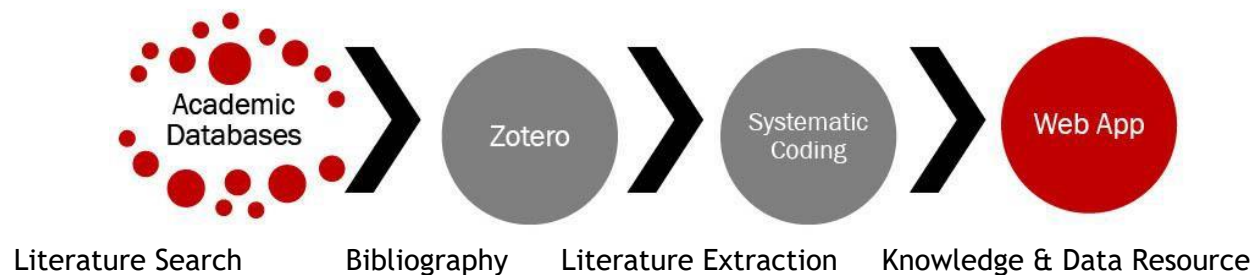**COIN, IO, CT Data Collection Methodology**

The IWCAG developed a three-stage process to create a database to analyze the existing state of research on government responses to asymmetric threats focusing on counterinsurgency (COIN), Information Operations (IO) and Counterterrorism (CT). The process consists of identifying relevant literature, developing a bibliography, and extracting data from each piece of literature through a rigorous manual coding process.

Knowledge & Data Resource Development

Literature Search	Bibliography	Literature Extraction	Knowledge & Data Resource
Academic Databases	Zotero	Systematic Coding	Web App

Literature Search & Inclusion

In order to maximize the relevancy of our findings to the contemporary global context, the database consists of literature published between 2002 and 2022 for COIN and IO and between 2010-2023 for CT. We used domain-relevant search strings to conduct targeted queries of academic search engines (e.g., Google Scholar) and online databases (e.g., JSTOR, Academic Search Ultimate). The database is limited to English language texts, including peer-reviewed journal articles, trade magazine articles (for COIN only), book chapters, and reports. Our coverage of literature captures empirical studies (for COIN, IO, and CT) as well as pieces evaluating policy conundrums and recommendations (for COIN only).

The team focused on literature that specifically theorized or analyzed cases or phenomena relevant to government responses to asymmetric threats within the COIN context, IO context, and CT context. For IO context, the team also extracted scholarly articles that focused on state use of IOs against other states. To improve the reliability of our search and ensure the inclusion of literature that was relevant to these contexts but not captured by the string search, we also conducted manual checks of the top political science journals.

Bibliography Development

The relevant literature sources were transferred to a collaborative Zotero library, an open-source reference management software, to create a bibliography. Every Zotero entry contains metadata about each publication, such as the author, year of publication, type of publication, among other features.

Literature Extraction

Each piece of literature was coded across several pertinent dimensions. Where relevant, the team recorded the hypotheses, research questions, the dependent and independent variables used to test the hypotheses (for empirical studies) or suggested for the testing of the hypothesis (for theoretical studies). For pieces that did not explicitly stated these variables or for non-empirical articles, we inferred variables based on the articles' key concepts and foci. When a publication was policy-focused (for COIN database), the team recorded the problem statement(s) of the piece, as well as the policy recommendations for each problem statement. For all publications, indicators were included to capture the temporal and geographic scope of each piece. The team also coded the characteristics of irregular warfare (IW) being analyzed, including the type of actor conducting the IW; the IW pillar(s) of focus; and the populations being targeted. The national lever of power employed in the response was also recorded, using an expanded DIMEFIL schema. These levers include **D**iplomatic, **I**nformation, **M**ilitary, **E**conomic, **F**inancial, **I**ntelligence, **L**aw enforcement, **D**evelopment, and **G**overnance.

For more details on our coding, please check out our Codebooks.

Note about Data Consistency

Even though efforts have been made to assure consistency across all extracted literature, users should keep in mind that the collection was done by a team of individuals with different backgrounds including sociology, criminology, political science, and others. Thus, users should note that differences in writing styles, in the granularity of the information captured, and other differences are normal and do not affect the quality of the product being presented.

Citing the GRAT Web Portal

National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), University of Maryland. (2024). Global Responses to Asymmetric Threats [data file]. https://start.umd.edu/grat