

ASQDE 2008 AGM: A Call For Papers

Reasoning with Technology: A Cognitive Approach to Casework

The 66th Annual Meeting of the ASQDE to be held August 16– 21, 2008 at the beautiful Asheville Renaissance (Marriott) Hotel in the heart of historic Asheville, North Carolina will be here before we know it.

The theme for this meeting is *Reasoning with Technology – A Cognitive Approach to Casework and Research*. The word "cognitive" is derived from the Latin root "cognoscere," meaning *to become acquainted with*. It is generally defined as the process of *being aware*; such awareness grounded in training, experience, research and knowledge. As referenced in the Fall 07 newsletter, the selection of this theme came about as the result of discussions with numerous FDE; each expressing concerns over the impact of technology on our casework and research. We can't avoid the impact of technology, nor should we. However, when utilizing technology in practice, we must constantly be *cognizant* of limitations inherent in the results obtained from the tools we have at our disposal (e.g. training, experience and knowledge). Of course, on the front end, we hopefully take a cognitive approach to the implications of technology which may have been involved in the creation or possible alteration of documents submitted for examination. The exponential development and use of technology over the course of our careers as FDE have facilitated the successful resolution of casework and research issues which, in generations past, would have been unresolved, unknown or not undertaken.

The successes we achieve through the utilization of technology in casework and research does not come without a price. Part of the cost of utilizing this technology lies in the broad array of varied hypotheses to be considered whenever we evaluate the results.

The theme for the 2008 AGM encourages papers, posters, workshops, and panels which consider, evaluate and demonstrate the need for sound reasoning and awareness when employing technology in casework and research. Consider the following as examples:

- What is the cognitive process which takes us from the results of an ESDA or VSC examination to expressing the results in the form of an opinion? Is there more than one explanation for the results we've observed? How do these considerations and the possible alternative hypotheses factor into our opinions?
- When examining and comparing a questioned document depicting handwritten entries produced by an inkjet or laser printer, what alternative hypotheses, accepted or rejected, are factored into the cognitive process leading to the opinion?
- To what extent do we consider the possible misuse of technology as a mechanism for 'creating' or altering a document in some fashion? How do we subjectively measure the likelihood of this misuse when 'no evidence' exists? Finally, what are the cognitive and underlying considerations which move us from the dynamics of the examinations and comparisons to our opinion or conclusion?

Some of the plans in the works for this year's program include:

President	Vice-President	Treasurer	Secretary	Director	Director
Howard C. Rile, Jr.	Farrell C. Shiver	Linton A. Mohammed	James A. Green	Thomas P. Riley	Janet F. Masson

- A half-day, hands-on workshop entitled ‘Typography – Testing to Testimony’ conducted by Bill Flynn and Kathleen Nicolaides.
- A panel discussion on transitioning from government to private practice. An excellent opportunity to learn from those who have been down the proverbial road.
- A workshop on the utilization of the significantly enhanced Write-On 2 application.
- A workshop/tutorial on handwriting movement control by Elisa van den Heuvel, Ph.D. of the Netherlands Forensic Institute.
- FDE testing by Dr. Moshe Kam, Drexel University
- Skilled Signature Simulations – A Panel Discussion and Demonstration organized by Jim Larner and consisting of 5 panel members, including Lloyd Cunningham and Z. G. Standing Bear, will illustrate and demonstrate the “fine” and “subtle” features of simulation utilizing simulations created by Z. G. Standing Bear and Lloyd Cunningham. The panel discussion will be supplemented by a DVD, provided all attendees, on the entire “Adept Penman” project (over 400 pages of simulations, photographs and reports, including a video demonstration of Z.G. Standing Bear’s technique and skill).
- A two or three hour interactive break-out session for trainees on handwriting; conducted by Bob Muehlberger and Janet Masson. Previously provided and examined handwriting problems will be dissected and discussed in an interactive demonstration and discussion.

The ABFDE will be holding a one day Business Records/Medical Records course on August 16th at our conference hotel. This course has been updated to include digital imaging and the latest technology available to the FDE. The ASQDE will be handling pre-registration for both the ASQDE AGM and the ABFDE workshop for the convenience of members and invited guests, however the ABFDE workshop is limited to 60 participants, so early registration is encouraged.

As in 2007, we’ll continue to encourage participation in the poster session, which certainly facilitates an opportunity for more one on one discussion than available in most of the technical sessions. This year’s theme provides an excellent opportunity for both paper and poster presentations in casework and/or research.

A Program Committee has been established which will, in part, evaluate submitted abstracts prior to their acceptance for our program. This process has worked well in the recent past, and will hopefully provide members and invited guests with technical sessions and poster presentations well worth their time and attendance.

Abstracts are due May 15th, 2008 with papers due July 10th, 2008. It’s certainly not too early to get started. In 2008, we’ll begin providing the papers and presentations of our meeting on DVD media to ASQDE members and invited guests in attendance. Count on some ‘bonus’ material and references on next year’s DVD!

