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# The Impact of Grey Literature in Advancing Global Karst Research

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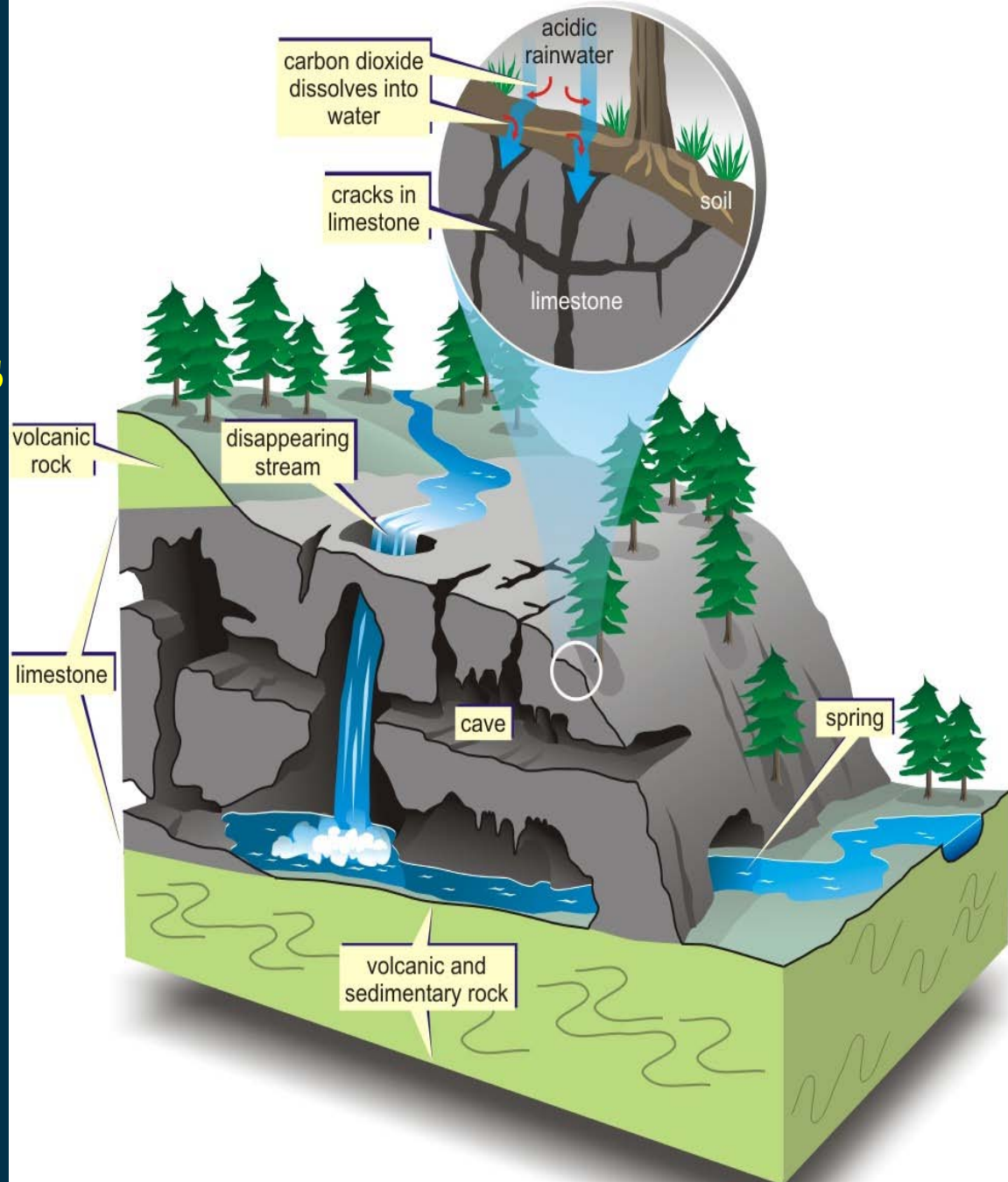
# The Impact of Grey Literature in Advancing Global Karst Research

