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Dušková, Marta  
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# **Present State and Plans in collecting and making Grey Literature accessible in the CVTI SR (Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information)**

Mgr. Marta Dušková  
Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information  
[marta.duskova@cvtisr.sk](mailto:marta.duskova@cvtisr.sk)

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## **Abstract:**

The CVTI SR is a national information center for the support of science and research and a specialized scientific public library focused on technical fields of study and selected areas of sciences, economics and the humanities. The aim of the contribution is to describe the relations between the CVTI SR and the Library Act No. 183/2000 in connection with gray literature (GL), to outline the present state, intentions and possibilities of obtaining, collecting and making GL accessible in the CVTI SR. Basic prerequisites for the establishment of a depository of GL in the Data Research and Development Center are outlined.

## **Contribution:**

The Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information is a national information center for the support of science and research in the Slovak Republic and a specialized scientific public library focused on technical fields of study and selected areas of sciences, economics and the humanities. The CVTI's mission is to develop and operate comprehensive information systems for the research and development, to mediate science and technology to general public, to initiate and implement national projects aimed at higher quality of information background of research and development and to provide services for research and development; to develop and administer library and information collections and to provide library and information services to general public, as well as to engage in methodology and carry out analyses to support management and evaluation in the area of research and development and colleges and universities.

## **Slovak laws related to grey literature**

Activity related to collecting and making grey literature accessible in the CVTI SR directly follow from the laws of the Slovak Republic, namely from Act No. 183/2000, Library Act, and Act No. 535/2003 on mandatory copies of periodicals, non-periodical literature and reproduction of audio-visual works.

Act No. 183/2000, Library Act, Article 1, section 7, paragraph 7 says that the CVTI SR “coordinates processing of library documents, which are usually issued by research institutes, universities, international organizations, public administration bodies and other legal persons and natural persons in a small number of copies, and which are not distributed through publishing houses’ networks.” (Act No. 183/2000). This refers to the so called grey literature, which is defined by the international

organization for grey literature GreyNet International as: *"Information produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in electronic and print formats not controlled by commercial publishing i.e. where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body."* GreyNet International c2010).

Legal terms of collecting and making grey literature accessible in the CVTI SR are also provided for by Act No. 535/2003 on mandatory copies of periodicals, non-periodical literature and reproduction of audio-visual works, which regulates publishers' obligation to deliver mandatory copies of periodicals, non-periodical literature and reproduction of audio-visual works intended for legal persons.

From the viewpoint of collecting and making grey literature accessible in the CVTI SR, the obligation of publishers to submit mandatory copies of non-periodical literature up to 500 pcs and above 500 pcs is essential. At present, the CVTI SR is entitled to receive mandatory copies of the following documents, which are issued in the number exceeding 500 pcs (Act No. 535/2003):

- printed matter, e.g. books, music sheets, cartographic works, graphic works, special prints, academic qualification works published in print, printed travel and research reports;
- corporate literature (for public);
- standards.

The CVTI SR is entitled to receive mandatory copies of the following documents, which are issued in the number below 500 pcs (Act No. 535/2003):

- corporate literature (for public);
- standards.

At present, the CVTI SR is not entitled to non-periodical literature issued in the number below 500 pcs: printed matter, e.g. books, music sheets, cartographic works, graphic works, special prints, academic qualification works published in print, printed travel and research reports. As a result, the CVTI SR does not receive literature belonging to the class of grey literature.

As far as mandatory copies of corporate literature issued in the number below 500 pcs are concerned, companies producing such printed matter do not usually deliver mandatory copies to the CVTI SR, as they are not aware of this duty. Therefore, the CVTI should take appropriate steps in order to inform the broad range of legal persons producing corporate documents below 500 pcs of this obligation.

### **Present situation of grey literature in the CVTI SR collections**

The CVTI SR offers its literature to readers and users through library and information services directly in the CVTI SR. Grey literature may be borrowed and taken out of the library as well as used as reference literature in the library (in the general reading room and special literature reading room). The CVTI SR may acquire literature to be included into its funds by donation, purchase or receiving mandatory copies.

