

# Grey Literature

**Kazuko Sakaguchi**  
**Documentation Center on Contemporary Japan**  
**Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University**



## **I. How It Got Its Name (and Spelling)**

Accessibility is in “Grey” Zone  
In-Between Metaphor  
British spelling of “grey” with an “e”

## **II. Social and Technological Impact on Grey Literature**

The Internet and Self-Publication  
Recent Expansion of Grey Literature in Japan

## **III. What is Grey Literature?**

### **Definition of Grey Literature**

Publications “produced at all levels by government, academia, business and industry, both in print and electronic formats, but which is not controlled by commercial publishing interests, and where publishing is not the primary business activity of the organization.”  
(1999 International Conference on Grey Literature in Washington, D.C.)

### **Producers of Grey Literature**

- Government Agencies (Both Central and Local)
- Non-Profit Economic and Trade Organizations
- Research Institutions
- Academic Institutions
- Political Parties
- Corporations
- Individuals

### **Types of Grey Literature**

- Statistics and Other Data Sources
- Technical Reports
- Theses and Dissertations
- Annual Reports
- Market Survey & Research Reports
- Company Histories
- Bulletins
- Newsletters
- Conference Papers
- House Journals Manuals and Technical Specifications & Standards
- Non-commercial Translations
- Bibliographies

## Features and Characteristics of Grey Literature

- Non-standard formats
- Non-conventional diffusion
- Lack of standard bibliographic control
- Short life-cycle of documents

## IV. Functions of Grey Literature

- Contains most current information
- Cannot be found in any other sources
- Complements or fill gaps of traditional sources

## V. Access to Grey Literature

Importance of Understanding Policy Making Process and Organizational Structure of Producers

Since Tokiko Yamamoto Bazzell already has discussed this process in her “*Accessing Japanese Government Documents: Policy Making Process and Documents*” (presented at the CEAL Committee on Japanese Materials during the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Washington, D.C., 1998), which I have included in my handouts today with her kind permission, I will save this explanation here.

Organizational Chart of the Japanese Government  
<http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/cyuo-syocho/aratana.html>

## VI. Finding Tools

### Finding Tools A – Databases that Include Grey Literature

Electronic Government (電子政府)  
<http://www.e-gov.go.jp/>

Japan Science and Technology Corporation (科学技術振興事業団)  
<http://pr.jst.go.jp/db/jois-db.html>

GIOSS-Net at Government Data Research Center of Japan  
(政府資料等普及調査会)  
(<http://www.giooss.or.jp/>)

The Japan Documentation Center (JDC) at Library of Congress  
(<http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/asian/jdc.html>)

National Archives of Japan 国立公文書館 <http://www.archives.go.jp/>  
<http://www2.archives.go.jp/> (Search)

Offers two subsystems for locating historical grey literature.

1. Subsystem for Searching Archives at National Archives of Japan (公文書検索サブシステム) (Documents with historical and cultural values transferred from various central government agencies)

2. Subsystem for Searching Archives transferred from former Naikaku Bunko (内閣文庫検索サブシステム)

National Diet Library 国立国会図書館 <http://www.ndl.go.jp/>

1. Kensei Shiryo-shitsu at National Diet Library (国会図書館憲政資料室 分室)  
[http://www.ndl.go.jp/riyou/room/horei/Countries/Japan/Japan\\_horei.htm#Ca](http://www.ndl.go.jp/riyou/room/horei/Countries/Japan/Japan_horei.htm#Ca)
2. Horei Gikai Shiryo-shitsu at National Diet Library (国立国会図書館法令議会資料室)  
<http://www.ndl.go.jp/riyou/room/horei/index.htm>

Independent Administrative Institutes (独立行政法人)

National Institute of Special Education (国立特殊教育総合研究所)  
<http://www.nise.go.jp/kenshuka/josa/library.html>

National Women's Education Center (国立女性教育会館 ヌエック)  
<http://www.nwec.go.jp/>

National Institute for Environmental Studies (国立環境研究所)  
<http://www.nies.go.jp/>

National Institute for Educational Policy Research (国立教育政策研究所)  
<http://www.nier.go.jp/homepage/kyoutsuu/frame08.html>

