



Questioned Documents Section – 2005

J17 A Qualitative Analysis of Modern Standard Arabic Handwriting for the Purpose of Document Examination

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand research which incorporated the known theories used in document examination and utilizes the phenomenon uncovered in the interviewing technique of qualitative research methods.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by providing relevant information to law officials who look to forensic document examination to provide aid in distinguishing the author of known exemplars.

Motivated by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the "Anthrax Letters" of less than one year later, U.S. law officials look to forensic document examination to provide relevant information that aid in distinguishing the author of known exemplars. Recognizing that document examination requires the ability to examine discrete units of handwriting and the skill to evaluate the specimen as a whole, the researcher conducted a one on one interview with a person of Arabic heritage to uncover the cultural implications involved with their style of handwriting. Then 30 sets of handwriting samples were taken for evaluation. Forensic Document Examiners marry the art and science in their examinations. This research incorporated the known theories used in document examination and utilizes the phenomenon uncovered in the interviewing technique of qualitative research methods.

Forensic Science, Document Examination, Modern Standard Arabic Language