ABSTRACT

National security and defence related data being generated from multiple sources will have to be fully analysed for national decision-making. This will enable planning of military operations and better situational awareness in the future. Many research organizations of security studies have pointed out that information gathering from publically available sources become the most efficient and effective way to produce actionable intelligence to counter 21st century technology driven asymmetric threats. Therefore, importance of extracting intelligence from of Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) has grown in recent decades. Most governments and intelligence agencies have realized that OSINT is freely available to access, which renders as strategic enabler of decision and policy making process.

The target population of the study was based on the reviewing of the secondary data sources including 100 academic literature on database systems, 50 security journals, 50 intelligence journals, five white papers of intelligence models developed by law enforcement and national security agencies, military intelligence doctrines of USA and UK and reputed 25 websites related to the OSINT products and technologies. The data and sample was scientifically drawn by stratified sampling, and purposive sampling techniques. At the end this study proposes viable recommendations on the theoretical OSINT model based on the literature gathered through above mentioned data source. Further, the proposed model was validated through eight interviews with the chief military intelligence officers, cyber security experts and key appointment holders in national level information systems in Sri Lanka in order to exclusively customize for the Sri Lankan context. Hence, the employment of recommended model on this study will enable to produce speedy, credible and reliable intelligence for strategic and tactical decision makers of Military, Police or other law enforcement agency to increase the tempo in the decision making process.

Key Words: OSINT, Military Intelligence, National Security