An Information Needs Assessment  
for a Globally Distributed  
Interdisciplinary Community



# What is Karst?

Caves **topography** **water** maps  
**geology** environment **aquifers**  
erosion **limestone** RAIN  
dissolution **geography**  
**bedrock** Sinkholes  
**acids** groundwater Carbonate  
rock hydrology resource  
DOLOMITE **contamination**  
Terrain *subsurface* **human**  
impact **Speleology**



From Natural Resources Canada

# Resource Deposit

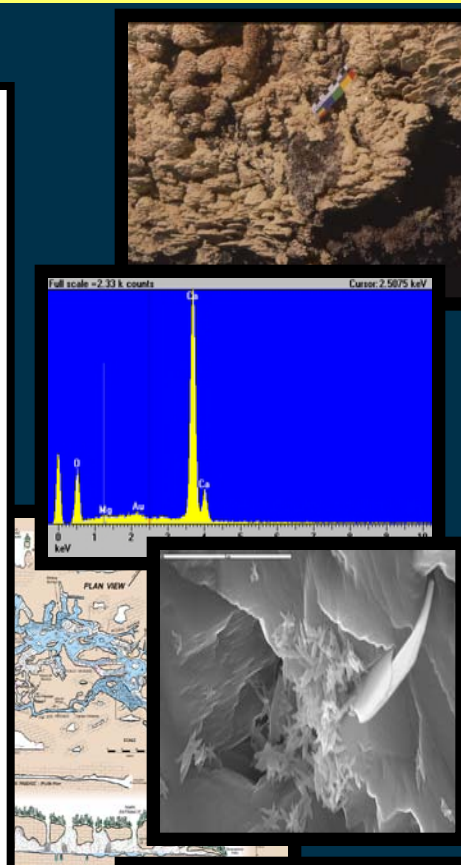
Content +  
Indices/Databases

The Karst Information Portal (KIP) will link the global karst research community with an open-access and integrated information resource designed to advance karst, cave and aquifer studies.

Search Interface +  
Data Management  
Tools

Web Service Interface

Sample ID	Al	As	B	Ba	Cr	Cu	F	Fe	(mg/L)
GO-1	<0.1	<0.002	<0.025	0.16	<0.01	<0.02	0.23	<0.02	<0.02
GO-2	<0.1	<0.002	<0.025	0.15	<0.01	<0.02	0.26	<0.02	<0.02
GO-3	<0.1	<0.002	<0.025	0.16	<0.01	<0.02	0.23	<0.02	<0.02
GO-4	<0.1	<0.002	<0.025	0.16	<0.01	<0.02	0.23	<0.02	<0.02
GO-5	<0.1	<0.002	<0.025	0.16	<0.01	<0.02	0.23	<0.02	<0.02
GO-6	<0.1	<0.002	<0.025	0.16	<0.01	<0.02	0.23	<0.02	<0.02
GO-7	<0.1	<0.002	<0.025	0.16	<0.01	<0.02	0.23	<0.02	<0.02
GO-8	<0.1	<0.002	<0.025	0.19	<0.01	<0.02	0.23	<0.02	<0.02



# Information Needs Assessment

*Conducted to guide development  
of the Karst Information Portal...*

## Purpose

- Define information content needs
- Assess role of grey information sources
- Define desired web services

