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The Scientific Working Group for Forensic Document Examination (SWGDOC)

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Mission

Assemble representatives from the forensic document examination community in order to

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Assemble representatives from the forensic document examination community in order to

- define the scope and practice areas of the profession,

Mission

Assemble representatives from the forensic document examination community in order to

- standardize operating procedures, protocols, and terminology,

Mission

Assemble representatives from the forensic document examination community in order to

- consolidate and enhance the profession of forensic document examination, and

Mission

Assemble representatives from the forensic document examination community in order to

- promote self-regulation, documentation, training, continuing education, and research in the area of forensic document examination.

Goals

- Strengthen the content and the enforcement of published performance standards,

Goals

- Continue to write and foster the publication of performance standards for sub-discipline examinations,

Goals

- Publish and maintain the Daubert Factors for Attorneys and Daubert Factors for Forensic Document Examiners presentations,

Goals

- Participate in and support a Human Factors Working Group for Forensic Document Examination, and

Goals

- Expand the participant pool to include academicians, statisticians, legal professionals, and practitioners from other forensic disciplines.

History

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- Initially consisted of representatives from 8 Federal Agencies
- Grew to 8 Federal Agency representatives, 9 National & Regional Organization representatives, 5 Standing Subcommittee Chairpersons, 5 At-Large members, 1 ASTM representative, 1 ASCLD-LAB representative, and 1 Academic member

History

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- SWGDOC Chair
- Subgroup Chairs
- Participants

Operation

Participants are invited by the chair based on experience, expertise, and geographic location (to a limited extent).

Operation

Participants currently come from federal, state, county, and private laboratories.

Operation

The range of experience of the most recent participants is from approximately two years for two examiners to over forty years for two other practitioners, with an average of approximately nineteen years for all of the attendees who participated in the last year.

Operation

Two international attendees have also participated in the past.

Operation

SWGDOC operates using sub-groups with a population of generally five to seven individuals.

Operation

These sub-groups draft or update published operating procedures for specific sub-disciplines within the forensic document expertise.

Operation

These drafts are vetted through the other sub-groups and then submitted to ASTM International (a consensus-based standards publishing organization) for balloting and eventual publication.

Operation

SWGDOC has either written and/or updated eighteen standards published through ASTM International. There are also fifteen additional draft standards that have been prepared for balloting through ASTM International.

Operation

Why use ASTM?

- Not a government organization
- Peer reviewed by numerous forensic specialists and others
- Automatic five year review

Operation

The Daubert Factors

Basic principles tested

Standards

Peer review and publications

General acceptance

Error rate

Operation

Published

- E444 Standard Guide for Scope of Work of Forensic Document Examiners
- E1422 Standard Guide for Test Methods for Forensic Writing Ink Comparison
- E1658 Standard Terminology for Expressing Conclusions of Forensic Document Examiners
- E1789 Standard Guide for Writing Ink Identification
- E2195 Standard Terminology Relating to the Examination of Questioned Documents
- E2285 Standard Guide for Examination of Mechanical Checkwriter Impressions
- E2286 Standard Guide for Examination of Dry Seal Impressions
- E2287 Standard Guide for Examination of Fracture Patterns and Paper Fiber Impressions on Single-Strike Film Ribbons and Typed Text
- E2288 Standard Guide for Physical Match of Paper Cuts, Tears, and Perforations in Forensic Document Examinations
- E2289 Standard Guide for Examination of Rubber Stamp Impressions
- E2290 Standard Guide for Examination of Handwritten Items
- E2291 Standard Guide for Indentation Examinations
- E2325 Standard Guide for Non-destructive Examination of Paper
- E2331 Standard Guide for Examination of Altered Documents
- E2388 Standard Guide for Minimum Training Requirements for Forensic Document Examiners
- E2389 Standard Guide for Examination of Documents Produced with Liquid Ink Jet Technology
- E2390 Standard Guide for Examination of Documents Produced with Toner Technology
- E2494 Standard Guide for Examination of Typewritten Items

