

Realizing the Potential of Grey Literature by Recognizing its Publishers: The PUBGREY Project and the Case of Climate Change

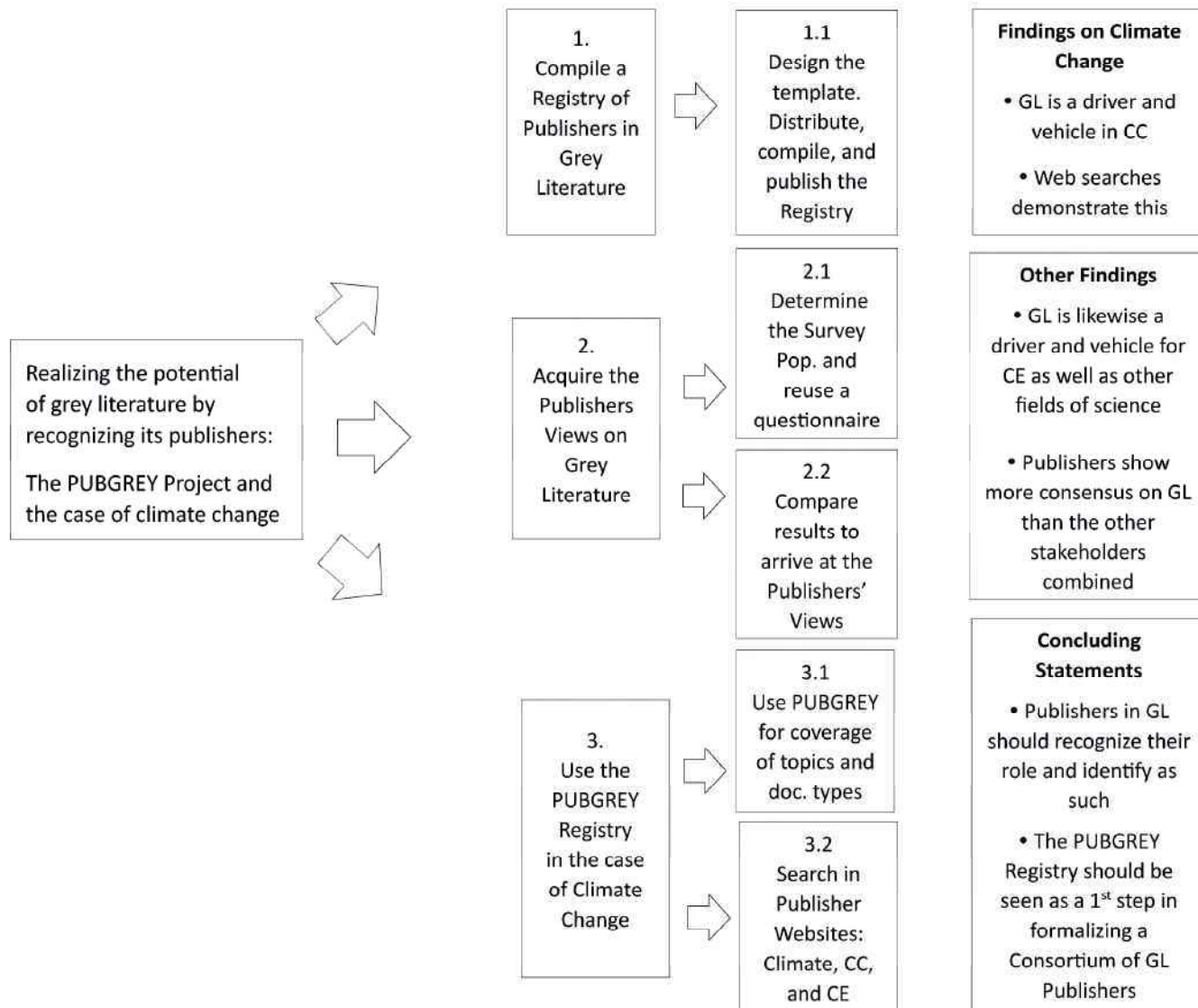
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Stefania Biagioni and Carlo Carlesi, InfraScience; ISTI-CNR, Italy



