

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA: A STRATEGY FOR RESEARCH

Jacques F. Vallee
Documatica Research, LLC
San Francisco, California

After years of ideological arguments based on anecdotal data the field of UAP research appears ready to emerge into a more mature phase of reliable study. Renewed scientific interest now exists in many countries, based on credible official or semi-official documents. Without pre-judging the origin and nature of the phenomena, a range of opportunities arise for investigation, hard data analysis and new theoretical exploration. In order to avoid repeating past errors, however, such projects need to generate new hypotheses and test them in a rigorous way against the accumulated reports of thousands of observers.

Unfortunately such a repository of reliable global data does not yet exist. Furthermore, the level of difficulty in assembling it has either been ignored or underestimated. The purpose of this paper is to briefly review previous work in the compilation of UAP databases and outline some new directions for research. We also raise the question of identifying researchable issues and consistent ontologies in the UAP domain.

With respect to the last point, the challenges of data collection and analysis over a limited territory are illustrated by a longitudinal study of 167 screened UAP observations performed by researcher Jean-François Boëdec in the département of Finistère between 1950 and 1981.

His study shows how such focused investigations could be extended to perform a regional or even national assessment of the patterns behind the phenomenon.