

Open Source Intelligence & Strategic Generalizations

Robert David Steele

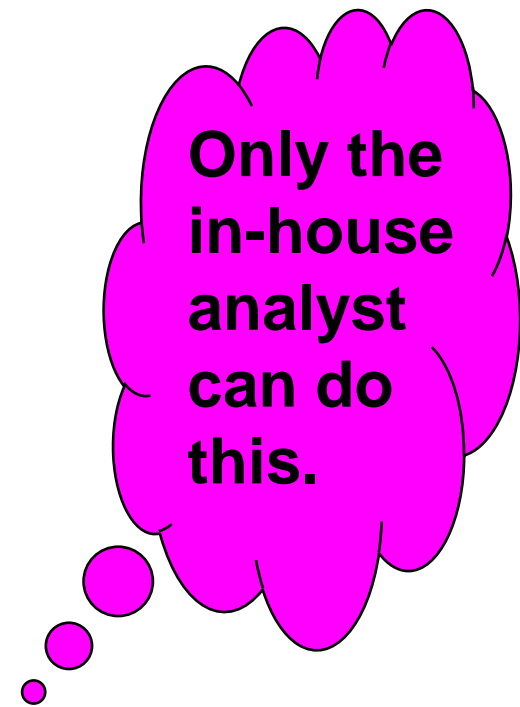
OSS CEO

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OSINT DEFINITIONS

- Open Source Data
- Open Source Information
- Open Source Intelligence
- *Validated Open Source Intelligence*



**Only the
in-house
analyst
can do
this.**

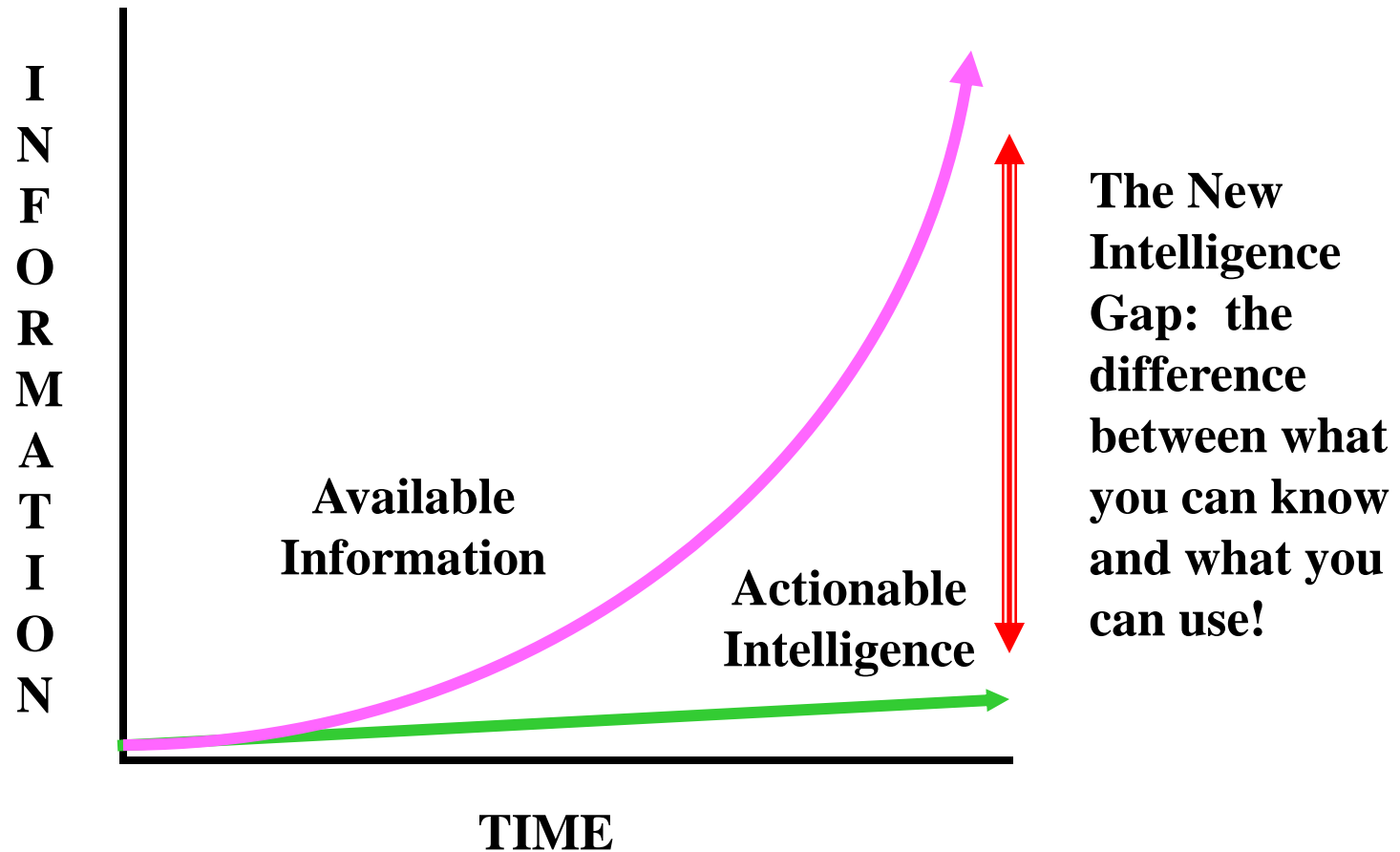
WHAT OSINT IS *NOT*...

“...nothing more than a collection of news clippings”.

