



**INTELLIGENCE
COMMUNITY
STANDARD**

206-01

Citation and Reference for Publicly Available Information, Commercially Available Information, and Open Source Intelligence

A. AUTHORITY: The National Security Act of 1947, as amended; Executive Order (EO) 12333, *United States Intelligence Activities*, as amended; Intelligence Community Directive (ICD) 206, *Sourcing Requirements for Disseminated Analytic Products*; and other applicable provisions of law.

B. PURPOSE

1. The rapid and continued growth of Publicly Available Information (PAI) and Commercially Available Information (CAI) alongside the increasing utility of Artificial Intelligence (AI) necessitate an updated and forward-looking approach to the use of PAI, CAI, and Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) in IC products and reports. This Intelligence Community Standard (ICS) establishes a common approach for citing and referencing PAI, CAI, and OSINT sources in all applicable product and reporting vehicles and includes a new and updated list of terms relevant to PAI, CAI, and OSINT activities. This ICS further supports the professionalization of the OSINT discipline and will help policymakers, warfighters, and other Intelligence Community (IC) customers better understand the type, quality, and use of PAI, CAI, and OSINT sources underpinning intelligence assessments within all-source, multi-intelligence (multi-INT), and OSINT-specific products.

2. The IC is modernizing its approach to elevate the analysis of PAI, CAI, and OSINT and provide accurate and explicit sourcing and context for this information. Updated guidance on the information elements and citation formats within the source reference citation (SRC) as it relates to PAI, CAI, and OSINT activities is an important step in that process. This ICS includes guidance on citations on all domains and the sourcing and usage of stand-alone OSINT analytic products while also providing space for future innovations and product categories. Moreover, citation formats for a wider variety of sources that use PAI, CAI, and OSINT, including AI and branches and applications of AI such as Machine Learning (ML), Computer Vision (CV), and Generative AI (GAI), were added to this ICS. As AI-assisted workflows increase throughout the IC, transparency around AI use and recognizable citation conventions are crucial.

C. APPLICABILITY: This ICS applies to the IC, as defined by the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, and such other elements of any other department or agency as may be designated by the President or designated jointly by the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) and the head of the department or agency concerned, as an element of the IC. This supersedes ICS 206-01, *Source Reference Citation for Open Source Intelligence*, 26 September 2017.

02 December 2024

D. STANDARD

1. This ICS establishes standards for reference and citation of PAI, CAI, and OSINT sources in “disseminated analytic products” and “covered analytic products” to include all-source products, multi-INT products, stand-alone OSINT analytic products, and other stand-alone OSINT products. The definitions contained in Appendix A clarify the difference between OSINT analytic products and other OSINT products, which is crucial for OSINT professionalization, sourcing conventions, and customer expectations management for IC OSINT operations. This ICS does not apply to dynamic dashboards or visualizations that display PAI or CAI data trends for internal consumption or when utilized by working groups. In addition, this ICS does not compel citation conventions when describing raw data, internal bulk storage of PAI or CAI, or when elements share lawfully collected PAI or CAI data objects as authorized by EO 12333 Section 2.3 for purposes of allowing the recipient agency or element to determine whether it is relevant to its responsibilities and can be retained by it.

2. **Citation:** Whenever PAI, CAI, or OSINT is cited in disseminated analytic products and/or covered analytic products, it shall be cited in accordance with the guidelines in Appendix B of this document. This ICS covers citation conventions for both externally created and discrete PAI and CAI sources when cited within IC products and internal IC citation of OSINT sources and products created by IC officers.

3. **Discoverability:** The citations and references throughout and part of disseminated analytic products and covered analytic products, shall be discoverable and retrievable when consistent with the “responsibility to provide” and “responsibility to discover” directed in ICD 501, *Discovery and Dissemination or Retrieval of Information within the Intelligence Community*. Under ICD 504, *Intelligence Community Data Management*, data is managed to enable discovery, accessibility, and usability. Further, ICD 504 calls for common data tags to enable availability and interoperability within and across security domains. Maintaining PAI, CAI, and OSINT data “at origin” on unclassified computer systems creates opportunities for newer citation and reference models, including the direct linking of sources with in-line text descriptors, which could modernize and supplement existing endnote formats.