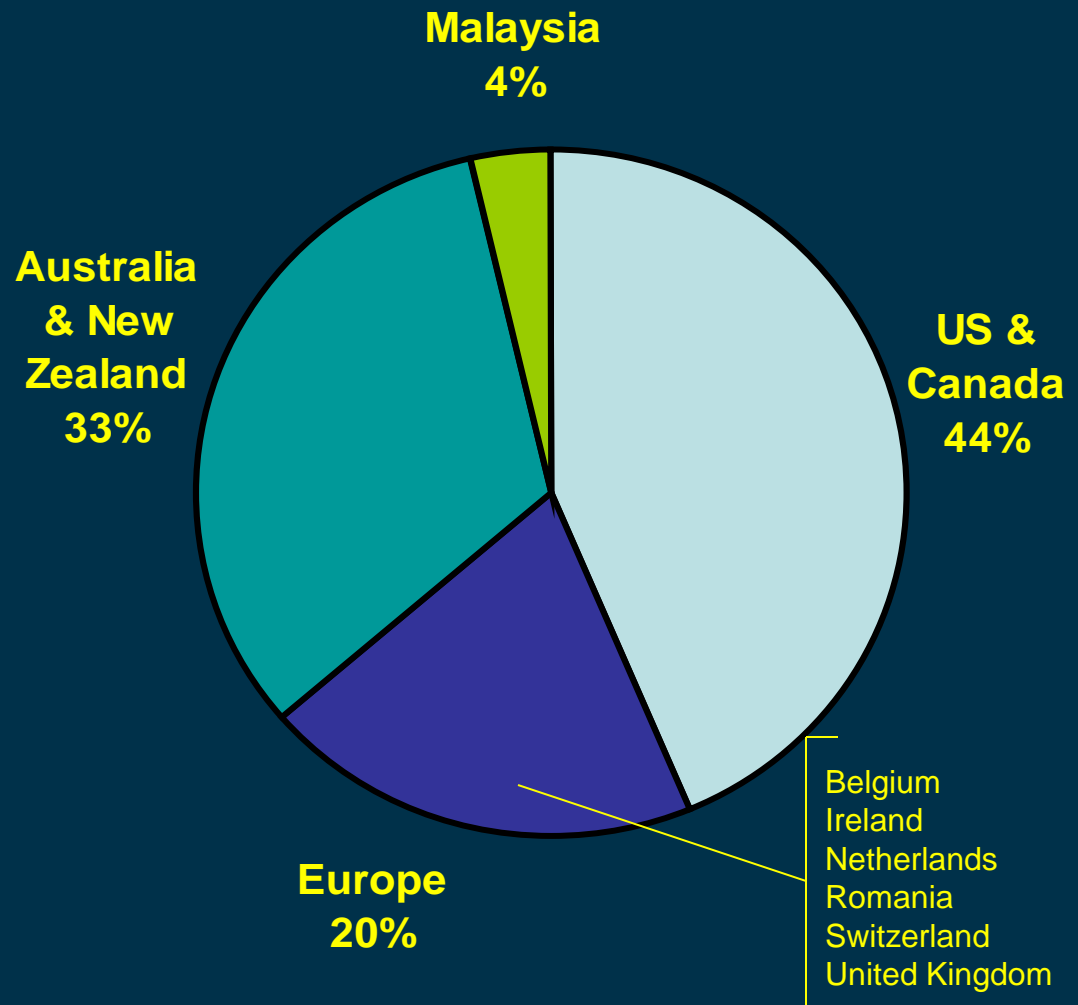
## Method

- “Snowball” sampling (11 initial targets)
- Web-based
- Piloted January 2006
- Administered August-September 2006

