



INTERNATIONAL
NUREMBERG
PRINCIPLES
ACADEMY

E-Procedure

The Impact of the Increased
Usage of Digital Evidence and
Sophistication of Technology
on the Rules and Practices of
the International Criminal Court

Cluster A plus B

Guidelines and Manuals

A+B



The International Nuremberg Principles Academy and its mandate

The International Nuremberg Principles Academy (Nuremberg Academy) is a non-profit foundation dedicated to the advancement of international criminal law and human rights. It was established by the Federal Republic of Germany, the Free State of Bavaria and the City of Nuremberg in 2014. The Nuremberg Academy is located in Nuremberg, the place of the first international trial before the International Military Tribunal. For the first time in history, an international tribunal was authorised to hold leading representatives of a state personally accountable for crimes under international law.

The foundation carries forward the legacy of the Nuremberg Trials and the “Nuremberg Principles”, which comprise the principles of international law recognised in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and in the judgment of the Tribunal. They were formulated by the International Law Commission of the United Nations General Assembly in 1950.

Conscious of this historic heritage, the Nuremberg Academy supports the fight against impunity for universally recognised international core crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. Its main fields of activity include providing a forum for dialogue by convening international conferences and expert meetings, conducting interdisciplinary and applied research, engaging in specialised capacity building for practitioners of international criminal law and human rights education. Dedicated to supporting the worldwide enforcement of international criminal law, the Nuremberg Academy upholds the Nuremberg Principles and the rule of law with a vision of sustainable peace through justice, furthering knowledge and building capacities of those involved in the judicial process in relation to these crimes.

Project Background

Between 2018 and 2023, the International Nuremberg Principles Academy (Nuremberg Academy) has been exploring the various challenges that arise from the increased usage of digital evidence and sophistication of technology and how these may affect the prosecution of core international crimes. The goal of this exploration has been to see whether the current rules governing the International Criminal Court (ICC) need amending and if so, how and why.

Given the complexity of the subject matter, the project was divided into several clusters and each cluster's methodology consisted of focused workshops, detailed research and discussions with experts from relevant fields, including practitioners in international criminal law (ICL) and international human rights law (IHRL), experts in digital evidence, digital forensics and open-source investigations as well as experts in the documentation of human rights violations generally.

Our research and analysis focused on the following complex issues:

- The identification of guidelines and manuals that could be potentially relevant to the investigation of core international crimes and which relate to digital evidence;
- The identification of gaps arising from the ongoing work of those involved in documenting and prosecuting human rights violations and core international crimes;
- Any current practices and criteria regarding the admissibility of digital evidence and the weight of digital evidence and challenges to these practices arising from “newer types” of sophisticated technology (such as deepfakes, information generated from artificial intelligence (AI) and deleted accounts);
- Correlations between human rights investigations and international criminal law investigations and digital evidence challenges that arise in respect of each type of investigation; and
- How the identified digital evidence challenges can (and how they cannot) be addressed in light of the ICC's structure, rules and governing practices.

Each cluster has a corresponding report. This report relates to the first and second bullet point, the identification of guidelines and manuals that could be potentially relevant to the investigation of core international crimes and which relate to digital evidence. The Nuremberg Academy created a database, called Digital Evidence Database, back in 2020 and 2021, which served as an online repository. This database was closed throughout 2024 and available research findings are attached within the report below. In terms of the identification of gaps arising from the ongoing work, the Nuremberg Academy will continue the exploration of the challenges and related impact that the increased usage of digital evidence and the sophistication of technology has on international criminal proceedings. We welcome feedback on the project and reports in general and further engagement in addressing the challenges identified in this research project. We remain grateful to the broad range of experts and consultants who have contributed to this project.

March 2025
Jolana Makraiová
Senior Officer for Interdisciplinary Research
International Nuremberg Principles Academy