4. **Retention:** The retention periods of externally created and discrete PAI or CAI sources cited in IC products can differ from the retention periods of internally created products (where retention is often permanent). This ICS aims for the most descriptive citations of externally created and discrete PAI and CAI sources cited in IC products and reports to include describing and noting the most stable and permanent location of the data on the internet (URL), within commercial data stores, or government systematic storage. If the externally created and discrete PAI or CAI source is dynamic and reasonably assumed to change rapidly and is important in shaping the bottom-line message of the product or report, a record of the source shall be preserved for retention by the IC element’s producing body for at least one year from issuance of the product or report. For products with longer time horizons such as National Intelligence Estimates (NIEs), the PAI or CAI source citation shall be retained for the period of the product time horizon or five years, whichever is shorter. The creation of stored binary copies of online

content (e.g., “screen prints”) must follow the IC element’s National Archives and Records Administration-approved Records Control Schedule (RCS)¹ and specified intelligence oversight collection, evaluation, and retention periods (including those established in EO 12333 and implementing Attorney General-approved guidelines). This “screen print” storage practice does not superseded retention limits prescribed in law, Executive Order, or Presidential directive. In cases where there is conflict between this ICS and an IC element’s National Archives and Records Administration-approved RCS, the RCS will apply.

5. **Training:** IC training will follow guidelines and examples set out in Appendix B and any additional requirements established by the Functional Manager for Open Source Intelligence, in consultation with the IC OSINT Executive.

E. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The IC OSINT Executive at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) is responsible for:

- a. Ensuring this ICS is implemented broadly and consistently across the IC;
- b. Annually running analytics against IC product and report repositories to gauge compliance with this ICS.

2. IC element heads are responsible for:

- a. Implementing this ICS within their analytic, collection, and open source mission areas;
- b. Developing training and tradecraft for implementing this ICS, as appropriate to their mission requirements;
- c. Developing internal processes and workflows to ensure PAI, CAI, and OSINT used in IC products and reports are properly sourced, discoverable, and retained at the lowest classification level possible; and
- d. Maintaining original classification authorities and foreign disclosure guidance that is consistent with this ICS’s requirements and other applicable law and policy.

3. The Functional Manager for OSINT is responsible for leading the National Open Source Committee (NOSC) in the execution of its responsibilities and developing, when necessary, lessons learned to incorporate into future updates to IC OSINT standards in consultation with the IC OSINT Executive.

¹ Some externally created and discrete PAI or CAI sources cited in IC products may be “non-records” such as library materials, reference works, business directories, trade publications, business publications, professional journals, and scientific publications when used for reference purposes.

4. The NOSC is responsible for:

- a. Advocating for IC compliance with this ICS in coordination with the IC OSINT Executive, to include lessons learned from ODNI’s annual compliance analytics;
- b. Identifying best practices, including ensuring the broadest possible communication of IC policy and guidance on citations, to include lessons learned from ODNI’s annual compliance analytics.

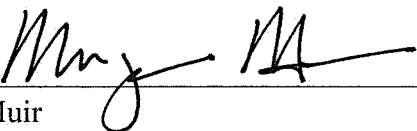
5. The Defense Open Source Council (DOSC), in coordination with the NOSC, is responsible for:

- a. Regularly reviewing the implementation of this ICS across the Defense Intelligence Enterprise (DIE);
- b. Identifying best practices, including ensuring the broadest possible communication of IC policy and guidance on citations within the DIE, to include lessons learned from ODNI’s annual compliance analytics; and
- c. Serving as the senior coordination forum for issues related to the use of SRCs within the DIE.

6. Intelligence professionals engaged in leveraging PAI and CAI and creating OSINT are responsible for:

- a. Complying with this ICS and their element’s unique procedures;
- b. Keeping current with PAI, CAI, and OSINT reference best practices and OSINT training and tradecraft; and
- c. Understanding the privacy and civil liberties implications of collecting PAI and CAI and creating OSINT.

F. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Standard becomes effective on the date of signature.


 Morgan Muir
 Deputy Director for Mission Integration

12.2.24
 Date

Appendix A: Definitions

Unless otherwise noted, definitions are for the purpose of this ICS only.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Consistent with 15 U.S.C. § 9401(3), a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations or decisions influencing real or virtual environments. AI systems use machine and human-based inputs to perceive real and virtual environments, abstract such perceptions into models through analysis in an automated manner, and use model inference to formulate options for information or action.

Collection: The receipt of information by an IC element for official purposes, whether or not the information is retained. Collected information includes information received by any means, including information that is volunteered to the element. Collected information does not include: (a) information that is accessed by an IC element employee but is not stored or otherwise maintained under the control of the IC; or (b) information obtained from another IC element that has been lawfully provided by that element pursuant to its procedures.

Commercially Available Information (CAI): Any data or other information that is of a type customarily made available or obtainable and sold, leased, or licensed to members of the general public or to non-governmental entities for purposes other than governmental purposes. CAI also includes data and information for exclusive government use knowingly and voluntarily provided by, procured from, or made accessible by corporate entities at the request of a government entity or on their own initiative.