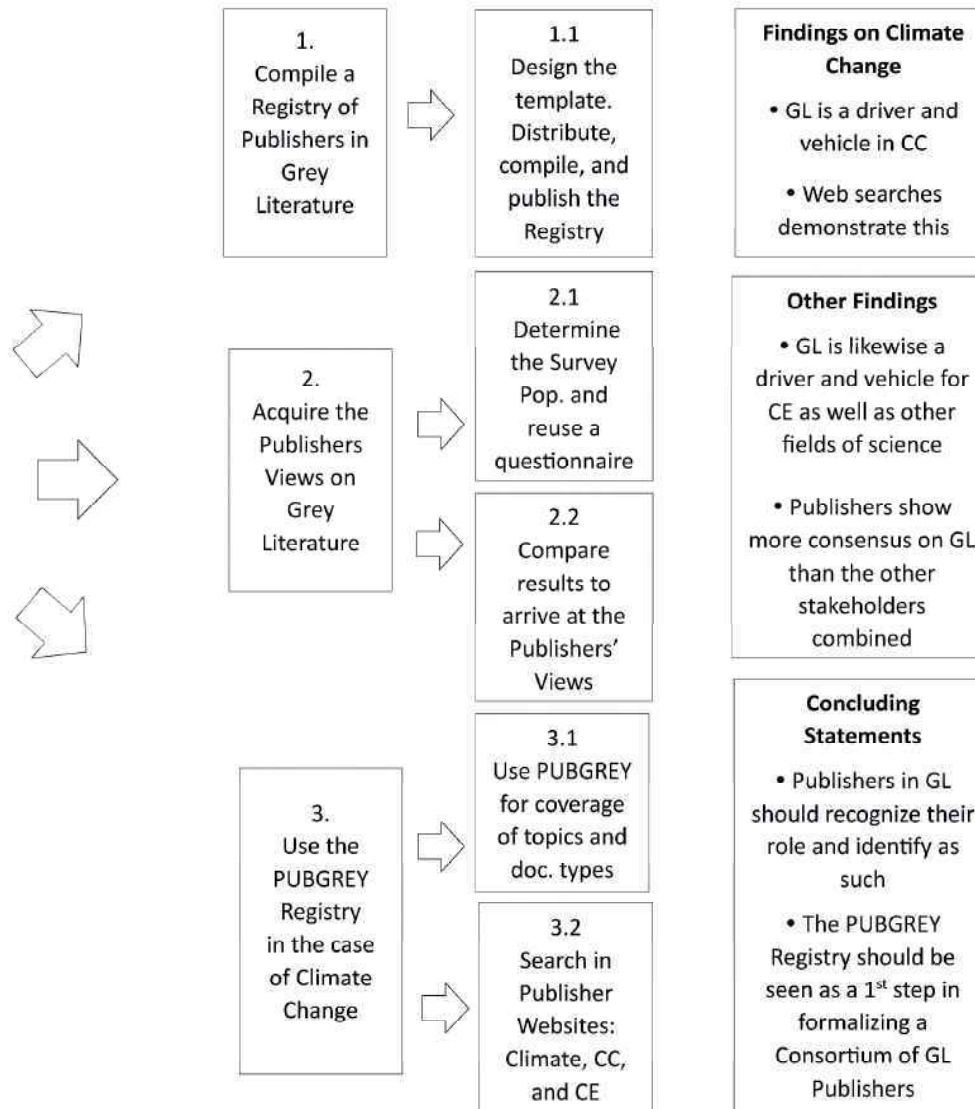
Twenty-Fifth International Conference on Grey Literature
'Confronting Climate Change with Trusted Grey Resources'
Amsterdam, 13-14 November 2023

PUBGREY Project Plan



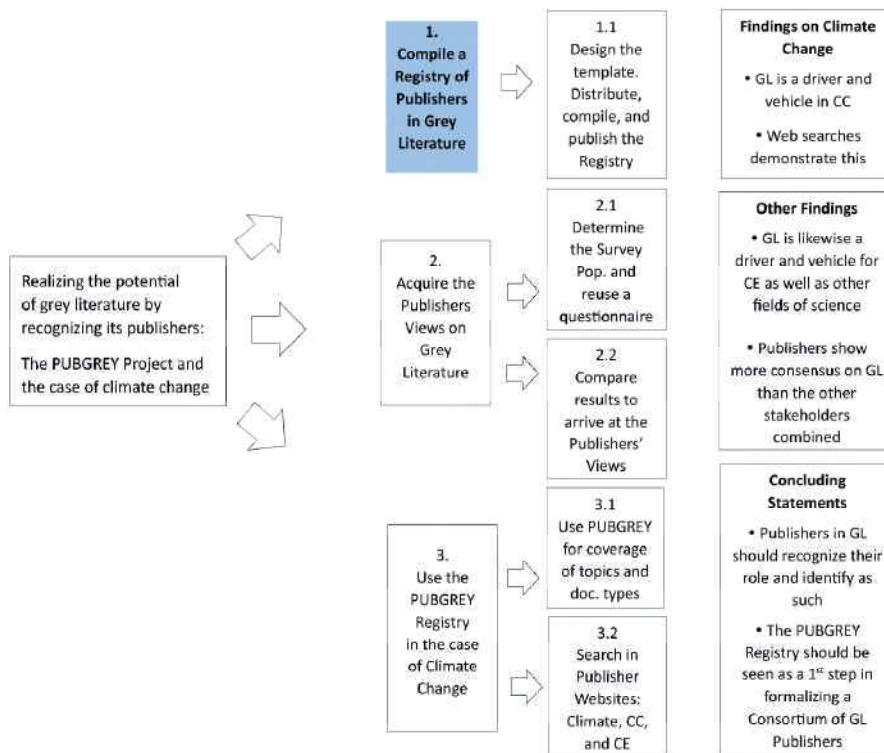
Project Goals

Realizing the potential
of grey literature by
recognizing its publishers:
The PUBGREY Project and
the case of climate change



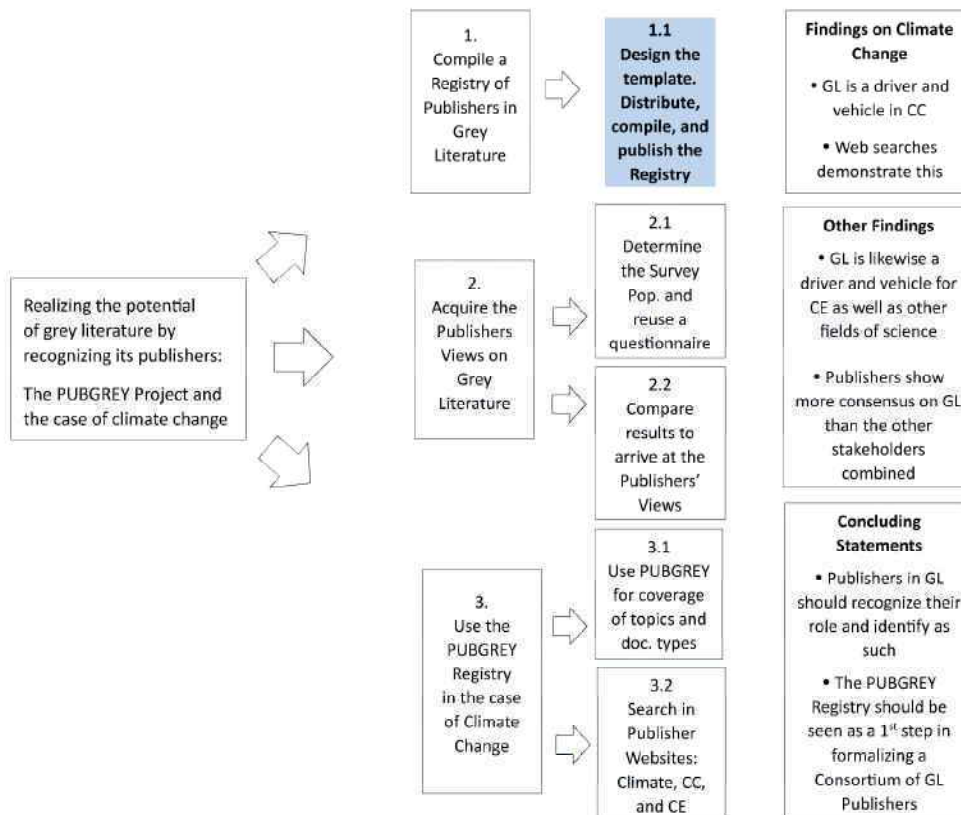
1. Compile a Registry of Publishers in Grey Literature