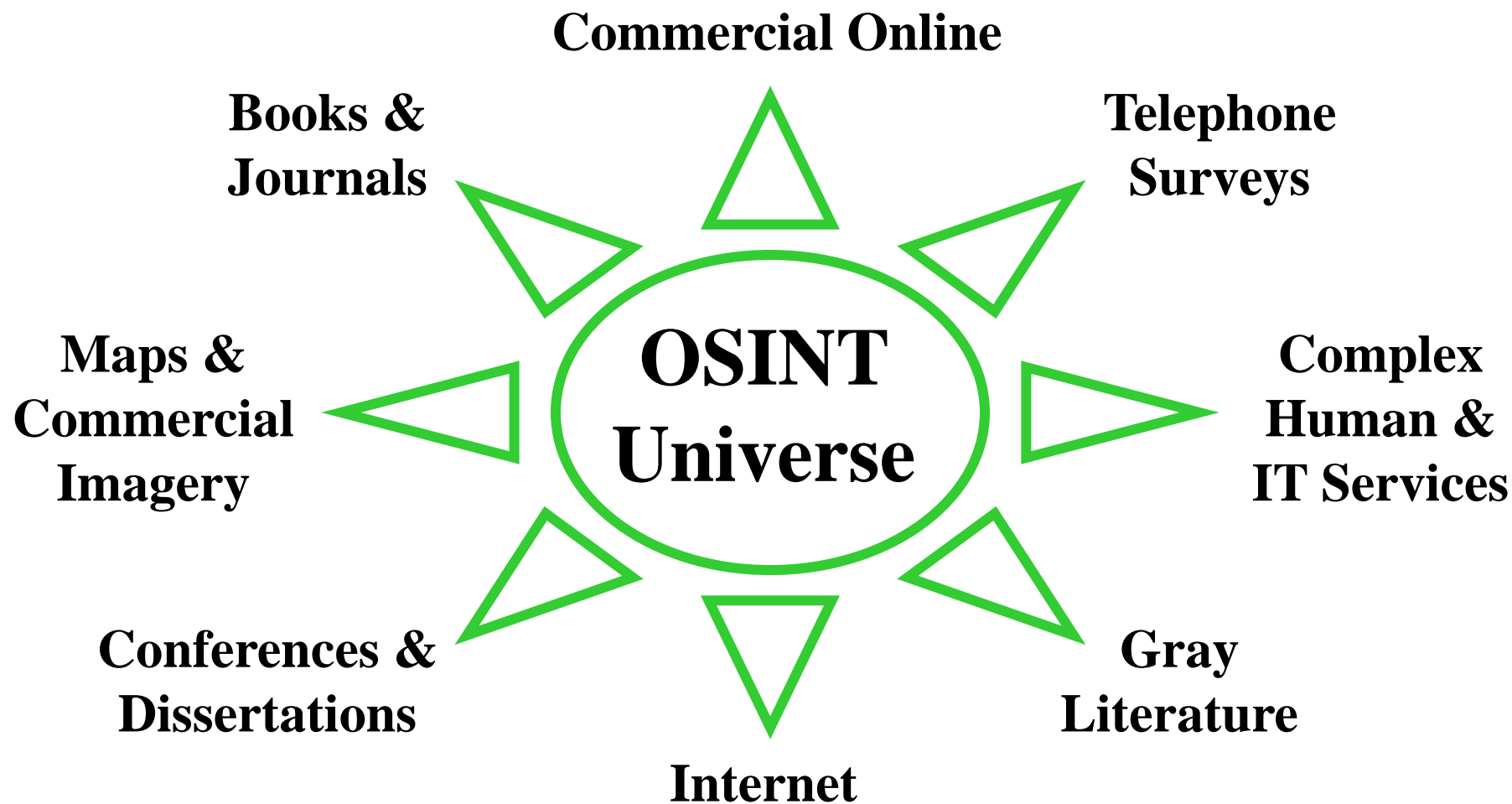
“...the Internet.”