Covered Analytic Product: A subset of disseminated analytic products designated by IC elements in consultation with the Deputy Director for Mission Integration (DD/MI) that falls under the authority of ICD 206.

Disseminated Analytic Product: An intelligence product, such as an assessment, study, estimate, compilation, database, graphic, or interactive publication that is created by the analytic component of an IC element, reviewed or validated by that IC element, and disseminated to consumers outside that IC element in accordance with ICD 206.

Direct Link Citation: The practice of hyperlinking words and phrases to the underlying source referenced on the internet, commercial clouds, or products and reports hosted on government unclassified computer systems (lowside). In-line source descriptors around these hyperlinked words and phrases can reduce endnote usage. This practice does not negate the need to capture necessary source metadata in citations endnotes. However, in many cases, direct links and endnote usage can co-exist with strong flow and logic. This

ICS is future-oriented and aims to accommodate this practice. (See Appendix C for brief security guidance).

Open Source Intelligence (OSINT): Intelligence derived exclusively from publicly or commercially available information that addresses specific intelligence priorities, requirements, or gaps.

Publicly Available Information (PAI): Information that has been published or broadcast for public consumption, is available on request to the public, is accessible online or otherwise to the public, is available to the public by subscription or purchase, could be seen or heard by any casual observer or member of the public, is made available at a meeting open to the public, or is observed by visiting any place or attending any event that is open to the public.

Source: An originator or discrete parcel of data or information that provides material that comprises, contributes to, affects, or is used to evaluate the basis for intelligence analysis or collection reporting. A source can be a person, document, passage, quotation, data record, database, tweet, email, book, image, video, podcast, website, etc. Source identifying parameters and characteristics are described in source reference citations, source descriptors, and source summary statements in accordance with ICD 206.

Source Descriptor: A brief, narrative exposition of factors that affect or indicate the quality or credibility of a single source. These factors are distinct from the information elements in a source reference citation. Source descriptor factors may include accuracy and completeness, possible denial and deception, age and continued currency of information, and technical elements of collection as well as source access, validation, motivation, possible bias, or expertise. When a source's relevance is unlikely to be apparent if a reader consults the source report directly, a source descriptor may also include an explanation of the source's relevance in accordance with ICD 206.

Source Reference Citation (SRC): A specified set of factual information elements about a source, presented in uniform format in an endnote. Information in SRCs enables readers to locate and retrieve the source, and may help readers assess the quality or credibility of the source in accordance with ICD 206.

Source Summary Statement: An explanation of quality, credibility, or validity factors that pertain for sources considered together - usually for the whole set of sources upon which a disseminated analytic product is based in accordance with ICD 206.

Sourcing Information: Descriptive information about sources or reference information, presented in covered analytic products as SRCs, appended reference citations, source descriptors, and source summary statements in accordance with ICD 206.

Source Validation of PAI and CAI: The process of identifying a PAI or CAI source's reporting significance with the goal of providing the IC with authentic, accurate, and reliable information. Validation is related to and can be part of the evaluation process, but validation often focuses more on determining accuracy or reliability.

Stand-Alone OSINT *Analytic* Product: A new and emerging analytic product that represents an IC element's coordinated analytic position and is derived solely from PAI, CAI, and/or OSINT and disseminated to the broadest audience possible on all domains. The coordinated analytic position can represent agency-level analysis or delegated to sub-components that use appropriate quality control processes and techniques to argue a position or make a judgment.

Stand-Alone OSINT Product: An OSINT product derived solely from PAI, CAI, and/or OSINT and disseminated to the broadest audience possible on all domains that primarily provides "fact of" observations and other informational-level content, but does not provide analysis or substantial interpretation, nor represents the coordinated analytic position of an element. Most current and historical OSINT products in the IC are in this product class.

Unevaluated PAI or CAI: PAI and CAI that has been collected or obtained, but that has not yet been determined to (1) relate to an authority or responsibility of the IC element under applicable laws, Executive Orders, or Presidential directives; (2) contain any information concerning U.S. persons; and (3) meet the criteria for retention in accordance with the IC element's Attorney General-approved procedures pursuant to Executive Order 12333.

Appendix B: Guidelines and Examples

1. Elements and Explainers of Source Reference Citations for Publicly Available Information, Commercially Available Information, and OSINT

a. **Classification:** Per Intelligence Community Directive (ICD) 206 each citation must have an overall classification and portion markings when appropriate.

b. **Rules:** Most SRC metadata categories (body elements) are self-describing such as Date, Title, Name of Producing Element, etc. The more detailed source descriptions will be placed in the Source Descriptor. The level of detail in the source descriptor can be reduced if covered in the main body of the product text or embedded graphic captions. For the purposes of this Appendix, the following section provides guidance on the non-obvious body elements of the SRC and the details in the source descriptor.

