F / F FIELD SYSTEM

THE LIVING LIBRARY / RESEARCH TOOLS

VISUAL FIELD WORKBOOK

22 research chapters. A disciplined method, a visual workflow, and an immediate practice challenge for each.



22 CHAPTERS / 8 FIELD ROUTES

PUBLIC READER EDITION / OCTOBER 2026

FOLLOW THE FILES / PUBLIC READER EDITION

A guide for open-source investigators

What is included

The full 22-chapter visual workbook and its chapter practice exercises.
Eight field-route mission cards, plus the source-independence example.
A version you can read, save, print and reference without payment.

What is separate

ProofDesk Windows software is a separate paid desktop product.
The larger Investigator's Field System, Worksheet Vault and Studio
are separate development products and not included in this edition.
Worksheet numbers in the exercises refer to those companion resources.

Reader support

This complete workbook is free to use. If you can afford it, the
suggested voluntary contribution is $10 to support documentary
research and the continued publication of independent reporting.
Contributing does not unlock additional pages or change access.

HOW A FILE BECOMES A FINDING

01

FRAME

Ask a narrow question and list disproof.

02

COLLECT

Preserve exact origin and acquisition notes.

03

CONNECT

Distinguish source family from repetition.

04

CHALLENGE

Test alternative explanations.

05

HAND OFF

Write a bounded, reviewable conclusion.

FIELD SYSTEM / INDEX

22 FIELD MISSIONS

01 The investigation question

02 OPSEC and threat modeling

03 Evidence provenance and chain of custody

04 Archiving changing web evidence

05 Court docket reconstruction

06 Corporate control and beneficial ownership

07 Financial reconstruction

08 Nonprofits and tax filings

09 Political finance and lobbying

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16 Entity resolution and matrix construction

17 Contradiction and independence tests

18 AI-assisted research without invented evidence

19 Publication, corrections and privacy

20 Actionable accountability packets

21 Working with ProofDesk and specialist matrices

22 Packaging, licensing and responsible sales

THESE ARE TRAINING EXERCISES. NOT A VERIFIED EVIDENCE SYSTEM.

01 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

The investigation question

Build a falsifiable research question before searching. Record the exact event, institution, period, geographic scope, and what would count as evidence for or against the proposition. Avoid questions that assume misconduct or coordination. A useful question asks whether a dated payment was made, who had authority to approve it, and which original records document the event.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

SPECIFY THE CLAIM

Convert broad suspicions into discrete propositions. Separate who acted, what action is claimed, when the action occurred, and the document expected to establish it.

02

RECORD ALTERNATE EXPLANATIONS

Include administrative delay, mistaken identity, overlapping corporate names, incomplete preservation, or routine professional contact when relevant.

03

WRITE A STOPPING RULE

Define which source would settle the question and what result would require retraction or a narrower conclusion.

04

START A DECISION LOG

Preserve why you included, rejected, or revisited a lead. A reviewer should reconstruct the choice from your record.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

The investigation question

MISSION BRIEF

Create a case named Harbor Council grant status. Ask whether a payment was completed, not simply whether it was discussed. Mark “pending” and “authorized” as distinct possible states.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Case question, original hypothesis, competing explanations, anticipated documentary source, and a dated log entry.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

01-01 / Investigation question builder

02 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

OPSEC and threat modeling

A threat model identifies what must be protected, who might be able to access it, how access could happen, and what controls are proportionate. Risk varies with whether the research concerns routine public filings, vulnerable sources, or material under legal protection. Separate ordinary public research from sensitive source communication. Do not upload confidential originals to a public demonstration or third-party service without a reviewed basis.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

MAP THE ASSETS

Identify accounts, devices, original records, confidential identities, communications metadata, unpublished findings, and backups.

02

ANALYZE PLAUSIBLE EXPOSURE

Consider accidental disclosure, shared-device access, phishing, compromised cloud accounts, unsafe file metadata, and harassment. Record likelihood and impact separately.

03

SET PROTECTIVE BOUNDARIES

Use device updates, secure authentication, encrypted storage where appropriate, restricted access, and independent backups. Choose communication channels with the actual source in mind.

04

RECORD INCIDENT DECISIONS

Know what to preserve if threatened or compromised, when to contact legal counsel, and who can help restore access. Avoid deleting evidence impulsively.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

OPSEC and threat modeling

MISSION BRIEF

Complete the Lab threat-model form for a fictional source who shares a public town meeting agenda. Repeat for a confidential whistleblower scenario; note why different controls are justified.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Asset register, exposure paths, authorized access list, mitigations, and escalation contact plan.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

01-06 / Authority chain planner

03 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Evidence provenance and chain of custody

Source provenance describes an item’s origin and how a copy came into your possession. Every source instance needs its own identifier. Record a canonical locator, access date, source date if known, medium, collector, legal access basis, original filename, transformation history, and any relevant cryptographic hash. A hash can demonstrate that compared bytes are the same; it does not authenticate an unknown author or prove what the document asserts.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

PRESERVE THE ORIGINAL

Retain the acquired native file where lawful, without overwriting it during analysis. Derivatives such as extracted text and thumbnails should carry links to the original item.

