Isn’t Open Source Analysis Just Classified Analysis With Open Source Data?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASSIFIED DATA</th>
<th>UNCLASSIFIED DATA</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Acquired by collectors, based on specific requirements</td>
<td>• Can originate anywhere</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Provides information regarding accuracy of data</td>
<td>• Collected by the analyst</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Provides information regarding reliability of the data source</td>
<td>• Analyst must determine accuracy of data</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Some intelligence disciplines have specific approaches to analysis of related classified data</td>
<td>• Analyst must determine reliability of the data source</td>
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What Would a Science of Open Source Look Like?

Elements of other scientific disciplines that could be applied to open source analysis:

• Common definition and understanding of the concept of open source analysis
• Evidence-based methods that are reliable, valid
• Communities of interest to explore current and future issues
• Adding to the knowledge base, disseminating knowledge via publications, professional journal

Studies

• SME interviews to gain perspective on LAS team perceptions of open source analysis; definitions of open source data
• Review of existing approaches to open source analysis
• Cognitive Task Analysis of an analysis using open source data
• Research papers:
  - Developing a Science of Open Source Analysis
  - Open Source Analytic Frameworks & Tool Selection Indicators
• Developing communities of interest
  - Creating opportunities for Knowledge Exchanges with IC senior leaders
  - Creating a Virtual Cadre of analysts for reference & referral

Findings

• Identified the significance of blended analytic approaches, such as: context analysis, context mapping, content analysis, supply chain analysis
• Using context analysis gives a framework for validity testing, i.e., face validity and content validity
• Structured ways to assess data integrity
• Employed a business analytic method as organizing framework for data management, analysis, and narrative

Challenges and Insights

• Determining data organization in complex environment
• Managing diverse, unstructured data of the Internet
• Identifying methods to determine integrity of data and sources
• Criteria for data & source selection
• Deciding how to structure the data to tell the story
• Identifying data gaps
• Tools were insufficient or inhibiting

• Triangulation of data is critical
• Working through data categorization, triangulation, and organization is more accurately done in dyads to avoid missing important details, misinterpreting data
• Unlike high side data – incoming feeds are not tagged
• When using non-classified data, analyst becomes a collector as well as an analyst; analyst must become expert at identifying relevant and credible sources