(1) SRC elements should be separated by pipes (| example |) to clearly differentiate the metadata categories (body elements).

(2) The source descriptor is the last piped section where more detailed textual information can explain source characterization, quality, credibility, reliability, validity, evaluated or unevaluated status, tools and technologies used, AI specifications, and other relevant information. Text in the source descriptor may use commas to separate concept and ideas.

(3) The level of detail in the source descriptor can also be reduced by exception when there are legitimate and data-driven security needs. This ICS aims for the most descriptive SRCs for discovery and reproducibility. The default shall be descriptive SRCs. The exception shall be generic SRCs in cases where there are legitimate and data-driven security concerns for excluding certain body elements and source descriptor details in the SRC such as URLs, tools and technologies used, etc. In cases or scenarios, based on evidence, that will likely lead to behavior change or diminished access to the source or data, see guidance on “masking” from agency, component, or element.

c. **Body Element Guidance:**

(1) **OSINT Analysis Producer:** Name of internal IC entity that created or wrote the analysis in the document which may be distinct from internal IC entity that researched, gathered, or collected the data used in the document. Example: “OSINT Analysis by CIA/A.”

(a) **Analysis-Information Threshold:** The “OSINT Analysis by” tagline in the body element should be used when the OSINT content represents the coordinated analytic

position of the element and extends far beyond informational collection practices such as gathering data, summation, broad or reused geolocation², translation, repackaging, curation, or other informational notations or annotations. “OSINT Analysis by” examples include “we assess” statements, “OSINT reveals” statements, thesis-driven arguments, and other products that argue researched judgments. This convention accommodates the growth of stand-alone OSINT analytic product lines to enrich customer perspectives with a clear citation signal (See Figure 1). Additionally, this tagline helps the IC OSINT Executive gather metrics on the growth of stand-alone OSINT analytic products and citations.

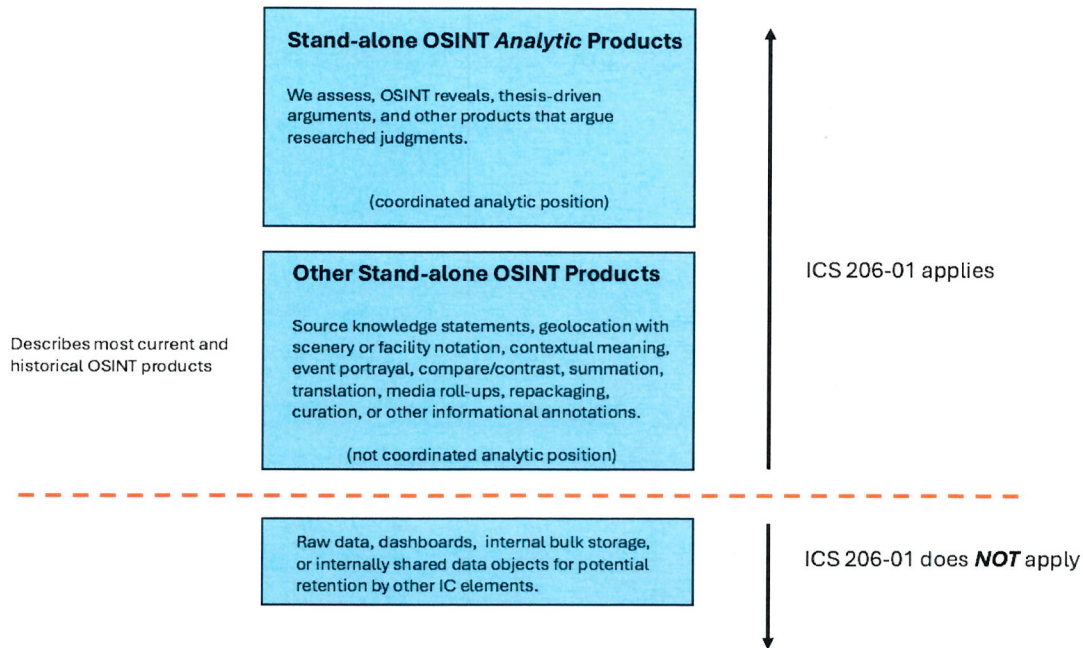


Figure 1

(2) **Name of external author:** If the author is a U.S. Person (USPER), follow all applicable laws, policies, and IC element guidelines, regulations, and standards to assess whether masking or a USPER label is required within the SRC. External author such as social media author is distinct from internal IC author of products or reports.