PUBGREY Registry



1.1 Design the template. Distribute, compile, and publish the Registry

PUBGREY Template and Publication



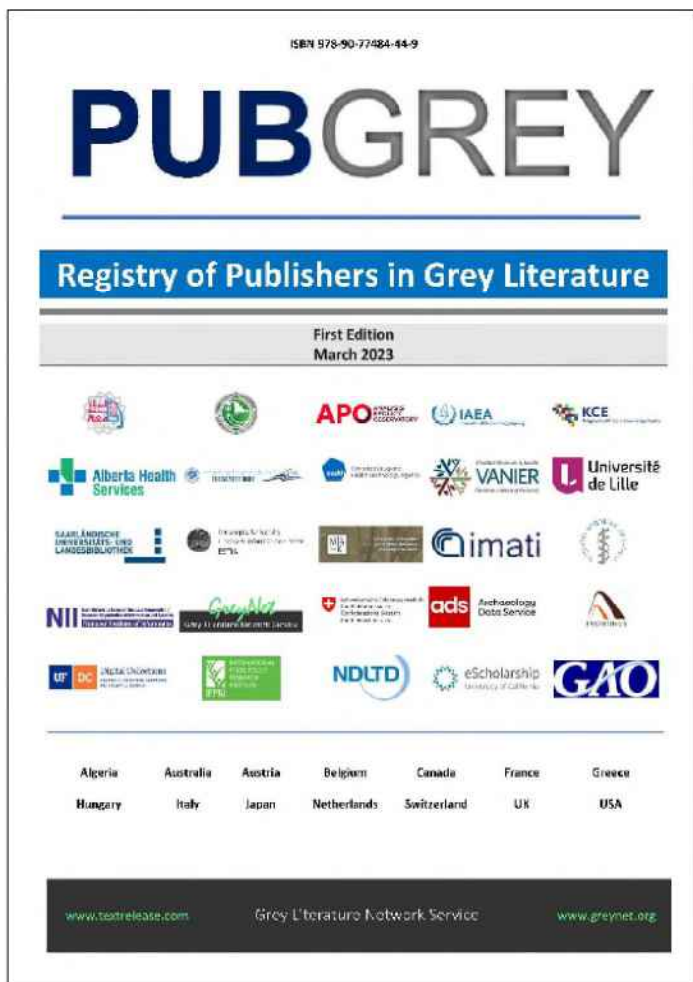
https://orcid.org/00.260/9/gre-net-2025-000.670-gn

PUBGREY Template

Field Names and Scope Notes

RECORD FIELD NAME	SCOPE NOTES
Name of Publishing Body	<i>Complete Name and Acronym if applicable</i>
Sector of Information	<i>Government, Academics, Business, Industry, Other</i>
Document Types	<i>Reports, Proceedings, Theses, Datasets, Videos, etc.</i>
Publication Formats	<i>Print, PDF, Datafile, Online, etc.</i>
Main Coverage	<i>Disciplines, Topics, Subjects</i>
Content Contributors	<i>Internal only, External also accepted</i>
Open Access Compliant	<i>Yes, CC License if applicable</i>
Homepage URL	<i>http, https</i>
Identifiers	<i>Date founded, Awards, ROR ID, DOI, Social Media, etc.</i>
Point of Contact	<i>Full Name, ORCiD if applicable, Email address</i>