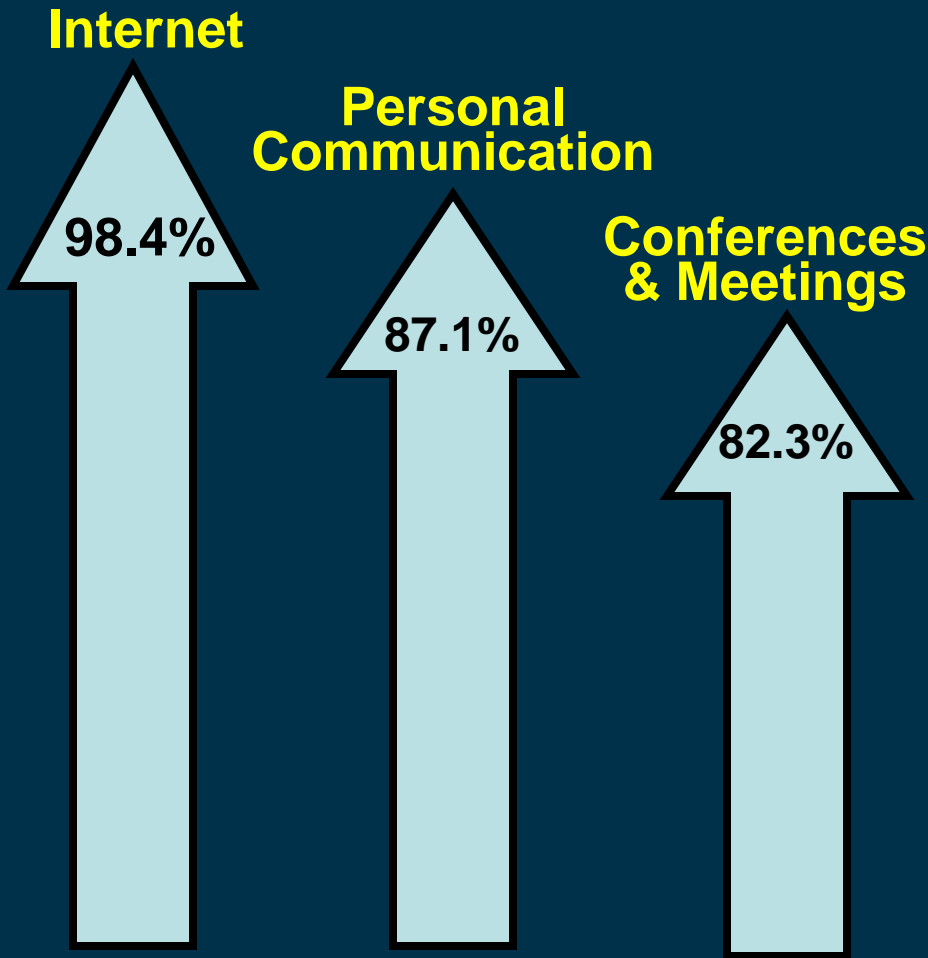
# Respondents

Occupation/Affiliation	No.
Researcher	29
Caver	13
Resource Manager	6
College Student	6
Government Agency	4
Industry Researcher / Consultant	3
Museum / Institute	2
Librarian / Information Professional	2
Activist	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>

## Geographic Distribution

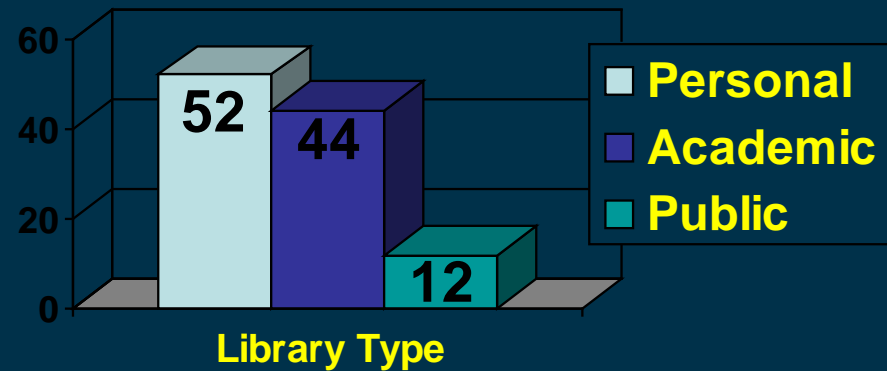


# Locating Information

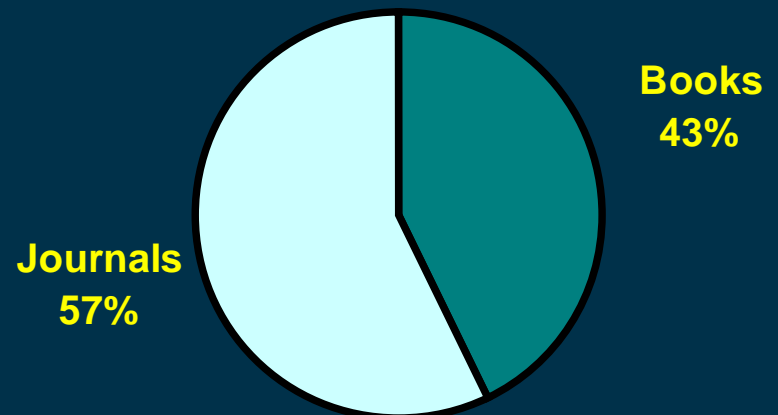


“Grey Channels”

