CREST
(CIA Records Search Tool)

Executive Overview

A tool for searching and viewing records released by CIA and NGA under Executive Order 12958 Section 3.3.

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CREST
Document Retrieval Overview

What is CREST?

- CIA Records Search Tool
- Database of U.S. government records released by the CIA and the NGA
- EO 12958 and other directives
- Technical
  - Laserfiche
  - Windows
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What's on CREST?

- ~ 657K docs
- ~10.5 M pages
- Types of docs
  - Memos (internal, external)
  - Reports (finished intel)
  - Letters
  - Cables

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Collections

- Consolidated Translations
- General CIA Records
- Ground Photo Caption Cards
- Joint Publication Research Service
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
- National Intelligence Survey
- Scientific Abstracts
- STARGATE
- Berlin Tunnel
Types of Searches

- Basic Text
- Advanced Text
- Metadata Field
- Combination Text and Field
- Fuzzy
- Advanced Field

Basic Text Search

- No more than two words or phrases
- Operatives
  - And
  - Or
  - Not
  - Within
- Combination
• More than two words or phrases
• Operatives
  - & (And)  India & Pakistan
  - | (Or)    India | Pakistan
  - - (Not)  India - Pakistan
  - ^# (Within)  ^5 India & Pakistan
  - () (Parentheses) (India & Pakistan) – Central Intelligence Bulletin
• Combination
Unclassified

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Search Window Tabs

Basic Text Search Tab
Fuzzy Search

Customize Search to Query Metadata Fields
Advanced Text Search Tab

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Basic Text Search

Click Basic Text Search

Click

Enter Search term

Press Enter

Click Search
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Search Results Window

- Hit List in Windows Explorer View Details
- Sortable Hit List
- Re-sizable Hit List
- Document Metadata Fields
- Number of Hits with Number of Occurrences
- Displays Occurrences within Document
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Advanced Text Search

Enter search terms using operatives (&, |, -, and ^#) and Wild Cards

Search Example

Click "Advanced Text Search" to get

Enter search terms using operatives (&, |, -, and ^#) and Wild Cards

Search Example

Click Search

Search Example

Enter search terms

India & Pakistan
All docs with both India and Pakistan

India | Pakistan
All docs with either India or Pakistan

India - Pakistan
All docs with India but not Pakistan

India +5 Pakistan
All docs with India within 5 words of Pakistan
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Metadata Field Search Example

Search Criteria:
- **Text** contains words “India” and “Pakistan”
- **Title** contains “Chinese” and “Communist” in that order
- **Dates** are between 1 Jan 1950 and 31 Dec 1965

Click **Search**.

Displaying Other Documents in a Folder

Right click on the document, e.g. CIA-RDP80S01499R000100020019-8

Click **Search**.
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Displaying Other Documents in a Folder

All documents in folder
CIA-RDP80S01499R00010002

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Fuzzy Search

- Finds similar words or phrases
- Not recommended
- Time consuming
- Useful because of bad OCR
- Two types
  - Number of letters
  - Percentage of word

Unclassified
Search result contains documents in which India is misspelled or was OCR'd incorrectly. Search hits are in bold type, e.g., lida-, mnds; sindi; Int; idf; etc.
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Browsing CREST

• Time consuming
• Combine with other search strategy
• Useful in some situations
  - OCR bad
  - Finds documents as organized in CREST
• Like Windows Explorer
• Expand hierarchy

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Browsing CREST: Example

Double Click Consolidated Translations
Double Click 04-00581R

Double Click Folder 0049

Double Click Box 0002

Double Click Folder 0017

Double Click Folder 0049

Box 0005
Box 0001
Box 0032

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#### Browsing CREST: Example

- Double Click on any document to open it

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#### Summary

- What is CREST
- Types of searches
  - Basic text
  - Advanced text
  - Metadata (Field)
  - Fuzzy
  - Browsing