02

USE TWO CLOCKS

Distinguish the date of the underlying event, the date of the document, the date of online publication, and the date you acquired it.

03

DOCUMENT SOURCE GAPS

A failed capture, missing attachment, or absent docket number stays unresolved until a bounded search clarifies the disposition.

04

CAPTURE CONTROLLED TRANSFORMATIONS

Record extraction tools and versions, OCR caveats, any manual correction, redactions, and what was excluded from an export.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Evidence provenance and chain of custody

MISSION BRIEF

First register the fictional grant release and ledger under Sources. Open Preservation ledger and compute SHA-256 for a locally retained, non-sensitive sample file. Match its source ID and record the acquisition details. Distinguish source date from acquisition timestamp.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Source instance ID, source family ID, native locator, retrieval timestamp, acquisition method, checksum when feasible, and limitations.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

02-01 / Atomic claim card

04 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Archiving changing web evidence

Web pages are mutable and archives are incomplete. Preserve the URL, visible content, capture time, the site’s own date, and a locally retained copy if lawful. Compare live and historic snapshots while recording capture failures and dynamic elements. An archived page demonstrates the content captured by a service at a particular time, subject to limitations; it does not independently validate the underlying statement.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

CAPTURE CONTEXT

Retain surrounding paragraphs and publication metadata rather than isolated screenshots that conceal corrections or qualifications.

02

CHECK HISTORIC VERSIONS

Compare archived pages for meaningful changes while avoiding assumptions about why a page was edited or removed.

03

AVOID FRAGILE LINKS

Keep a plain-text citation with original URL, archive URL, and any PDF filename. Confirm that the links resolve during editorial review.

04

RESPECT SOURCE SAFETY

Never submit confidential or restricted URLs to a public archiving service without authorization. Check whether archives make submitted pages discoverable.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Archiving changing web evidence

MISSION BRIEF

Take two fictional versions of a public grant notice, one saying approved and one saying disbursed. Enter the change as a dated observation and explain what remains unverified.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Original URL, archived capture, date evidence, content comparison, and review limitations.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

02-06 / Quote context audit

05 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Court docket reconstruction

Court records require careful document-class analysis. Docket entries, complaints, exhibits, orders, findings, and appellate opinions have different evidentiary functions. Note court, jurisdiction, case number, docket entry, filing date, attachment number, and pinpoint citation. A party’s filing may establish what a party asserted; a judicial ruling may establish what the court actually decided. Neither proves every factual statement quoted inside it.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

RECONSTRUCT FILING SEQUENCES

Build a docket chronology using exact entry and attachment identifiers. Track amendments and corrected filings.

02

SEPARATE LEGAL POSTURE

Differentiate complaint allegations, declarations, testimony, stipulated facts, evidentiary rulings, and final judgments.

03

ACCOUNT FOR ABSENT DOCUMENTS

Document whether attachments were sealed, redacted, withdrawn, available in a different docket, or still unresolved before inferring suppression.

04

TEST A SPECIFIC PROPOSITION

Quote only the relevant finding and preserve the full decision. Record procedural limits or pending appeals.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Court docket reconstruction

MISSION BRIEF

For a fictional case with a complaint, a motion, and an order, tag the complaint’s statement as a claim and the order’s legal determination separately.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Docket chronology, exact pinpoints, legal posture classification, and an unresolved-document list.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

03-01 / Acquisition receipt

06 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Corporate control and beneficial ownership

Corporate relationships arise from filings, registered officers, shareholding records, annual reports, asset assignments, and authorized signatures. Names alone are insufficient. Record entity numbers and jurisdictions, effective dates, predecessor and successor entities, historical company names, appointment windows, and documentary authority. A director or registered agent does not necessarily own, manage, or control every activity attributed to an organization.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

DISTINGUISH ROLES

Track legal owner, beneficial owner, director, officer, trustee, manager, registered agent, signatory, lender, and intermediary as separate fields.

02

USE DATED SNAPSHOTS

A present-day registry can conceal historical changes; search filings around the event being examined.

03

RESOLVE ALIASES CONSERVATIVELY

Use stable identifiers and multiple corroborating points before merging similarly named individuals or organizations.