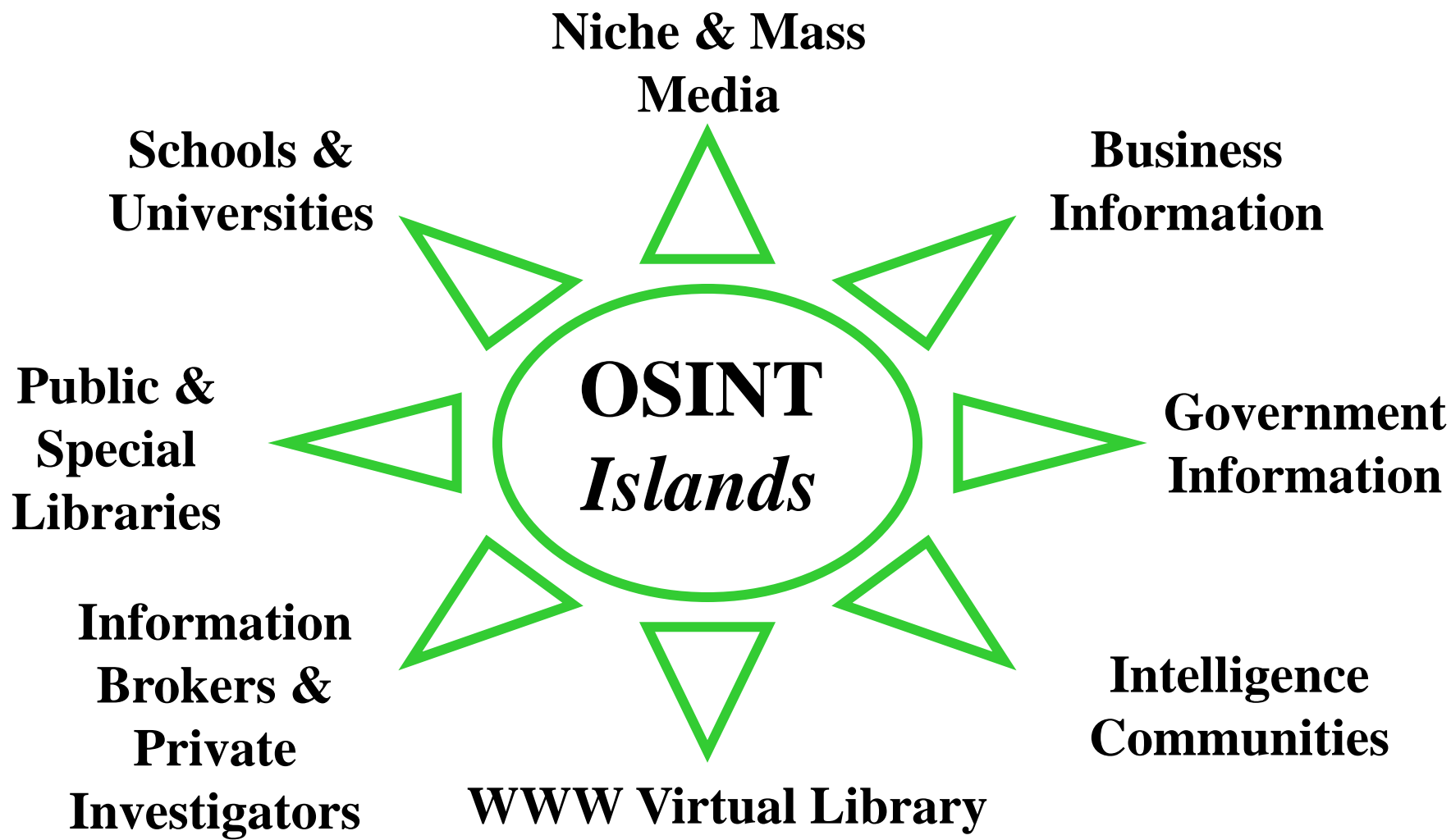
“...a substitute for spies and satellites.”

21st Century Information Environment

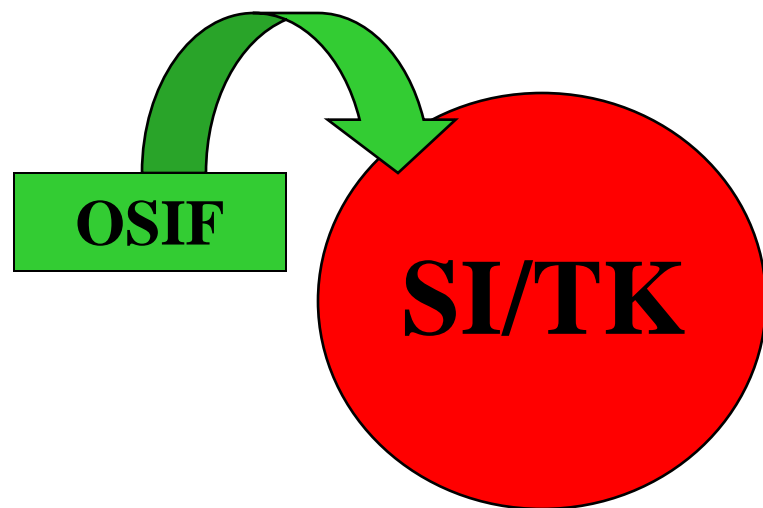


Open source information is more complex than secrets...

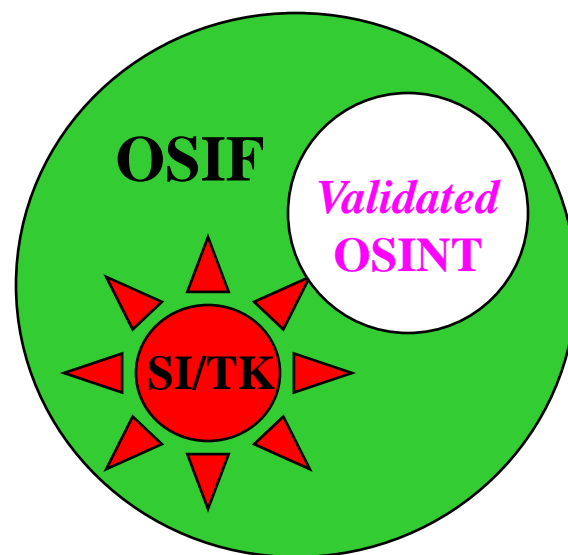




Competing Intelligence Models



Selective Importation
System High/Firewall



Just Enough, Just in Time
Default to Validated OSINT

Proof of the Concept

BURUNDI EXERCISE

- Top Ten Journalists/Top Ten Academics
- Tribal Orders of Battle and AOs
- Pol-Mil Overviews
- Soviet 1:100,000 Combat Charts
- 100% Commercial Imagery <3 Years Old

