Abstracts of Presentations

54th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE)

Washington, DC

August 24-28, 1996
AN EVALUATION OF LINE QUALITY IN PHOTOCOPIED SIGNATURES

By

Dawson, Greg A. and Lindblom, Brian S.

This research project was designed to determine which features of line quality are detectable in photocopied signatures. Qualified forensic document examiners from Canada, USA, Great Britain, The Netherlands, and Australia participated in this study. They were sent one photocopied signature, together with a set of original known standards to: (a) evaluate the line quality of the photocopied signature and; (b) compare these characteristics with the known standards. The forensic document examiners were asked to analyse the photocopies for the presence of tremor, hesitation, pen lifts, patching, blunt initial or terminal strokes, and abrupt changes in direction.

The authors compared the photocopied signature line quality assessments to the corresponding original signatures. It was possible to determine which line quality characteristics were the most difficult to detect, which indicia of simulation were concealed and what anomalies were introduced by the photocopying process.

Results indicated that line quality characteristics can be identified in good quality photocopies. Furthermore, accurate judgements can be made regarding similarities and differences in line quality when comparing a photocopied signature with original known standards. In a few instances, ink line morphology was problematic when striation patterns and ink gooping were misinterpreted as pen lifts, hesitation and patching on the photocopies.
ABSTRACT

The present study reviews the literature of the past 100 years as to the question of whether or not the sex of a writer can be determined from his or her handwriting. As a result, the success-rates of the various researchers vary between close to chance and 94%.

Our own experience had a double objective: To see how well a group of 71 raters (21 experts and 50 lay persons) would perform and to find out which rate or correct attributions could be achieved by employing pattern recognition and image processing techniques.

The results show, that computers perform considerably better in this experimental design. By means of various statistical analyses, we were able to name the discriminative features between the two groups of writers.
DATEING A DOCUMENT BY REFERENCE TO ITS "RUBBER STAMP" IMPRESSION DIMENSIONS

Robert W Radley, 220 Elgar Road South, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0DG, England.

Whilst investigating the authenticity of a "rubber stamp" impression by reference to specimen stamp impressions, discrepancies in the impression sizes were found which led to an examination of the size of over 30 impressions from the same rubber stamp covering a 4-year period. An apparent shrinkage of the stamp over the years was determined enabling a straight line graph to be plotted of shrinkage versus time. From the dimensions of the questioned stamp impression, its date was determined by reference to the graph. A large number of other stamp impressions were examined to determine the occurrence of shrinkage of such stamps.
Using the ESDA to Visualize Indented Impressions Produced by a Typewriter and Survey of Techniques Used to Visualize Indented Markings

Abstract-
Document examiners use numerous techniques to visualize indented markings. The development and use of the Electrostatic Detection Apparatus (ESDA), and in recent years similar visualization instruments, has made visualizing indented markings much easier. Still, difficulties are encountered when it comes to developing typewriter impressions with the ESDA. Little or no success has been achieved trying to visualize latent typewriter impressions using the ESDA. This paper presents a modified ESDA technique that will allow the examiner to develop the latent typewriter impressions using the ESDA, toner, and a scraping device. This technique will provide a means for the document examiner to visualize a whole page of latent typed impressions and preserve the ESDA results in the same manner you would impressions of handwritten material.

Some impressions cannot be developed using the ESDA technique. Included in this paper is a survey of ways to visualize indented markings using photographic, chemical, mechanical and combinations of techniques.
These databases have been prepared using Microsoft® Access V2.0. Both databases have been designed by Chris Anderson and programmed by Cathy Fitz-Gerald initially for document laboratories in private practice. While the design is primarily aimed at the small laboratory it is easily adaptable to the large government laboratories with a number of examiners. Both databases will run stand alone.

**FROM** or the *Forensic Office Manager* is a case and time management database in the one package that fully utilises the relational capabilities of Access to enter casework as it comes into the laboratory; maintains a separate list of clients totally independent of the case; records who the case has been assigned to; uses timesheets to record the amount of time each examiner spends on the case; produces both a summary of the time spent and an invoice for the client including disbursements. For the laboratory manager it also provides a report that lists all current cases and who they have been assigned to; what clients have outstanding accounts and the amount they owe; the time spent by all or individual examiners on casework over a given period. It is not designed as a replacement for accounting programmes. This database has been successfully trialed both in Australia and Canada.