04

FOLLOW THE INSTRUMENT

Prefer a specific deed, assignment, incorporation filing, board resolution, or contract to an unattributed organizational chart.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Corporate control and beneficial ownership

MISSION BRIEF

Draw a fictional grant contractor network with a corporation, director, registered agent, and subcontractor. Annotate each edge with a document and a valid date range.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Entity master list, role-by-date relationships, original filings, controlled uncertainty.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

03-06 / Metadata observation sheet

07 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Financial reconstruction

A financial tracing exercise must distinguish authorization, commitment, invoice, obligation, transfer, receipt, refund, and reconciliation. Similar numbers appearing in separate sources may describe the same transaction. Record currency, gross versus net basis, controlling entity, transaction identifier, entry date, settlement date, and accounting period. Do not sum records until duplicate and state checks are complete.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

CONSTRUCT A TRANSACTION LEDGER

One row per distinguishable event with a stable ID and attached source instances.

02

CROSS-CHECK ENTITY AUTHORITY

Verify who could approve or receive the sum at the relevant time, without treating position titles as definitive proof.

03

RECONCILE AMOUNTS

Compare invoices, bank records if lawfully available, government awards, nonprofit returns, and official disclosures with their accounting definitions.

04

STOP DOUBLE-COUNTING

An announcement, press article, invoice, and ledger may reference one payment at different stages. State the number of distinct documented transactions.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Financial reconstruction

MISSION BRIEF

Using the fictional $5,000 approval and pending ledger, explain why two documents cannot be summed into a $10,000 disbursement.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Transaction ID, monetary state, currency, date, source, authorization evidence, receipt evidence, and outstanding questions.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

04-01 / Master dated event line

08 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Nonprofits and tax filings

Nonprofit research benefits from comparing annual IRS filings, audited statements, related-party schedules, grants, officer compensation, and public program descriptions. A Form 990 typically reports a tax period rather than an instant snapshot. Amounts in two years or two schedules may overlap. Documentation often supports only a narrower question about disclosed finances and governance.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

CHOOSE THE CORRECT PERIOD

Match tax year and fiscal year to the transaction under examination.

02

FOLLOW THE CORRECT SCHEDULE

Distinguish organizational expenses, grants to third parties, reportable compensation, and related transactions.

03

CHECK INDEPENDENT RECORDS

Compare filings with state charity registrations, grant agreements, audit reports, and recipient statements.

04

DISCLOSE MISSING DATA

Report unavailable years, amended returns, accounting differences, and normal delays in public filing.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Nonprofits and tax filings

MISSION BRIEF

Create a hypothetical $50,000 annual grant entry and a $10,000 installment statement. Record the possibility that the installment falls within the annual aggregate.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Filings register, tax period, reported amounts, related-party classification, and duplicate-check notes.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

04-06 / Decision-to-action sequence

09 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Political finance and lobbying

Campaign finance and lobbying registries can establish reported contributions, committee expenditure records, registered lobbyist clients, and disclosed activity within defined time periods. Contribution limits, reporting rules, and entity definitions change. A contribution to a committee or political network does not on its own establish a direct personal payment or improper influence.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

IDENTIFY EXACT COMMITTEES

Use committee identifiers, election cycles, amendments, donor and recipient records, and filing dates.

02

NORMALIZE NAMES CAREFULLY

Resolve committees and organizations without automatically collapsing similar spelling or independent legal entities.

03

TRACK THE REPORTING CHAIN

Distinguish receipts, transfers, independent expenditures, refunds, and amended totals.

04

STATE THE EVIDENCE THRESHOLD

Report documented financial conduct separately from theories about access, policy influence, or quid pro quo.

FIELD PRINCIPLE

Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.

THE PRACTICE FILE

Political finance and lobbying

MISSION BRIEF

Follow a hypothetical contribution from the original receipt through a transfer and an amended schedule. Explain which rows represent the same dollars.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Committee identifiers, transaction chain, reporting date, amendments, and carefully bounded findings.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

05-01 / Entity disambiguation grid

10 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Records requests and government archives

A records request should ask for identifiable documents held by a specific agency over a bounded period. Test the agency’s likely custody and available public indexes before filing. Keep all responses, appeals, fees, exemptions, referral records, and production page numbers. An agency reporting that no responsive documents were located is a statement about a particular search and scope, not necessarily proof that no event occurred.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

DEFINE SCOPE

Specify record class, probable custodial office, date range, and identifiers. Overbroad requests may be delayed.

02

PRESERVE CHAIN OF CORRESPONDENCE

Assign request IDs and log portal acknowledgments, clarification exchanges, releases, referrals, denials, and appeals.

03

MAP EXEMPTIONS

Distinguish withheld, redacted, not searched, outside scope, and no record found as separate statuses.