Annex A	Title	Language	Institution	Publication date
1	Electronic Evidence Guide: A Basic Guide For Police Officers, Prosecutors and Judges (Version 2.0)	English	Council of Europe (European Union)	2014-12-15
2	Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on electronic evidence in civil and administrative proceedings	English	Council of Europe (European Union)	2019-01-30
3	Preuves électroniques dans les procédures civiles et administratives (Lignes directrices et exposé des motifs)	French	Council of Europe (European Union)	2019-01-30
4	Guidelines for the cooperation between law enforcement and internet service providers against cybercrime	English	Council of Europe (European Union)	2008-04-02
5	Best Practices Report	English	European Commission (LIVE_FOR Project)	2018-05-23
6	Evidence Matters in ICC Trials	English	International Bar Association (IBA)	2016-08-09
7	Forensic Examination of Digital Evidence: A Guide for Law Enforcement	English	Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) (US Department of Justice)	2004-04-01
8	Digital Evidence in the Courtroom: A Guide for Law Enforcement and Prosecutors	English	Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) (US Department of Justice)	2007-01-01
9	Electronic Crime Scene Investigation: A Guide for First Responders, Second Edition	English	Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) (US Department of Justice)	2008-04-01
10	Electronic Crime Scene Investigation: An On-the-Scene Reference for First Responders	English	Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) (US Department of Justice)	2009-11-01
11	Digital Evidence: Policies and Procedures Manual	English	Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) (US Department of Justice)	2020-05-01
12	La Preuve Audiovisuelle Devant Les Instances Internationales: techniques et Admissibilité, Manuel à l'usage des praticiens	French	TRIAL	2020-12-01
13	ACPO Good Practice Guide for Computer based Electronic Evidence	English	Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)	2003-10-01
14	ACPO Good Practice Guide for Digital Evidence	English	Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)	2012-03-01
15	Good Practice Guide for Computer-Based Electronic Evidence	English	7Safe (Part of PA Consulting)	

16	Global Guidelines for Digital Forensics Laboratories	English	International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) (Global Complex for Innovation)	2019-05-13
17	Using the Internet and Social Media for Counter-Terrorism Investigations		United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)	2019-07-11
18	Geospatial Evidence in International Human Rights Litigation: Technical and Legal considerations.	English	American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)	
19	The New Forensics Using Open Source Information to investigate Grave Crimes	English	Berkeley Centre for Human Rights	2018-07-01
20	Beyond Reasonable Doubt Using Scientific Evidence to Advance Prosecutions at the International Criminal Court	English	Berkeley Centre for Human Rights	2012-10-01
21	Digital Fingerprints Using Electronic Evidence to Advance Prosecutions at the International Criminal Court	English	Berkeley Centre for Human Rights	2014-02-01
22	First Responders: An International Workshop on Collecting and Analyzing Evidence of International Crimes	English	Berkeley Centre for Human Rights	2014-09-01
23	Digital Evidence: Investigatory Protocols	English	Berkeley Centre for Human Rights	2013-10-01
24	Best Practices For Seizing Electronic Evidence v.4.2. A Pocket Guide for First Responders	English	US Secret Service (US Department of Homeland Security)	
25	Electronic evidence - a basic guide for First Responders Good practice material for CERT first responders	English	European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA)	
26	A Simplified Guide to Digital Evidence	English	Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) (US Dpt of Justice)	
27	A Simplified Guide To Forensic Audio and Video Analysis	English	Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) (US Dpt of Justice)	
28	Video Evidence. A law enforcement guide to resources and best practices	English	The Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative's (Global) Advisory Committee (GAC)	2014-03-01
29	Basic investigative Standards for First Responders to International Crimes	English	Global Rights Compliance (GRC)	2016-07-01
30	Basic investigative Standards for First Responders to International Crimes	Ukrainian	Global Rights Compliance (GRC)	2016-07-01
31	Basic investigative Standards for First Responders to International Crimes	Russian	Global Rights Compliance (GRC)	2016-07-01
32	Basic Investigative Standards for Investigators of International Crimes	English	Global Rights Compliance (GRC)	2016-07-01
33	Basic Investigative Standards for Investigators of International Crimes	Ukrainian	Global Rights Compliance (GRC)	2016-07-01
34	Video as Evidence, Field Guide	English	Witness	2016-03-29