PUBGREY Registry and Publishers

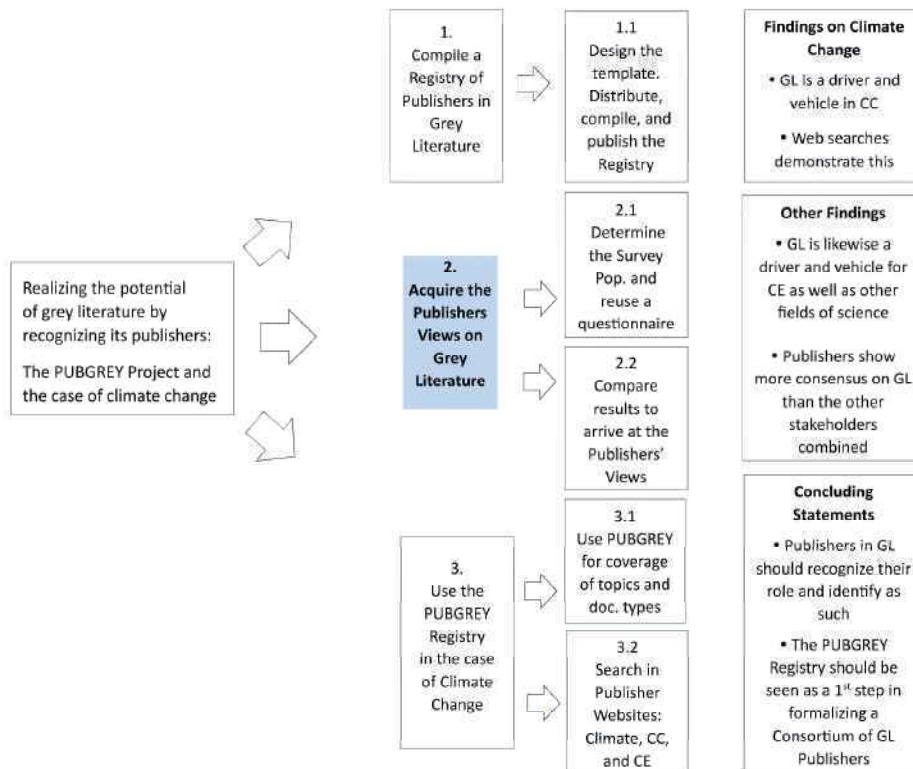


Khemis Miliana University,
University of Constantine 2,
Analysis & Policy Observatory,
International Nuclear Information System,
Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre,
Alberta Health Services,
Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership,
Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health,
The Vanier Institute of the Family,
University of Lille,
Saarland University and State Library,
Harokopio University,
Library and Information Centre; Hungarian Academy of Sciences,
Institute for Applied Mathematics and Information Technologies,
National Institute of Health,
National Institute of Informatics,
Grey Literature Network Service,
Federal Office of Public Health,
Archaeology Data Service,
Frontinus Ltd.,
George A. Smathers Libraries; University of Florida,
International Food Policy Research Institute,
Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations,
University of California eScholarship Repository,
U.S. Government Accountability Office,

Algeria
Algeria
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Canada
Canada
Canada
Canada
France
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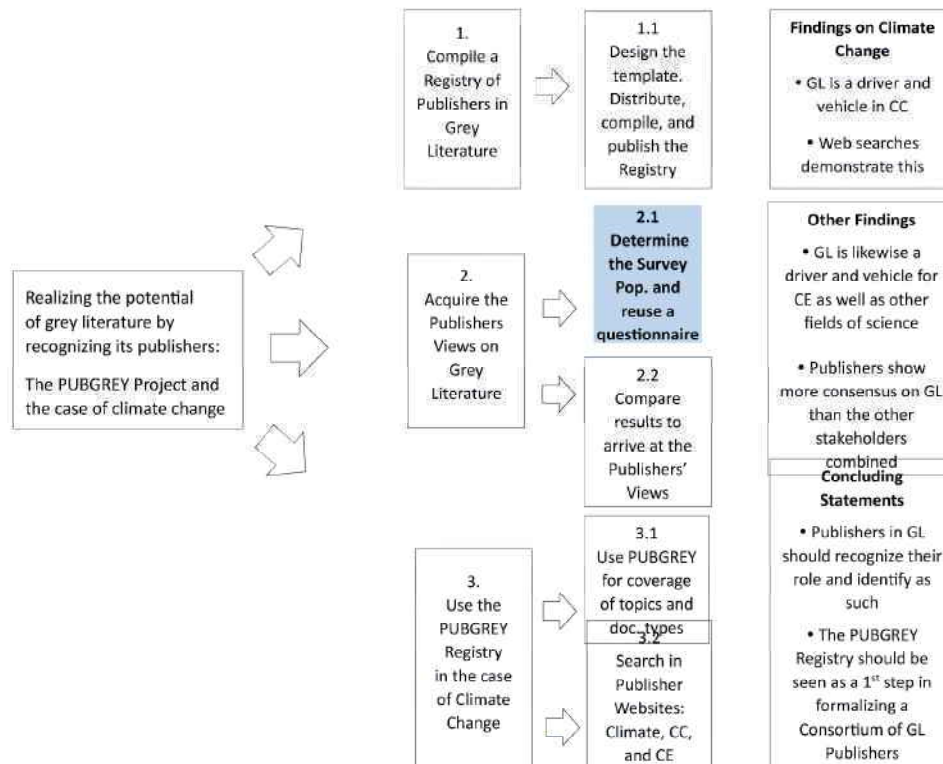
2. Acquire the Publishers Views on Grey Literature

Publishers Views on Grey Literature



2.1 Determine the Survey Pop. and reuse a questionnaire

Survey Population and Questionnaire



Survey Population, Reuse of a Questionnaire, and Respondents

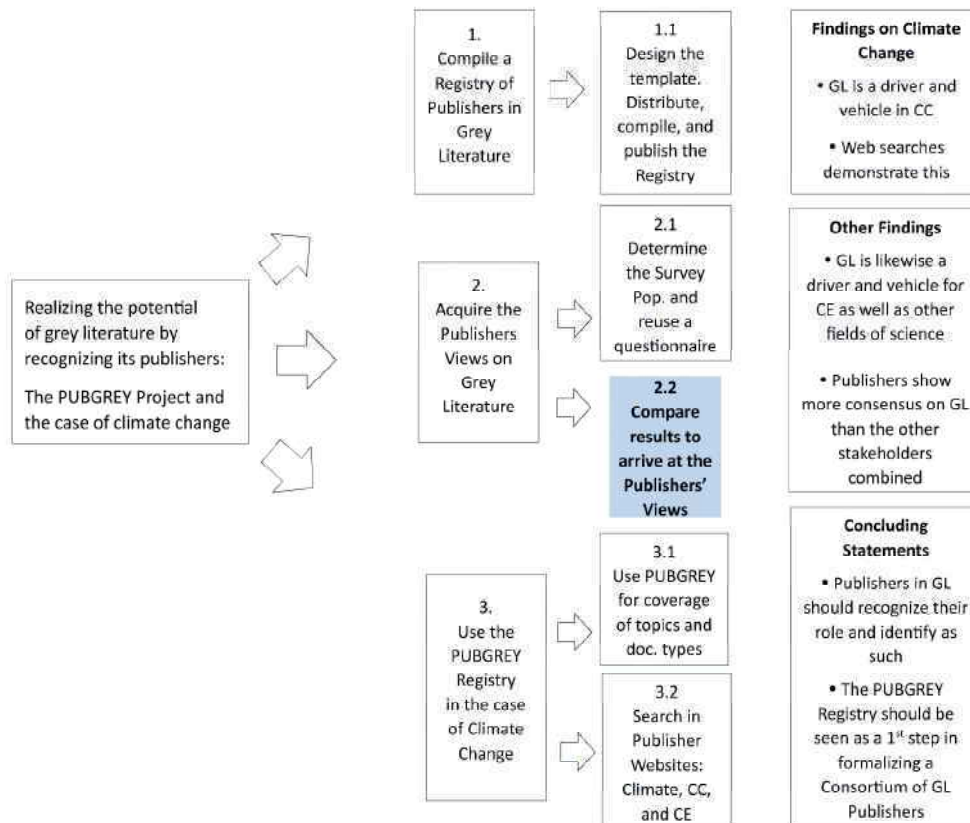
<https://doi.org/10.26069/graynet-2025-000.670>