Operation

Published - Scope of Work, Test Methods for Ink Comparison, Terminology for Expressing Conclusions, Writing Ink Identification, Examination of Mechanical Checkwriter Impressions, Dry Seal Impressions, Fracture Patterns and Paper Fiber Impressions on Single-Strike Film Ribbons and Typed Text, Physical Match of Paper Cuts, Tears, and Perforations, Rubber Stamp Impressions, Handwritten Items, Indentation Examinations, Non-destructive Examination of Paper, Altered Documents, Training Requirements, Ink Jet, Toner, and Typewritten Items.

Operation

Drafted

Standard Guide for the Preservation of Charred Documents

Standard Guide for the Preservation of Liquid Soaked Documents

Standard Guide for the Examination of Financial, Identity, and Other Authorized Documents

Standard Practice for the use of Imaging Technology in Forensic Document Examination

Standard Guide for Examination of Handwritten Items for Simulation and Tracing

Standard Practice for the Case Review of Forensic Document Examinations

Standard Guide for Classification of Facsimile Devices using Transmitting Terminal Identifier/Receiving Terminal Identifier (TTI/RTI)

Standard Guide for the Classification of Writing Instruments

Standard Guide for the Examination of Sequence of Intersection

Standard Guide For The Minimum Requirements For Forensic Document Examination Case Notes

Standard Guide for the Classification of Conventional Printing Processes

Standard Guide for the Dating of Documents

Standard Guide for the Examination of Folds and Creases on Documents

Standard Guide for the Examination of Documents Produced with Thermal Printing Technology

Standard Guide for the Classification of Typewritten Text

Operation

Drafted - Preservation of Charred and Liquid Soaked Documents, Examination of Financial, Identity, and Other Authorized Documents, Use of Imaging Technology, Simulation and Tracing, Case Review, Classification of Facsimile Devices using Transmitting Terminal Identifier/Receiving Terminal Identifier (TTI/RTI), Writing Instruments, Typewritten Text, Conventional Printing Processes, Sequence of Intersection, Case Notes, Dating of Documents, Folds and Creases, and Thermal Printing Technology.

Operation

And there are others yet to be written...

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ASTM documents drafted by SWGDOC have been favorably cited in:

- Court Opinions (for example, US v. Weiss)

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- NAS Report

Web Site

Just obtained – www.swgdoc.org



Scientific Working Group for
Forensic Document Examination

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What's New?

Welcome to the new SWGDOC website. We hope you'll come back often for accurate news, up-to-date information and resources concerning forensic document examination.

The information on this website supersedes any previously published SWGDOC information.

Please let us know what else you'd like to see here by sending an email to webmaster@swgdoc.org.

Documents in the News...

July 28:

[Researchers uncover \\$9 million check-counterfeiting scam using novel technique](#)

July 13:

[Man sold fake auto tags](#)

July 7:

[Fugitive at large in felony forgery case](#)

June 30:

[Man flees counterfeit money investigation](#)

June 10:

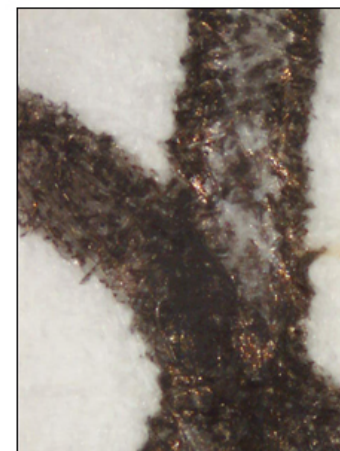
[A mysterious handwritten letter and a missing samurai sword may lead southern Alberta police to solving the slaying of a Brooks man...](#)

June 5:

[Computer Tests Proves Handwriting Analysis Is Legitimate](#)

Brain Teaser:

What type of writing instrument
made this ink line?



Contact

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Questions?

Thank you!



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