35	Ethical Guidelines: Using Eyewitness Videos in Human Rights Reporting and Advocacy	English	Witness	
36	A Handbook on Assisting International Criminal investigations	English	Swedish National Defence College	
37	Fair Trials' Consultation Paper on E-Evidence	English	Fair Trials	
38	Basic Manual on the Detection And Investigation of the Laundering of Crime Proceeds Using Virtual Currencies	English	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	2014-06-01
39	Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders	English	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	2019-02-01
40	Common challenges in combating cybercrime (as identified by Eurojust and Europol)	English	Europol, Eurojust	2019-06-30
41	CCBE recommendations on the establishment of international rules for cross-border access to electronic evidence	English	Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)	2019-02-28
42	Managing Digital Evidence in Courts	English	Joint Technology Committee (JTC)	2016-02-17
43	Social Media - Guidelines on prosecuting cases involving communications sent via social media	English	Crown Prosecution Service	2018-08-21
44	How to: Use Google Translate When Working in a Foreign Language	English	Citizen Evidence Lab - Amnesty International	2020-02-27
45	How to: Use Reverse Image Search for Human Rights Investigations	English	Citizen Evidence Lab - Amnesty International	2020-01-29
46	Verification Handbook: An Ultimate Guideline on Digital Age Sourcing for Emergency Coverage	English	European Journalism Centre (EJC)	
47	Verification Handbook: A guide to Online Search and Research Techniques for Using UGC and Open Source Information in Investigation	English	European Journalism Centre (EJC)	
48	Verification Handbook for Disinformation and Media Manipulation	English	European Journalism Centre (EJC)	
49	Annex 1: Technical protocol for the provision of evidence, material witness and victims information in electronic form for their presentation during the Trial	English	International Criminal Court (ICC)	2008-04-04
50	How To Tell Stories: A Beginner's Guide For Open Source Researchers	English	Bellingcat	2019-07-12
51	How to Prevent, Identify and Address Vicarious Trauma — While Conducting Open Source Investigations in the Middle East	English	Bellingcat	2018-10-18
52	Профилактика, выявление и лечение викарной травмы при расследовании событий на Ближнем Востоке	Russian	Bellingcat	2018-11-16
53	How to Scrape Interactive Geospatial Data	English	Bellingcat	2018-09-05
54	Сбор геопроостранственных данных веб-скрейпингом	Russian	Bellingcat	2018-12-09
55	A Beginner's Guide To Flight Tracking	English	Bellingcat	2019-10-15
56	Cómo Rastrear Vuelos: La Guía Para Novatos	Spanish	Bellingcat	2019-10-15
57	The Most Comprehensive TweetDeck Research Guide In Existence (Probably)	English	Bellingcat	2019-06-21
58	Самое полное руководство по работе с TweetDeck	Russian	Bellingcat	2019-08-05
59	Using Phone Contact Book Apps For Digital Research	English	Bellingcat	2019-04-08
60	Как использовать приложения-телефонные справочники для исследований	Russian	Bellingcat	2019-04-17
61	How To Track Illegal Funding Campaigns Via Cryptocurrency	English	Bellingcat	2019-03-26
62	Tracking Illicit Transactions With Blockchain: A Guide, Featuring Mueller	English	Bellingcat	2019-02-01

63	Как отследить противозаконные сделки при помощи блокчейна на примере обвинительного заключения Мюллера	Russian	Bellingcat	2019-03-02
64	Bellingcat's Invitation Is Waiting For Your Response: An Investigative Guide To LinkedIn	English	Bellingcat	2019-03-21
65	How To Use Google Earth's Three Dimensional View: Feat. Syria, Yemen, Sudan	English	Bellingcat	2019-03-05
66	Разбираемся с трехмерным видом в Google Earth на примере Сирии, Йемена и Судана	Russian	Bellingcat	2019-03-25
67	How To Blow Your Online Cover With URL Previews	English	Bellingcat	2019-01-04
68	Превью ссылок в мессенджерах ставит под угрозу успех секретных операций в Интернете	Russian	Bellingcat	2019-01-27
69	Using Time-Lapse Satellite Imagery To Detect Infrastructure Changes: Case-Studies via Myanmar, Nigeria and the South China Sea	English	Bellingcat	2018-11-19
70	Использование интерактивных спутниковых карт для выявления изменений в инфраструктуре на примере Мьянмы, Нигерии и Южно-Китайского моря	Russian	Bellingcat	2018-12-27
71	How to Identify Burnt Villages by Satellite Imagery — Case-Studies from California, Nigeria and Myanmar	English	Bellingcat	2018-09-04
72	Как находить сгоревшие деревни на спутниковых снимках — на примере Калифорнии, Нигерии и Мьянмы	Russian	Bellingcat	2018-10-12
73	Creating an Android Open Source Research Device on Your PC	English	Bellingcat	2018-08-23
74	Как настроить эмулятор Android на компьютере, чтобы работать с открытыми источниками	Russian	Bellingcat	2018-09-07
75	How to Collect Sources from Syria If You Don't Read Arabic	English	Bellingcat	2018-07-10
76	How to Digitally Verify Combatant Affiliation in Middle East Conflicts	English	Bellingcat	2018-07-09
77	Как верифицировать принадлежность бойцов на Ближнем Востоке с помощью цифровых инструментов	Russian	Bellingcat	2018-07-24
78	كيفية التحقق رقمياً من انتماء العناصر المسلحة في الصراعات في الشرق الأوسط	Arabic	Bellingcat	2018-07-19
79	How to Archive Open Source Materials	English	Bellingcat	2018-02-22
80	Как архивировать материалы из открытых источников	Russian	Bellingcat	2018-03-23
81	How to Conduct Comprehensive Video Collection	English	Bellingcat	2017-10-17
82	Руководство по комплексному поиску видео в Интернете	Russian	Bellingcat	2017-11-14
83	Automatically Discover Website Connections Through Tracking Codes	English	Bellingcat	2017-07-31
84	Автоматический поиск связанных между собой сайтов по кодам отслеживания	Russian	Bellingcat	2017-08-24
85	Advanced Guide on Verifying Video Content	English	Bellingcat	2017-06-30
86	Расширенное руководство по верификации видеоматериалов	Russian	Bellingcat	2017-07-18
87	Vacuuming Image Metadata from the Wayback Machine	English	Bellingcat	2016-12-06
88	Как извлечь метаданные изображения при помощи Wayback Machine	Russian	Bellingcat	2017-01-02
89	Expanding Skype Forensics with OSINT and Python: IP Addresses	English	Bellingcat	2016-06-01
90	Expanding Skype Forensics with OSINT: Email Accounts	English	Bellingcat	2016-05-02
91	Что можно найти в открытых источниках при помощи электронных адресов, извлеченных из базы данных Skype	Russian	Bellingcat	2016-11-23
92	Automated Reverse Image Search Part 2: Vimeo	English	Bellingcat	2016-04-12
93	Automatically Finding Weapons in Social Media Images Part 2	English	Bellingcat	2016-03-01
94	Automatically Finding Weapons in Social Media Images Part 1	English	Bellingcat	2016-01-11
95	Online Identification of Conflict Related Environmental Damage	English	Bellingcat	2015-12-17