Survey Year	Survey Population	Survey Reach	Survey Questions	Nº of Survey Respondents
2020	GreyNet's Distribution List and social media	Open/Random	10	72 (NA)
2023	PUBGREY Registry Publishers in Grey Literature	Controlled/Criteria est.	10	10 (100%)

2.2

Compare results to arrive at the Publishers' Views

Comparison of Survey Results

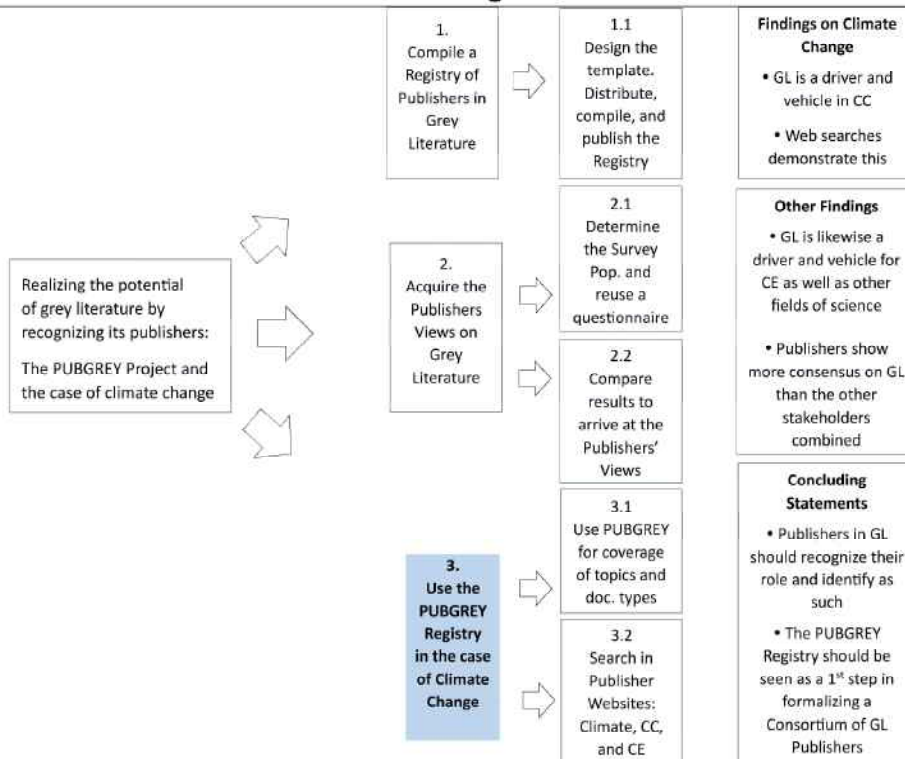


Comparison of Five of the Survey Responses with the highest differential

SURVEY RESPONSES*	
Strongly Agree 2020	Strongly Agree 2023
Q1 - Grey literature resources should be open access compliant	
63%	90%
Q4 - The dated mindset regarding grey literature is as much a barrier as broken links	
25%	40%
Q5 - Persistent identifiers maximize the use of grey literature resources	
36%	60%
Q7 - More consideration should be given to the accessibility of grey literature in its early production and subsequent publication	
61%	70%
Q9 - By drawing public awareness to grey literature, barriers facing it will have more prospect in being resolved	
39%	20%