**FAD** or the *Forensic Articles Database* is a database designed around the relational capabilities of Access to catalogue a laboratories article collection using a simple classification based on a series of subject headings. The versatility of this database is that you can define the subject headings to suit your own laboratory needs instead of using cumbersome keywords. Another advantage of this database is that it numbers each article which can be printed off as labels to attach to the articles for easy retrieval. Articles can be searched under subject headings, author, title, source, date or a combination of these search fields. Results of a search can be printed out in an abbreviated form or with its abstract. At this time the database is presently being used by a library to catalogue the libraries collection of articles from newspapers.
With the advances in technology the typewriter has been gradually replaced by the computer and printer. This has made the identification of the source of a computer printed document more difficult than that of a typewritten document for the document examiner. The identification of the font or typestyle used to print the document maybe one way to source a document.

Times New Roman is one of the most widely used typestyles to print documents. This typestyle was designed in 1932 for "The Times" newspaper in London and subsequently developed by Monotype. Other typeface manufacturers have since developed their own versions of Times New Roman and registered it under their own names. There are approximately 18 different versions of Times New Roman, each slightly different from one another. If the version of Times New Roman can be identified the source of the document maybe revealed. This paper highlights the differences between the different derivatives of Times New Roman.

(To be presented at a future meeting)
ABSTRACT

Studies over the past decade have concluded that dyslexia affects 15 to 20 percent of the population in this country. Individuals with dyslexia process language in a different way. In the first step of this research, the nature of dyslexia, its cause, effects and treatment, will be explored. Further research will seek to determine if there are any indications of dyslexia to be found in handwriting of dyslexics.
1996 ASQDE MEETING PAPER ABSTRACT FORM

Abstracts are due June 1, 1996

This form is provided for your use. It will be used primarily to schedule the program of presentations and may be used in the catalog of papers. Your abstract must be completed as soon as possible. Forward your completed research paper for printing and inclusion in the ASQDE catalog of papers, which will be distributed at the meeting.

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John R Welch, B.Sc.

The Metropolitan Laboratory, 109 Lambeth Road, London, England, SE1 7LP

A Review of Handwriting Search Cases as an Indicator of the Individuality of Handwriting.

Some cases involve searching for the writer of a questioned document amongst the known writings of a large number of possible suspects. Irrespective of whether a match is found such searches provide compelling evidence for the individuality of handwriting. A number of such cases are outlined.

Desired time slot for presentation: Any Time Before ASQDE Business Meeting.

Send abstract, disk and two copies of your technical paper to:

Nancy Berthold, Program Chairperson
Immigration & Naturalization Service
8000 Westpark Drive, Suite 325
McLean, VA 22102 (USA)
(703) 285-2482 Fax: (703) 285-2208
Conclusions Come at the End

Allan Herkt and Gordon Sharfe

New Zealand Police Document Examination Section
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Abstract

Recently we were asked to examine two diaries in a dispute over intellectual property rights. The diaries had been previously examined by a document examiner in private practice. One of the diaries was questioned in respect of the sequence of various entries. The other was questioned only because it had had coffee spilt on it and the private examiner had reported that it was unlikely that the spill had been accidental, suggesting some nefarious intent. As a result of our examinations and critique the private examiner withdrew the affidavit prepared in this matter from before the courts. This paper has been written to highlight the pitfalls of prematurely concluding an examination once evidence supporting one scenario is located.
THE IMPACT OF FOREIGN EDUCATION ON THE HANDWRITING OF INDIVIDUALS LEARNING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

By
Douglas Caywood

With the fluidity of the world's population, examination of an individual's handwriting to determine country-of-origin has become more important than ever in the history of "so-called" civilization. A limited scope study was formally initiated to compare the copy book style of handwriting in select foreign countries with the handwriting of the same individual writing English. The Latin alphabet languages examined were French, German, Spanish and the modified alphabet of Cyrillic. Also the ideographic languages of Chinese, Japanese and Korean were examined. Within the Latin alphabet languages country-of-origin indicators were identified. Within the ideographic languages, such indicators were available only when the teaching style of the country's English handwriting teaching form was known.
Identifying records of drug dealing transactions inevitably leads to the examination of scraps of paper bearing only figures. In order to assess how variable individuals are when writing figures, a number of writings were classified and the number of variations assessed. Some figures (e.g. 4) proved to be better indications of authorship than others.

Audio-Visual Requirements: 35mm slide projector, Overhead projector, VCR player, Other, specify:

Desired time slot for presentation: 15 minutes (preferably early in the day, and early in the conference)

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Immigration & Naturalization Service
8000 Westpark Drive, Suite 325
McLean, VA 22102 (USA)
(703) 285-2482 Fax: (703) 285-2208
Hans Mayer Gidion,  
Examiner of Questioned Documents,  
218 Merrymont Drive,  
Augusta, Georgia 30907

A recent medical malpractice case began with a requested examination of typewritten entries purportedly executed over a period of several years. There were suspicions however, that the original records were purposely destroyed and retyped, perhaps at one sitting.