(3) **Source or Data Host or Data Origin:** This is the metadata place for the **URL, Tool used for Collection or Analytics** (often browser-based with login not a feed or service), **3rd Party Data or Analytics Service Provider**, or in case-by-case instances a placeholder

² Broad or reused geolocation is locating activity to a generalized area or reusing embedded geolocational data from a source. For example, the placement of a locational pin or bounding box at the city level denoting event location or reusing locational data embedded within a geolocated social media post. These are more technical functions, not analytic techniques. More precise geolocation from scenery and facility analysis or video analysis from multiple sources fused with other photography to assess the impact of moving activities extends beyond broad or reused geolocation to analytic or interpretive technique.

number or abstract description of the capability when citing the specific vendor or system creator is not possible due to sourcing sensitivities yet requires some level of citation information. The creation of placeholder numbers must be coordinated with the IC OSINT Executive that holds the placeholder list. For example, "PAI/CAI Program, ODNI Number 234647" could replace a detailed citation if sensitivity conditions are warranted and coordinated with the IC OSINT Executive.

(a) The **URL** is used in most citation examples in the Format section below. However, the URL can be supplemented or replaced with a brief description of the data host, tool used, or analytic service provider if it more aptly describes the origin of the data or analytics. The Format examples below will note "Data Host or Tool or Service Used" after the URL for possible supplement or replacement.

d. **Source Descriptor Guidance:**

(1) For the purposes of PAI, CAI, and OSINT references, the **source descriptor shall be in the endnote** if not covered in the main body of the product text or embedded graphic captions in accordance with ICD 206. Additionally, those who researched, collected, or acquired PAI or CAI, or created OSINT should include the following elements:

(2) **Brief description of the source's credibility**, biases, and quality of information. "These factors are distinct from the information elements in a source reference citation." [ICD 206]

(a) For example, PlatformXYZ, hosted by think tank Y, has a mission statement to increase public spending on X. Guest authors produce fact-based, original research but often from Y policy position.

(3) **Collector:** Name of entity that researched, gathered, or collected the data used in the document. Example: "Collected by NGA/X" or Collector Identification Numbers (CIN) if element has established CIN conventions.

(4) **Commercial database:** If a database was used, then name the commercial database, any relevant technical or content information, and whether a login was required. Example: "Article retrieved from Database_Company commercial database, specializes in climate change content, login required." A commercial database is often a branded company that hosts the data it owns or creates. (See 3rd Party Data Provider for comparison below).

(a) If database or system is non-commercial such as a non-profit or public domain content database that runs without a login, use **Content from a commercial database**

or **Website** in Format section to model the endnote. Please note if a login is required or runs openly in the source descriptor.

(5) **Commercial Tool, Data Service or AI-assisted service:** If a collection tool, search interface, or visualization service was used to acquire, process, or summarize data then it should be noted in the source descriptor. The tool or service must be cited if it has provided judgment calls, recommendations, inferences, or predictions (value added analytics), especially when AI/ML/CV-assisted, that inform the creation of or are used in the final product or report. If the tool or service provides traditional programming functions such as search, summation, keyword alerting services, or spreadsheet-like functions, notation is not necessary. However, if the tool or service trends toward “value added analytics” it should be cited and **must** be cited in cases of AI/ML/CV assistance.

(6) **Citing AI-generated reporting or services:** Common citations elements and descriptions about the AI systems used for the collection and analysis of PAI and CAI are important for all IC officers to understand and broadly use, not just data scientists and software developers. The body citation for “**AI-generated reporting or services**” combines algorithms for classification models and Generative AI but leaves flexibility in the source descriptor to further differentiate because they are related but different applications of AI.

(a) In the case of classification models, such as a computer vision system that finds construction cranes on overhead imagery, important elements of a citation include: system type, model name, brief non-technical, non-jargon explanation of what the service does, accuracy of model or precision and recall rates of system (expressed in percentage), any relevant system settings, any relevant training data information, software version number, GitHub or software code link (if open source software), and date of when the model was used for the project, product, or report.

(b) For example, Computer Vision System, Look At Those Cars (LATC), finds construction equipment in commercial electro-optical imagery, Model Precision 90% - Recall 75%, trained on 2,000 labeled commercial electro-optical images from March 2019 to April 2024, Version 2.1, www.github.com/latc, system used for project to identify cranes 1-5 July 2024.

(c) In the case of Generative AI, since the outputs are stochastic (random probability pattern that can be statistically analyzed but may not be precisely predicted), a Generative AI system might produce a different output with the same prompt. Reproduction may be slightly different but documenting the base elements is essential for strong reference and citation tradecraft moving forward in the AI era.

(d) For example, TalkXYZ platform or model used, prompt: “Generate a report on the city of Beijing. Tell me about the history of the city. Write this in a formal tone. Include citations from National Geographic.”

