



Questioned Documents - 2017

J1 Questioned Document Examiner Training: Foundational Readings and Resources

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand what members of the questioned documents field have relied on for training and education as questioned document examiners.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by demonstrating the importance of creating systematic and standardized training programs with empirical and measurable benchmarks demonstrating mastery and competence of trainees and by demonstrating methods and procedures that can be used to strengthen and evaluate training in a variety of forensic disciplines.

Current efforts to strengthen the reliability and validity of the methods and conclusions of questioned document examination have included discussions of standardizing training and assessment for trainees. Current training practices include foundational readings and materials that are not assigned consistently across trainers. The purpose of this study is to investigate which readings and materials are considered the most important and are used most frequently among members of the field for education and training purposes.

Efforts such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) and working groups such as the NIST/National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Expert Working Group on Human Factors in Handwriting Examination were created to address needs for training, education, research, lab management, and a variety of other issues that are important in moving the field forward and ensuring that current practices are demonstratively the best practices.

Evidence-based practices are those based on significant and reliable evidence derived from empirical evaluation of training methods and procedures. Evidence-based practice is employed in classroom settings and policy making to ensure that learners receive the greatest possible benefit from learning experiences.

This paper will present the results of an online survey of the foundational readings and materials used by professional document examiners during training. The survey will be administered via the Survey Monkey online survey service. Participants will be forwarded a link to the survey, which will gather information about materials from an extensive bibliography prepared for use by the NIST/National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Expert Working Group on Human Factors in Handwriting Examination and the OSAC Questioned Documents Subcommittee. Participants will respond to a series of article references by indicating whether they have read the article, whether it was used during their own training, whether they have used it to train others, or whether they would recommend it for training purposes.

Results of this survey will inform the development of training programs that incorporate the identification of relevant knowledge, skills, and abilities; valid and reliable measures of learning; and objective and measurable benchmarks for determining training effectiveness.

Foundational Reading, Training, Measurement