



Open Source Intelligence

2024 Edition

OSINT Methods and Resources for Australian
Investigators and Analysts



Open Source Intelligence

2024 EDITION

OSINT Methods and Resources for Australian
Investigators and Analysts

www.onlineinvestigations.com.au

© 2024 Online Investigations Pty Ltd

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced in any form without permission from the publisher, except as permitted by AU copyright law.

Table of Contents

Introduction to Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)	6
Open Source Information: What It Includes	6
Offline sources	6
Online sources	6
Hidden Sources.....	7
Ethical Considerations	7
Respect for Privacy.....	7
Legal Compliance	7
Accuracy and Integrity	8
Ethical Use of Tools and Techniques.....	8
Impact on the Subject.....	8
The Intelligence Cycle in OSINT	9
Workflow and Research Reference Guide.....	10
1. Planning and Direction.....	10
2. Initial Collection Stage	12
3. Processing and Assessment	13
4. Additional Collection	14
5. Assessment.....	16
6. Analysis	16
7. Presentation	17
Case Study 1: Identifying potential threats to a high-profile event	18
Case Study 2: Tracking financial transactions of a suspected fraudster	18
Case Study 3: Organising information in a Human Trafficking investigation.....	19
Case Study 4: Correlating social media activity with criminal behaviour	19
Case Study 5: Reporting findings on Corporate Espionage.....	20
Case Study 6: FULL INTELLIGENCE CYCLE Investigating potential nepotism in a business contract award.....	21
Prepare your Computer	24
Antivirus and cleaning software.....	24
Browser choice	24
Identify your IP address	25
Ways you may be exposing your IP address and/or identity online	26
Virtual Private Network (VPN) and User Agent Switchers.....	26
Change your IP Information	27

Changing your device information.....	28
Additional considerations:.....	29
Prepare your Environment	31
Collecting and storing data.....	31
Full page and Screenshots	31
Full Website Capture	31
Record from Mobile Device.....	32
Full Screen and Camera Recorders.....	33
Websites for archiving/downloading.....	33
Additional Storing Options.....	33
Virtual Machines (VM)	34
Steps to Set Up CSI Linux VM:	35
Mobile App Processing with an Emulator	35
Additional considerations.....	37
Sockpuppet Preparation.....	39
Disposable email address.....	39
Disposable mobile number.....	40
Social media alias accounts	41
Facebook.....	42
X (formerly Twitter)	44
Linkedin.....	45
Instagram.....	47
Top search operators for Investigators and Analysts.....	49
Manual use of Advanced Search Operator terms:	49
Automated use of Advanced Search Operator terms:.....	52
Searching by Date/Time:.....	53
Monitoring Service	55
Alternative monitoring options.....	55
Alternative search engines for Investigators and Analysts	56
No-tracking search engines.....	57
Advanced Image Searches	58
Top reverse image search engines	58
Advanced search function – Google Images	59
Reverse image search – mobile devices	60
Monitoring service.....	60
Searching for Faces/Photos within an Image search	60

Facial Recognition.....	61
Sharpen blurry images.....	62
Additional Considerations	62
Locating metadata of an image	63
Manipulating EXIF data	65
Verifying Images and Videos using Geolocation	66
Verifying images	66
Verifying video	68
Tracking individuals online: Offline vs Online Identifiers.....	70
Searching by Username.....	70
The importance of cross-referencing	70
Examples of ways a username can be used online.....	71
Best websites for username research	71
Searching by Email address.....	73
Legal and Ethical Considerations	74
Two-Factor Authentication and Email Security	74
Temporary/Disposable Email Addresses.....	74
Correlation with Other Identifiers	74
Dark Web Considerations	74
Social Media Platforms' Privacy Settings.....	75
Searching by Email address – Flickr account.....	75
Locating a Linkedin account by email search.....	75
Searching by Email address – social media accounts (Limited).....	75
Locating a Facebook account by email search (Limited)	75
Identifying Google reviews from a Google profile linked to an email (manual method)	77
Searching by Mobile number.....	78
Searching Facebook	79
Facebook's own search feature:	79
Searching hidden posts from or about a Facebook User	80
Option 1:	80
Option 2:	81
Option 3:	82
Third party option for searching Facebook:.....	84
Identifying Groups a Facebook User has joined.....	85
Identifying (some) friends of a locked down Facebook profile	87
Alternative method for locating hidden friends	87

Identifying users with most engagement on a Facebook account.....	87
Identifying mutual friends of two or more Facebook profiles.....	88
Saving a Facebook Video (to your computer).....	96
Enlarging a profile photo from a locked Facebook profile	96
Create a Bookmarklet – Enlarge a locked profile photo	97
Enlarging a cover photo from a locked Facebook profile.....	98
Viewing a users Facebook Marketplace profile	98
Best Extensions/Tools for Facebook	99
X (formerly Twitter)	100
X Advanced Search Operators	100
Lesser Known Search Operators	100
Recover deleted X profiles and posts.....	101
Additional websites to assist with X searches.....	101
Monitoring changes to a X account by User ID.....	102
X Lists.....	102
Instagram	104
Best search options for Instagram Profiles.....	104
Additional Notes:	105
Searching Instagram by Location	105
Best Chrome Extensions/Sites for Instagram	105
Saving Content from Instagram	105
Identifying obfuscated email and mobile of Instagram account	106
Additional Tips.....	106
Linkedin.....	107
Linkedin Search Operators	107
Searching LinkedIn Profiles via Search Engines.....	108
Controlling your privacy settings within your LinkedIn profile:	108
View the Linkedin profile of a Target without notifying them	110
Search a Linkedin profile's recent activity	111
Identify timestamp when a comment was made	111
Snapchat.....	113
Best search options for Snapchat Profiles	113
Youtube	114
Searching Youtube for videos.....	114
Searching Transcripts of Youtube videos	114
Confirm exact time when a Youtube video was uploaded.....	115
Searching by location / Geo-ordinates.....	115

Tiktok	116
TikTok Search Operators and Techniques	116
Confirming the Exact Time a TikTok Video Was Uploaded	116
Searching by Location/Geocoordinates	117
Profile Viewing on TikTok.....	117
Downloading TikTok Videos.....	117
Conducting due diligence and locating Australian based individuals.....	119
1. Check available internal databases	119
2. Search free databases	119
3. Check available subscription databases.....	120
4. Deeper digital footprint searches.....	120
5. Phone/Door Knock	121
6. Deeper searches to locate hidden assets	121
Privacy Considerations.....	123
Current and historic media searches.....	125
1. Current Media Searches	125
2. Historic Media Searches	125
3. Advanced Search Techniques.....	126
Recovering archived and deleted Internet pages	127
Automated Tools and Extensions for archived information	128
Domain Name Intelligence	129
Preferred resources when researching domain names	129
Important Definitions.....	131
Components of a URL	132
Accessing information on the Dark Web	133
TOR search engines and what they are used for.....	133
Additional ways to search the Dark web	134
Important Considerations	134
Summary	134
AI Essentials	135
What is Generative AI?.....	135
Examples of Generative AI Implementations:	135
ChatGPT.....	136
OPSEC (Operational Security) Considerations:.....	136
Using AI for Social Media Analysis.....	137