It's the little things overlooked by the perpetrator that often become the biggest factor in any matter.

So it was with this case. The factor that convinced the jury was a mere rubber stamp impression.
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Name(s) of Author(s) Paul A. Osborn

Address 139 Fulton St., New York, N. Y. 10038

Title of Paper ADVANTAGES GAINED FROM GOOD PENMANSHIP ABILITY

ABSTRACT

The acquired penmanship ability of a Document Examiner can reap untold, hidden rewards towards the correctness of identification problems involving script or cursive handwriting. Good judgment must include personal experience in the art of handwriting above and beyond education and training. It is only reasonable that correct judgment of the genuineness or nongenuineness of handwriting is, to some degree, dependent upon the knowledge of the expert as to what is difficult and what is not difficult for an imitator to accomplish.

The article is prepared for all Forensic Document Examiners, but especially for individuals who are still in their first few years of training.

Audio-Visual Requirements: 35mm slide projector, overhead projector, VCR player, Other, specify:

Desired time slot for presentation: 15-20 minutes

Send abstract, disk and two copies of your technical paper to: Nancy Berthold, Program Chairperson
Immigration & Naturalization Service
8000 Westpark Drive, Suite 325
McLean, VA 22102 (USA)
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1996 ASQDE Meeting Paper Abstract

Name(s) of Author(s) Grant R. Sperry and Robert J. Muehlberger

Address 225 N Humphreys Blvd Memphis TN 38161-0003

Title of Paper ASQDE and the Internet

ABSTRACT

The Internet, with its rapid and continuing growth as a preferred platform for information and interactive communication, can provide organizations, such as the ASQDE and its members, a simple and inexpensive means for professional interchange. The benefits for conducting this type of business 'online' can be readily seen by anyone who has ventured onto the World Wide Web.

An actual online demonstration of the Internet and its many utilities will be presented. Using the Forensic Document Analyst homepage, the possibilities for the Society's use of this format will be explored, and the potential advantages over current administrative practices will be described. E-mail functions, file transfers and any other confidential matter requiring some form of security will be addressed and demonstrated. The online demonstration will provide, at the least to the novice, a way of accessing unlimited resources in a fast and easy manner.
Digitally Embedded Information in Paper Documents

The use of computer technology to embed digital information into paper documents has been in existence for many years. The classic and easily recognizable bar code font has been in use since the 1960's. William Duane has covered this topic, in depth, in his paper which was presented at the 1994 ASQDE meeting in Long Beach, California. Today, however, it is possible to have a tremendous amount of digital information embedded into paper documents unobtrusively. The digital information is encoded in gray patterns that may appear as the document background, printed "watermark" or company logo. One such technology is the DATAGLYPH system developed by XEROX Corporation. The Forensic Document Examiner must be able to recognize this new technology and be cognizant of the benefits in terms of dating information and content information found within the embedded code.
A variety of practical applications were found for Shandon Xylene Substitute in the examination of questioned documents. This product is marketed as a non-carcinogenic substitute for xylenes, but does not have quite the same properties. The most useful properties of this xylene substitute are that it is non-destructive to inks, paper and plastics, is less volatile than xylene, and is only a weak solvent of correction fluids. Its principle uses here have been to make paper translucent, thereby allowing obliterated writings to be read through the back side of the page. This translucent state also allows infrared examinations through the paper. Applications were made to cases involving obliterations made with correction fluids, overwritings, ink, and multiple layers of these materials. Shandon Xylene Substitute does not affect indented writings and ESDA examinations. It evaporates without leaving any odor, discoloration or distortion.
THE CAUSE OF TYPEWRITER PRINTWHEEL DAMAGE OBSERVED IN THE QUESTIONED DOCUMENT

Donald Moryan, B.S.
Questioned Document Examiner
Questioned Document Division
U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory
Fort Gillem, GA 30050

The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy of the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government

ABSTRACT: The two basic typewriting examinations are typewriter classification and typewriter identification. The goal of typewriter classification is to determine the make and model of the typewriter or element used to prepare a document. The goal of typewriter identification is to determine if a particular typewriter or element was used to prepare a document. Typewriter identification involves the examination of the questioned typescript with known typescript. Most often the size, spacing, type style and defective letters and characters are examined and compared. Typing defects are usually the most helpful characteristic in identifying a questioned element as to being used to produce a questioned document. Although the damage and wear of the typescript can be seen under magnification, the cause of the damage or wear is rarely observed. This is a case study of an unusual cause of typeface damage to a printwheel which was observed on a questioned document.
Hand Printing of the Middle East and the Subcontinent