04

COMPARE PRODUCTIONS

Record Bates numbers and versions, deduplicate identical documents, and document page-level gaps.

FIELD PRINCIPLE

Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.

THE PRACTICE FILE

Records requests and government archives

MISSION BRIEF

Draft a fictional FOIA request for a council project approval memorandum between two dates, naming the relevant department and excluding unrelated personal information.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

FOIA tracker, custodian hypothesis, request text, response chronology, disposition table.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

05-06 / Corporate control ladder

11 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Archives, Git histories and document drops

An obscure archive, public code repository, historical mirror, or leaked-document publication can supply leads and valuable original artifacts, but each demands provenance analysis. Document how a file appeared and whether it has a matching official copy. Do not infer content authenticity from repository popularity, mirror age, or identical files across sites. Access should remain lawful and within permitted boundaries.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

EXAMINE HISTORY

Use commit timestamps and diffs while recognizing that a commit time is not proof of an underlying event date.

02

TRACK THE FILE ORIGIN

Record uploader claims, archived link, raw file hashes, packaging changes, and any official corroboration.

03

CONTAIN RISKY FILES

Avoid executing unknown attachments; use safe viewing and verified analysis environments where justified.

04

CONTROL SENSITIVE CONTENT

Do not replicate passwords, private contacts, sexual imagery, or identifying survivor data into a public package.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Archives, Git histories and document drops

MISSION BRIEF

Compare two fictional copies of a procurement PDF. Record whether matching SHA256 values show byte identity and explain why that does not settle authorship.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Archive provenance notes, hashes, modification chronology, and source acceptance decision.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

06-01 / Payment lifecycle ledger

12 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Social platforms and identity resolution

Social posts, profile bios, usernames, and platform timelines may establish what an account displayed at a particular time. Identity is a separate question. Display names can change and handles can be recycled. A repost, follow, or mutual interaction rarely establishes control or coordination without stronger evidence.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

PRESERVE EXACT CONTEXT

Keep the full post URL, author identifier, time zone, timestamp, visible thread, and related correction or reply.

02

RESOLVE IDENTITY CAUTIOUSLY

Prioritize self-identification corroborated by stable official records, public organizational pages, or direct authorized confirmation.

03

TREAT BEHAVIORAL SIMILARITIES AS LEADS

Posting schedules, repeated wording, overlapping audiences, or shared domains warrant checks but do not prove a shared operator.

04

SAFEGUARD PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

Do not dox private individuals, reveal irrelevant addresses, or seek unauthorized access to hidden records.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Social platforms and identity resolution

MISSION BRIEF

A fictional community account shares an official grant notice. Classify what the repost establishes and identify what would be needed to verify account ownership.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Platform evidence register, handle history, identity criteria, alternate explanations, protection review.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

06-06 / Budget-to-actual variance

13 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Domain and infrastructure attribution

Public domain registrations, transparency logs, archived pages, certificates, and passive DNS sources can help establish technical history. Hosting proximity, use of the same analytics tool, or a shared mail provider cannot demonstrate ownership or a coordinated operation without additional documentation. Avoid active scanning of third-party systems without authorization.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

START PASSIVE

Review public DNS, certificate logs, archived content and official organization sites.

02

TIME-BOUND EVERY OBSERVATION

Technical records expire and migrate. A shared IP observed in one year may have no relevance to the later period.

03

CORROBORATE ATTRIBUTION

Connect technical records with verified ownership disclosures or a documented administrator statement.

04

RESPECT ACCESS LIMITS

Stay within public interfaces, terms, and explicit authorization. Never automate credential attempts or intrusive scans.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Domain and infrastructure attribution

MISSION BRIEF

Examine two hypothetical sites hosted by the same commodity provider. Record why provider overlap cannot establish common control.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Domain history, dated infrastructure indicators, provider caveats, independent ownership evidence.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

07-01 / Image provenance checklist

14 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Photos, video, audio and authenticity

Visual evidence requires attention to original uploads, scene context, edit histories, capture conditions, time zone, and independent corroboration. Metadata can be absent or modified. A detection model may identify suspicious artifacts without providing conclusive authenticity. Do not assume that reverse-image search found every earlier publication or that a frame alone establishes where a video was recorded.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

FIND THE EARLIEST RELIABLE INSTANCE

Search original platform sources and authoritative archives, retaining both URL and capture times.

02

COMPARE SCENE CUES

Match stable geospatial landmarks, weather conditions, shadows, text, audio, and sequencing when the case warrants it.

03

RECORD TRANSFORMATIONS

List crops, compression, OCR, translation, transcription, and annotation separately from original media.