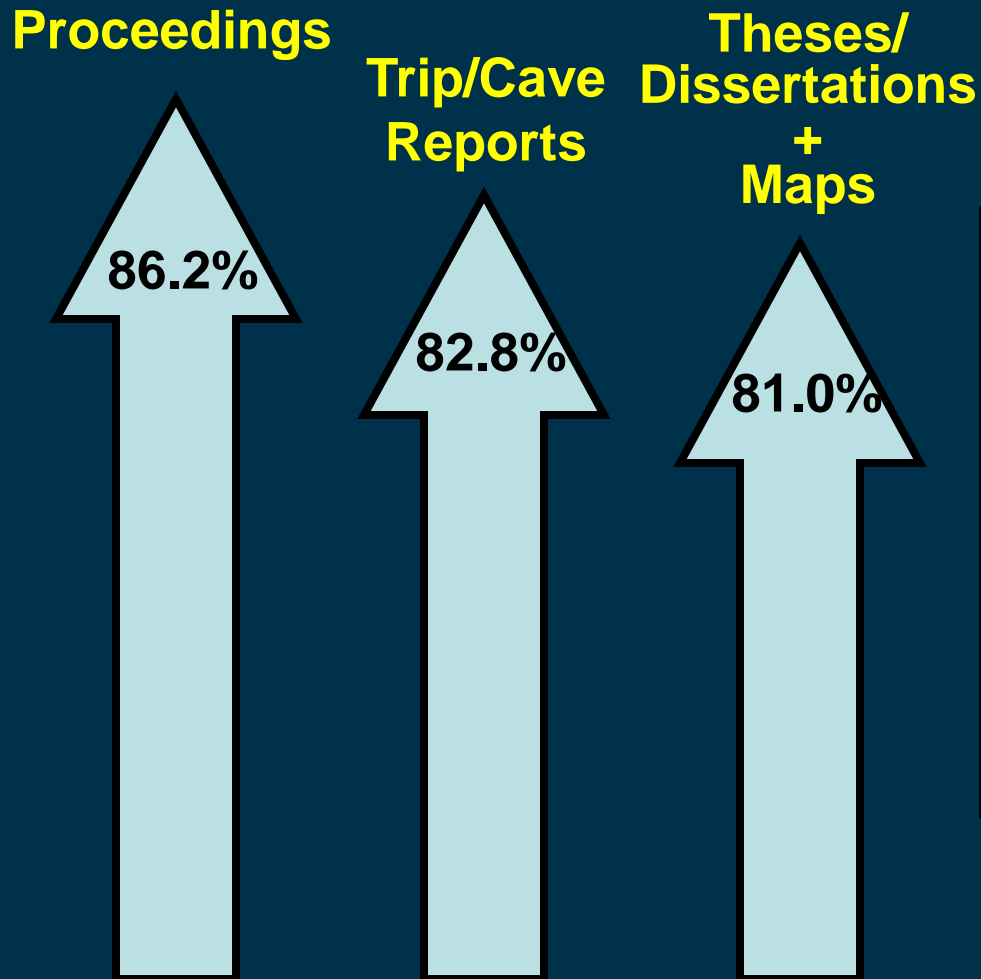
## Respondent Library Use



## Traditional Channels



# 96.6% Use Grey Information



**Top Four Grey Information Sources**

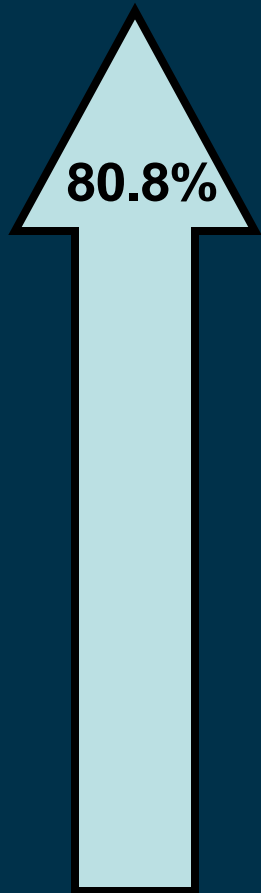
To the statement,  
“Grey literature is a  
very important source  
of information to karst  
researchers ...”

70.9 % agree



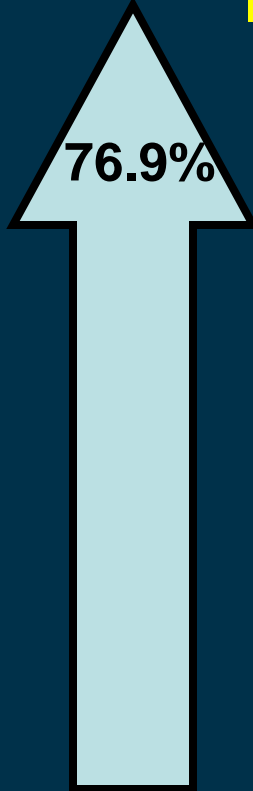
# 89.3% Produce Grey Information

**Proceedings**



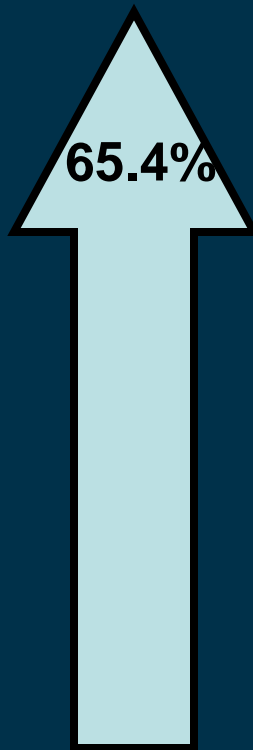
**80.8%**

**Trip/Cave  
Reports**



**76.9%**

**Images  
+  
Speeches/  