ASQDE AGM 2008 POSTER REQUIREMENTS

Each presenter will be provided with an 8’ (wide) X 4’ (high) poster board and push pins. Presenters must post their material at least one hour prior to the first session and remove their posters no more than 30 minutes after the end of the second poster session. ASQDE will not be responsible for any materials posted, whether prior to, during, and after the poster sessions.

The presenting author and/or co-author must prepare to give a brief (2-3 minute) introduction and will have to stand by their poster during the first poster session to discuss their research. Presenters are encouraged to bring reprints and sign-up sheets to facilitate attendees who need more information. **In addition, presenters are encouraged to submit any relevant material in Word or PDF format to Nanette Davis at AGMPAPERS@aol.com by the July 10th deadline so that it may be included on the meeting DVD.**

The poster should cover all key aspects of the work and contain the following items:

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Discussions
- Conclusions
- References

Poster Presentation Format (based on AAFS Guidelines)

1. A bulleted format is preferable rather than an extensive narrative.
2. Present your results in the form of figures, diagrams, graphs, photographs, or tables, etc.
3. Statistical data should be titled and summarized in a clear, concise format.
4. Display the material in a logical manner. Use numbers or arrows to indicate the sequence of the panels.
5. Choose a font that is readable from four feet (minimum 14 point). Use standard styles such as Arial or Times New Roman. Avoid fancy fonts.
6. All printing should be done with a high quality laser or ink jet printer.

If you have any questions about the poster presentations, please contact Program Chair Grant Sperry at: fdes@bellsouth.net or 901-289-9933.

General Requirements for Presentations and Posters

For all presentations, an abstract must be submitted prior to the May 15th deadline. The abstract form is currently available on the ASQDE website at http://www.asqde.org/forms/2008_abstract.html. All requests (abstracts) for oral and poster presentations will be reviewed by a committee for suitability prior to being placed on the program. The criteria for acceptance will include 1) the general usefulness of the subject matter to those in attendance, 2) originality, 3) the ability to generate discussion, 4) audio-visual requirements, and 5) length. Oral presentations will be limited to 15-20 minutes unless prior authorization is given by the Program Chair. If you are not a member of the ASQDE and would like to attend and/or make a presentation, please contact an ASQDE member to request a guest invitation.

For many subjects, a poster presentation is the most appropriate venue for reporting on a subject or results of basic research. Accordingly, this year we expect to have a substantial number of poster presentations covering wide-ranging topics. Like last year, we will devote enough time to this session so that members will have adequate opportunity to review each poster and discuss the presentation with its author. In addition, attendees are reminded that poster presentations fulfill a member's requirement to participate in the program.

Abstract, Bio, and Paper Deadlines

As a reminder, **ABSTRACTS are due by May 15, 2008.** We encourage abstract submissions via the online abstract form (http://www.asqde.org/forms/2008_abstract.html) to facilitate data entry. You may also download the PDF version (<http://www.asqde.org/2008AGM/2008AbstractForm.pdf>), fax the completed form to Nanette Davis at 562/901-3378 and then email the text of your abstract to Nanette at asqjournal@aol.com, if you are unable to use the online version. When you fax your form, please note that you will be emailing your abstract text.

In addition, a brief **3-sentence BIO** covering your education, training, and current employment is required for the participants who make a regular presentation (not posters) or who submit material for the DVD. The bios are read by the moderators as an introduction for presenters at the AGM. Bios are also linked to the abstract and paper included on the DVD.

If you are doing a poster presentation and/or are NOT submitting material, you do not need to submit a bio. **Bios are due by July 15, 2008, the same date as the deadline for final papers, and should be emailed to AGMPAPERS@aol.com.**

PAPERS are due by July 15, 2008. Papers must be submitted in Word or PDF format ONLY by e-mail to **AGMPAPERS@aol.com**. Those who are making a poster presentation are also encouraged to submit material for the DVD (please include a bio if you do so).

DO NOT SEND HARD COPIES OF YOUR PAPER. Emailed submissions are checked upon receipt. If you are unable to e-mail your file, please mail it on disk or CD to:

ASQDE 2008 AGM Papers
P O. Box 18298
Long Beach, CA 90807-8298

If the July 15th paper deadline is missed, the author will be required, at his or her own expense to bring 120 copies of the paper for distribution to all attendees at the meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you use FedEx, UPS, or any method requiring a signature for shipping materials, including certified or registered mail, send your CD (a hard copy is **NOT** required) to:

Nanette Davis
ASQDE Executive Assistant
c/o Rile & Hicks
100 Oceangate, Suite 670
Long Beach, CA 90802

If you have further questions about the program, please contact:

Grant Sperry, 2008 ASQDE Program Chair, Tel: (901) 289-9933, fdes@bellsouth.net

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