

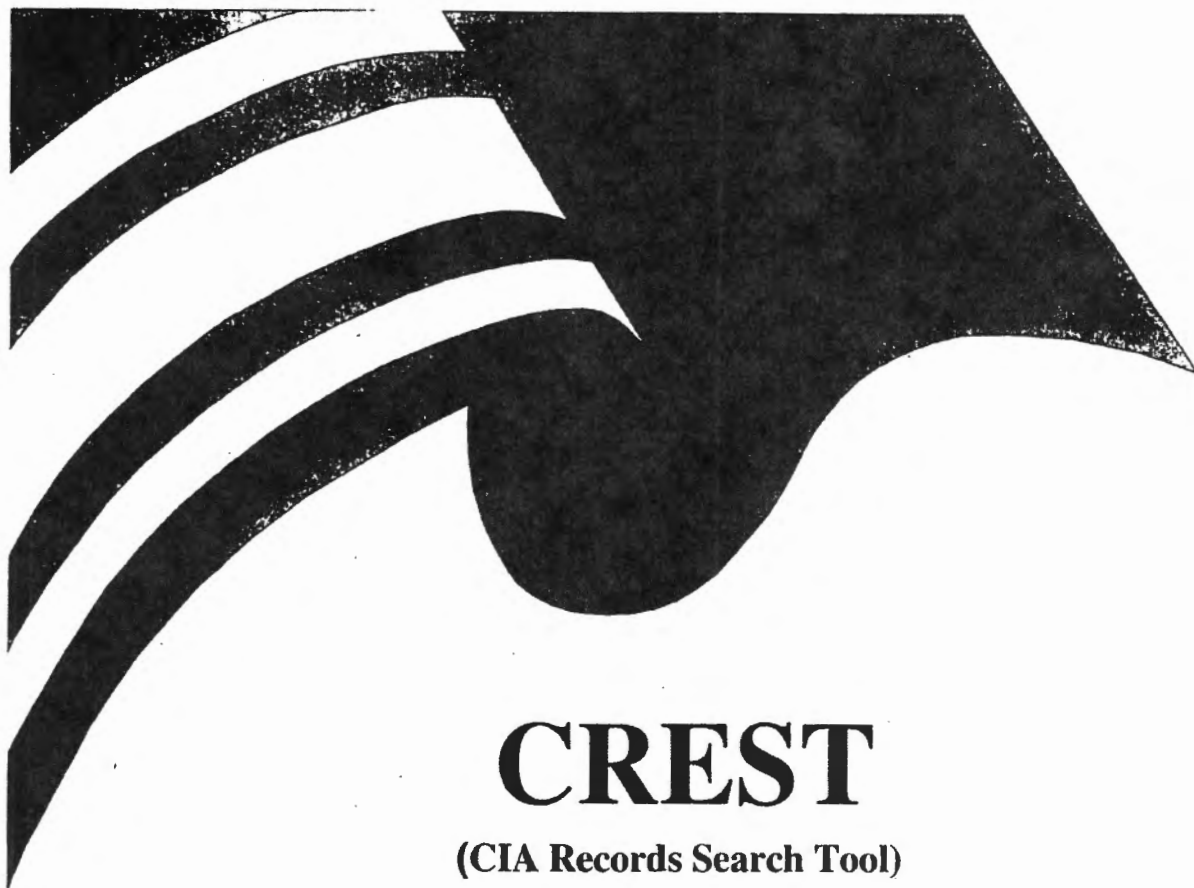
This document is made available through the declassification efforts  
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

# The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages released by the U.S. Government & Military.

**Discover the Truth** at: <http://www.theblackvault.com>



# 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.





Property of U.S. Government  
Do Not Remove



*August 5, 2008*



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 CIA Declassification Center 

***CREST***  
***Document Retrieval***  
***Overview***

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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

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**Types of Searches**

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


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**CIA Declassification Center**




**Basic Text Search**

- No more than two words or phrases
- Operatives
  - And
  - Or
  - Not
  - Within
- Combination

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## CIA Declassification Center


### Advanced Text Search



- 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


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## CIA Declassification Center


### Metadata Field Search




- Document Title
- Name (ESDN)
- Document Date
- Orig Classification
- Document Type
- Pages
- Copyright
- Decision
- Exemption Code
- Parent Doc#
- Folder Title
- Job Number
- Box Number
- Folder Number
- Document Number
- Media ID
- Collection
- Year Released

