



Questioned Documents Section – 2004

J13 Questioned Documents Research

*JoAnn Buscaglia, PhD**, Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, FBI Academy, Building 12, CTFSRU, Quantico, VA 22135

The examination and comparison of questioned documents has been well accepted in the field of forensics and in court for almost 100 years. However, recent *Daubert* challenges have focused new attention on the underlying scientific principles that govern this discipline. In light of these challenges, forensic document examiners have expressed an interest in learning how to conduct the needed research that will withstand scrutiny by both the scientific community and the courts. This presentation will provide some user techniques for achieving this goal. Additionally, the FBI Laboratory has expanded its research effort for questioned documents to address some of these challenges by using a statistical approach. Several research projects related to the chemistry of inks, visualization methods, and spectroscopic examination of documents are also being conducted. This presentation will provide an overview of the ongoing and planned questioned documents research projects. A brief discussion of the FBI Laboratory's Research Partnership Program, which provides state and local examiners the opportunity to actively participate in these research efforts, will also be presented.

Questioned Documents, Research, *Daubert*