In order to make accurate assessments of a handwriting feature's significance, the examiner must be able to estimate its relative rarity within the appropriate population. Such assessments are usually based on the examination of numerous handwriting samples. When dealing with hand printing of individuals from different regions of the world, however, examiners usually have access to only limited reference materials. In an effort to quantify hand printing characteristics in the Latin alphabet by individuals from various countries, 20,000 handwriting samples were acquired for analysis. The current project is the fifth regional study utilizing these handwriting samples (the first was Latin America, the second Africa, the third Asia and the fourth was Europe). As in the earlier studies in the series, this project is an analysis of the frequency of numerous letter forms in samples written by individuals from the following countries in the Middle East and the Subcontinent: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cyprus, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. In addition to the statistical results, a reference collection of hand printing specimens for each of these countries is included in the paper.
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Name(s) of Author(s)  Douglas A. Ridolfi
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Southern Illinois Forensic Science Centre
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Address

Title of Paper  Use of Instructional Design Methods to Prepare Training Modules in Questioned Documents

ABSTRACT

This paper will focus on the procedures for the design of a single instructional unit using the events of instruction as proposed by Robert Gagné. A systematic approach to the development of questioned document training programs offers a number of advantages including:

- better defined entry level skills,
- reducing concepts to their basic elements,
- improved methods of skills assessment,
- better understanding of process and reasoning behind procedures,
- improved planning and conducting of program evaluations,
- communicate more effectively in visual, oral and written form.

Audio-Visual Requirements: □ 35mm slide projector, □ overhead projector, □ VCR player, □ Other, specify:

Desired time slot for presentation:  Tuesday (15 to 20 minutes)

Send abstract, disk and two copies of your technical paper to: Nancy Berthold, Program Chairperson
Immigration & Naturalization Service
8000 Westpark Drive, Suite 325
McLean, VA 22102  (USA)
(703) 285-2482 Fax: (703) 285-2208
ABSTRACT: Computer scanners and desk top publishing allow reproductions to appear original. A document examiner, aware of the difficulties such programs present, may, without the use of high technological equipment, be able to detect regenerations and affix culpability.
The proliferation and acceptance of microcomputers continues to revolutionize the way business is conducted and information transmitted. Marketing researcher IDC/Link reports that 4.1 Million new buyers entered the PC market in 1995. As would be expected, these microcomputer systems are more and more finding their way into forensic laboratories for examination. The traditional request directed to the questioned document examiner is whether or not the questioned document originated from the seized microcomputer and printer. In addition, forensic services are available which examine the computer evidence for content stored electronically as well as an audit trail of the flow of information to and from that microcomputer. Recent cases have shown that the creation of exemplars for questioned document examinations can have unintended and damaging consequences.
ABSTRACT

A CASE OF IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS IN CURSIVE/PRINT STYLE WRITING

James L. Streeter, Connecticut State Police Forensic Science Laboratory, 278 Colony St., Meriden, CT 06451

The Application and utilization of cursive/print (combination) style writing is becoming more commonplace in the general writing population.

The lack of connecting strokes and the presence of pen lifts and hiatuses does not necessarily lead to identifying individual characteristics.

In this paper the author discusses one case where these writing habits could lead to an improper identification.
MULTIPLE DISPUTED SIGNATURES

By Gregory A. McNally
New York, NY

There are occasions when a questioned signature may be so simply written, easily simulated, or just suspicious, as is the case with some foreign signatures, that the existence of other disputed signatures, in the same matter, may be the deciding factor for determining if the signature is genuine or non-genuine. In this paper the author will give examples and discuss the presence, or absence, of normal variation in multiple disputed signature problems.
ABSTRACT

The Selection and Development of Counterfeit Deterrent Features in National Identification Documents and International Travel Documents

by

James F. Larner

The development of effective security features in identification and travel documents depends on the level of organization and cooperation between members of a committee consisting of a counterfeit deterrent specialist, the contracting officers technical assistant (sometimes one and the same person), the contracting officer (representing the customer), the security printers representative, and a graphic arts designer.

This paper focuses on the dynamics of two different committees illustrating their similarities, differences and final results in the development of the U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service (Employment Authorization Card) and the Atlanta Committee of the Olympic Games (Olympic Identity Card). The presentation will be supported by a detailed video illustrating security features of the Olympic Identity Card (OIC) and a step by step slide presentation demonstrating the development of the Employment Authorization document (EAD).
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Name(s) of Author(s) *Heath, B. Gaile and Dawson, Marvin H. (Mickey)

SLED Division of Investigation
PO Box 21398 PO Box 21886
Columbia, SC 29221-1398 Columbia, SC 29221

Title of Paper Mechanical Aids for the Writing Impaired

ABSTRACT

A survey of the mechanical aids available to assist the impaired writer with the writing process.