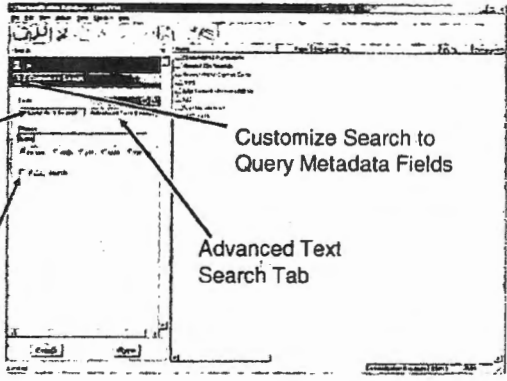
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## CIA Declassification Center Search Window Tabs





Basic Text Search Tab

Fuzzy Search


Advanced Text Search Tab

Customize Search to Query Metadata Fields


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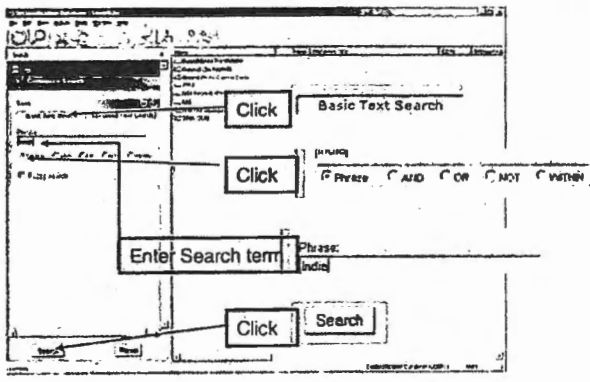
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## CIA Declassification Center Basic Text Search





Click Basic Text Search

Click


Enter Search term: Phrase: India

Click Search

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**CIA Declassification Center**


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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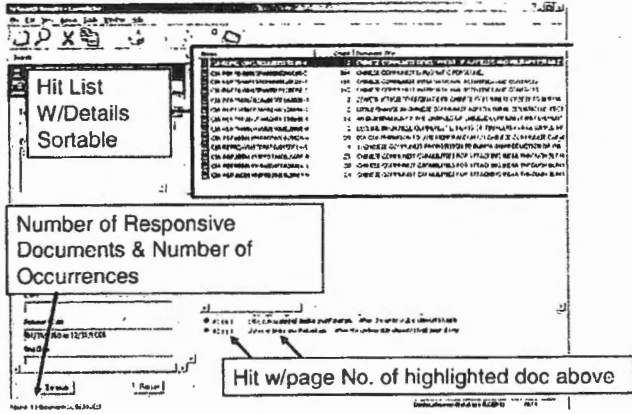
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**CIA Declassification Center**

Search Results Window






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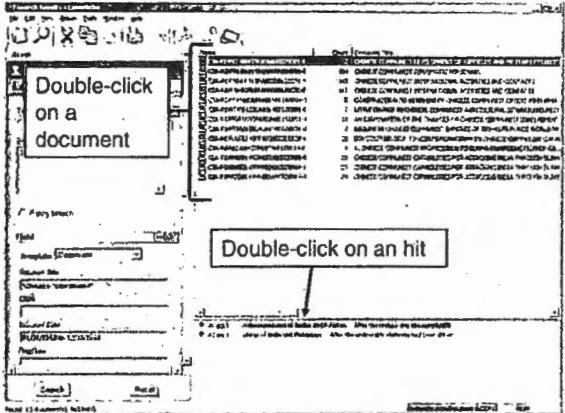
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## CIA Declassification Center

### Open Documents






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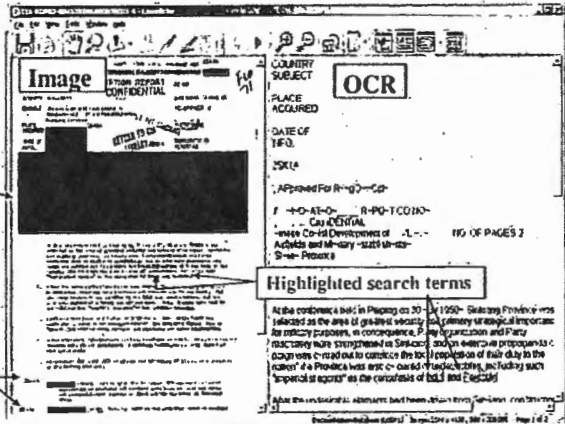
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## CIA Declassification Center