The following types of grey literature documents can be found in the CVTI's collections (in printed or electronic form); however, none of these collections of documents are obtained or kept as complete:

- scientific and specialized collections, collections of conference papers;
- university qualification works (theses);
- corporate literature (catalogues, prospectuses, price lists, handbooks and instructions for operating machines, annual reports, anniversary prints, exhibition catalogues, corporate journals, address lists of companies).

It is disputable whether patents and standards should be included into the collection of grey literature, due to the fact that these documents are subject to official manner of publishing in the SR.

**Technical standards** (Slovak, taken over from the CR or international – ISO) are published by the *Slovak Institute of Technical Standardization* and they can be bought directly in the Institute or through its e-shop. This means standards are published and distributed by an official publishing and distribution network and therefore they cannot be classified as grey literature. However, if we consider the types of documents of grey literature of the international organization *GreyNet International*, which are available on the internet at: <http://www.greynet.org/greysourceindex/documenttypes.html>, we have to agree that standards belong to grey literature documents.

The CVTI SR obtains technical standards as mandatory copies and makes them available to users in the special literature reading room, where the following types of standards may be found:

- Czech and Slovak technical standards (ČSN until 1992);
- Slovak technical standards (STN since 1993 and in specialized industries until 1994);
- Austrian standards (ÖNORM, ÖVE since 1991);
- periodicals, legal regulations and monographs in the area of technical standardization, metrology and testing;
- list of STN and alphabetical registry of key words in printed form.

**Patent documents** are issued by the *Slovak Industrial Property Office*. Patents are available on the internet through the Patent registry. This means they cannot be classified as grey literature either. However, if we respect the types of documents of grey literature as defined by the international organization *GreyNet International*, we consider patents as grey literature documents.

In 2003, the Patent Information Center was established in the CVTI SR, which is a member of the pan-European network of patent information centers – PATLIB (Patent Libraries). The Patent Information Center is also a contact point of the *Slovak Industrial Property Office* and makes them available to users in the special literature reading room. The following types of patent documents are available to readers in the special literature reading room:

- Czech and Slovak patent files and author's licenses until 1992;
- Slovak patent files since 1993;
- Slovak utility models since 1993;
- patent classification;
- international classification of products and services;
- Czech and Slovak patent journals;
- periodicals, legal regulations and publications in the area of industrial property;

- international conventions in the area of industrial property;
- patent databases on CD/DVD.

In connection with making available and borrowing grey literature, standards and patent documents, users can make use of the following types of library and information services:

- lending services (reference, lending out);
- research services;
- consultation services;
- reprographic services (copying, scanning);
- sending scanned documents by email.

### **Bases and possibilities for the establishment of grey literature depository in the CVTI SR**

The aim of the CVTI SR is the establishment of the national depository of grey literature in the SR, which would represent a database of grey literature in the form of metadata and, if possible, also full text. The administrator and owner of the database would be the CVTI SR, which would make the database accessible online on the internet to CVTI's users and general public.

The significance of the creation of the database lies in the provision of information (metadata) as well as of full texts (as e-documents or digitalized printed versions) for the broad public, as grey literature is a specific type of documents, which are not distributed through the traditional publishing and distribution network. For this reason it is now difficult (sometimes impossible) for users and readers to learn about possibilities of reference or take-out use of a grey literature document as well as of its existence and location in the institution of origin. The basis for the creation of the database in the form of metadata (or possibly full texts) could be the Central Registry of Final-Year Theses and the Central Registry of Publication Activity, whose owner and operator is the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information authorized by the *Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport* of the SR.

### **Central Registry of Final-Year Theses**

The establishment of the Central Registry of Final-Year Theses (hereinafter the "CRFT") is based on Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Universities and Colleges as amended by subsequent regulations and Methodology Directive No. 14/2009-R on requisites of final-year theses, their bibliographic registration, originality inspection, storage and accessibility.