(e) To the extent consistent with an IC element’s Attorney General-approved procedures pursuant to Executive Order 12333, where there is a mission need for rapid “situational awareness,” disseminating unevaluated PAI and CAI may have value. However, the practice of curating PAI and CAI holdings from the internet or commercial clouds to government computing systems in reporting and sourcing without characterization, assessment, or analysis should be minimized.

(f) Data quality in the context of AI-assisted citations: As the volume of PAI and CAI rapidly increases, alongside the maturation of AI, ML, and CV technologies, human-scale assessment and/or validation of each individual data item is often not feasible. For instance, the use of commercial change detection services, predictive/recommendation systems leveraging AI/ML/CV, and other analytics should not be labeled as “unevaluated” wholesale simply because each piece of data has not been manually validated. Instead, it is crucial to document the performance, characteristics, and training data used by these systems within citations to ensure reproducibility, transparency, and alignment with customer expectations.³

(7) **3rd Party Data Provider:** When a PAI or CAI provider is not the original source of the data but aggregates the original data for re-use, such as commercial sale, governmental data publicly hosted, or other methodologies of dissemination, the collector should cite relevant provenance details: who owns or created the original data, where is it hosted, and any enrichments or changes to the original data. This could include “value added analytics.” The types of data can include social media, open source press reporting, economic reporting, etc. The provider may be governmental or commercial.

(8) **Data Sets:** For data sets that have multiple or mass sources, the collector must cite in the source descriptor the criteria used to derive the information, which may include keywords, language, the general type or grouping of searched items, time frame, version (if available), any machine settings relevant to discovery, and any other pertinent criteria. Include a direct link to the data set in the source descriptor, if available.

(a) If 3rd Party Data Providers or Data Sets need entire endnote citations, it is recommended that body elements model external **AI-generated reporting or services, Content from a commercial database, or Website**. The source descriptor should carry the more granular details noted above.

³ The *Framework to Advance AI Governance and Risk Management in National Security* that accompanies the National Security Memorandum (NSM) on AI from October 2024 notes that data quality and “fitness” can vary based on the AI’s intended purpose and risk management practices can also vary based on impact levels, especially “high impact AI uses.” See “high impact AI uses” page 3 and “quality and appropriateness of the relevant data” page 6, for example, “Agencies must assess the quality, to the extent practicable, of the data used in the AI’s design, development, training, testing, and operations, and the data’s fitness to the AI’s intended purpose. If a covered agency cannot access the data used to train, evaluate, and operate a given AI system, it must obtain sufficient descriptive information from the AI or data provider.”

2. Formats for Source Reference Citations for Publicly Available Information, Commercially Available Information, and OSINT

a. Internally Created Open Source Content or Services

(1) Internal IC AI-generated reporting or services:

(a) **Portion Mark of SRC Classification** | **Source Type:** Generative AI or Computer Vision or Machine Learning System | **Name of Source Technology:** Software, Platform, Service, or Application Name | **Explainer:** brief non-technical, non-jargon explanation of what the service does, if not redundant from Source Technology description | **URL:** web link to user interface used or Data Host or Tool | **Title:** Title of AI output, if any, and classification | **Date of AI Output or Report:** if available, Day Month Year | **Overall Classification of Source Document** | **Source Descriptor:** Fill in as much detail as possible here: Prompt or parameters used (can link to other appendix storage if long), relevant performance characteristic (e.g. accuracy of CV system or precision and recall rates expressed in percentages), any relevant system setting (e.g. sensitivity settings or confidence labels), relevant training data information to include any data preparation techniques such as normalization or transformation, software or model version number, GitHub or software code link (if open source software), any vendor information describing who made or hosts the system, and dates of access/when model was used.

(2) Stand-alone OSINT *Analytic* Products

(a) **Portion Mark of SRC Classification** | **OSINT Analysis Producer:** OSINT Analysis by: Name | **Serialized Number:** Number | **Title:** Title of product with classification | **Date of Publication:** Day Month Year | **Overall Classification of Source Document** | **Source Descriptor:** If the analytic product is available on “lower” security domain computer systems such as unclassified or secret-level computer systems, the source descriptor should signal to customers on “higher” classified computer systems that a more shareable version is available. Briefly describe the hosting platform and provide the product number or location (URL) on government or partner network of original product.

(b) The term “OSINT” in the analytic tagline can be replaced with “open or unclassified” by exception if it describes the output more accurately. For example, “Unclassified Analysis by INR/A” or “Open Analysis by INR/A.”

