
Foreword

Technology has impacted our profession in diverse ways over the past century. From the invention of the ballpoint pen to the implementation of digital imaging and printing devices, Forensic Document Examiners (FDEs) continue their quest for knowledge and expertise in various technologies in order to facilitate examination results that are both technically correct and thorough. In addressing questioned document problems that result from the use of technology-driven products, the FDE utilizes increasingly diverse and technology-based tools and instruments.

Given this ever increasing use of technology in the production of “questioned documents” and our efforts to respond with the requisite instrumentation and expertise, it probably comes as no surprise that the most recent annual meeting (August 2000) of the ASQDE had as its theme: *Advancing With Technology*. Members and invited guests at this meeting responded with papers, posters and mini-workshops that addressed many of the technology-related issues confronted by the FDE. Some of the topics addressed through presentations, mini-workshops and poster sessions included:

- Computer Printers – their classes, defects and ink dot morphology
- The detection of laser printer defects for printer identification
- A software program for line sequence and line quality determinations
- Applying specific digital enhancement techniques to ESDA developed impressions
- Issues related to indentation analysis
- Classification of fax fonts
- Compilation of facsimile data tables
- Manufacturing processes of rubber and electronic stamps
- Using a flatbed scanner and Adobe PhotoShop™ software to distinguish black inks
- Surface enhanced resonance raman (SERRS) spectroscopy on inks and toners

- The use of Adobe PhotoShop™ lab color mode in forensic document examinations

From an organizational perspective, the ASQDE complimented this year’s theme by providing members and guests with a CD-ROM containing most of the papers presented. The CD-ROM distributed at this year’s meeting is currently available for sale at the ASQDE web site (www.asqde.org), or by contacting the ASQDE web editor at: webeditor@asqde.org. Many of this year’s presentations may be revised and published in future issues of the Journal.

As most are aware, there are two very active working groups addressing many of the quality control, procedural and examination protocols needed within our profession. The Scientific Working Group on Document Examination (SWGDOC) and the Scientific Working Group on Imaging Technologies (SWGIT) have established draft guidelines which are available for review and comment at www.for-swg.org. As these guidelines will have an impact on most of us, review and recommendations by FDEs are essential.

To succeed in maintaining our awareness of technology issues, research and studies must continue to be undertaken and reported in peer-reviewed publications such as the *Journal*. We welcome the opportunity to consider for publication your original research, review of current practices or procedures, and historical articles impacting the expansive field of questioned document examination. Further information is contained in the Instruction for Authors on page 52.

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Editor