Internet Competency

No longer a toy--now a serious source



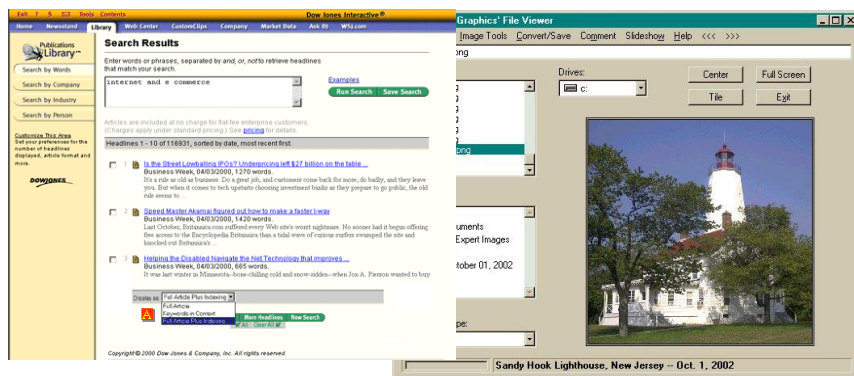
- “All-source” means *all* sources--the Internet is now a major source
- Search engines vary.
- Find images and maps.
- Find experts and groups.
- Limit to 1-hour efforts.
- Need an Internet specialist on call.

Commercial Online Competency

100X more important than Internet

Italian intelligence chief puts Al-Qa'idah's assets at 5bn dollars

BBC Monitoring, 05/16/2002, 142 words.



CIA 'Probably' Helps Italian Subversive Groups.

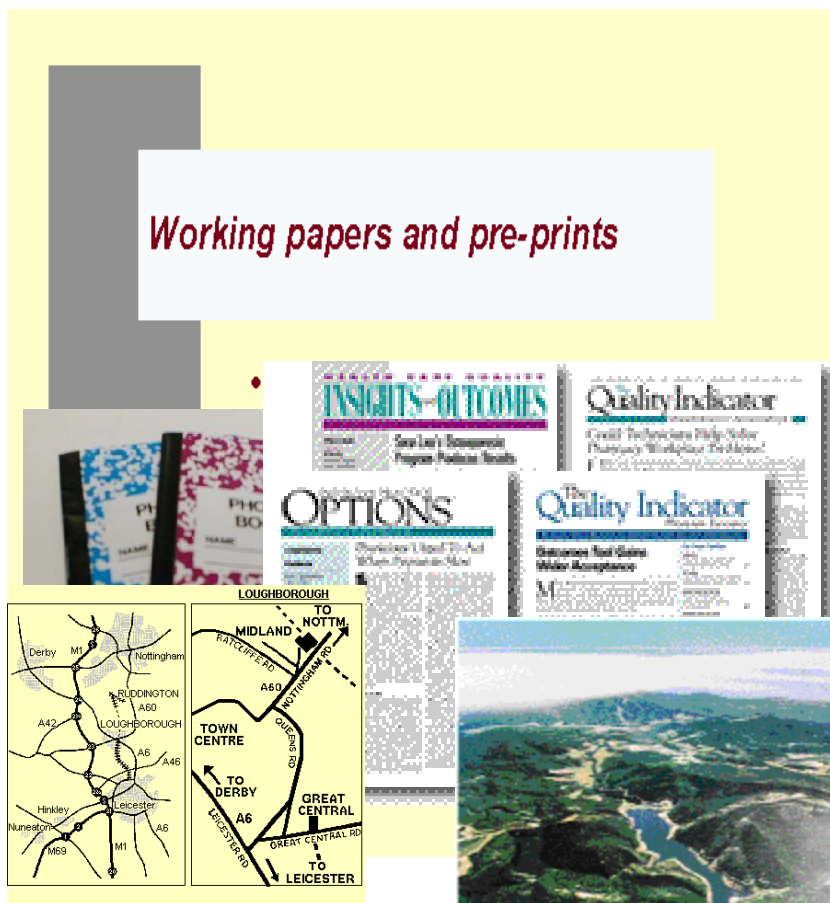
Xinhua News Agency, 03/20/2001, 268 words.

- Factiva.com
- DIALOG
- European Services
- Value-added is enormous--reputable sources, editorial selection, structured storage and retrieval
- Need a specialist.

Gray Literature Competency

Limited edition, must know to ask

- Pre-prints, technical reports, company telephone books, university yearbooks, “niche” references.
- Generally requires human access and special knowledge of availability.
- Unique and useful.



Primary Research Competency

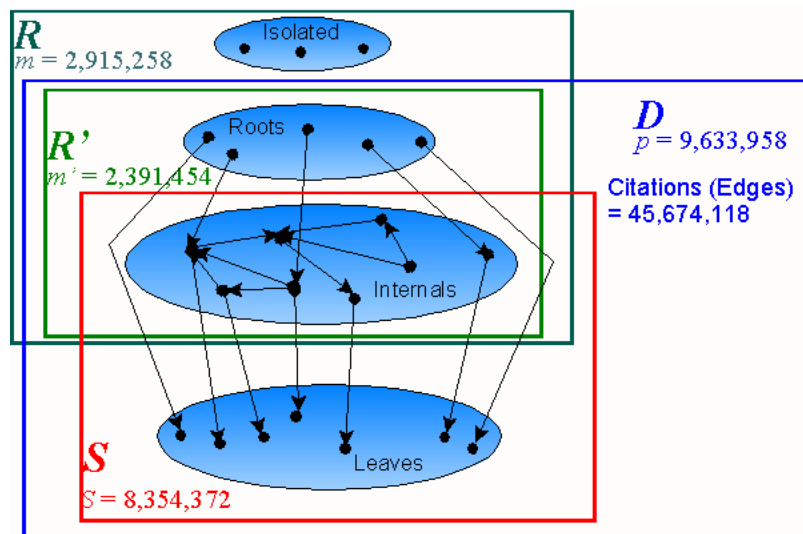
Knowing Who Knows, Direct Contacts



- Citation Analysis is key to finding top experts across different nations.
- Using the telephone (and the Internet) to reach top experts yields powerful results.