Invited Talks**



**65.4%**

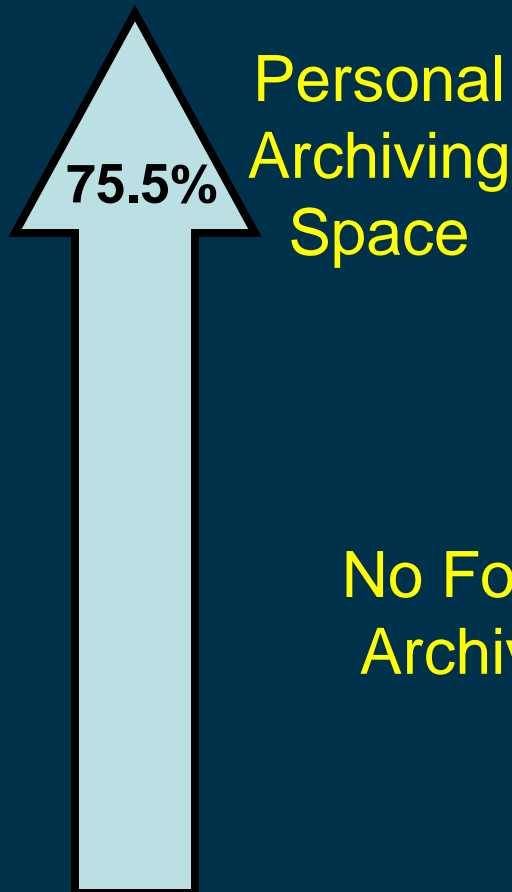
## Most Commonly Produced Grey Information Types

Information Type	%
Conference Proceedings/Papers	80.8
Trip & Cave Reports	76.9
Speeches or Invited Talks	65.4
Images	65.4
Maps	61.5
Research Proposals	57.7
Theses/Dissertations	53.8
Association/Organization Publications	48.1
Newsletters	46.2
Cave Entrance Databases	44.2
Grant Applications	44.2

**Top Four Grey Information Sources**

# Preservation & Access

Where do you archive the grey information that you produce?