*Rounded to the nearest percent

PUBGREY – The Case of Climate Change

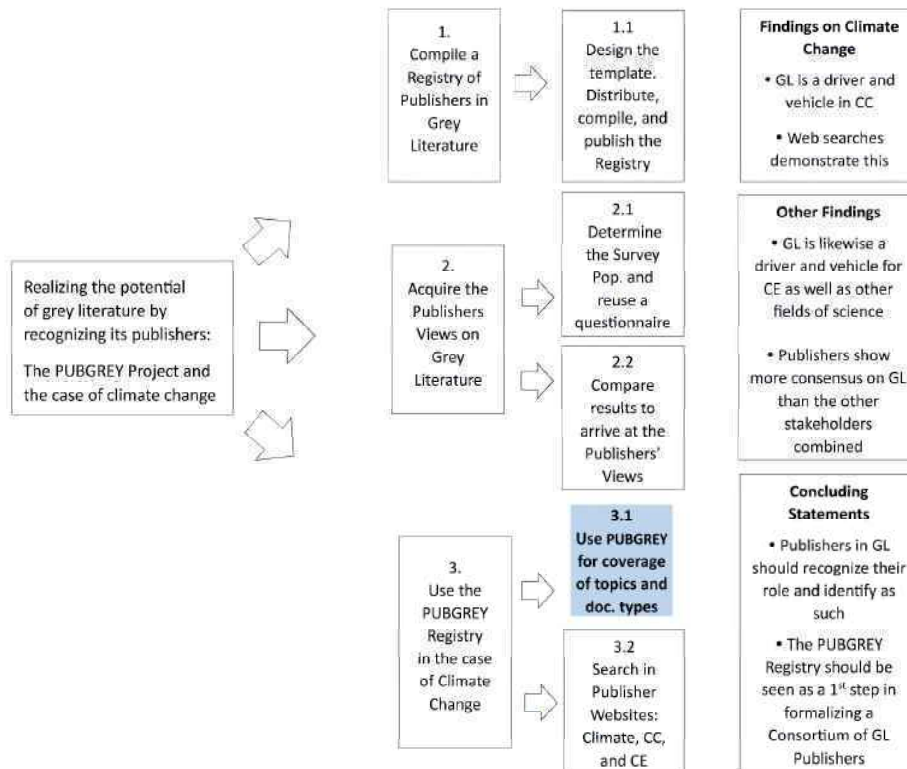


**3.
Use the
PUBGREY
Registry
in the case
of Climate
Change**

3.1

Use PUBGREY for coverage of topics and doc. types

Coverage of Topics and Document Types on Climate Change in PUBGREY



Coverage of Topics related to Climate Change

<https://doi.org/10.26069/greynet-2025-000670-gn>

PUBGREY – Multidisciplinary coverage by Publishers in Grey Literature

Agriculture

Archaeology

Caribbean Studies

Coastal Management

Communications

Development

Dietetics

Diseases

Drugs

Economics

Economy

Educational Science

Engineering

Enterprise Architecture

Entomology

Environment

Family Studies

Florida History

Food Security

Geography

Grey Literature

Health

Health Care

Health Care Systems

Heritage

Humanities

Informatics

Library Science

Marine Environmental Science

Mathematics

Medical Devices

Medical Diagnostics

Medical Procedures

Natural Resources

Nuclear Energy

Nuclear Medicine

Nuclear Science

Nutrition

Pharmaceuticals

Policies

Psychology

Public Health

Public Policy

Publishing

Radiation Physics

Science

Social Science

Soil Remediation

Steel

Sustainable Development

Technology

Telematics

Trade

Coverage of document types listed by the publishers

Grey Literature Document Types

Top 5 ranked in order ↑ ↓

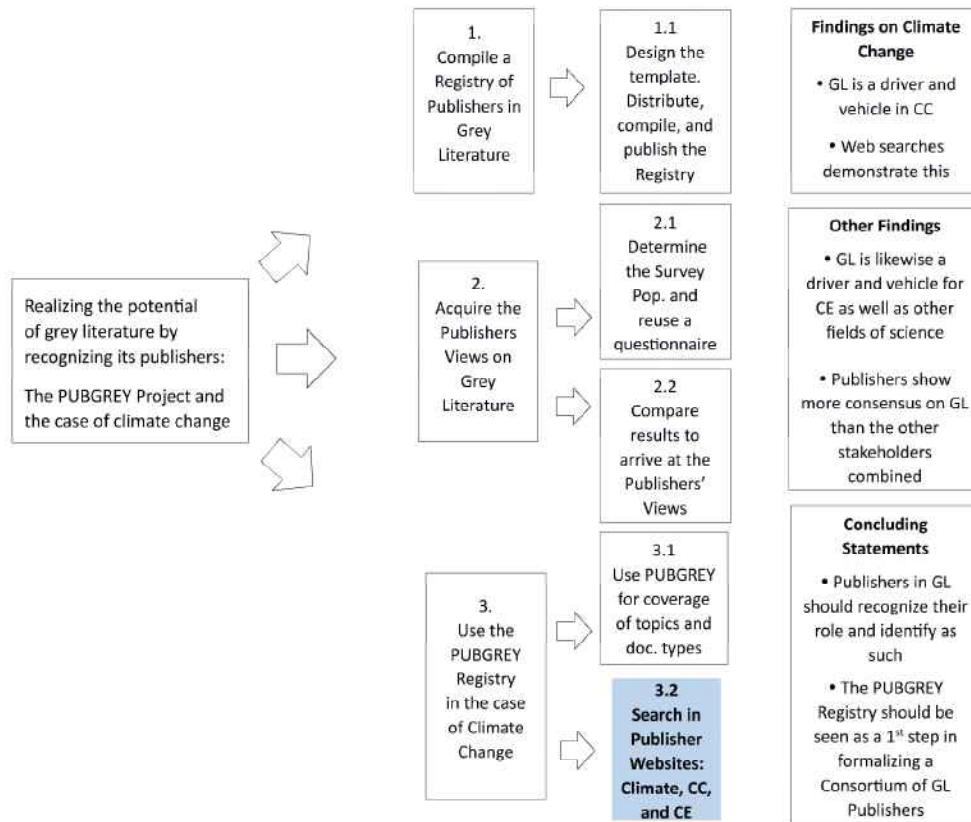
Reports
Theses
Datasets
Proceedings
AVMs

Conference Papers
Discussion Papers
Grant Proposals
Guidelines
Legislative Material

Maps
Policies
Protocols
Research Papers
Standards

3.2 Search in Publisher Websites: Climate, CC, and CE

Searches in the Publisher Websites on “Climate”, “CC”, “Circular Economy”