Citation Analysis Example

DIALOG, SSCI, \$1000 = Savings



- DIALOG access to Social Science Citation Index
- Use OSS methodology
- \$500 in access charges + \$500 in analyst time = list of top experts on any country or topic
- Then you call them...

Analytic Toolkit Competency

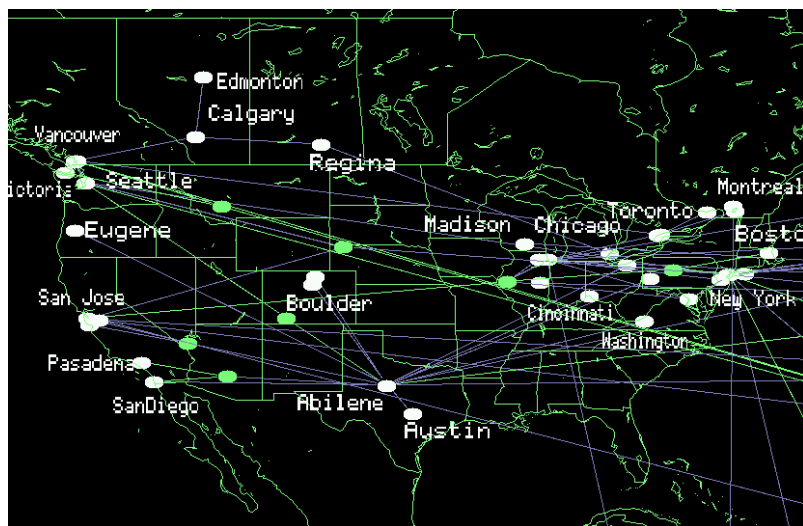
Software can be a curse or a help



- Digital conversion, storage, visualization, and retrieval tools
- Geospatial tools
- Structured analysis and detection tools
- Multi-media publication and presentation tools