No Formal Archiving



## Most Difficult Grey Information Types to Access

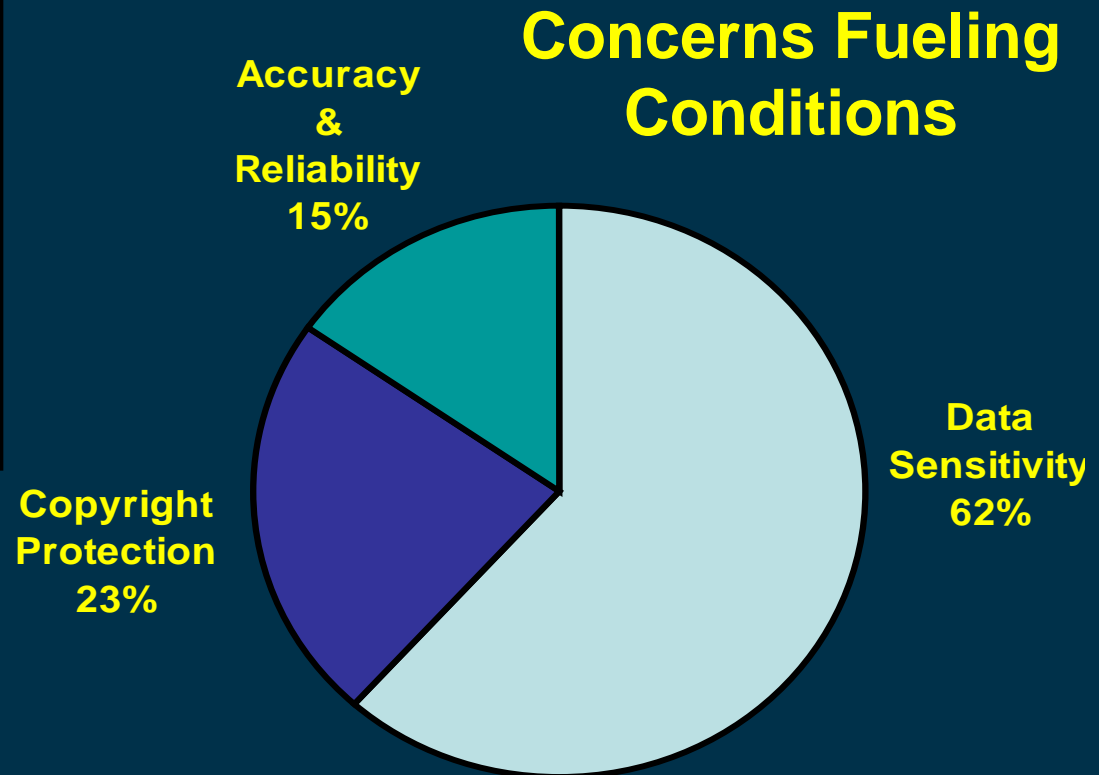
Information Type	%
Theses/Dissertations	51.0
Conference Proceedings/Papers	46.9
Governmental Reports	42.9
Non-Governmental Reports	40.8
Cave Entrance Databases	36.7
Trip & Cave Reports	32.7
Foreign-Language Translations	28.6
Association/Organization Publications	28.6
Maps	26.5
Pre-1923 Karst Papers	26.5

# The Karst Information Portal (KIP) As Grey Literature Repository

Would you use the KIP as a personal digital repository?