(c) If collection, technical, or other component elevates work in “Analysis-Information Threshold,” and is approved or delegated to author analysis, list collection element name in Name of OSINT Analysis Producer such as “OSINT Analysis by Collector X.” This convention accommodates the growth of stand-alone OSINT analytic product lines to enrich customer perspectives with a clear citation signal.

(3) Other Stand-alone OSINT Products

(a) **Portion Mark of SRC Classification | Name of Producing Element:** Name | **Serialized Number:** Number | **Title:** Title of product with classification | **Date of Publication:** Day Month Year | **Overall Classification of Source Document | Source Descriptor:** If the product is available on “lower” security domain systems such as unclassified or secret-level computer systems, the source descriptor should signal to customers on “higher” classified computer systems that a more shareable version is available. Briefly describe the hosting platform and provide the product number or location (URL) on government or partner network of original product.

b. Externally Created PAI or CAI Content or Services

(1) Academic products, journal articles, research papers, abstracts, white papers, and books:

(a) **Overall SRC Classification | Source Type:** Product type, name, or host (journal name) | **Title:** Title of article | **Volume:** Volume number | **Issue:** Issue number | **Date of Publication:** Day Month Year | **Pages:** Pages cited | **URL:** If available | **Source Descriptor:** Brief description of source, name of external author (if USPER, apply all applicable laws, policies, and executive orders), and name of collector (name of collecting element, not the individual collector or CIN if available). The source descriptor must briefly carry the details of source characterization, quality, credibility, reliability, validity, evaluated or unevaluated status, tools and technologies used, AI specifications, and other relevant information.

(2) External AI-generated reporting or services

(a) **Overall SRC Classification | Source Type:** Generative AI or Computer Vision or Machine Learning System | **Name of Source Technology:** Software, Platform, Service, or Application Name (if USPER, apply all applicable laws, policies, and executive orders) | **Explainer:** brief non-technical, non-jargon explanation of what the service does, if not redundant from Source Technology description | **URL:** web link to user interface used or Data Host or Tool | **Title:** Title of AI output | **Date of AI Output or Report:** if available, Day Month Year | **Source Descriptor:** Fill in as much detail as possible here: Prompt or parameters used (can link to other appendix storage if long), relevant performance characteristic (e.g. accuracy of CV system or precision and recall rates expressed in percentages), any relevant system setting (e.g. sensitivity settings or confidence labels), relevant training data information to include any data preparation techniques such as normalization or transformation, software or model version number, GitHub or software code link (if open source software), any vendor information describing who made or hosts the system, and dates of access/when model was used.

(3) Blogs:

(a) **Overall SRC Classification** | **Source Type:** Blog | **Name of Blog:** Name | **Title:** Title post | **Date of Publication:** Day Month Year | **URL:** www.website.com | **Date of Access:** Date collector accessed blog, Day Month Year | **Source Descriptor:** Brief description of source, name of external author if available (if USPER, apply all applicable laws, policies, and executive orders), and name of collector (name of collecting element, not the individual collector or CIN if available). The source descriptor must briefly carry the details of source characterization, quality, credibility, reliability, validity, evaluated or unevaluated status, tools and technologies used, AI specifications, and other relevant information.

(4) Content from a commercial database:

(a) **Overall SRC Classification** | **Source Type:** Online publication | **Name of Publication:** Name | **Title:** Title of article | **Date of Publication:** Day Month Year | **URL:** Use the Database URL, not the extended URL for the article (e.g. http://search.DatabaseCO.com) or Data Host or Tool or Service Used | **Date of Access:** Day Month Year | **Source Descriptor:** Brief description of source, name of external author if available (if USPER, apply all applicable laws, policies, and executive orders), and name of collector (name of collecting element, not the individual collector or CIN if available). Additionally, name of database, the nature of database (i.e., commercial database, foreign or domestic, scientific, government and other technical or content details), and if login is required. The source descriptor must briefly carry the details of source characterization, quality, credibility, reliability, validity, evaluated or unevaluated status, tools and technologies used, AI specifications, and other relevant information.

(5) Magazine articles:

(a) **Overall SRC Classification** | **Source Type:** Magazine article | **Name of Magazine:** Name | **Title:** Title of article | **Date of Publication:** Day Month Year | **URL:** if online, www.website.com | **Date of Access:** If online, Day Month Year | **Source Descriptor:** Brief description of source, name of external author (if USPER, apply all applicable laws, policies, and executive orders), and name of collector (name of collecting element, not the individual collector or CIN if available). The source descriptor must briefly carry the details of source characterization, quality, credibility, reliability, validity, evaluated or unevaluated status, tools and technologies used, AI specifications, and other relevant information.

