

# The Grey Intersection of Open Source Information and Intelligence



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The Nexus of Information  
and Technology

# Grey Intersection of Open Source Information and Intelligence

- Definition of Open Source
- U.S. Government actions in support of Open Source
  - New Technologies/Social Networking Tools
  - Impact on Intelligence Community Operations
- Intelligence Cycle
- Open Source reliability/evaluation
- Classification and Security Markings, and
- The future of Open Source and Intelligence

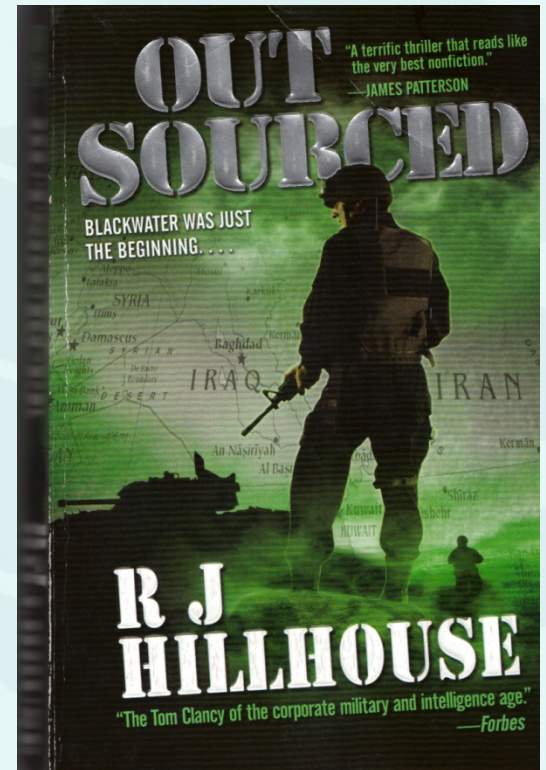


# Outsourced

by R.J. Hillhouse

*“Any revelation of classified national security information is purely coincidental and is the product of a rigorous analysis of open source materials coupled with a vivid imagination.”*

This author recognizes the unappreciated value of Open Source Information.



# When does Open Source Information become Grey and Classified?

- Derived from overt, non-clandestine sources
  - Publicly available
  - Lawfully obtained by anyone
- Collection and processing
- Information to Intelligence

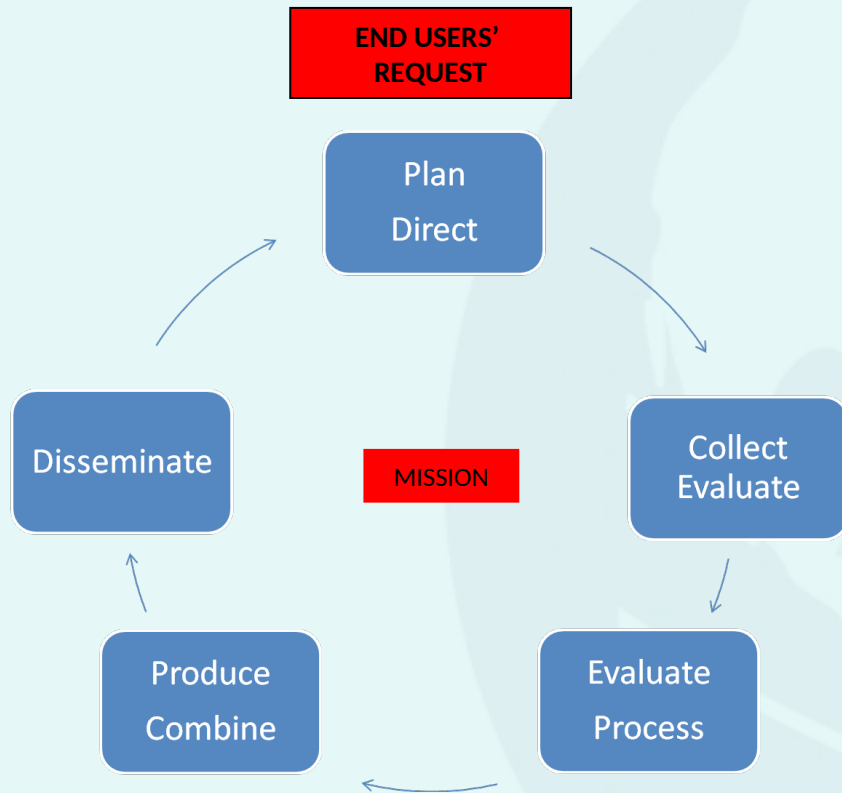


# U.S. Government Actions in Support of Open Source

- National Open Source Committee
- DNI Conferences
- Open Source Centers
- New Technologies/Social Networking Tools
- Impact on Intelligence Community Operations



