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The Challenges of Incorporating Grey Literature Into A Scholarly Platform

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The Challenges of Incorporating Grey Literature into a Scholarly Publishing Platform

A study in Requirements Gathering

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via <http://www.nusl.cz/ntk/nusl-407833>



GeoScienceWorld Background

- Established 2004
 - aim: bring together society led, peer-review, content on a single online platform
- 47 journals, 2100+ ebooks, GeoRef
- in 15 years, returned more than \$38m to societies through royalties to help fund research



The Project

Opportunity to acquire large dataset that includes about 30% “grey literature”, mostly meeting abstracts.

Challenges:

- preparing the content
- impact on search functionality
- need for new purchase models to support business



Preparing the Content

- Absence of industry standard DTD for grey literature
- Each content type requires custom DTD and XSLT
- Not possible to load all content through platform tools
- Incomplete metadata presents multiple challenges
- Need to understand content before moving on to implementation



Implications for Search

The screenshot shows the GeoScienceWorld search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Journals, Books, GeoRef, Publishers, OpenGeoSci, Citation Manager, and Help. A search bar contains the text 'gneiss' and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, the results are displayed for '1-20 OF 14095 RESULTS FOR gneiss'. The first result is a journal article titled 'Detection of a weak late-stage deformation event in granitic gneiss through anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility: implications for tectonic evolution of the Bomdila Gneiss in the Arunachal Lesser Himalaya, Northeast India'. The article is from the Geological Magazine, published in 2016. Below the article title, there are several figures, including a map and several line graphs.

Additional search facet here

Indicate peer review status of content here.



Implications for Search

- Need to indicate “grey” nature of the content through the XML
- Modify SOLR core to support new metadata fields
- Graphic indicator of peer-review status
 - no accepted industry best practice
- Co-mingle grey and peer-review content, give user more options
- Additional facets to narrow search results
- Web best practice = do not impede discovery



New Business Models

- Primary audience: corporate/consultancy
- Subscription model not applicable to target audience
- Prefers ability to bulk purchase desired content
- Modify store checkout workflow
- Tokenised purchasing
- Longer term, looking to tie purchasing into TDM tools, with ability to purchase PDF and/or XML



Conclusion

- All migrations are challenging
- Migration of grey literature has additional challenges and more unknowns
- Uncover more unknowns as project progresses
- Agile development best suited to such projects
- Requirements gathering as a process is vital
- Implementation changes everything
 - and that's ok!