The CRFT serves as a registry administering final-year (bachelor, master, PhD) and qualification (doctorate viva voce and habilitation) theses produced in Slovak universities. The works started to be included into the Registry in April 2010 (for the academic year 2009/2010). The Registry represents a physical depository of electronic version of final-year and qualification theses, which also serves as a comparative corpus in the evaluation of originality of final-year and qualification theses (Methodology Directive No. 14/2009-R, 2009). The anti-plagiarism system does not directly tell whether a work is a case of plagiarism; it only serves as information for decisions of evaluators of final-year and qualification theses. The

system generates a protocol on the inspection of the work with percentage of similarity with other works stored in the CRFT. The owner and operator of the CRFT is the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information pursuant to authorization by the *Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport* of the SR, the supplier of software and its anti-plagiarism upgrade is SVOP company. At present, the CRFT contains ca 65 thousand final-year and qualification theses in the Slovak language. The uploaded works are not available to the public at present and authorized users (universities and colleges) can only access metadata, which they uploaded to the system themselves.

The use of the CRFT for the purposes of creation of depository of grey literature consists in the possibility of migration/conversion of metadata describing the final-year and qualification theses. The question is whether such migration/conversion shall be possible with view to applicable laws.

### **Central Registry of Publication Activity**

The Central Registry of Publication Activity (hereinafter the "CRPA) originated in 2007 upon the initiative of the *Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport* of the SR. The registry is operated by the CVTI SR and software is supplied by SVOP company.

Colleges and universities are obliged to register their publications under Directive No. 13/2008-R on bibliographic registration and classification of publication and artistic activity and references (formerly Directive No. 13/2005-R and Directive No. 8/2007-R). The subject of the bibliographic registration of publication activity is published and accessible documents and references to the published documents. Such registration aims at presentation of scientific, research and professional activity of a university or college, of a faculty, department, institute and author; obtaining a view of the profile and performance of a scientific, research and pedagogical workplace and its employees; completion of the Slovak national bibliography with the so called grey literature and obtaining objective information for the survey and management of science (Directive No. 13/2008-R, 2008). The CVTI SR within the framework of the CRPA coordinates activities related to registration of publication and artistic activity and checks correctness of processing and classification of publications to the respective categories of publication activity.

The CRPA can be used for the purposes of creation of grey literature depository in the following manners:

1. migration/conversion of metadata of relevant sources of grey literature published at Slovak universities and colleges and published by other institutions.
2. basis for search of relevant grey literature sources produced in Slovak academic institutions pursuant to classification of works within the framework of publication activity.

### **Problems of creation of grey literature depository**

In the context of creation of grey literature depository in the CVTI SR and potential digitization of certain print sources of grey literature directly in the CVTI SR (Digitization Department, Research and Development Data Center) and their

accessibility through web interface for professional and general public, several problematic issues arise, which have to be resolved prior to the creation of the grey literature depository:

1. legal issues concerning the establishment of the depository, conversion of metadata from other systems, copyright and license agreements with cooperating institutions (necessity to elaborate a comprehensive legal expert opinion).
2. resolution of the issue of system, capacity, operational and financial costs on the creation and operation of the grey literature depository in the CVTI SR.
3. setting priorities in the area of obtaining and making accessible certain sources, kinds, and types of grey literature documents; setting priorities concerning forms of grey literature documents (printed/electronic/digitized sources).

## Conclusion

At present, the CVTI SR faces a difficult task of establishing the depository of grey literature in the Slovak Republic which should be publicly accessible through a simple web interface for professional as well as general public. The aim of creation of such depository is to survey the production of grey literature in the SR, as this is a specific type of literature, which is not produced in large volumes and is not distributed in the traditional publishing and distribution network.

The CVTI SR staff is well aware of the fact that in the process of establishment of the national depository of grey literature, a number of fundamental legal issues will have to be addressed, particularly in the area of copyright, which shall require constant legal consultations with experts on rights and accessibility of sources in the electronic environment.

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