

News, Resources and Useful Information for the Online Investigative and OSINT Professional from Toddington International Inc.



Toddington International Inc.

Online Research and Intelligence Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2018 EDITION

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Welcome to the Newsletter

Welcome to the February 2018 edition of TII's Online Intelligence Newsletter.

With the new year now in full swing, we were pleased to see the successful launch of our brand new **Cyberpsychology & Threat Intelligence** training series with Forensic Psychiatrist, Dr. Cynthia Baxter last month.

The next few months will be incredibly busy for the TII team, with both public and in-house training events scheduled in Canada, the UAE, SE Asia, and Australia. We're especially excited to launch our new [Introduction to the Blockchain Revolution](#) course in Dubai in March.

In this edition of the newsletter, Howard Clarke, the facilitator of [TII's Intelligence Analysis e-Learning training programs](#), shares his article "**What's the Problem? The Importance of Clearly Defining Research and Investigative Goals**", highlighting the importance of fully understanding the "problem" at hand when

conducting investigative and intelligence work, focusing on the critical dimensions of planning prior to engaging in data collection and intelligence research.

E-Learning Graduates

Congratulations to the following students who are among those who successfully completed the 40-hour [Using the Internet as an Investigative Research Tool™](#) e-learning program with TII this month:

- CJ Cook
- Karen Odell
- Amanda Cunningham
- Nicholas MacDonald
- Kardos Bod
- Pameila Gayadat
- Nathanael Johansson
- Kim Ballard
- Nicholas Wright
- Mary Naber
- Merja Niinistö
- Lee Phillips
- Mikkel Nilsson
- Bella Rooke
- Judy Davis
- Paul Henkel
- Bill Veit
- Lee Chiu
- Charlotte Powell
- Sophie Sullivan



What's the Problem? The Importance of Clearly Defining Research and Investigative Goals



By Howard Clarke

Instructor & Associate, Toddington International Inc.

As investigators and intelligence practitioners, we need to be aware of the danger of proceeding head-long into research and information-gathering tasks, armed with energy and enthusiasm, yet lacking adequate clarity and focus to effectively guide our efforts. We may fail to establish exactly what ‘the problem’ (threat or risk dilemma) is that we are trying to address. Consequently, our research efforts may prove to be off-target. We need to ask, *what is the problem we are seeking to address?* And, *what is the priority information we require?*

There are two important dimensions in problem definition. At the outset, there is a need to establish and clarify exactly *what* is going on, and *who* and *what* are the key elements of the problem situation. And, *why* is this happening (and *why now*)? An effective way to engage this aspect of the task is to ask and answer the key *Who, What, Why, When, Where* and *How* questions (the 5W + H). At that point, generically at least, we have a rudimentary conceptual model that explains the nature of the problem.

The second key dimension in problem definition is the requirement to frame the problem clearly and accurately in one’s own professional or organizational context. This requires us to recognize and factor in those unique constraints, opportunities, sensitivities, needs and priorities that characterize our client or our client organization’s context. Maybe the client doesn’t want or need an over-arching, macro-level answer to the threat. Rather, financial, political, or marketplace factors may dictate that a cosmetically effective, “quick-fix” is the

immediate need. Essentially, this requires us to look at the problem from the client's perspective, and to recognize what their risk appetite and decision-space looks like. To be clear, this is not a matter of reality distortion (creating fake news) but rather a question of how we plan, work smart and ultimately shape a timely, accurate, client-pertinent information or intelligence product tailored for a given context.

Example

If my organization is dealing with an insider threat problem, I might well ask *'Does my client, or my agency have the need and/or the capacity to address this problem at a macro (or strategic) level, or only at a micro (tactical) level? Has my client given me an explicit tasking or assignment that dictates or frame my approach to the threat and my subsequent information-gathering, investigation or analysis activities?'*

Conceptually, I might readily come to understand *what insider threat is, how it can work, and who might be involved*, etc. It is another thing, however, for me to frame an effective information-gathering and research approach to this threat when I need to consider organizational realities such as existing authorities and policies, resource capacities, legal and commercial considerations, etc. At a tactical level I might more readily address the immediate threat of a one-off insider threat situation than address a more challenging pro-active, strategic objective that seeks to identify and address organizational vulnerabilities, and explore options for ongoing threat prevention, identification, and mitigation.