Audio-Visual Requirements: [ ]35mm slide projector, [ ]overhead projector, [ ]VCR player, [ ]Other, specify:

Desired time slot for presentation: Tuesday, August 27, 1996 11:00 am - 11:20 am

Send abstract, disk and two copies of your technical paper to:

Nancy Berthold, Program Chairperson
Immigration & Naturalization Service
8000 Westpark Drive, Suite 325
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Name(s) of Author(s) GALE BOLSBOVER

Address 22433 Randolph Dr., Dulles, VA 20104-1000

Title of Paper Professor Denbeaux "Much Ado About Nothing"

ABSTRACT

A discussion of the opposing testimony of Professor Mark Denbeaux.

Audio-Visual Requirements: □35mm slide projector, □overhead projector, □VCR player, □Other, specify:

Desired time slot for presentation: Early Tuesday

Send abstract, disk and two copies of your technical paper to:

Nancy Berthold, Program Chairperson
Immigration & Naturalization Service
8000 Westpark Drive, Suite 325
McLean, VA 22102 (USA)
(703) 285-2482 Fax: (703) 285-2208
Title of Paper: MADE UP SIGNATURES.

ABSTRACT

What are they? What are they like? An analysis of the characteristics that identify the kind of signatures executed by means of a special self-modification of the writer's own handwriting. Possible ways of gathering evidential proof aiming at the eventual detection of the author of the disguised signature.
1996 ASQDE MEETING PAPER ABSTRACT FORM

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Name(s) of Author(s) C. ESTABROOKS and S. MICHAUD

Address
RCMP, CENTRAL FORENSIC LABORATORY, P.O. BOX 8885, OTTAWA, ONT. K1A OR2

Title of Paper PAYMENT CARD EMBOSSE DATABASE

ABSTRACT

In order to meet increasing operational demands involving the forensic examination of payment cards, a software program was created, designed to keep track of identifying features found on the embossings of bogus payment cards. In doing so, a database was developed, reducing an otherwise insurmountable task to an orderly and efficient program, whereby counterfeit cards, as well as genuine-altered cards, from across Canada can be accurately correlated and linked to the specific embossing machines responsible for their production.

Audio-Visual Requirements: □ 35mm slide projector, □ overhead projector, □ VCR player, □ Other, specify:

Desired time slot for presentation: Sunday, 1st Session, i.e. has to be before business meeting

Send abstract, disk and two copies of your technical paper to: Nancy Berthold, Program Chairperson
Immigration & Naturalization Service
8000 Westpark Drive, Suite 325
McLean, VA 22102 (USA)
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The New Questioned Document Article Database and askSam® 3.0 Software

Gregory R. Dalzell, M.A.
Forensic Document Analyst Trainee
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
Forensic Document Laboratory
McLean, Virginia

Prepared for presentation at the 54th annual meeting of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners
August 24-28, 1996
Washington, D.C.
ABSTRACT

The Questioned Document Article Database (QDAD) contains a large number of research and technical papers as well as magazine and newspaper articles about forensic document examination and related areas of interest. Updated with 500 additions, the 5,500 item QDAD is searchable by personal computer using upgraded askSam® version 3.0 database software. A searchable QDAD is also available through an internet World Wide Web site.

The paper reports on how the QDAD is maintained and how the new askSam® facilitates fast, easy QDAD searches. The presentation will provide a quick guide to using askSam® regarding searching techniques, generating search reports and file management. The paper also describes further plans for improving the QDAD. The current QDAD computer file, QDAD3.ASK, will be distributed in compressed format on 3.5" floppy disks during the presentation.
QDAD FOR THE COMPUTER CHALLENGED

Darlene Lynn Morin, M.F.S.
Forensic Document Analyst Trainee

Department of Justice
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
Forensic Document Laboratory
McLean, VA

Prepared for Presentation at the 54th Annual Meeting of the
American Society of Questioned Document Examiners
August 24 - 28, 1996
Washington, DC
The Questioned Document Article Database (QDAD) is an efficient method of researching over 5,500 document related articles. When the database was first established, the number of document examiners with access to QDAD was limited to persons who had access to a computer. However, the database is now available to individuals without the use of a computer. The search for a specific article can just as easily be located by using one of three designated lists; either by article number, title or author. This reference collection will be distributed during the presentation of the paper.