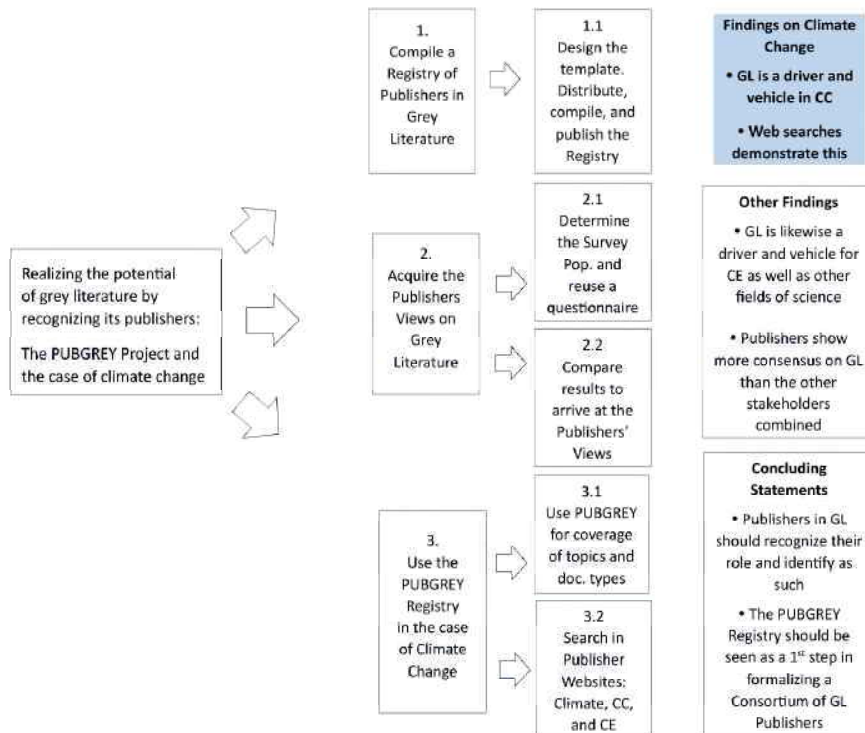
Website search results from the sample population

Organization's Website	Country	Coverage	Climate	Climate Change	Circular Economy	CC & CE
INIS-IAEA	AT	Energy	75733	35335	791	385
UF	US	Multidisciplinary	+10000	+10000	128	80
IFPRI	US	Food Policy	4529	4142	108	40
APO	AU	Public Policy	3173	2675	91	17
SAARLAND	DE	Multidisciplinary	357	104	4	-
MTAK	HU	Multidisciplinary	198	49	-	-
ADS	UK	Archaeology	91	7	-	-
AHS	CA	Health	72	12	2	2
ESTIA	GR	Multidisciplinary	16	3	1	-
NII	JP	Informatics	5	4	-	-

Findings on Climate Change

- GL is a driver and vehicle in CC
- Web searches demonstrate this

Findings on Climate Change

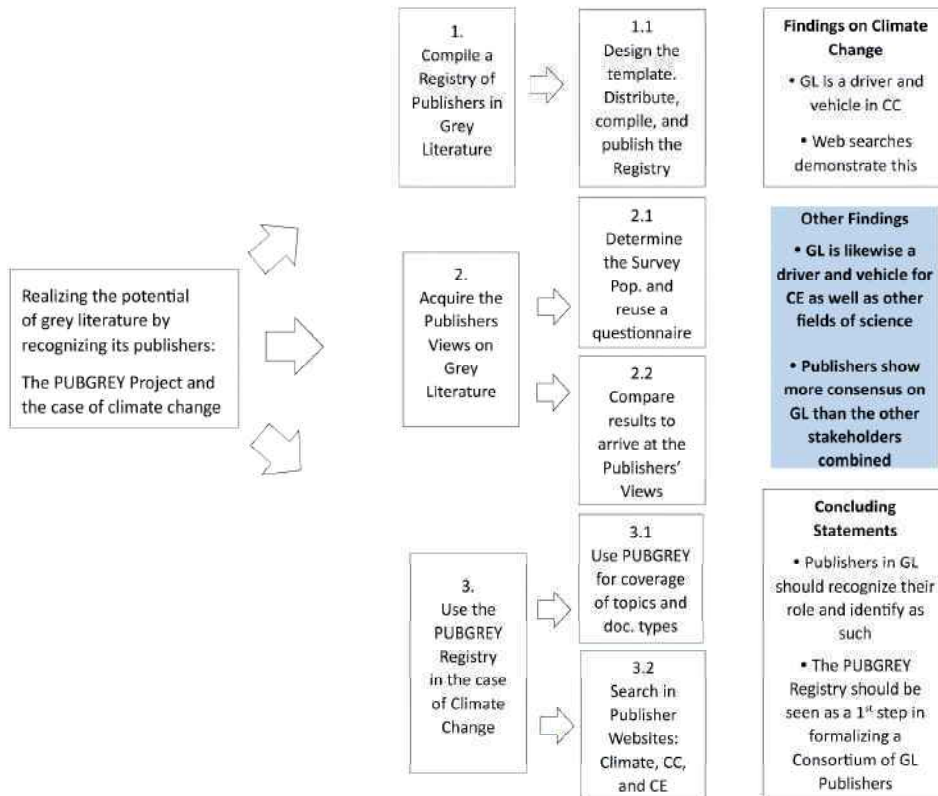


Grey Literature is both a Driver and Vehicle for Research

Climate Change

- 
- **Driver:** Grey Literature includes multidisciplinary coverage of topics associated with climate change. As such, it is integral to research in this field.
 - **Vehicle:** Via grey literature's multiple and diverse document types, the results of research associated with climate change are published and openly accesible.

