- 23 [www.inist.fr/?About-Inist&lang=en](http://www.inist.fr/?About-Inist&lang=en)
- 24 [www.inist.fr/?DOI-Assignment&lang=en](http://www.inist.fr/?DOI-Assignment&lang=en)
- 25 For the former INIST document supply, see Gillet (2007 and 2008).
- 26 [www.refdoc.fr/](http://www.refdoc.fr/)
- 27 [www.opengrey.eu/](http://www.opengrey.eu/)
- 28 [www.opengrey.eu/about/greyliterature?lang=en](http://www.opengrey.eu/about/greyliterature?lang=en)
- 29 <http://lara.inist.fr/>
- 30 [www.openbibart.fr/](http://www.openbibart.fr/)
- 31 <https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/>
- 32 [www.persee.fr/web/guest/home](http://www.persee.fr/web/guest/home)
- 33 [www.revues.org/?lang=en](http://www.revues.org/?lang=en)
- 34 <http://orbi.ulg.ac.be/?locale=en>
- 35 [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/)
- 36 [www.bibliothequescientifiquenumerique.fr/?lang=eng](http://www.bibliothequescientifiquenumerique.fr/?lang=eng)
- 37 <http://en.kisti.re.kr/>
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- 39 <http://oak.go.kr/>
- 40 <http://central.oak.go.kr/>
- 41 [www.goportis.de/](http://www.goportis.de/)
- 42 [www.subito-doc.de/](http://www.subito-doc.de/)
- 43 <http://autodoc.fiz-karlsruhe.de/>
- 44 See the recent strategy paper of the British Library (2015).

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