04

PROTECT VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Minimize exposure of minors, sexual violence survivors, medical information, and private identifying details.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Photos, video, audio and authenticity

MISSION BRIEF

Given a fictional meeting photo with no timestamp, write the difference between “shows a person in a room” and “proves the person attended the March 11 meeting.”

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Original media locator, provenance, context checks, transformation history, and disclosure assessment.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

07-06 / Audio quote verification

15 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Geospatial and transportation reconstruction

Maps can connect documents to places, but map visualization is an analytic aid rather than an original source. Historical boundaries, address changes, spatial uncertainty, and coordinate reference systems affect conclusions. A passenger list, aircraft registration, booking document, and geolocation trace describe different propositions. Neither a registered owner nor a filed itinerary proves an individual traveled.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

RECORD LOCATION UNCERTAINTY

Store a city, facility, or polygon where the source supports only broad location, rather than inventing a precise point.

02

CHECK DATE AND PLATFORM

Compare historical imagery, land records, transport data and UTC/local timestamp conversions.

03

SEPARATE MOVEMENT STATES

Distinguish proposed travel, booking, departure, observed presence, landing, and verified passenger presence.

04

CONTROL BASEMAP RIGHTS

USGS data are often public domain, while selected map layers and imagery may carry third-party rights and attribution requirements.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Geospatial and transportation reconstruction

MISSION BRIEF

Plot the fictional council building and grant site as separate places. Describe what a proposed meeting agenda can and cannot establish about travel.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Geospatial register, coordinate precision, source licenses, dated movement categories, and uncertain inferences.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

08-01 / Records request anatomy

16 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Entity resolution and matrix construction

Matrices are structured argument-control systems. Different matrix domains should preserve their own evidence, time windows, schema definitions, and unresolved issues while sharing stable entity references. A person’s name appearing in multiple tables should not trigger an automatic identity merge. Every relationship row needs its own source and semantic type.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

USE STABLE IDENTIFIERS

Create explicit IDs for claims, source instances, source families, entities, events, and relationships.

02

DEFINE MATRIX SEMANTICS

Name each column, accepted value, date precision, and allowable missing-data state. Avoid blank cells that ambiguously mean zero or unsearched.

03

RECONCILE ACROSS DOMAINS

Link a corporate entity row and a political-committee row only through documented identifiers or an explicit unresolved hypothesis.

04

PROTECT SPECIALIST VERSIONS

Keep source formulas and historic changes where applicable. Derived empty training templates should not contain live confidential evidence.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Entity resolution and matrix construction

MISSION BRIEF

Create a four-row matrix for the fictional grant: announcement, original ledger, derivative article, and unresolved payment receipt. Each row must carry its claim and source IDs.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Domain schema, row IDs, typed relationships, crosswalk to source register, and version record.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

08-06 / Archives discovery map

17 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Contradiction and independence tests

Repeated publication does not equal independent corroboration. A single press release reprinted in several outlets remains one source family. Document disagreements between records with the exact propositions and dates they concern. A contradiction may disappear when one source describes approval and another describes payment completion; it may remain if both purport to report the same status at the same point.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

GROUP SOURCE FAMILIES

Trace secondary articles, reposts and summaries to their identifiable original records.

02

CONSTRUCT THE COMPARISON

Record who stated each proposition, the period covered, document version, and semantic differences.

03

DESIGN A DISPROOF TEST

Identify an original financial record, corrected filing, direct firsthand statement, or agency response that could resolve the question.

04

AVOID FALSE CERTAINTY

Mark unresolved, withdrawn, or limited statements openly and prevent review status from being mistaken for external verification.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Contradiction and independence tests

MISSION BRIEF

Compare the fictional announcement and ledger. Produce a two-paragraph qualified finding that preserves both records without asserting an unexplained completed payment.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Conflict register, independence assessment, missing decisive sources, and review resolution status.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

09-01 / Competing hypotheses board

18 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

AI-assisted research without invented evidence

Large language models can help generate search strategies, normalize visible tables, surface likely discrepancies, and draft structured questions. Their summaries are secondary working material. An AI-extracted fact should not enter a final claim register until the relevant passage is checked directly against the original document. Protect restricted material from unapproved third-party services.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

CONSTRAIN THE TASK

Provide the exact source excerpt, an explicit schema, and a requirement to return “not found” for unsupported fields.

02

DEMAND CITATION PINPOINTS

Require filing, page, line, source URI, or matching original evidence ID for each proposed row.

03

RUN AN INDEPENDENT AUDIT

Compare a sample of extracted claims to native files, inspect omissions and duplicates, and use a human approval step.

