

THE TACTICAL UNDERCOVER OPERATION

Success Measured in
Minutes, Not Months

ALSO FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

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- What the M&A Insider Trading Ring Reveals About Investigating Corporate Information Leaks
- Professional Ethics Begins Within the Profession
- Fewer Deaths, Not Less Violence



DEPARTMENTS

PI 101

- 21** Looking Beyond the Police Report
By Michael W. Toth
- 22** Quintessential Field Skills:
Observation and Note-Taking
in the Real World
By Malik Mubashshir

BUSINESS

- 24** Sourcing Open-Source Intelligence
(OSINT) to Expand Business
Offerings
By Amber Schroeder

BUSINESS-TAX

- 26** Affordable Safety Solutions
By Mark E. Battersby

PI HISTORY

- 28** America's First Female
Detective
By Daniel J. Demers

IMPACT ANALYSIS

- 30** The Reconstructionist's Boots on
the Ground: How PI's Can Master
Scene and Document Examination
By Daniel Jones

VERACITY FILES

- 32** Interviewing Witnesses in the
Age of TikTok and Deepfakes:
How Modern Investigators
Navigate Memory Contamination,
Viral Narratives, and AI-Modified
Reality
By Jody O'Guinn

SOCIAL MEDIA

- 36** The Digital Ecosystem:
How Modern Investigations
Are Built Through
Connections
By Kelsey Hodge

CYBERSLEUTHING

- 39** A Mutual Passion Sparks a
Connection & Impactful
Collaboration
By Robert Fried and
Professor Adedeji Oyenuga
- 41** The Prompt Trap: How AI Task
Scams Fool Smart People
By Christopher Salgado

PI PERSPECTIVES

- 43** The Operational Application
of Advance Reconnaissance Part II
By John Dale Hartman

TSCM

- 46** \$2 Million Awarded in
Voyeur Case
By Tim O'Rourke

BACKGROUNDING

- 48** What Investigators Should Know
About Fingerprinting for
Employment Purposes
By W. Barry Nixon

THE PI AND FUGITIVE RECOVERY

- 51** From Undercover to
Overwatch: Security-
Operator Lessons Every
Bail Enforcement Agent
Should Know
By Patrick Collis

EXECUTIVE

PROTECTION

- 52** Three More Questions
By R. Preston Hocker

PROCESS SERVING

- 54** War Stories From the Field:
One More Door
By Lindon Lilly

- 56** Reunited And It Feels
So Bad
By Kevin Toal

FINANCIAL

- 60** The \$116 Billion Nobody
Is Collecting – Following
the Money in Child Support
Arrears
By Rodney Gagnon

ALL THINGS SURVEILLANCE

- 62** Mother May I?
By Eric De Van

NCISS: YOUR ADVOCATE

- 66** Legislative Update

IN EVERY ISSUE

Public Records Update	58
Discover NALI.....	63-65
PI Resources.....	68-69
PI Seminars & Conference Calendar	71

A Mutual Passion Sparks a Connection & Impactful Collaboration

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AND **PROFESSOR ADEDEJI OYENUGA**, PHD. MCIA. D.FCSS. FFIS.

Technology has widened the reach of investigators across the world, turning distant professional connections into channels for training, collaboration, and public-interest work. For Dr. Adedeji Oyenuga and me, what began as a simple social media connection has grown into a cross-border partnership that has delivered trusted digital forensics resources to hundreds of current and next-generation investigators.

THE CONNECTION

I first learned about Dr. Oyenuga, a prominent private investigator and criminologist in Nigeria, while watching a BBC documentary on sextortion. His expertise and commitment to identifying perpetrators stood out immediately. Always wanting to connect with fellow investigators, I found him on LinkedIn and reached out. This soon led to broader conversations about cybercrime.

In recent years, romance scams and sextortion have drawn global attention, with Nigeria often placed at the center of the conversation. In his role as a cybercrime expert, Dr. Oyenuga has fielded calls from across the world and engaged with researchers, investigators, journalists, and advocates seeking insight into the realities behind these crimes. These engagements have led to documentaries, publications, and field-based collaborations that examine the complex links between romance scams and sextortion. As Dr. Oyenuga often notes, “Sextortion, in most cases, is an unintended consequence of a romance scam.”

One such case emerged around September 2025, when Dr. Oyenuga’s assistance was requested to trace an online fraudster named “Mary.” The victim in the case allegedly lost over \$114,000 between 2021 and 2025 because of fraud. Dr. Oyenuga quickly began work on the case, collaborating with the National Cybercrime Centre, Lagos Annex. Through technology-driven investigation and coordinated field efforts, the team identified and apprehended the suspect, bringing the case closer to prosecution.

The investigation was difficult, but made possible because of a combination of investigative tools, including national identity and banking databases, Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis, human intelligence, and the commitment of participating private investigators from Dr. Oyenuga’s firm, DigOut Consult, and the Nigeria Police Force-National Cybercrime Centre. For Dr. Oyenuga, collaboration is key, as he frequently assists cybercrime investigators navigate Nigeria’s terrain.

Dr. Oyenuga is a visible voice in campaigns against cybercrime. His advocacy has brought him into work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the development of a cybercrime education module for Education for Justice (E4J), one outcome of the Doha Declaration. That



National Cybercrime Centre Headquarters - Inspector-General of Police, IGP Olatunji Disu with Dr. Oyenuga

same focus on education and practical impact soon became the foundation for our own collaboration.