Conclusion

This article has discussed important front-end engineering steps in planning data collection and intelligence research activities. In a later issue of the newsletter we can take this topic a little further by considering the question of *problem typology* and how this factor impacts our plans for data collection, research, and analysis. We also examine this topic in further detail in our [Intelligence Analysis e-learning courses](#).



Howard is an internationally experienced intelligence analysis professional, lecturer, trainer and e-learning instructor.

He is widely experienced in intelligence support for law enforcement and national security operations, and in intelligence program development and capacity building activities. Following an extensive law enforcement career, which involved significant intelligence roles with the Australian Federal Police, the Australian National Crime

Authority and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Howard now applies his skills and experience in the training of public and private sector clients in intelligence research and analysis activities.

With proven experience in intelligence program development Howard is a strong advocate of the need for public and private sector organizations to develop a sound capacity to develop and effectively utilize an information advantage over their opponents, to build intelligence capabilities for the purposes of threat and risk mitigation, and to gain competitive advantage over industry counterparts.

Working towards this end, he is very active in the intelligence training sphere, and in particular, in the development of e-learning training modules to build and strengthen the capabilities of individuals and public and private organizations in these spheres.

Upcoming Select Worldwide Training Dates



"Advanced Internet Intelligence & Online Investigations" Spring 2018 Series 3-Day Course

[March 14-16, 2018, Vancouver, BC](#)

[March 26-28, 2018, Toronto, ON](#)



"Advanced Internet Intelligence & Online Investigations"

2-Day Course

[March 20 – 21, 2018, Sydney, Australia](#)

[May 14 – 15, 2018, Hong Kong](#)

[May 23 – 24, 2018, Singapore](#)



"Introduction to the Blockchain Revolution" 2-Day Course

[March 19–20, 2018, Dubai](#)

TII is pleased to offer a number of specialized and customizable in-house training programs for both the public and private sector in a variety of formats, in addition to having available a number of expert speakers.

To learn more about what we can do to empower your workforce, [contact us](#).

Resources for the OSINT Professional



youtube.github.io/geo-search-tool/search.html – YouTube video search by location. Simply enter a city, intersection, or address, and select a time frame.

searx.me – Open source, privacy-oriented metasearch engine that does not store

or share information about its users, with advanced search features.

hotspotshield.com – Free VPN for anonymous, secure browsing that hides your IP address (and allows you to change between IP addresses so you can appear to be from any region).

opencorporates.com – With a goal to make company information more widely available for the public benefit, OpenCorporates is the “largest open database of companies and company data in the world” with details on some 100 million companies in a large number of jurisdictions.

fried.com/crypto-scam-checker – Comprehensive database of crypto-related websites. Useful tool for checking to see if a particular website is a scam or is safe to use.

stalkscan.com – “Facebook Scanner” for viewing Facebook profile information, including photos, comments, likes, interests, friends, and more. Simply enter the profile link to get started.

start.me/p/ZGAzN7/verification-toolset – A good set of social media information verification tools via Start Me.

quanki.com – Free people search engine with a focus on providing US-based results. Also provides results for non-US residents with ties to the US (i.e., property).

internationalaffairsresources.com – A frequently updated Internet directory of over 2000 annotated links to high-quality English-language resources for a wide range of international affairs, international relations, international studies, global studies, and global education topics.

facebook.com/live/map – Explore Facebook Live Map and search for live video streams by location.

zetoc.jisc.ac.uk – Comprehensive database of research publications from over 30,000 journals and over 50 million articles.

keitharm.me/projects/tweet – Tweet map for mapping tweets for a Twitter user.

lookup-id.com – Facebook ID locator. Enter a Facebook URL/username to locate a Facebook profile ID, group ID, or page ID.

Want more? Visit our continually updated, FREE [online research resources page](#) featuring hundreds of links, cheat sheets, investigative guidelines, and more!

Comprehensive E-Learning Program:

"Using the Internet as an Investigative Research Tool™"



SPECIAL OFFER

Revised and Completely Updated

Take your Online Research and Intelligence Skills to new levels for a time-limited introductory price of just \$399

The most comprehensive and up-to-date Internet research and investigation e-learning program available anywhere, Using the Internet as an Investigative Research Tool™ is designed to enable investigators, researchers, and intelligence personnel to find better online information, in less time, at less cost, with less risk.

For a fraction of the cost of classroom-based training, our flexible and interactive virtual classroom environment allows candidates to progress at their own pace and competency level, with a qualified personal instructor on hand at all times to ensure success. Initially launched in 1998, this highly-acclaimed and continually updated online course has been successfully completed by well over eight

thousand investigators and knowledge workers around the world.