Geospatial Competency

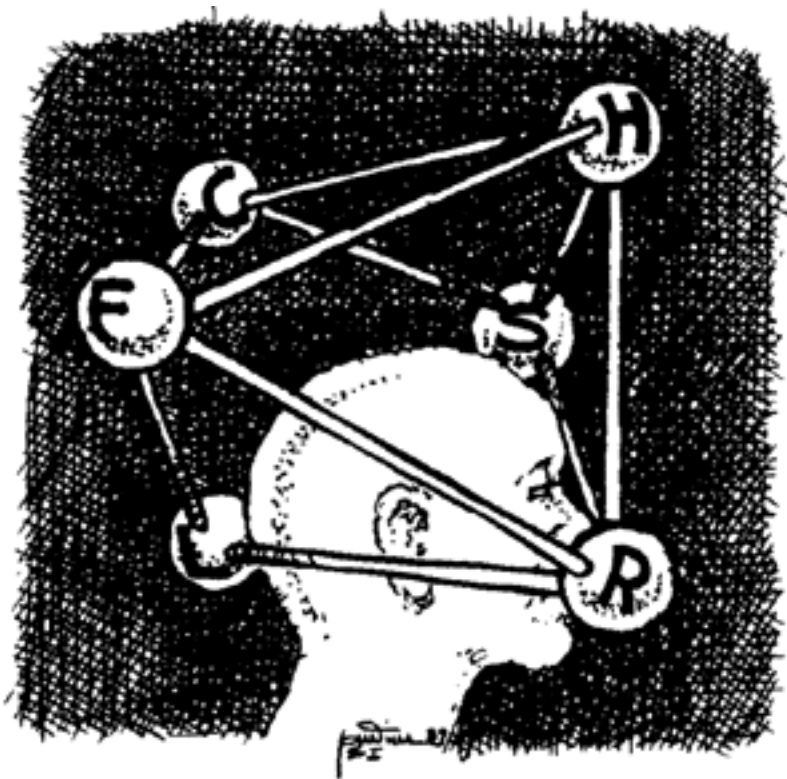
Maps & images make a difference



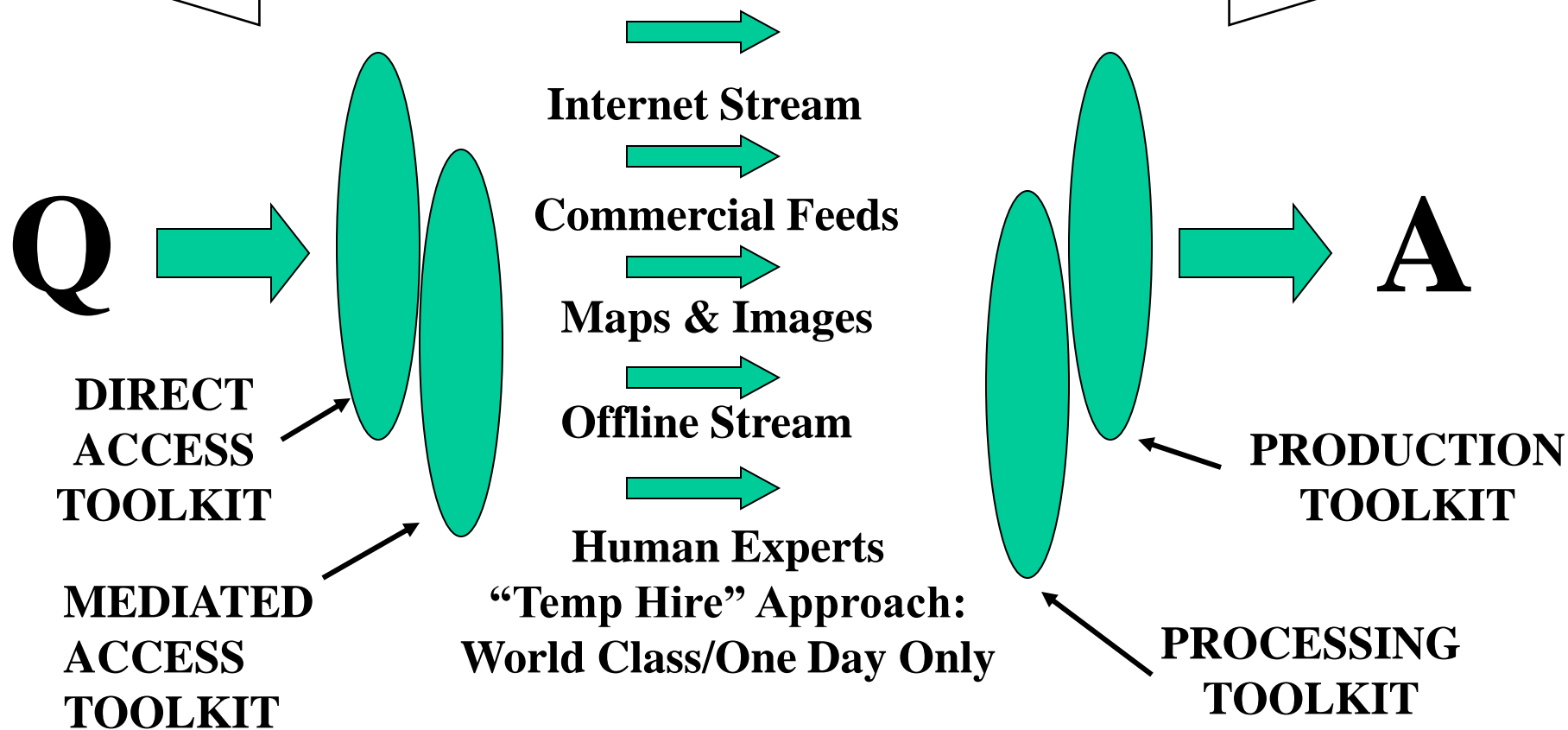
- Commercial imagery cheaper than ignorance
- Russian military maps of Third World vital
- Post-processing support from private sector
- Desktop tools for plotting information in time & space context

Analytic Tradecraft

Emerging appreciation for its value



- CIA University breaking new ground
- Moving away from “cutting and pasting”
- Moving away from hard-copy files
- Focus on learning how to think, and how to structure digital data



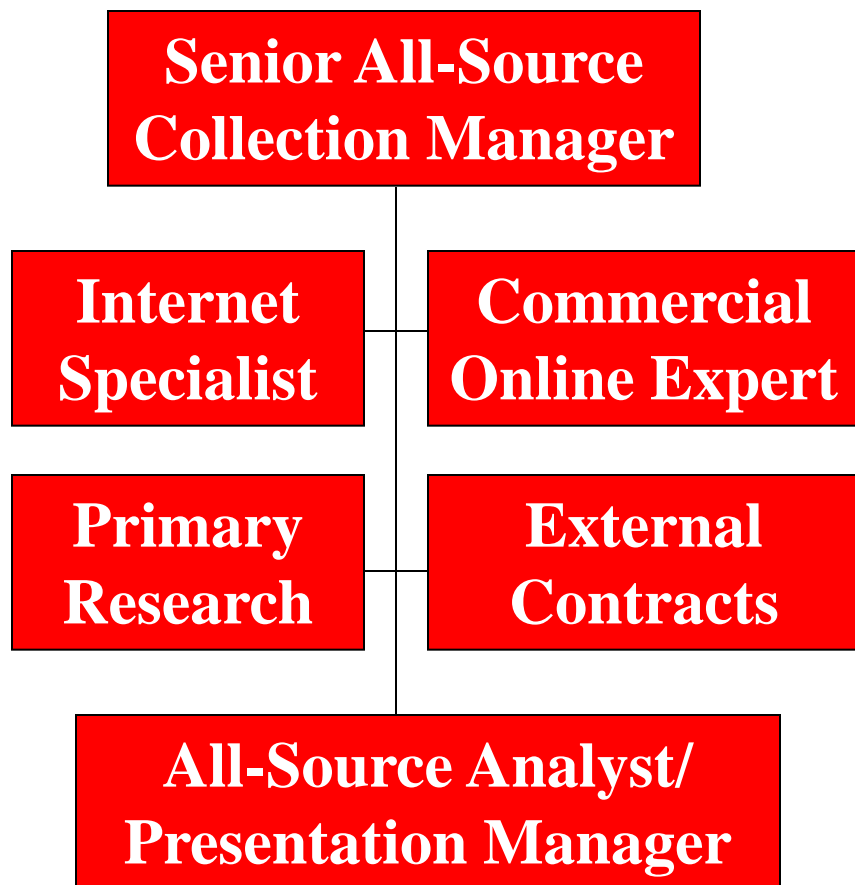
INTEGRATED ONE-STOP SHOPPING PROCESS

Call

Center -- Multi-Level Security -- Umbrella for Unified Billing

Creating an OSINT Cell

Central discovery, distributed exploitation



- Six people can leverage global OSINT for an entire Ministry or Service or Command
- This eliminates need for duplicate open source infrastructure
- Also saves money

