

Forensic Document Examiners Approach To Handwriting Comparisons / Identification

Samiah Ibrahim
Elisa van den Heuvel

Overview

The fields of forensic document examination and handwriting recognition are complementary. Based upon preliminary discussions, it is our view that both fields will benefit from closer affiliation; at the very least a basic understanding of how the fields approach their research. As our field evolves to include forms of electronic documentation, FDE will come to rely upon pattern and handwriting recognition.

Forensic document examination is a diverse field that includes the analysis and comparison of information that appears in many forms on documents, but we will limit the tutorial to the subject of the determination of authorship.

This half-day tutorial will cover the historical and current approach taken by forensic document examiners in handwriting and signature examinations. Topics for the tutorial include: history of the discipline; class versus individual characteristics; variation; statistical approaches; genuineness versus spuriousness; opinions and conclusions.

The targeted audience is any attendee of ICDAR that wishes to become better acquainted with the field of forensic document examination with a view towards joint research. There are no prerequisite knowledge requirements.

This tutorial will serve the following objectives:

- Provide instruction on established practices and methodologies – specifically forensic document examination approach to handwriting and signature identification.
- Motivate and explain an ICDAR topic of emerging importance – to broaden the scope of both disciplines.