

Introduction to Internet True Crime Sleuthing



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Websleuthing/Internet Detectives: WHY?

- Interest in true crime
- Bored; want excitement; hobby
- Want to help law enforcement & victims
- Use special skills: compsci, artist, analytical
- Meet similar others online; social interaction




Law Enforcement Response

- Mixed: helpful; interference; harm?
- Can enter case files: BIG HELP
- Can help I.D. missing or murdered: GOOD
- Some innocent people wrongfully accused online: BAD
- NamUs & Doe Network: formal relationship w/national law enforcement agencies & bureaus (Justice; NCIC/FBI)





Types of Cases & Involvement

- **Cold cases:**
 - Missing persons
 - Homicides
 - Unidentified remains/corpses
 - **Wrongful Convictions:**
 - P.I. C-C. False Confessions
 - Finding evidence
 - Locating new/un-interviewed witnesses
 - **Current cases: high-profile; stalled**
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Main Forums & Platforms for Websleuthing/Internet Detectives

- The Doe Network <http://www.doenetwork.org/>
- The UNT Connection <http://www.untchi.org/>
- NamUs <https://www.namus.gov/>
- Websleuths.com
<https://websleuths.com/forums/forum.php>
- Defrosting Cold Cases
<https://defrostingcoldcases.com/>
- Reddit
<https://www.reddit.com/r/UnresolvedMysteries/>

"I loved it." —SUE GRAFTON

"Brilliant." —THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



HOW AMATEUR SLEUTHS ARE
SOLVING AMERICA'S COLDEST CASES

Deborah Halber