

Intelligence Glossary

Intelligence is frequently seen as the realm of the dark arts – an area where you cannot ask questions and when you do, you can't get answers if you're not in the circle of trust!

However, we love people asking questions. And if you're moving into a new role in intelligence – or are a business looking to utilise intelligence principles for the first time – then it's so important to be inquisitive.

We find that when people and organisations do start to ask questions, a lot of them are about key terminology and what things mean.

Here are some of the terms asked about:

a

AGENT

The individual who collects the information on behalf of the intelligence agency.

AGENT HANDLER

An individual working for an intelligence agency who interacts with the agent.

b

BACKDOOR ACCESS

A way that data can be accessed without having to formally ask for access.

BUDDY LIST

A list of people that a user is connected to on social media.

c

CLASSIFIED

The level of classification that is applied to intelligence.

COLLECT

Information that is used in the production of the intelligence.

COLLECTION

The process of gathering information to be converted to intelligence. There are four types: intentional, inadvertent, incidental and reverse.

COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS

Information that organisations want collected to answer specific questions.

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

The practise of limiting or stopping collection activities against you.

d

DECLASSIFICATION

The process of downgrading or declassifying intelligence.

DEMAND

There is a considerable demand signal from a customer for the intelligence that you are producing.

DRILL DOWN

Access the detail of the data you are viewing.

e

EEIs

'Essential elements of information' are those items of intelligence that are considered essential for making timely decisions.

ELINT

Electronic intelligence. Intelligence gathered using electronic sensors.

ENCRYPT

Converting plain text into encrypted text.



FIVE EYES ALLIANCE

A coalition of US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand intelligence organisations.



HAMSHAW THOMAS

The Grandfather of imagery analysis who put in place key techniques for imagery analysis during WWII.

HUMINT

Human intelligence. The use of people to collect intelligence.



IMINT

Imagery intelligence. Images are collected and processed to gather intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE

The process of taking information, processing it and turning it into insights.



KEYHOLE

Satellite collection that was started by the USA.



NADIR

The direction pointing directly below a collection sensor.

NETWORK

The linkages between a group or an organisation that you are analysing.

NIIRS

National Image Interpretability Rating Scale. A US scale that is widely used to allow analysts to understand how good the imagery is.



OSINT

Open-source intelligence. Using readily available information to answer collection requirements.

OVERHEAD

Satellite imagery.



PRODUCT

Intelligence report that is produced for a customer.

PROPAGANDA

Information that is put out to either cause damage or to influence opinion on a specific subject.



SIGINT

Signals intelligence. A collection of signals for conversion into intelligence.



TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

Understanding the structure of an organisation based on the pattern of traffic that is sent by them.