04

RECORD MODEL-ASSISTED CHANGES

Preserve prompt/response versions when consequential, while maintaining the original source as controlling evidence.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

AI-assisted research without invented evidence

MISSION BRIEF

Ask an assistant to extract dates from a fictitious document, then intentionally insert a misleading summary sentence and identify the unsupported claim during source review.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Prompt log, original document locator, extraction audit, corrected claims, approval record.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

09-06 / Adversarial editor challenge

19 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Publication, corrections and privacy

Publication requires a source-backed account that distinguishes facts from quoted claims and unresolved questions. Seek a fair opportunity for relevant subjects to respond when appropriate. Evaluate privacy, defamation, protected sources, licensing and security before releasing any report. A source may contain legally accessible but irrelevant personal information that should remain unpublished.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

BUILD THE EDITORIAL RECORD

Tie each substantive assertion to the native source instance and specific locator, then check contrary evidence.

02

SEPARATE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COPIES

Default to withholding confidential names, raw unredacted documents, unpublished leads, and unsafe location details.

03

DOCUMENT RESPONSE OPPORTUNITIES

Maintain dated outreach and any reply, while accounting for safety risks and circumstances that justify a different approach.

04

PUBLISH CORRECTIONS OPENLY

Retain a dated explanation of changed findings and preserve withdrawal reasons without reproducing sensitive data unnecessarily.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Publication, corrections and privacy

MISSION BRIEF

Draft an editorial paragraph about the fictional restoration grant. State the unresolved payment status and the original record still needed.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Prepublication checklist, protected-data review, subject response log, correction procedure.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

10-01 / Threat model canvas

20 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Actionable accountability packets

An oversight referral or public-interest records submission should contain a concise research question, the exact original source documents, legal or institutional authority where relevant, a chronological evidence table, and a clear description of what remains unresolved. Do not claim that a factual question establishes a criminal offense. Tailor the packet to the recipient’s actual jurisdiction and published submission instructions.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

DEFINE THE RECIPIENT

Identify authority and scope for a regulator, journalist, inspector general, agency, or elected official.

02

PACKAGE AN EVIDENCE INDEX

Assign stable source IDs and exhibit descriptions, and retain original file versions and hashes when available.

03

EXPLAIN THE REQUESTED REVIEW

Specify the question or records sought and distinguish it from any allegation of intentional misconduct.

04

PRESERVE DELIVERY HISTORY

Keep the submitted version, date, recipient channel, acknowledgement and permitted follow-up schedule.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Actionable accountability packets

MISSION BRIEF

Prepare a fictional oversight note requesting proof of payment status, with an exhibit index showing the announcement, ledger, and unresolved receipt.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Qualified research memo, exhibit list, source provenance, delivery register, nonpublic redaction review.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

10-06 / Travel / meeting safety

21 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Working with ProofDesk and specialist matrices

ProofDesk is the separate locally run evidence workspace already sold in a Windows edition. Its development repository documents a large reusable matrix-structure library with distinct domain schemas. The Field Lab demonstrates the method at a lightweight browser level. CSV exports should be previewed and mapped in ProofDesk before import, with stable IDs retained and private visibility explicitly checked.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

RESPECT RELEASE BOUNDARIES

The currently advertised purchased Windows 0.3.3 package is distinct from the broader 0.5.0 development version; never advertise unshipped features as available.

02

KEEP SOURCE FILES PRIVATE

Do not ship the author’s live private investigations, witness records, or confidential datasets in training products.

03

VALIDATE THE IMPORT ORDER

Import claim IDs first, source IDs next, and only then relationship links, while preserving exact citations.

04

AVOID IMPLYING EQUIVALENCE

The browser Lab does not supply ProofDesk local backups, access protection, original-file attachments or matrix processing. It is an educational companion.

FIELD PRINCIPLE **Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.**

THE PRACTICE FILE

Working with ProofDesk and specialist matrices

MISSION BRIEF

Export the fictional case to the three compatible CSV starter registers. In any locally installed supported ProofDesk release, preview mappings before choosing whether to import.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Workbook-to-lab correspondence, CSV register export, privacy review, format version, import reconciliation.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

11-01 / Evidence-to-paragraph map

22 / INVESTIGATE WITH A RECORD

Packaging, licensing and responsible sales

The product should sell original analysis, designed workflows and investigator-created templates. Linking to third-party resources is different from redistributing their protected content or using their paid APIs. Public data collections have different licenses, access policies and attribution requirements. Maintain a live source catalog with license status, modification date and last review. Keep customer promises aligned with demonstrably shipped features.

FOUR FIELD MOVES

01

SEPARATE PRODUCT COMPONENTS

Define what the printed field guide provides, what the free website provides, and what paid specialist templates or desktop software add.

02

RESPECT SOURCE ATTRIBUTION

Cite the Berkeley Protocol, investigator security guides, and third-party catalog providers without reproducing restricted works.