96	Searching the Earth: Essential Geolocation Tools for Verification	English	Bellingcat	2015-07-25
97	Unveiling Hidden Connections with Google Analytics IDs	English	Bellingcat	2015-07-23
98	Поиск связанных между собой сайтов по коду Google Analytics	Russian	Bellingcat	2018-08-31
99	Who to Trust, Google or the Russian MoD? A Guide to Verifying Google Earth Satellite Image Dates	English	Bellingcat	2015-06-05
100	Automating Photo Retrieval for Geolocating – Part 2:Wikimapia	English	Bellingcat	2015-05-13
101	Automating Photo Retrieval for Geolocating – Part 1 Continued: Panoramio	English	Bellingcat	2015-05-11
102	Manual Reverse Image Search With Google and TinEye	English	Bellingcat	2015-05-08
103	Metadata: MetaUseful & MetaCreepy	English	Bellingcat	2015-04-24
104	There's a Map for That	English	Bellingcat	2015-04-10
105	How Tall is That Gantry?	English	Bellingcat	2015-03-15
106	Сколько в ней метров?	Russian	Bellingcat	2016-09-03
107	Geolocation Techniques – Mapping Landmarks	English	Bellingcat	2014-07-15
108	A Beginner's Guide to Geolocating Videos	English	Bellingcat	2014-07-09
109	Геолокация видео. Пособие для начинающих	Russian	Bellingcat	2016-11-28
110	Verification and Geolocation Tricks and Tips with Google Earth	English	Bellingcat	2014-07-09
111	Directors and Corporate Advisors' Guide to Digital Investigations and Evidence	English	Information Assurance Advisory Council (IAAC)	2005-09-01
112	Digital Evidence, Digital Investigations and E-Disclosure: A Guide to Forensic Readiness for Organisations, Security Advisers and Lawyers Version 3.0	English	Information Assurance Advisory Council (IAAC)	2012-03-01
113	Prosecuting Computer Crimes	English	U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) (U.S. Office of Legal Education, Executive Office for United States Attorneys)	
114	Searching and Seizing Computers and Obtaining Electronic Evidence in Criminal Investigations	English	U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) (U.S. Office of Legal Education, Executive Office for United States Attorneys)	
115	Field Guide for Civil Society Documentation of Serious Human Rights Violations	English	The Public International Law & Policy Group	
116	Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on electronic evidence in civil and administrative proceedings	English	Council of Europe (European Union)	2019-01-30
117	La Preuve Audiovisuelle Devant Les Instances Internationales: techniques et Admissibilité, Manuel à l'usage des praticiens	French	TRIAL	2020-12-01
118	Basic investigative Standards for First Responders to International Crimes	English	Global Rights Compliance (GRC)	2016-07-01
119	Fair Trials' Consultation Paper on E-Evidence	English	Fair Trials	
120	Verification Handbook: An Ultimate Guideline on Digital Age Sourcing for Emergency Coverage	English	European Journalism Centre (EJC)	
121	Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations: A Practical Guide on the Effective Use of Digital Open Source Information in Investigating Violations of International Criminal, Human Rights and Humanitarian Law	English	Berkeley Centre for Human Rights	2020-12-01

International Nuremberg Principles Academy
Bärenschanzstraße 72
90429 Nuremberg, Germany
Tel +49 (0)911 148977-0
info@nurembergacademy.org
www.nurembergacademy.org



www.nurembergacademy.org