### Viewing Documents







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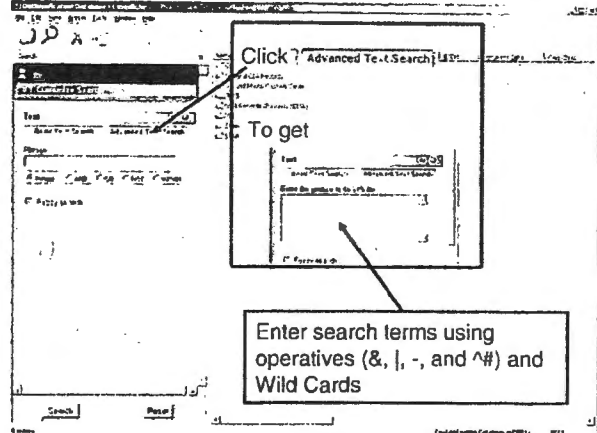
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### CIA Declassification Center Advanced Text Search







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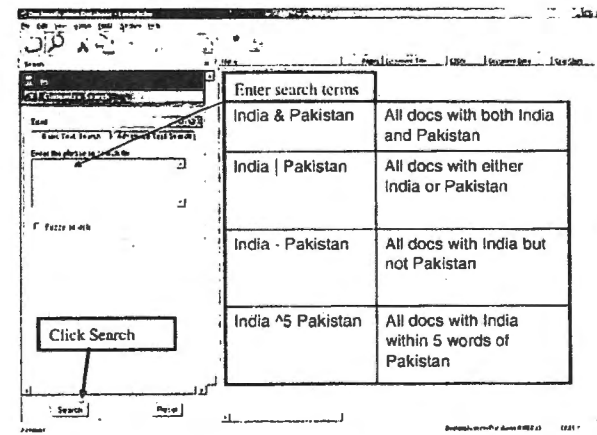
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### CIA Declassification Center Search Example






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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## CIA Declassification Center

### Metadata Field Search




- Document Title
- Name (ESDN)
- Document Date
- Orig Classification
- Document Type
- Pages
- Copyright
- Decision
- Exemption Code
- Parent Doc#
- Folder Title
- Job Number
- Box Number
- Folder Number
- Document Number
- Media ID
- Collection
- Year Released

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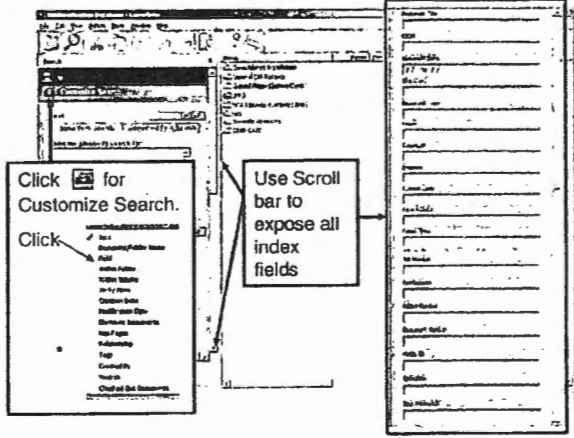
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## CIA Declassification Center

### Metadata Field Search







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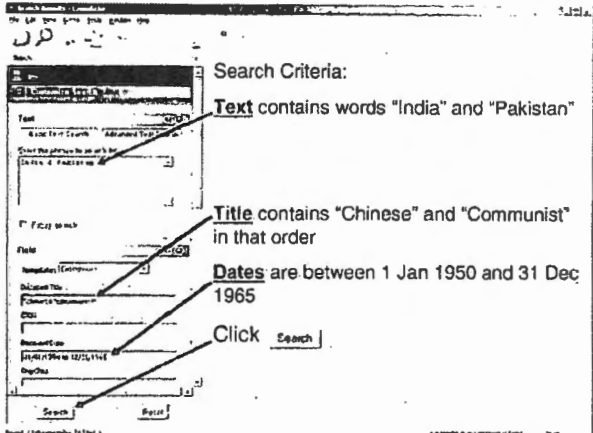
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### CIA Declassification Center Metadata Field Search Example







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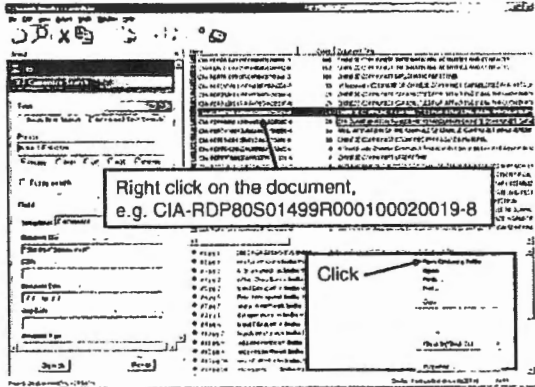
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### CIA Declassification Center Displaying Other Documents in a Folder