03

DO NOT SELL CONFIDENTIAL CONTENT

Use synthetic datasets and empty professional-grade structures for commercial training exercises.

04

TEST PRODUCT CLAIMS

Require payment sandbox testing, accurate refund text, a customer accessibility pass, and real operating-system acceptance before public launch.

FIELD PRINCIPLE

Trace to originals. Record disproof. Explain remaining uncertainty.

THE PRACTICE FILE

Packaging, licensing and responsible sales

MISSION BRIEF

Write a one-paragraph customer-facing distinction between the workbook, free companion Lab, optional matrix training pack, and existing Windows ProofDesk purchase.

REQUIRED HANDOFF

Product specification, asset license table, feature availability list, sales terms and acceptance checklist.

EVIDENCE / EXACT SOURCE LOCATOR

COUNTEREVIDENCE / WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE FINDING?

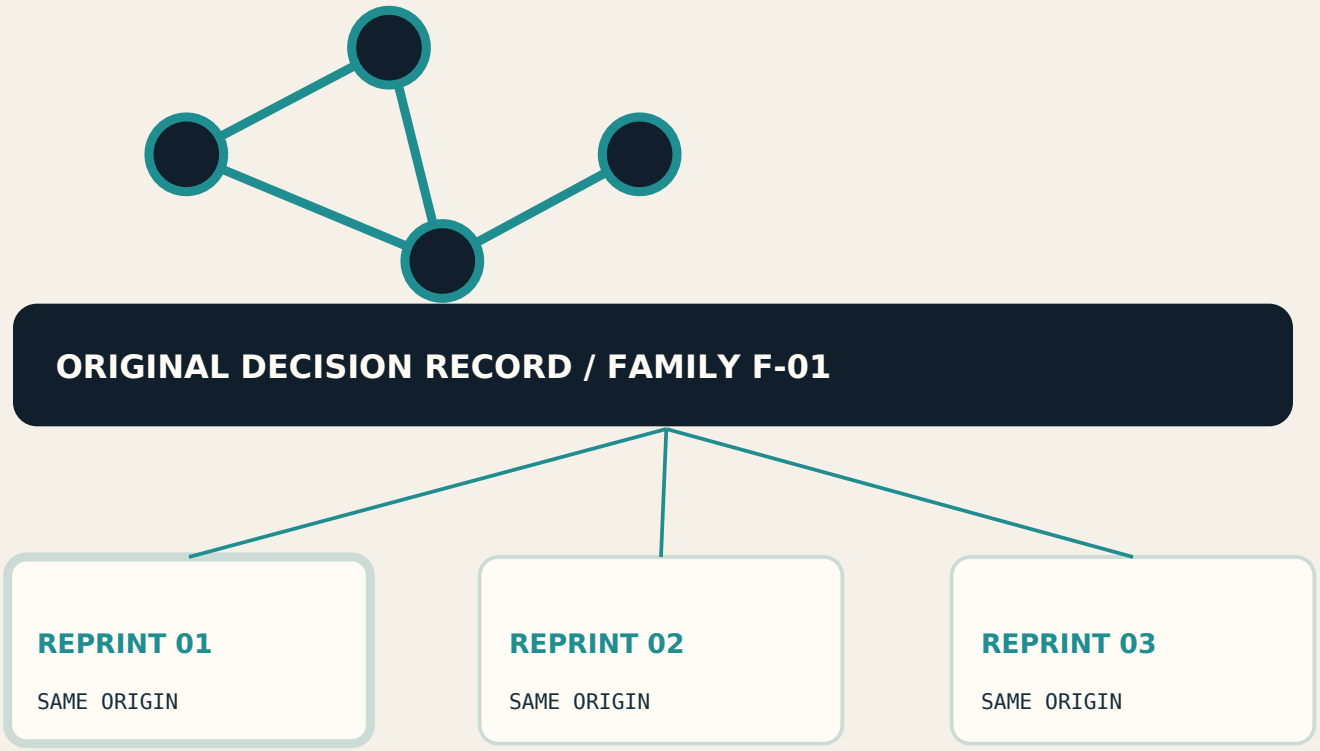
DECISION / WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT?

NEXT IN THE WORKSHEET VAULT

11-06 / Editorial release checklist

FIVE LINKS. ONE ORIGINAL.

Multiple publishers can relay the same origin. Count original source families, not appearances, when judging independence.



Independent corroboration requires a separate underlying record or independently supported observation, not another URL repeating the first.

A DOCUMENT CAN BE REAL

AND YOUR INTERPRETATION WRONG.