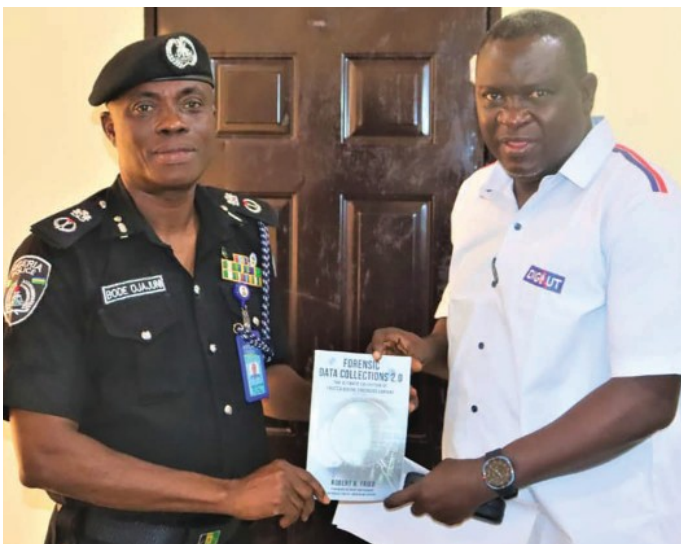
PUTTING CHATS INTO ACTION

With our shared expertise in digital forensics, criminology, and higher education, we began turning our chats into practical initiatives. We talked about our academic subjects, the students involved, and our professional investigator colleagues, exploring ways to use our shared resources to contribute to the investigative and educational fields.

Our collaboration soon produced a series of learning opportunities. Dr. Oyenuga delivered a Lunch and Learn presentation for the Society of Professional Investigators (SPI), where he spoke about the shortage of forensic science resources in Nigeria. A weekend virtual seminar with Lagos State University followed this on cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, featuring keynote presentations by myself and Michael Graziano, who was at that time president of SPI. A short while later, I lectured Dr. Oyenuga’s students on current and future trends in digital forensics. The feedback from these collaborative efforts was excellent.

As educators, we both understand that people learn in different ways, and that wider access to structured resources could deepen the impact. Over the years, I have written books, eCourses, and most recently developed an AI portal focused on digital forensics topics. Because of our ongoing collaboration, I sent Dr. Oyenuga physical copies of my book series so that he could have them as resources in Nigeria. However, that gesture led to a larger question: how could these resources, focused on the best practices for identifying, preserving, and collecting electronic evidence in investigations, reach more people across Nigeria? Despite the differences in culture and our legal systems, we understood that sharing knowledge with others could make a lasting difference.

To help integrate comprehensive forensic practice into policing in



Ogun State Police Command - Commissioner of Police, CP Bode Ojajuni with Dr. Oyenuga



His Royal Majesty Babatunde Ogunlaja, the Aladeshonyin of Odo Noforija with Dr. Oyenuga



Professor Oyenuga - With Rob Fried's Book

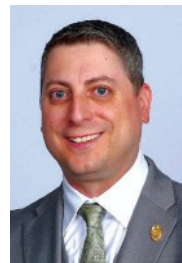
Nigeria, Dr. Oyenuga offered universities and law enforcement agencies across Nigeria access to my digital forensics content. The response he received was overwhelming. I subsequently donated one hundred copies of my latest book, *Forensic Data Collections 2.0: The Ultimate Collection of Digital Forensics Content*, and one hundred free registrations for my eCourse, Data Forensic Class.

The eCourse brought together carefully selected participants from Nigerian universities and the private sector, including Lagos State University, University of Ilorin, Osun State University, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Thomas Adewumi University, and Adekunle Ajasin University. Each participant completed the training and offered strong feedback on its value to their future work. The Nigerian Police Force Headquarters in Abuja, the Ogun State Police Command (through the Commissioner of Police, CP Bode Ojajuni and command management), and the National Cybercrime Centre Headquarters (through the Inspector-General of Police, IGP Olatunji Disu) received the donated books. Because of our efforts, valuable digital forensics content is now more readily accessible to law enforcement leaders, academics, students, and even traditional leadership circles, including a regional king, His Royal Majesty Babatunde Ogunlaja, the Aladeshonyin of Odo Noforija, Lagos State in Nigeria.

IT REALLY IS A SMALL WORLD

As our partnership became more visible, additional connections followed. I recently introduced Dr. Oyenuga to a U.S.-based software developer originally from Nigeria, and they later met in person during her travels to Lagos State. In another instance, a fellow U.S.-based investigator received a copy of my book while in Lagos State for an active investigation in collaboration with Dr. Oyenuga.

These examples highlight the value of professional networks and cross-border collaboration. Our connection shows how two investigators in different parts of the world can turn conversations into education and shared resources, making a practical impact on today's investigators and the next generation. **PI**



Robert B. Fried is a digital forensics expert, author, educator, and expert witness with 20+ years of frontline experience. He is Executive Vice President of Forensics and Chief Investigative Officer at Page One, Inc., and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Hofstra University. Robert B. Fried holds a BS and MS in Forensic Science from the University of New Haven and maintains certifications including ACE, CFCE, EnCE, GCFA, and C4 CBP. He is a licensed PI in New York, Michigan, and South Carolina; a Fellow at The Henry C. Lee Institute; the author of five books on digital forensics; and the creator of the AI model forensics.expert. PI Magazine named him a Top Professional Investigator of 2024.



Professor Adedeji Oyenuga is a distinguished Nigerian Sociologist and Criminologist with over two decades of teaching, research, consultancy, and investigative experience across academia, industry, and international development. A Professor of Criminology at Lagos State University, he specializes in Cybercrime, Forensic Criminology, Deviant Behavior, Social Problems, and Critical Cybernetics, and is widely recognized for his pioneering scholarship on cybercrime cultures, youth deviance, digital security, and technology-enabled criminality in Nigeria. Beyond academia, he consults for major corporate organizations on investigations and security intelligence and leads DigOut Consult Limited. His contributions continue to shape criminological thought, digital security discourse, and evidence-based policy across Africa.