(6) Newspaper articles:

(a) **Overall SRC Classification** | **Source Type:** Newspaper | **Name of Newspaper:** Name | **Title:** Title of article | **Date of Publication:** Day Month Year | **URL:** if online, www.website.com | **Date of Access:** If online, Day Month Year | **Source Descriptor:** Brief description of source, name of external author (if USPER, apply all applicable laws,

policies, and executive orders), and name of collector (name of collecting element, not the individual collector or CIN if available). The source descriptor must briefly carry the details of source characterization, quality, credibility, reliability, validity, evaluated or unevaluated status, tools and technologies used, AI specifications, and other relevant information.

(7) PAI and CAI ground photos:

(a) **Overall SRC Classification | Source Type:** Online or Commercial Photo | **Site or Service:** Name | **Title:** Caption of photo | **Date of Publication:** Day Month Year | **URL:** www.website.com or Data Host or Tool or Service Used | **Date of Access:** Day Month Year | **Coordinates:** when available, Decimal Degrees to further decimal place possible | **Source Descriptor:** Brief description of source, name of external photographer if available (if USPER, apply all applicable laws, policies, and executive orders), and name of collector (name of collecting element, not the individual collector or CIN if available). The source descriptor must briefly carry the details of source characterization, quality, credibility, reliability, validity, evaluated or unevaluated status, tools and technologies used, AI specifications, and other relevant information.

(b) Many ground photos are posted to social media platforms. The SRC format above applies primarily when photos are used in products and reports. See Social Media Format below for textual posts and unstructured text analytic citations.

(8) PAI and CAI videos:

(a) **Overall SRC Classification | Source Type:** Online or Commercial Video | **Site Name or Service :** Name | **Video Title:** Title | **Date of Publication:** Day Month Year | **URL:** www.website.com or Data Host or Tool or Service Used | **Date of Access:** Day Month Year | **Source Descriptor:** Brief description of source, name of external creator if available (if USPER, apply all applicable laws, policies, and executive orders), and name of collector (name of collecting element, not the individual collector or CIN if available). The source descriptor must briefly carry the details of source characterization, quality, credibility, reliability, validity, evaluated or unevaluated status, tools and technologies used, AI specifications, and other relevant information.

(b) Many videos are posted to social media platforms. The SRC format above applies primarily when videos are used in products and reports. See Social Media Format below for textual posts and unstructured text analytic citations.

(9) Social media:

(a) **Overall SRC Classification | Source Type:** Social Media | **Name of Social Media Platform:** Name | **Author:** User name or name if available | **Date of Publication:** If

available, Day Month Year | **URL:** www.website.com or Data Host or Tool or Service Used | **Date of Access:** When data was accessed directly via browser or when tools accessed data, Day Month Year | **Source Descriptor** | Brief description of source, name of external author if available (if USPER, apply all applicable laws, policies, and executive orders), and name of collector (name of collecting element, not the individual collector or CIN if available). The source descriptor must briefly carry the details of source characterization, quality, credibility, reliability, validity, evaluated or unevaluated status, tools and technologies used, AI specifications, and other relevant information.

(b) The SRC format above applies primarily to textual posts or unstructured data analysis. Use ground photo or video SRC formats when usage centers primarily on the photos and video used in products and reports.

(10) Websites:

(a) **Overall SRC Classification** | **Source Type:** Website | **Site Name:** Name | **Article Title:** Title | **Date of Publication:** Day Month Year | **URL:** www.website.com | **Date of Access:** Day Month Year | **Source Descriptor:** Brief description of source, name of external author if available (if USPER, apply all applicable laws, policies, and executive orders), and name of collector (name of collecting element, not the individual collector or CIN if available). The source descriptor must briefly carry the details of source characterization, quality, credibility, reliability, validity, evaluated or unevaluated status, tools and technologies used, AI specifications, and other relevant information.

(11) Emerging technologies:

(a) The open data and technology environment moves and changes so rapidly that new data types, platforms, and services will emerge that may not fit neatly into the technology categories listed in this ICS. If a new technology or source emerges, OSINT content creators and PAI and CAI collectors should cite the critical aspects of the new technology or source throughout the SRC, Source Descriptor, and Source Summary Statement.

Appendix C: Outbound Link Security Practices

The future-oriented practice of direct link citations within stand-alone OSINT analytic products and other stand-alone OSINT products hosted on government unclassified computer systems (lowside) which are able to cite internet-based sources or commercial cloud data stores should follow evidence-based security exemption practices and risk management techniques to avoid grouping low risk URLs such as trusted partner websites with higher risk URLs. In addition, risk can be managed by briefly describing for readers, in parentheses near the link, any source sensitivities. In higher risk scenarios, see guidance from agency, component, or element.