

Librarians as Analysts: Improving Services

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Challenge

Open Source Expert
Open Source Expert

Librarian

Analyst

“Information professionals as intelligence analysts: making the transition”. By Dr. Edna Reid.

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1. What Analysis Do You Perform?

Identify timeline for events *Timeline analysis*

Monitor current activities to spot emerging trends *Indicators of change*

Evaluate information to identify context & conditions under which it was generated *Quality of information check*

Structured analytic techniques

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Structured Analytic Techniques (diagnostic)

Descriptions	Techniques
List & review key working assumptions on which judgment is based	Key assumptions check
Evaluate completeness & soundness of available sources	Quality of info check
Review list of observable events or trends to spot emerging trends or changes	Indicators or signposts of change

Source: Tradecraft Primer, 2009

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2. What Are Your Analytic Competencies?

- a. Monitor events and trends to identify new developments & potential problems?
- b. Dissect a problem into parts to determine how they relate
- c. Make judgment about information quality (evaluate info., identify authoritative sources, compare info.)

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Monitor Event: Ecological intelligence (website)

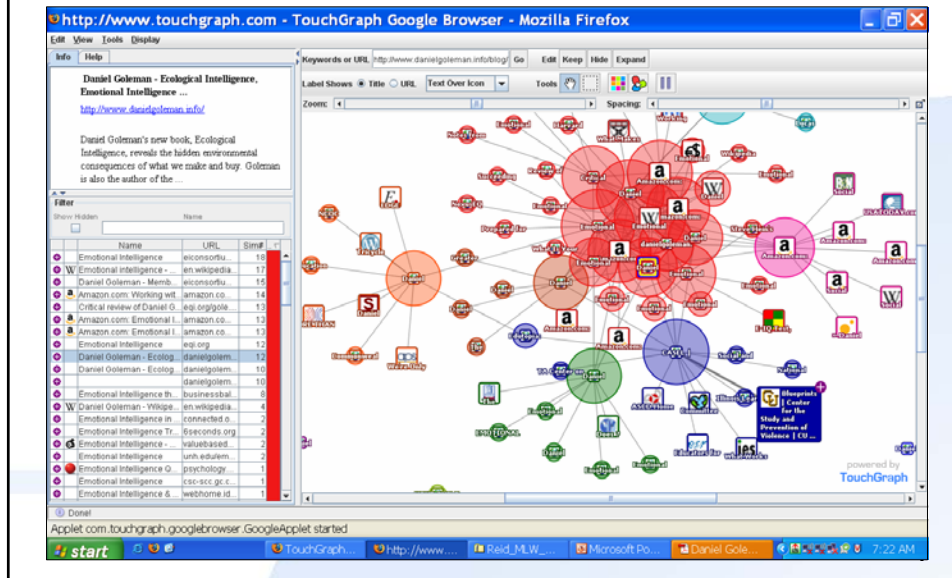
The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website <http://www.danielgoleman.info/blog/>. The page features the following content:

- Header:** DanielGoleman.info
- Navigation:** AUDIO, APPEARANCES, BIO, BOOKS, CONTACT, FI, ASSESSMENTS, PRESS, TOPICS, VIDEO
- Main Article:**
 - Title:** [Leading Green: The Future of Ecological Leadership](#)
 - Author:** Written by Daniel Goleman on June 2, 2009 - 7:27 am
 - Source:** Originally published at harvardbusiness.org
 - Text:** Visionary leaders tackle great challenges with grand consequences over long timespans. How long? Well, the current crises in the global economy and the consequent reshaping of capitalism will work themselves out over a decade or two. But the threats posed by the potentially inexorable ecological meltdown of our planet will play out over centuries.
 - Link:** [Read the full post »](#)
 - Comments:** No Comments | Posted in [Ecological intelligence](#)
- Right Sidebar:**
 - Available now:** The bestselling author of *Emotional Intelligence* and *Primal Leadership*, Daniel Goleman reveals the hidden environmental consequences of what we make and buy, and shows how new market forces can drive the essential changes we all must make to save our planet. *Ecological Intelligence* draws on cutting-edge research to reveal why "green is a mirage," illuminates inconsistencies in our response to the ecological crisis, and introduces new technologies that reveal with "radical transparency" the eco-impact of products we buy, with the potential to drive consumers to make smarter decisions and companies to reform their business practices.
 - Order your copy of *Ecological Intelligence* today from one of these booksellers:**
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- Bottom Left:**
 - [The Earth Needs a New Operating System and You are the Programmers](#)
 - ["Empathy" - Who's Got It, Who Does Not](#) (May 2, 2009 - 12:08 pm)

<http://www.danielgoleman.info/blog/>

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Use Touchgraph.com Monitor/Visualize Interests



Analytic Structured Techniques (Diagnostic Techniques)

- Assess quality of information
- Identify indicators or signposts of change
- Provide or create timeline (chronology)

In our annotated bibliographies or pathfinders, we must provide value-added analysis such as creating a cover page that organizes & summarizes bibliography by including a table that identifies chronologies, alerts, & high quality info providers.

3. How Can You Enhance Your Analytic Competencies?

On-the-job-training (OJT)

Self-study

Certificate or masters degree in analysis (e.g., intel analysis, terrorism, web mining analysis)

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Critical Skills of an Intel Analyst

- Oral & written communications
- Knowledge of analytic techniques
- Critical thinking
- Interpersonal communication
- Ability to work under pressure and in team environment
- Expertise in subject area, geographical region, or specific issue (e.g., terrorism)
- Foreign language proficiency (desired)

Source: U.S. Intelligence Community

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Proposed Certificate in Information Analytics & Intelligence

- Proposal is for a joint program with FLICC and an academic institution
- Graduate certificate program
 - Five courses (intelligence community, analysis)
 - Hybrid approach (first course is f2f, others online)
- Emphasis is on analysis, critical thinking, ethics, and critical exploration (e.g., web mining, GIS tools)

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Summary

- **Librarians are involved in analysis!**
- **With the current emphasis on information overload and open source information, more librarians should expand their analytic skills.**
- **We should start now by brainstorming on ways to increase value of our services by integrating some structured analytic techniques.**
- **Currently, there is a FLICC proposal to develop a certificate program in information analytics and intelligence.**

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References

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