Levels of OSINT Support to CINC

Strategic Planning

- History
- Context

Operational Coordination

- Current Awareness
- Key Personalities/Motivators

Tactical Employment

- Imagery & Image Maps
- Translation Support

Acquisition Design

- Strategic Generalizations
- Critical Technologies

STRATEGIC

Integrated
Application



Over time and space
Channels & Borders
Of strategic value

OPERATIONAL

Selection of
Time and Place



Quantities & Distribution
Internally available for use
Volatility of sectors

TACTICAL

Application of
Finite Resources



Training & Maintenance
Mobility implications
Cohesion & Effectiveness

TECHNICAL

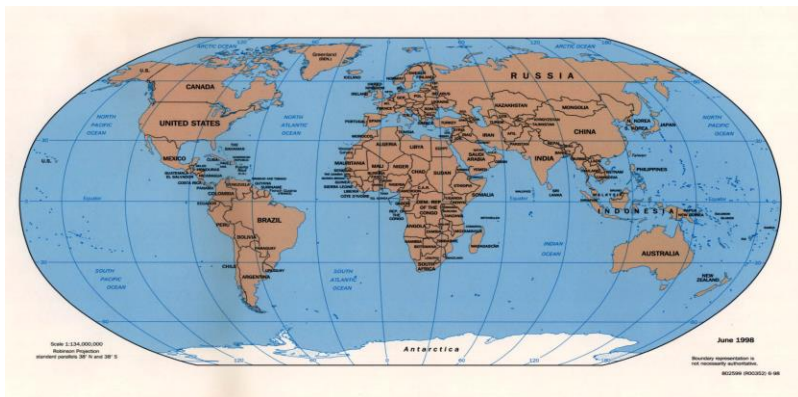
Isolated
Capabilities



Military Systems One by One
Climate Manipulation
Civil Power, Transport,
Communications,
Finance

Geographic Conditions

Time, Lift, Loiter, Accuracy



80° Humid vice 65° Not Humid ←

Wet-hot, dry-hot, mixed ←

Mountains (39%), desert (25%),
jungles (20%), urban (16%), ←

>6000 (22%), 6-4000 (24%), ←
2-4000K (30%), <2000 (23%)

- Distance
 - Strategic
 - Operational
 - Tactical
- Temperature
- Weather
- Target Terrain
- Altitude

Infrastructure Conditions

Joint Bad, Coalition Worse



- Ports 50% Unusable
- Coastal Threats High
- Embassies Inland
- Many Evacuees
- Bridges <30 tons
- X-Country Tough
- Helos Vulnerable
- C-130 Airfields Good
- Comms/Maps Confused

Threat Conditions

Lethal & Stealthy, There & Here



- Can't find individuals
- Easily deceived
- Cut off from external sources of information
- Processing black hole
- Sensor to shooter gaps
- Lacking cultural intel
- Lacking IO detail

Impacting on Policy



- Use intelligence to impact on:
 - Private sector standards
 - National security strategy
 - Agency share
 - Agency strategy
 - Agency leadership
 - Agency personnel

Impacting on Acquisition



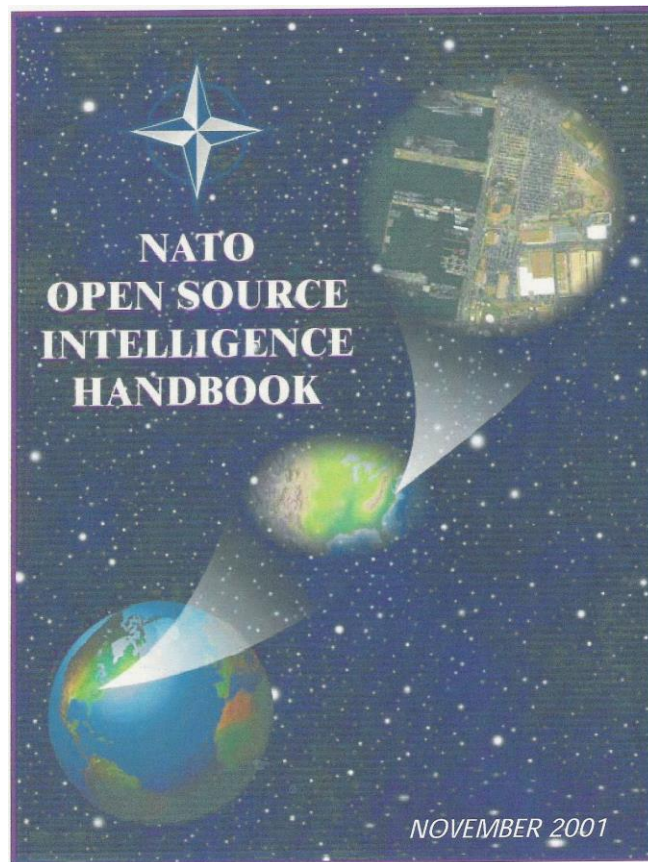
- Commercial foundation
 - Multi-purpose aircraft
 - Weapons plug-ins
- Trade-offs
 - Cost, bells & whistles, numbers, coalition play
- Intelligence support
- Logistics support

