

Appendix A: Coding Scheme

Code	Description
Input	All codes related to the inflow of information into the OSINT process
— Type of content	Information about the data type
— — Audiovisual	E.g. video, imagery or recorded radio broadcasts
— — Web resource	E.g. news or government website
— — Personal source	Information shared by someone known to the poster
— — Live Stream	Live audio or video broadcast
— Origin of content	Information about the data source
— — Social media	E.g. Twitter, Facebook, Youtube, etc.
— — News website	E.g. Reuters, BBC, etc.
— — OSINT website	E.g. Bellingcat, etc.
— — Official website	E.g. Russian / Ukrainian ministry, university, NGO, etc.
— — Other / missing	All other sources
— Method of introduction	How content is introduced to the community
— — Commentless	No contextual information provided
— — Commented	Contextual information provided
— — — Requesting OSINT from community	E.g. imagery with request for geolocation
— — — Requesting OSINT from specific user	Request directed at specific user / moderator
— — — Providing initial assessment	Posting includes pre-assessment of trustworthiness, validity, etc.

Throughput	All codes related to the processing of information
— Referencing input	Discussion related to the quality of the source
— — Credibility	Establishing the credibility of the information
— — Context	Providing circumstantial information about the source / event
— — Emotional reaction	Voicing an strong personal reaction to a piece of information
— OSINT method	Discussion related to OSINT methodology
— — Speculation	Voicing a speculative opinion about potential findings
— — Incremental assistance	Assisting an ongoing OSINT process by providing additional information
— — Next steps	Discussing a strategy for further processing
— — Methodological discussion	Discussing which OSINT method should be applied
— — Concerns about process validity	Discussing potential issues associated with a choice of method
— — Community-centric workflow design	Proposing a workflow to process a steady inflow of information. E.g. interpreting radio transmission snippets
— — Splitting and allocation workload	Applying a divide & conquer strategy to larger input
— Publishing outcome (internal)	Moving verified information to the appropriate channel, marking it as completed
Output	Instances of OSINT output in external publications / services
— Higher education	Report / resource published by a university, institute or other higher education facility
— External validation	Pass-through to external platform for further validation, e.g. a collaborative map service
— Wiki	Knowledgebase, e.g. Wikipedia
— Legal	Legal resource, including archives
— Journalistic publication	News and other journalistic media

— Community publication	Community-driven or OSINT resource, e.g. blogs
— OSINT community	Publication to external OSINT community with explicit / implicit request for further processing
— Live stream	Live coverage of OSINT process / results through streaming platform
— Social media	Publication of results to social media, e.g. Twitter
Institutional order	Codes referring to platform related affordances / constraints
— Discord	* specific to the Discord platform
— — ToS	Platform terms of service and instances of violation
— — Channel structure	Discussion channel system / logic
— — Private messaging	Use of user-to-user communication channel & privacy issues
Miscellaneous	Numerous codes covering Discord-specific technology, including search feature, moderator flagging, emojis, redactions, thread-structure, direct tagging, etc.
— — Bots & automation	Server governance using bots and automated features
— — — Crowd control	Directing users to appropriate channels using scripted messages
— — — Automatic translation	Server-side mechanism to automatically translate non-English language content, e.g. from Russian
— — — Flagging / source warning	Automated warning messages displayed adjacent to previously problematic sources
— — — Channel hygiene	Detection of idle chatter and automated warning messages
— — — Server / channel rules	Scripted regular reminders of server and channel rules and best practice
— Other OSINT	Instances of recruiting / soliciting assistance from other external OSINT communities
— Other platforms	Integration of external platforms / services
— — Office / productivity apps	E.g. Google Spreadsheet

— — Community-owned platforms	Discussion related to setting up a community-owned platform service, e.g. Bellingcat volunteer programme
— — Bridging services	Making available analogue resources, e.g. radio transmission, to the community by using an intermediary streaming platform as a connecting link
— Governance	Discussion explicitly related to platform / server / channel governance
— — Suitability evaluation	Community discussion about the advantages / disadvantages of platform infrastructure such as Discord for OSINT purposes
— — Community involvement	Involving community members in governing the Discord server (setting rules, channel structure, moderation, etc.)
Other	
— Multihoming	Membership in multiple OSINT groups or other institutions (e.g. journalistic)
— Motivation	Expressions of encouragement, motivational statements and discussions about self-image as OSINT practitioners
— Onboarding	Advice for newcomers, guidance towards technical resources
— Legality	Discussion surrounding the legality of the OSINT process
— Codex / ethos	Discussions about ethical issues regarding OSINT and community self-image / ethos
