DEVIL13 / FILE 016 / FIELD TOOLS

EVIDENCE SEARCH LOG

Record the search. State what a missing result can establish.

1. EXACT QUESTION

State the claim and the record or observation you expected to find.

2. COLLECTION, METHOD AND COVERAGE

Record the catalogue or collection, reference, years, access date and relevant scope.

3. SEARCH TERMS AND STEPS

Write spellings, identifiers, filters and what you actually inspected.

4. EXPECTED TRACE

Why should a record exist, survive and be retrievable if the claim were true?

5. GAPS AND ACCESS LIMITS

What was unindexed, undigitized, missing, unavailable or outside the search?

6. RESULT AND BOUNDED FINDING

Record matches or no match within this search; explain what that can establish.

7. NEXT USEFUL CHECK

Name the next source, wider search, staff question or changed method.

No match is a result of a particular search.
Record its coverage and limits before drawing a wider conclusion.

READ THE METHOD / KEEP A TRACEABLE RECORD

Guide: https://www.devil13.com/2026/11/19/when-nothing-turns-up-missing-evidence/

Toolkit: https://www.devil13.com/research-toolkit/

Evidence terms: https://www.devil13.com/evidence-glossary/

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