Impacting on Operations



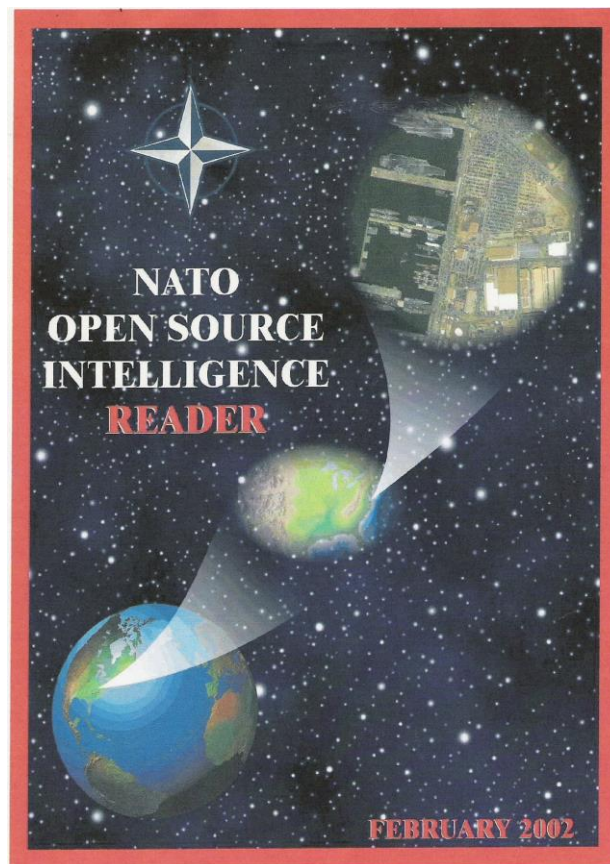
- Build to the real world
 - 24 hours from CONUS
 - NRT Air Ops Tasking
 - Tactical lift, loiter
 - Tactical stealth
 - Plan for disaster on tarmac
- Press for XML Geo
- NSA as global all-source processing center
- Migrate to web-based C4I

NATO OSINT HANDBOOK



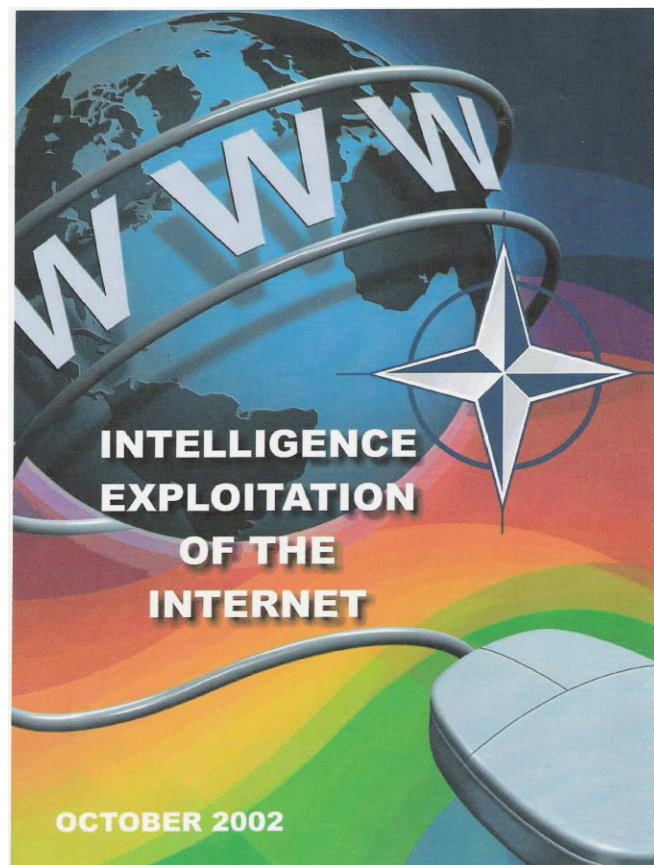
- Latest available reference on “how to”
- Sources, software, and services overview
- OSINT cycle
- Blending OSINT into all-source process
- NATO/PfP Rationale

NATO OSINT READER



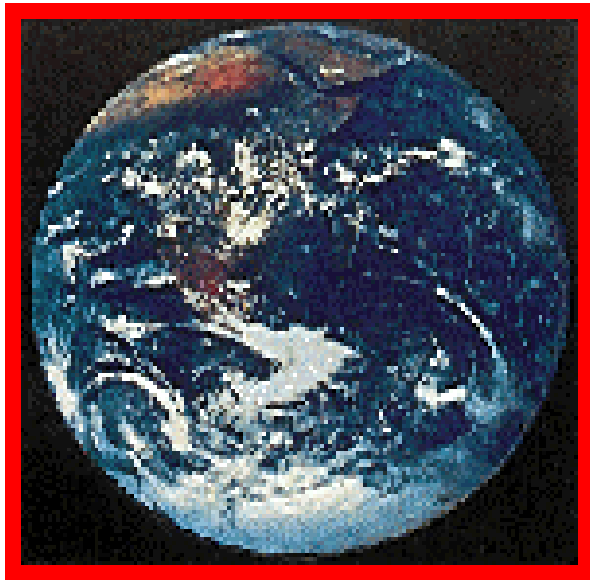
- Largely presentations to annual Global Information Forum
- Theory & History
- Applications
- International Vies
- References
- Joint OSS-NATO

NATO INTERNET



- Written by LCdr Andrew Chester, RN Canada, now retired
- Internet Overview
- Requirements Process
- Collection Process
- Anonymous Searching
- Production Process
- 20 pages of links

OSS.NET is HOME



- Use the NewsSorter
 - References
 - Book Reviews
 - Tribal Commentaries
 - Functional Commentaries
- Pointer to Conferences
 - Global Information Forum
 - Peacekeeping Intelligence
 - Other national events

Open Discussion