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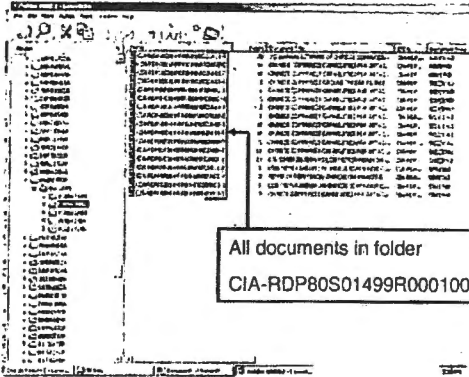
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### CIA Declassification Center

#### Displaying Other Documents in a Folder






All documents in folder  
CIA-RDP80S01499R00010002


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### CIA Declassification Center


#### Fuzzy Search



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


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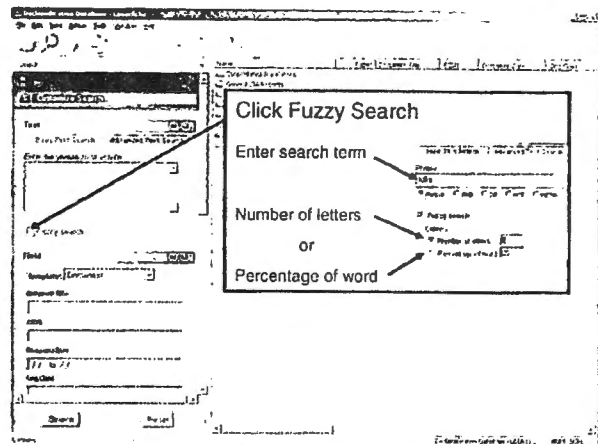
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## CIA Declassification Center

### Fuzzy Search






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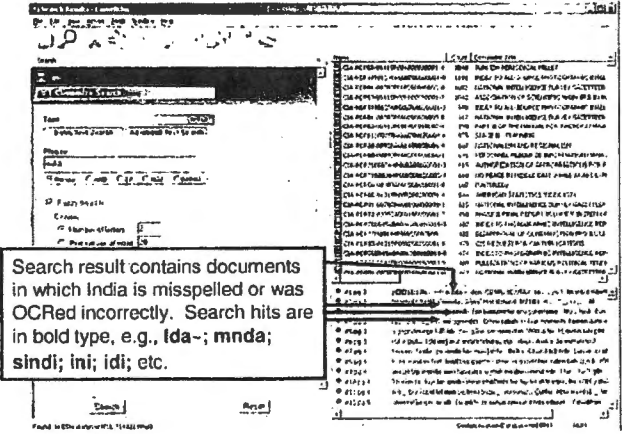
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## CIA Declassification Center

### Fuzzy Search






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## CIA Declassification Center

### 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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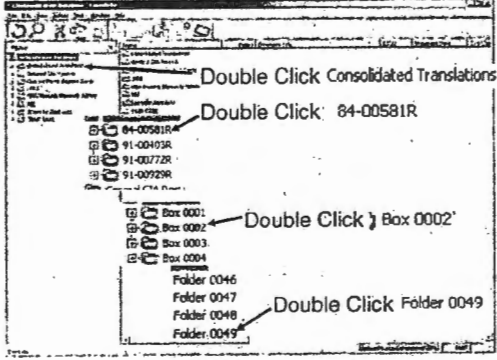
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## CIA Declassification Center

### Browsing CREST: Example






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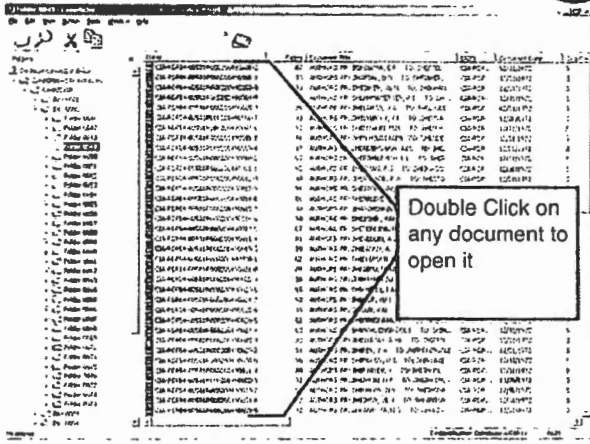
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## CIA Declassification Center


### Browsing CREST: Example






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## CIA Declassification Center

### Summary



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

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