More importantly, the QDAD is a valuable tool that can help document examiners keep abreast of the newest technologies in the questioned document profession as well as provide an excellent source of reference materials for trainees in the questioned document discipline. The purpose of this paper is to inform the document examiner how to utilize the QDAD, both with or without the use of a computer. Also discussed are some suggestions as to how all document examiners can help contribute to the growth and development of the database.
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Name(s) of Author(s)    Maureen Casey Owens

Address                Wilmington, North Carolina

Title of Paper         Irish Writing Characteristics

ABSTRACT

A Discussion of Irish writing instruction from the 1920's to present and a look at some of the more prominent features in the written hand.

Audio-Visual Requirements: 35mm slide projector, overhead projector, VCR player, Other, specify:

Desired time slot for presentation: Tuesday or Wednesday morning

Send abstract, disk and two copies of your technical paper to:

Nancy Berthold, Program Chairperson
Immigration & Naturalization Service
8000 Westpark Drive, Suite 325
McLean, VA 22102 (USA)
(703) 285-2482 Fax: (703) 285-2208
The major suppliers of forensic equipment used primarily by Document Examiners have all marketed some "complete" units to examine documents. This equipment generally incorporates a variable working light source, filtration system, outputting system, image capture and processing systems. The Polilight, Poliview and Poli-V software manufactured by Rofin Australia Pty. Ltd. has produced a complete system for examining documents in the ultraviolet infra-red range. This equipment is versatile and by attaching the Poliview camera to a microscope, extends its usefulness. This technique and others will be explored.
Abstracts are due June 1, 1996

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Name(s) of Author(s)  James R. Daniels

Address  4615 Post Oak Place, Suite 140, Houston, Texas 77027

Title of Paper  Tonal Artifacts of the JPEG Codec

**ABSTRACT**

Compression of a digital image file is desirable in order to minimize transmission time and storage space. If the exact value of each and every pixel in the original digital image can be reconstituted from the compressed file, the compression-decompression system is said to be lossless, or, if not, lossy. Illustrated here are some of the image quality penalties which may be incurred in using JPEG, the most popular of the lossy methods.

Audio-Visual Requirements: [ ] 35mm slide projector, [ ] overhead projector, [ ] VCR player, [ ] Other, specify:

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Name(s) of Author(s) Philip D. Bouffard, Ph.D.

Address Lake County Regional Forensic Laboratory, Painesville, Ohio

Title of Paper A PC Based Typewriter Typestyle Classification System for Cubic Typestyles

ABSTRACT

As part of an ongoing program of creating a relatively comprehensive typewriter typestyle classification system, an updated classification scheme has been created for Cubic typestyles. In this program, Cubic typestyles include not only those standard cubic typestyles with "square" forms, but also include such typestyles as Tile, with flat sides and rounded top and bottom strokes. Tile specimens are also included in the Elite Sans Serif section of this classification program, previously presented to this group. In this part of the program, there are over 270 entries, consisting of over 110 separate specimens. Entries are characterized by subgroup, as well as by letter spacing (including Proportional Spacing), typing mechanism, nine numbers, seven upper case letters, thirteen lower case letters, and four symbols.

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Name(s) of Author(s) Andrew T. Szymanski, BS

Address Lake County Regional Forensic Laboratory, Painesville, Ohio

Title of Paper Typewriter data base using Interpol, Haas and the C\TYPE program

ABSTRACT

An ASKSAM interrelational data base has been created linking Interpol cards with the corresponding typewriter specimens in the Haas Typewriter Atlases, and to the entries in C\TYPE, the PC based typewriter classification system developed by Dr. Philip D. Bouffard. The advantages of this data base are twofold. First, it permits examiners who do not have access to the Haas Atlases, but who do have access to Interpol cards, to use the Interpol cards in conjunction with the C\TYPE system. In addition, in cases where a Haas specimen may be of poor quality, or incomplete, an examiner will be able to search for the same specimen on the Interpol card with the goal of finding one with better quality, or with all of the desired characters. This ASKSAM interrelational data base will aid the Forensic Document Examiner in their pursuit of typewriter information.

Audio-Visual Requirements: □35mm slide projector, □overhead projector, □VCR player, □Other, specify:

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Name(s) of Author(s) ____________________________

Kathleen B. Maguire and Traci Moran

Address

USSS/FSD, 1800 "G" St., #929
Washington, DC 20223

Title of Paper ____________________________

FISH HITS

ABSTRACT

The United States Secret Service Forensic Services Division in Washington D.C., utilizes the Forensic Information System for Handwriting (FISH) system which originated in the German Bundeskriminalamt in the late 1970's. FISH enables a document examiner to scan, digitize, and search text writings against previous writing entered into the database. Two databases exist - the original Presidential protection database, the database for cases involving missing and exploited children and known pedophiles. FISH is becoming a national handwriting repository. From 1991, to the present FISH has had 33 "hits" in the presidential protection database.