# Intelligence Cycle



1. All five steps are dependent upon the end user's request and the mission.
2. "Plan and Direct" involves choosing sources for obtaining required information.
3. "Collect, Evaluate, and Process" require constant evaluation for reliability.
4. "Produce and Combine" include analysis to ensure that the request is met and combined with classified information, if appropriate.
5. "Disseminate" includes distribution not only to the end user but also to others who may have an interest.



# Open Source Reliability Issues

- Open Source must be evaluated for the following:
  - Competence
  - Veracity
  - Objectivity
  - Observational Sensitivity



# Source Reliability

CODE	RATING	DESCRIPTION
A	Reliable	No doubt of authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency; has a history of complete reliability; usually demonstrates adherence to known professional standards and verification processes.
B	Usually Reliable	Minor doubt concerning authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency; has a history of valid information most of the time; may not have a history of adherence to professionally accepted standards but generally identifies what is known about sources feeding any broadcast.
C	Fairly Reliable	Doubt of authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency but has provided valid information in the past.
D	Not Usually Reliable	Significant doubt about authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency but has provided valid information in the past.
E	Unreliable	Lacking in authenticity, trustworthiness, and competency; history of invalid information.
F	Cannot Be Judged	No basis exists for evaluating the reliability of the source; new information source.





# Information Credibility

CODE	RATING	DESCRIPTION
1	Confirmed	Confirmed by other independent sources; logical in itself; consistent with other information on the subject.
2	Probably True	Not confirmed; logical in itself; consistent with other information on the subject.
3	Possibly True	Not confirmed; reasonably logical in itself; agrees with some other information on the subject.
4	Doubtfully True	Not confirmed; possible but not logical; no other information on the subject.
5	Improbable	Not confirmed; not logical in itself; contradicted by other information on the subject.
6	Misinformation	Unintentionally false; not logical in itself; contradicted by other information on the subject; contradiction confirmed by other independent sources.
7	Deception	Deliberately false; contradicted by other information on the subject; contradiction confirmed by other independent sources.
8	Cannot Be Judged	No basis exists for evaluating the validity of the information.



# What to Evaluate

- Source
  - Author
  - Date of Publication
  - Publisher
- Content
  - Intended Audience
  - Information
  - Other Holdings
- First Example
  - Considered to be an Extremely Unreliable Source