Enrollment takes only a few moments; online credit card payments are accepted, group discounts and licensing options are available for five or more registrants. Visit the [course page](#) to find out more and instantly register, or [contact us](#) directly with any questions.

Bonus: Tuition fee includes a one-year subscription to TII's Premium Resource Knowledge Base, a premium resource of some 4,000 deep web resources and sites (an additional \$299 value)!

As a federally certified educational institution in Canada, TII can provide Canadian students with a T2202A Tuition Tax Receipt.

More Online Training

Introduction to Intelligence Analysis 40-Hour E-Learning Program

This program provides a rich and interesting opportunity to explore the key concepts and intellectual foundations which inform intelligence analysis activity. Students will develop awareness of, and experience in, using common tools and methodologies to conduct analysis assignments, as well as learn how to fashion one's insights and ideas in a way that communicates effectively to clients and other intelligence consumers. **Sign up or learn more [here](#).**

Criminal Intelligence Analysis 40-Hour E-Learning Program

This program is designed to equip aspiring and inexperienced analysts, as well as other interested law enforcement and investigative professionals, with the knowledge and skills required to undertake criminal intelligence analysis work, and to understand criminal intelligence analysis products when encountered. **Sign up or learn more [here](#).**

Strategic Intelligence Analysis 40-Hour E-Learning Program

This program is intended for professionals working in public sector enforcement, intelligence, national security, and regulatory compliance roles, or those aspiring to do so. Students will be equipped with the skills and knowledge required to effectively conceive, plan, and implement strategic analysis projects, and deliver impactful strategic advice to clients and other end users. **Sign up or learn more [here](#).**

Open Source Intelligence for Financial Investigators 40-Hour E-Learning Program

Essential for all financial institutions and corporations required to comply with the *European Union Fourth Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Directive* and similar legislation, or otherwise engaging in enhanced due diligence activities, this comprehensive training provides financial and business professionals with the latest tools and techniques required to effectively gather online OSINT, with the aim of enhancing compliance activities and minimizing potentially detrimental risks to an organization — both quickly and accurately. **Sign up or learn more [here](#).**

"How-Tos" and Articles of Interest for the OSINT Professional

[Accidentally deleted an important file off your computer? Here are the top 5 free tools to recover your lost data \(Windows\).](#)

[Research commissioned by security company RSA has found that 49% of people are falsifying information about themselves online because they are concerned about companies managing to hold that data securely.](#)

[Building what it calls "the world's biggest camera surveillance network", China is a world leader in facial recognition technology and regularly reminds its citizens that such equipment will make it almost impossible to evade the authorities.](#)

[Protect your privacy while browsing online using these 5 free anonymizing tools.](#)

[With online scams being 19 times more prevalent than offline scams, we need to be aware of the top 10 scams we are likely to encounter while using the internet.](#)

[With most of today's devices endeavoring to track everything about us, it's important to become familiar with device data settings, and to know how to limit](#)

[the data your phone, laptop, or fitness tracker can collect \(and share\) about you.](#)

[UK appeal court rules on the country's digital surveillance laws \(i.e., DRIPA\), declaring them unlawful and contravening of citizens' human rights.](#)

[Sensitive information about the location and staffing of military bases and spy outposts around the world has been revealed by fitness tracking company Strava.](#)

[Not so anonymous: If a buyer was not particularly careful about how they spent their cryptocurrency on illicit materials in the past, the evidence of that transaction may still be hanging around in plain view of law enforcement.](#)

[Did you miss out on the free Windows 10 upgrade? You can still upgrade for free \(without pirating\) using these methods.](#)

[Need \(or want\) to know what people are searching for online? Here are 20+ tools to get you started.](#)

[Who needs location data when there's dust? "Facebook Knows How to Track You Using the Dust on Your Camera Lens".](#)

[Ever wonder how Facebook recommends "People You May Know"? This tool helps you keep track and study the connections.](#)

[The EU General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\) goes into effect in May. A law designed to protect the privacy of Europeans around how their data is handled, the regulations may sometimes undermine the security of internet users rather than protect them.](#)

[Seeing things objectively means being aware of the combination of cognitive bias we are all influenced by to varying degrees. How does "negativity bias" and "declinism" affect how we perceive the state of the world?](#)

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