

# MIR Lab in Youth Work

*Course name: Digital  
investigations in an era of data-  
driven journalism*

Step-by-Step Guide Toward  
Making an Investigation



# Presentation Outline

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- Your Hypothesis
- Map Your Sources
- Visualize your Plan
- Deliver your Findings





# Observe

What is happening in your community/in a specific sector?

*What is the news?*

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What do people talk (gossip) about?

Why do you care?

Why should others care?

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# What is your hypothesis?

What is the topic you want to discover? Can you?

# What's your Plan?

What information do you need?

Who are your potential sources?

How can you find your data?

What are the obstacles?



# Sources

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## Primary Sources

People who can share the info  
with you/whistleblowers

## *Secondary sources:*

published data



Digital investigations in an era of data-driven journalism

# Visualize your Plan

**1**

*A Network of Sources*

People & documents

**2**

*Method*

Ways to get to your sources/info

**3**

*Budget*

Cost of getting the info

**4**

*Time*

Schedule of your activities



# Mapping your findings

Once you have your data, organize it in a logical and readable format





# Investigate alone or in a team?



## *Working in a team:*

- bigger skillset
- larger scope of work
- managing people
- division of tasks
- trust issues



## *Working alone*

Smaller pool of contacts/skills

Greater control over the investigation

## Collect, group, & verify

- Your findings are only as valuable as you manage to verify and deliver them
- Doublecheck your findings
- Prioritize the main ideas
- Review critically & look for mistakes



## Pitch & deliver

- The core of the story
- The outline
- Some background
- Why it matters
- Methods & proofs
- A bit about you
- Deadline & format

# Post-Publication

1

## Keep your data

Secure your interviews, docs, & other info

2

## Stay in touch with your sources

Protect their identity & keep up the updates

3

## Know your rights

Secure yourself & your work

4

## Follow-up

Keep track of your story and its consequences