

Document Examination Unit

- A document is any material that contains writing, printing, symbols, marks or signs that are visible, partially visible or invisible that may convey a message to someone.

Types of examinations:

- Handwriting and signatures
- Machine generated documents
- Ink and writing implements
- Alterations, enhancements and restorations
- Indentations
- Paper
- Security features

Sources of Collected Specimen

- Credit cards, loan application, bank documents
- Employment application
- Queensland Transport
- Fingerprint forms etc.,
- Diary (proven), notebooks
- Home, workplace

Handwriting features:

- Style (capital / small letters - connected / disconnected)
- Skill (poor / medium / highly skilled - legibility / simplification)
- Slant (forehand / backhand / upright)
- Alignment (on / above / below the baseline - to the page / margins / indentations)
- Spacing

OPINIONS



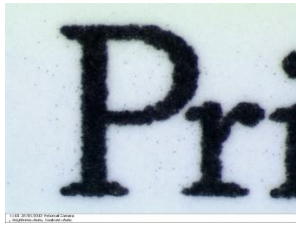
1. The evidence provides *very strong support (or qualified support)* for the proposition that the questioned material *was (or was not)* written by the writer of the comparison material. Some examiners will form the opinion that the possibility of the findings given the proposition that a writer other than the comparison writer wrote the entries is so remote that they will discount this proposition, and conclude that 'the questioned material *was (or was not)* written by the writer of the comparison material'.
2. No opinion can be expressed as to whether or not the questioned material was written by the writer of the comparison material. *This is an inconclusive result.*

Seven Classes of Forged Signatures:

1. No attempt to make copy
2. Fictitious persons
3. Tracing
4. Simulated
5. Obtained by trickery/coercion
6. Unwilling to accept (genuine)

7. Deliberately written illegibly to deny

Printing Processes

LITHOGRAPHY	LASER	INK JET
Liquid ink Flat appearance Even coverage Straight edges	Toner particles Raised appearance Shiny Electrostatic speckle	Liquid ink Flat appearance Splattering Ink feathering
		

What is an indentation?

- Latent impressions left on paper through the act of writing on a sheet of paper above

How are indentations examined?

- ESDA (Electrostatic Detection Apparatus)
 - detect indentations up to ~10 sheets below
 - record of results can be retained
 - non-destructive
 - not suitable for use with glossy paper, wet documents or documents that have been subject to fingerprint examination
- Oblique light
 - ideal for heavy indentations and indentations on documents that are not suitable for ESDA

Daubert Standard

- Decision handed down in 1993
- 5 factors for determination of the admissibility of scientific and technical expertise
 1. Theories & Techniques Tested
 2. Established Standards