Audio-Visual Requirements:☑ 35mm slide projector, ☐ overhead projector, ☐ VCR player, ☐ Other, specify:

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August 28, 1996 11:11:20 am

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ABSTRACT:

Farrell C. Shiver *

United States Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory, Fort Gillem, Georgia

Case Report: The Individuality of Handwriting Demonstrated Through the Field Screening of 1000 Writers

This case report is presented as a demonstration of the individuality of handwriting. The author conducted a field screening of 1000 postal documents in an effort to identify suspects in a counterfeit check case. The screening resulted in an identification of the writer of the checks.
Minimum Standards in Forensic Document Examination

Accreditation and certification are more than fashionable trends within forensic sciences, focusing on quality issues. Since ISO quality standards are also becoming prestigious in forensic disciplines, the definition of minimum standards is more than just a written policy for examination purposes. What are more useful and less useful minimum standards? Summarized attempt of the author to set-up some guide-lines for a minimum standard approach in forensic document examination.
Name of Author: Peter W. Pfefferli, PhD
Address: Forensic Science Dept. - Zurich Canton Police
P.O.Box
CH-8021 Zurich - Switzerland
Title of Paper: GFS - the European counterpart of ASQDE

Abstract

Although the 'Gesellschaft für Forensische Schriftuntersuchung' (GFS), the European society for forensic document experts was already founded in 1951, it remained until the early nineties a mainly German association for handwriting experts. In 1993 the GFS organized its first international congress, held in Berlin, followed by another international meeting in 1995 in The Netherlands. The GFS is now in the process of definitely going international. As president of the GFS, the author is presenting a short overview on objectives and purposes of the GFS, the society requirements for international membership as well as a preview of the society's next international event, to take place in 1997 in Lucerne/Switzerland.
Abstracts are due June 1, 1996

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Joan DiMartino
Name(s) of Author(s)

700 E. Joppa Road Towson, MD 21286
Address

Homicide Investigation involving Questioned Documents
Title of Paper

ABSTRACT

Working for a local law enforcement agency exposes a document examiner to many different types of offenses involving document evidence ranging from White Collar Crime to violent crime. Many death investigations involve evidence requiring the services of a document examiner. Sometimes the questioned document evidence provides the motive, sometimes it depicts incriminating information penned by the defendant, sometimes it even provides insight as to the defendant’s state of mind which is certainly not to be confused with determining the writer’s personality.

My paper will discuss the brutal murders of two women and how document evidence played a part in each of the investigations and subsequent trials.

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ABSTRACT

This paper will review a number of the old techniques used in counterfeiting and forging of documents. It will also cover new technology by reference to case studies. In the past 2 years I have been invited to a number of South East Asian countries as a guest speaker to discuss "counterfeiting and forgery." I have become acquainted with a number of techniques used in this part of the world. Although some methods are common there are some novel approaches also used in these countries.
ABSTRACT

In The Netherlands and other European countries every detainee writes a text. (The Netherlands and Austria use the NIFO Standard Text.) These samples have been very useful in many criminal cases. Mrs. Leny Kroon was convinced that these handwriting collections (exemplars) could be better used, so she formed a project-team in 1986 to develop such a system:

- To replace the manual analyzing process by a computer supported method.
- To store the relevant information in a file.
- To search the files for similar samples.

The project team consisted of participants from NIFO, Netherlands Organization for Applied Science Research (TNO) and the University of Delft. The Dutch Police Organization is also involved after their Board made a comparison of the BKA system, "FI SH" to "SCRIPT".

Detailed information about "SCRIPT" and the results of pilot tests done by The Netherlands and Austria, including statistical evaluations, will be presented.
Title of Paper: SYSTEMATIC EXAMINATION AND COMPARISON OF PAPER SAFETY MATCHES.

ABSTRACT

Removed paper safety matches can be examined and compared in order to identify or eliminate a particular matchbook using readily available equipment. Previous works by Gerhart and Ward [1], von Bremen [2], Dixon [3], and Funk [4] have been used as starting points, but with an attempt to systematize and simplify their methods. Although the application of various techniques utilized in a paper safety match examination may be somewhat of a departure from the familiar, the procedures are not necessarily complex.
ABSTRACT

The Documents Examiner is often asked to make an examination of a photocopy when the original is not in existence. The claim that a facsimile is a fabrication is a similar problem. The examinations described include the methods used to differentiate between two Courier type face designs from examination of photocopies.