Yes 43.6 %

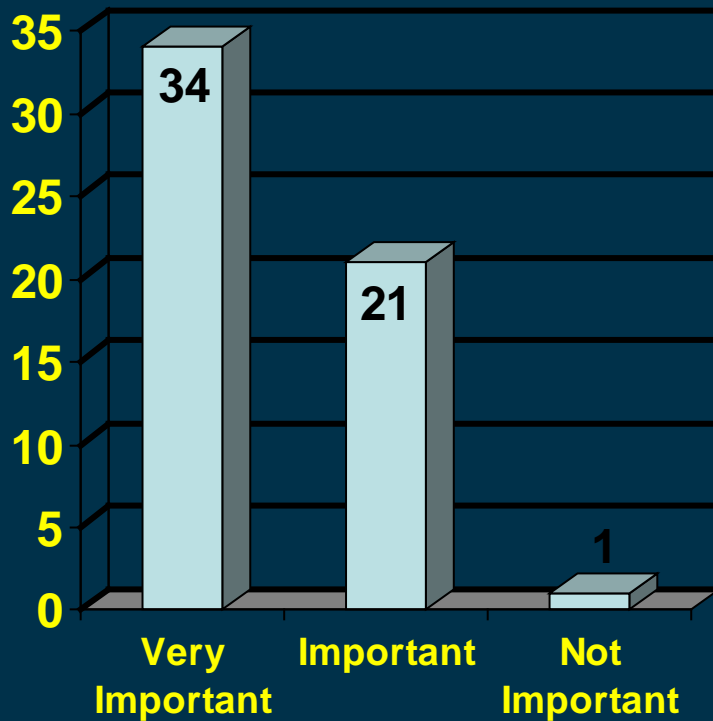
No 20.0%



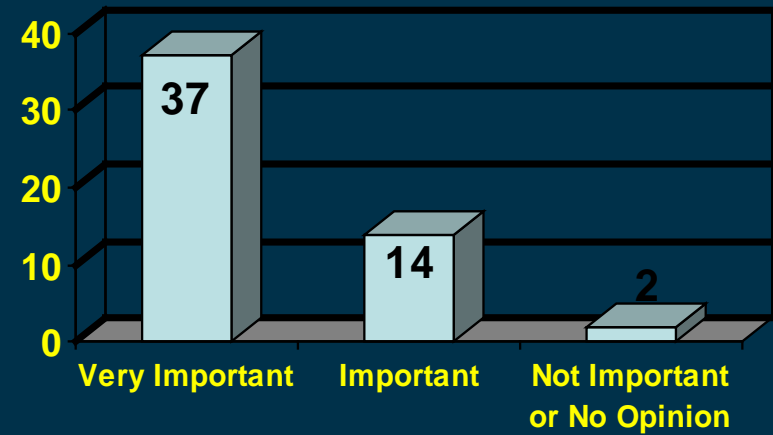
Respondents expressing conditions ... 32.7%

# Context for Grey Literature in the KIP Project

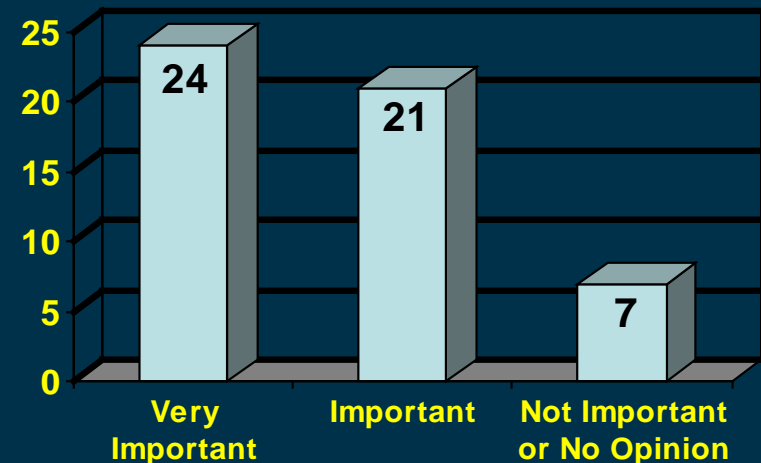
## Include Grey Content?



## Digitize Key Grey Resources?



## Evaluate Grey Resources?



# Thank You!

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