01 An exact checksum is not proof of authorship.

02 A common address is not proof of a conspiracy.

03 A meeting is not proof of a transaction.

04 Missing evidence does not identify an actor.

05 A completed checklist is not permission to publish.

Eight field routes

An investigation is a sequence of decisions.

Open the six numbered templates for each route in Worksheet Studio, or use their paper versions in the Vault. One route does not replace the others; adapt each to the records.

R01	**Start the investigation**
R02	**Verify a viral claim**
R03	**Reconstruct the timeline**
R04	**Trace a money path**
R05	**Rebuild a network**
R06	**Verify a visual record**
R07	**Challenge the conclusion**
R08	**Prepare a handoff**

Start the investigation

SIX RELATED WORKSHEETS / VAULT PAGE REFERENCES

01-01 p.6 / 01-05 p.10 / 02-01 p.17 / 01-07 p.12 / 09-01 p.94 / 09-10 p.103

1 QUESTION

2 SEPARATE

3 TRACE

4 CHALLENGE

5 REVISE

6 DECIDE

EVIDENCE BOUNDARY

A good question can be tested against the records. It is not a verdict.

Source / exhibit IDs needed

What could change the finding?

Verify a viral claim

SIX RELATED WORKSHEETS / VAULT PAGE REFERENCES

02-03 p.19 / 02-02 p.18 / 02-04 p.20 / 07-08 p.79 / 09-03 p.96 / 11-05 p.120

1. TRACE
2. GROUP
3. TEST
4. SEARCH
5. CHALLENGE
6. STATE

EVIDENCE BOUNDARY

Six articles citing one upload are not six independent sources.

Source / exhibit IDs needed

What could change the finding?

Reconstruct the timeline

SIX RELATED WORKSHEETS / VAULT PAGE REFERENCES

04-01 p.39 / 04-02 p.40 / 04-04 p.42 / 04-06 p.44 / 03-09 p.36 / 09-08 p.101

1. ORDER
2. COMPARE
3. RESOLVE
4. TRACE
5. LOCATE
6. CHECK

EVIDENCE BOUNDARY

Separate event time, publication time and retrieval time.

Source / exhibit IDs needed

What could change the finding?

Trace a money path

SIX RELATED WORKSHEETS / VAULT PAGE REFERENCES

06-03 p.63 / 06-01 p.61 / 06-04 p.64 / 06-08 p.68 / 05-06 p.55 / 06-10 p.70

1 CONTRACT

2 PAYMENT

3 OWNERSHIP

4 VENDOR

5 CONTROL

6 TEST

EVIDENCE BOUNDARY

Contact, ownership and an actual transfer are different propositions.

Source / exhibit IDs needed

What could change the finding?

Rebuild a network

SIX RELATED WORKSHEETS / VAULT PAGE REFERENCES

05-01 p.50 / 05-02 p.51 / 05-03 p.52 / 05-09 p.58 / 05-10 p.59 / 09-04 p.97

1 IDENTIFY

2 ROLE

3 PATHWAY

4 GATE

5 FALSE POSITIVE

6 MECHANISM

EVIDENCE BOUNDARY

A shared address is a lead, not evidence of wrongdoing.

Source / exhibit IDs needed

What could change the finding?

Verify a visual record

SIX RELATED WORKSHEETS / VAULT PAGE REFERENCES

07-01 p.72 / 07-02 p.73 / 07-03 p.74 / 03-04 p.31 / 07-10 p.81 / 10-04 p.108

1. ORIGIN
2. OBSERVE
3. LOCATE
4. PRESERVE
5. CHALLENGE
6. MINIMIZE

EVIDENCE BOUNDARY

Describe pixels as observations; label inferences separately.

Source / exhibit IDs needed

What could change the finding?

Challenge the conclusion

SIX RELATED WORKSHEETS / VAULT PAGE REFERENCES

09-01 p.94 / 09-02 p.95 / 09-03 p.96 / 09-06 p.99 / 09-07 p.100 / 09-10 p.103

1. HYPOTHESES
2. DISCRIMINATE
3. WEAK LINK
4. CHALLENGE
5. ABSENCE
6. REVISE

EVIDENCE BOUNDARY

A credible alternative deserves a documented test, not dismissal.

Source / exhibit IDs needed

What could change the finding?

Prepare a handoff

SIX RELATED WORKSHEETS / VAULT PAGE REFERENCES

11-01 p.116 / 11-05 p.120 / 11-02 p.117 / 11-04 p.119 / 11-06 p.121 / 11-08 p.123

1. EVIDENCE
2. LANGUAGE
3. REPLY
4. REDACTION
5. REVIEW
6. HANDOFF

EVIDENCE BOUNDARY

A complete case file still needs human editorial and legal assessment.

Source / exhibit IDs needed

What could change the finding?