THE FABRICATORS

A series of cases involving fabricated facsimiles and photocopies

by

Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt
Examiner of Questioned Documents
6125 Vernon Terrace
Alexandria, Virginia 22307
IDENTIFICATION OF A COUNTERFEIT DOCUMENT TO A PRINTING PLATE BY MEANS OF HALF-TONE DOTS

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ABSTRACT

Several printing plates, proofs, suspect vouchers and genuine vouchers were submitted for examination. Comparison of the printing established that the suspect vouchers were counterfeit. Comparison of the half-tone dots on the printing plates, proofs and suspect vouchers under high magnification (x 80) established a similarity in the numbers, shapes, sizes and connectivity of the dots. Using these patterns, it was possible to distinguish between the 6 images on the cyan printing plate and to say which image printed a specific suspect voucher; thereby conclusively associating the printing plate and the suspect vouchers.
CASE REPORT

Examination of Paper to Provide Evidence of Document Alteration

Sara Scharf, Ph.D. (1)*, Rachel Gabbay, M.Sc. (1) and Sharon Brown, M.Sc. (1)

Footnotes
(1) Scientific officers, Questioned Documents Laboratory, Division of Identification and Forensic Science, Israel Police Headquarters, Jerusalem 91906, Israel.
* Will handle correspondence.

ABSTRACT:

Questioned document examiners often face the task of deciphering indented marks. In several cases we have encountered the phenomenon where these impressions are luminescent, and in these cases, the interpretation process is greatly simplified. The document examiner is not always able to account for the origin of this luminescence, and this remains an interesting question for further investigation. In the present case we have found one of the possible explanations.

The case involves two handwritten sale agreements, in which the line that verifies the payment was added at a later time. Unfortunately for the forger, it turned out that the papers upon which the agreements were made were coated on their backs with microcapsules containing a leucodye, as in carbonless copy paper. This enabled revealing the indented marks of the various entries by infrared luminescence, and thus determine the sequence of the entries with respect to one another. This was a very important result in this case, since optical examinations and thin layer chromatography of the ink showed only slight differences between the original and the added writing.

KEYWORDS: questioned documents, nonvisible writing, indented writing, infrared luminescence, carbonless copy paper.
Felt-Tipped Pens and the White Board

S.C. Leung and Y.M. Leung
Forensic Science Division, Government Laboratory, Hong Kong

The Fifty-Fourth Annual Meeting of
The American Society of Questioned Document Examiners
Washington D.C., U.S.A.
August 24-28, 1996
Felt-Tipped Pens and the White Board

S.C. Leung and Y.M. Leung
Forensic Science Division, Government Laboratory, Hong Kong

Abstract
Burr striations are usually referred to as fine ink-free striations in a ball pen stroke caused by the removal of ink from the rotating ball by faults in, or damage to, the pen’s ball housing. Being first reported by Snape, the formation of burr striations in strokes produced by ball-point pens and their related morphological features are well understood [1 & 2]. The authors have found that characteristics of felt-tipped pen writings on non-absorbent surfaces such as the white board are significantly different from those on paper that absorbs the ink, notable examples being the clear display of stroke sequence and burr striations on white boards. It was also found that the orientation of burr striations of a curved felt-tipped pen stroke in relation to the writing direction is opposite to that of the burr striations of a curved ball-point pen stroke.

Key Words: fibre-tipped pen, felt-tipped pen, burr striations.

Introduction
Hilton has studied the effects of writing instruments on handwriting details and concluded that it is the combination of the width of the marking point and ink composition that create significant apparent differences between fine line writing of pencils or ball point pens and the broader strokes of the wider tipped porous pens [3]. He further pointed out that writing movements producing the handwriting constitute the key factor in the determination of authorship and that the quality of the line, being actually scrutinized in the examination process, embodies all the elements of writing movements, but that it must also include the influence of the writing instrument on these qualities [4]. It is therefore imperative that document examiners should have a thorough understanding of the functioning of various writing instruments.

A fibre-tipped pen is made of a compressed bundle of extremely fine thread-like fibres or filaments running lengthwise and held together by some binder or adhesive [5]. On the other hand, the broader felt tipped marker pen consists of a circular or a rectangular piece of felt-like material at its tip. Under magnification, the surface of the felt appears to possess a large number of tiny hair-like protrusions. Hence felt-tipped pens can be considered to be made of a collection of 'ink-depositing points', which under certain conditions, also produce burr striations. This applies to felt-tipped pens whose ink is almost used up or to felt pen writings on white-board and any other smooth and non-absorbent surfaces. A study on the burr striations and other morphological features of felt-tipped pen strokes is reported in this paper.