# SEN. JOHN EDWARDS CAUGHT WITH MISTRESS AND LOVE CHILD



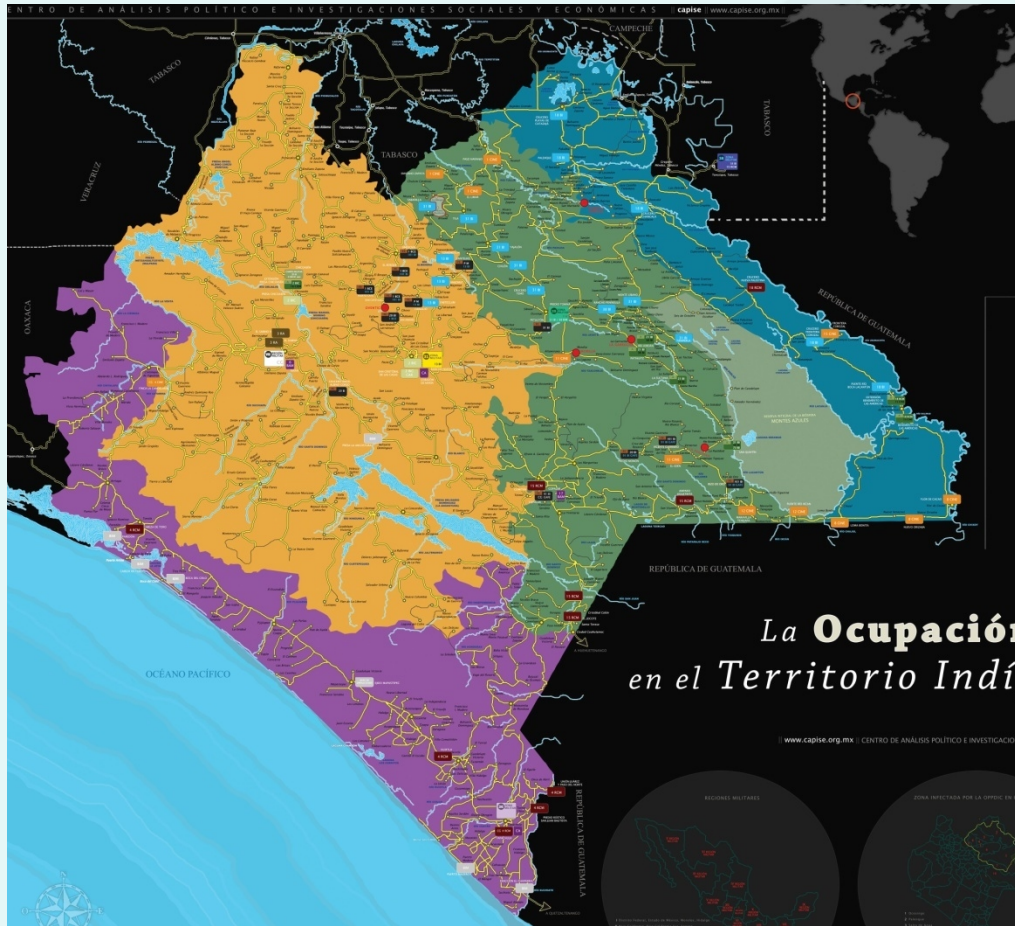
*“Vice Presidential candidate Senator John Edwards was caught visiting his mistress and secret love child at 2:40 this morning in a Los Angeles hotel by the National Enquirer.*

*The married ex-senator from North Carolina - whose wife Elizabeth continues to battle cancer - met with his mistress, blonde divorcée Rielle Hunter, at the Beverly Hilton on Monday night, July 21 - and the NATIONAL ENQUIRER was there! He didn't leave until early the next morning. Rielle had driven to Los Angeles from Santa Barbara with a male friend for the rendezvous with Edwards. The former senator attended a press event Monday afternoon with L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa on the topic of how to combat homelessness.”*

Even these “muck raking” journals occasionally publish an article that can be rated as “1” on the Information Credibility scale. However, the source and the article quoted above would be rated as **D-2**:

- **D** = “not usually reliable source”
- **2** = “probably true,” but the article erroneously refers to Edwards as a vice-presidential candidate and instead of a presidential candidate.

# Second Example



- Ideologically motivated website
- Map of all Mexican units by location and unit designation
- Track drug and illegal immigrant trafficking
- Of interest to DHS and USBP

# Grey Intersection of Open Source Information and Intelligence

- Classification and Security Markings
  - Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)
  - Sensitive but unclassified (SBU)
    - Classification or
    - Protective caveat
      - » Controlled with standard dissemination
      - » Controlled with specified dissemination
      - » Controlled enhanced with specified dissemination



# Future of Open Source and Intelligence

The Director of National Intelligence, Mike McConnell, explained the future of Open Source Information/Intelligence in the most succinct manner:

*“The elusive, transitory nature of our targets, and the imbalance between the increasing demand for information and the capacity of our means to collect it, require multiple, integrated collection systems. Each of the collection disciplines — human intelligence, signals intelligence, computer network exploitation, geospatial intelligence, measurements and signatures intelligence, open source intelligence, acoustic intelligence, and foreign materiel acquisition — will continue to play key roles, although their relative importance will almost certainly change over time.*

***No aspect of collection requires greater consideration, or holds more promise, than open source information; transformation of our approach to open sources is critical to the future success of Adaptive Collection.”***

Open Source Intelligence will never replace the other “INTs,” but it can and will act as the seed and as a guidepost to indicate where the other INTs should be used.