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
Mission

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

- First Meeting in 1997, as TWG DOC
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- 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

- Too much effort spent on organization, with no viable completed work product
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- SWG DOC 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.
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.
Two international attendees have also participated in the past.
Operation

SWG DOC 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.
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

SWG DOC 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

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
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.
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...
ASTM documents drafted by SWG DOC 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
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
Contact

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Questions?
Thank you!