Japan Institute of Labour (日本労働研究機構)  
<http://www.jil.go.jp/>

## **Finding Tools B – Other Sources Regarding Where to Find Grey Literature**

Special Libraries 専門図書館

*Senmon Joho Kikan Soran* = Directory of Special Libraries, Japan.  
(Tokyo: Senmon Toshokan Kyogikai, 1969-, every 3 years)  
「専門情報機関総覧」 専門図書館協議会

*Shinku Tanku Yoran: 2000* = Directory of Think Tanks, Japan: 2000.  
(Tokyo: Sogo Kenkyu Kaihatsu Kiko, 2000) 「シンクタンク要覧」  
総合研究開発機構

*NGO Dantai Meikan: Kokusai Kyoryoku Koryu* = Directory of Non-Governmental Organizations. (Tokyo: Nihon Gaiko Kyokai, 1996)  
「国際協力・交流NGO団体名鑑」 日本外交協会

*Zenkoku Gakujutsu Kenkyu Dantai Soran* = Directory of the Scientific Research Organizations in Japan, 1996. 「全国学術研究団体総覧」 大蔵省印刷局

a. Think Tanks & Consulting Firms シンクタンク&コンサルタント

National Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA) 総合研究開発機構  
<http://www.nira.go.jp/>

Mitsubishi Research Institute 三菱総合研究所 <http://www.mri.co.jp>

Nomura Research Institute 野村総合研究所 <http://www.nri.co.jp/>

b. Public Corporation & Special Corporation 公社・公団・特殊法人等

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) 日本貿易振興会  
<http://www.jetro.go.jp/li/j/>

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) 国際協力事業団  
<http://www.jica.go.jp/Index-j.html>

Nihon Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organizations)  
日本経済団体連合会  
<http://www.keidanren.or.jp/>

Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) 東京商工会議所  
<http://www.tokyo-cci.or.jp/>

Bankers Library (Tokyo Bankers Association, Inc. / Japanese Bankers  
Association)  
社団法人 東京銀行協会 全国銀行協会  
<http://www.zenginkyo.or.jp/en/library/index.html>

c. Notable Collection on Subject Oriented Grey Literature at Academic  
Libraries:

Ohara Institute for Social Research at Hosei University  
(法政大学大原社会問題研究所)  
<http://oohara.mt.tama.hosei.ac.jp/index.html>

Kyousei Shakai Kenkyu Senta at Saitama University  
(埼玉大学共生社会研究センター)  
<http://www.kyousei.iron.saitama-u.ac.jp/>

Takazawa Collection at the University of Hawaii  
<http://www.takazawa.hawaii.edu/>

Gordon W. Prange Collection at University of Maryland  
<http://www.lib.umd.edu/PRC/splash.html>

**Finding Tools C – Where to Find in Print Format**

Gekkan Nyu Porishi. Tokyo: Kenkosha, 1981- monthly  
「月刊ニューポリシー」 研恒社政策情報資料センター

Nihon Zenkoku Shoshi [Shukanban]. Tokyo: Kokuritsu Kokkai  
Toshokan, weekly. 「日本全国書誌[週刊版]」 国立国会図書館

Seifu Kankobutsu to Sogo Mokuroku. “Zenkanpo” Kikaku Shiryobu hen.  
Zenkoku Kanpo Hanbai Kyodo Kumiai, 1980-, annual.  
「政府刊行物等総合目録」 全国官報販売共同組合

Seifu Kankobutsu Geppo. Tokyo: Seifu Kankobutsu Fukyu Kyogikai, monthly. 「政府刊行物月報」 政府刊行物普及協議会  
財務省印刷局

Seifu Shiryo Abusutorakuto. Tokyo: Seifu Shiryo to Fukyu Chosakai, monthly. 「政府資料アブストラクト」 政府資料等普及調査会

“Hon’ya ni nai hon” in Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppo.  
「本屋にない本」 in 国立国会図書館月報

## VII. Search Strategies

### Examples of Reference Questions

Search strategies for government materials on the Web, you may consult with an article written by Kuniko Yamada McVey for the Reischauer Institute’s newsletter, *Tsushin*, which is available at:

[http://www.fas.harvard.edu/%7Erijs/DCJArt\\_GovInfo\\_v4n2\\_1998.html](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/%7Erijs/DCJArt_GovInfo_v4n2_1998.html)

## VIII. Conclusion

Librarians need to be highly skilled “Information Navigator” to access grey literature.