Other Findings



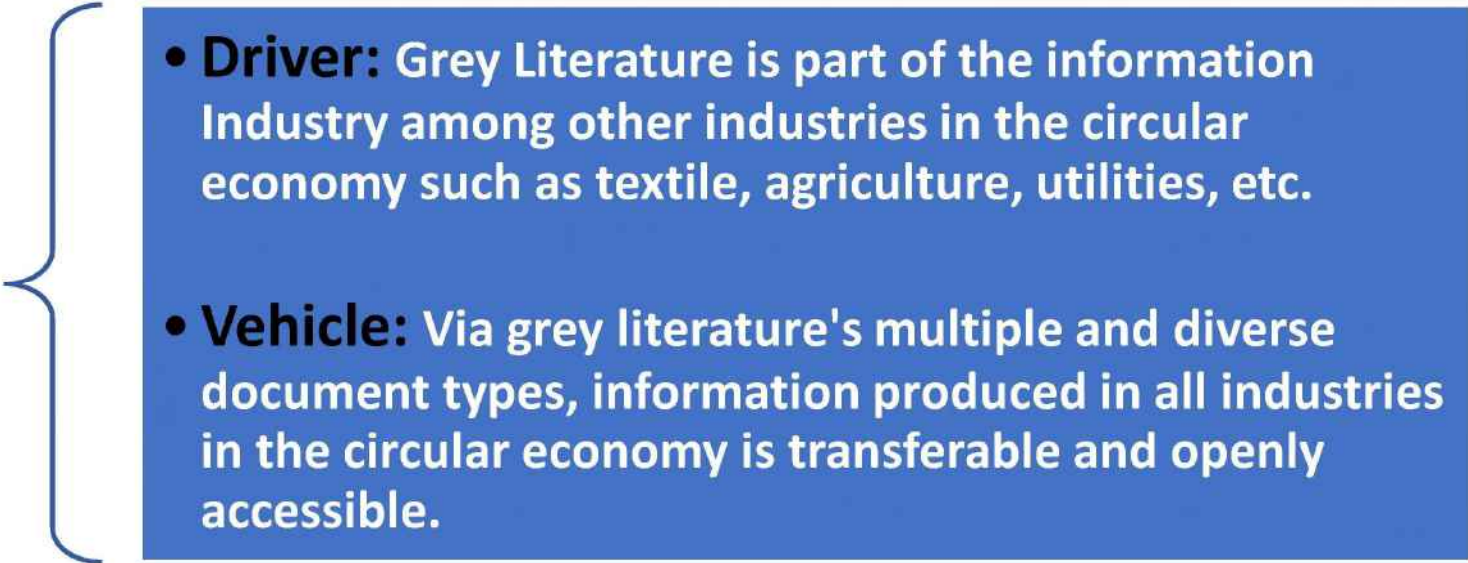
Other Findings

- GL is likewise a driver and vehicle for CE as well as other fields of science

- Publishers show more consensus on GL than the other stakeholders combined

Grey Literature is both a Driver and Vehicle for Research

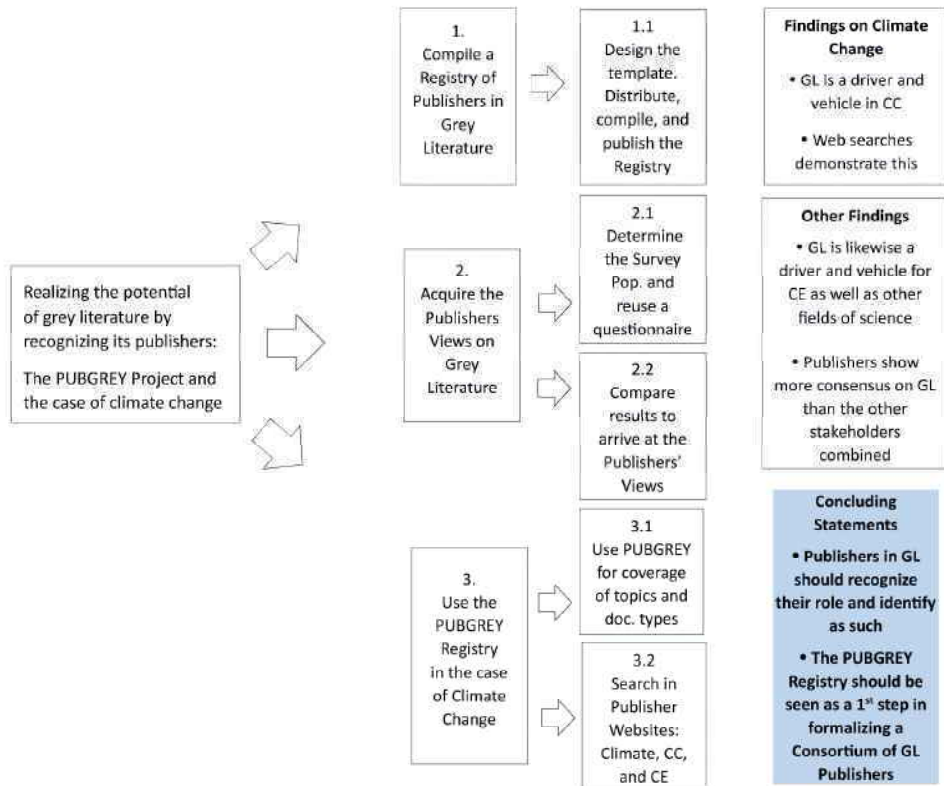
Circular Economy

- 
- **Driver:** Grey Literature is part of the information Industry among other industries in the circular economy such as textile, agriculture, utilities, etc.
 - **Vehicle:** Via grey literature's multiple and diverse document types, information produced in all industries in the circular economy is transferable and openly accessible.

Concluding Statements

- Just as grey literature is seen to be a driver and vehicle for research in CC and CE, so also is it for other fields of S&T
- Publishers in grey literature should recognize their role and identify as such
- The PUBGREY Registry should be seen as a 1st step in formalizing a Consortium of Grey Literature Publishers

Concluding Statements



Thanks for Viewing!

Questions?

Contact

info@greynet.org

**If you consider your organization to be a
Publisher in Grey Literature, please enter it in the**

PUBGREY Registry

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J8DJSF5>