



OSAC Research Needs Assessment Form

Title of research need:

Keywords:

Submitting subcommittee(s): **Date Approved:**

(If SAC review identifies additional subcommittees, add them to the box above.)

Background information:

1. Description of research need:

While there is literature available to the crime scene investigator regarding topics such as procedures, processing methods, instrumentation, and tools, there is not a single, searchable resource for the crime scene investigator to use as a free, non-member based updated resource. Additionally, crime scene focused literature has no specific dedicated forum for dissemination.

The research project needed is multi-fold: 1) assemble a clearinghouse of at least abstracts and citations of past relevant literature after conducting research to find these past assets, 2) assemble as complete a collection of crime scene relevant procedures (SOP's) 3) research and design a clearinghouse for all literature relevant to crime scene investigation (past and future) and find funding to make this clearing house free to use, including the documents found therein.

2. Key bibliographic references relating to this research need:

National Academy of Science. *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States*. (2009).
Jennifer L. Mnookin, et. al. (January, 2011). "The Need for a Research Culture in the Forensic Sciences." Legal Studies Research Paper #5-2011, The Dickinson School of Law, Pennsylvania State University.
[Http://ssn.com/abstract=1755722](http://ssn.com/abstract=1755722)

3a. In what ways would the research results improve current laboratory capabilities?

By providing a central resource library for the crime scene investigator, the investigator would be assured they are processing evidence or using procedures that are most conducive to the need. Conducting this research will bring the forensic discipline of crime scene investigation into a more modern and current state.

3b. In what ways would the research results improve understanding of the scientific basis for the subcommittee(s)?

The current state of crime scene investigation literature and peer review is disorganized and fragmented to say the least. The science behind techniques and procedures is generally unavailable to many practitioners in agencies unwilling or unable to pay for documents or memberships. Execution of this research would help to normalize crime scene investigations. Individuals or agencies will be able to change, evaluate, or modernize their own procedures SOP's more quickly, and while reducing time consuming redundancies.

3c. In what ways would the research results improve services to the criminal justice system?

Having a centralized, constantly updated library, free of charge or free of membership requirements would resolve the current state of the investigator which often ends up following broken web links, finding outdated information, and not having access to procedures followed at other agencies.

Crime scene practitioners will be able to support and defend their procedures and techniques more easily, and rapidly. Challenges to procedures and methods in the court system will be more easily addressed.

4. Status assessment (I, II, III, or IV):

III

	Major gap in current knowledge	Minor gap in current knowledge
No or limited current research is being conducted	I	III
Existing current research is being conducted	II	IV

This research need has been identified by one or more subcommittees of OSAC and is being provided as an informational resource to the community.

Subcommittee

Approval date:

September 30, 2016

(Approval is by majority vote of subcommittee. Once approved, forward to SAC.)

SAC

1. Does the SAC agree with the research need? Yes No

2. Does the SAC agree with the status assessment? Yes No

If no, what is the status assessment of the SAC:

Approval date:

February 9, 2017

(Approval is by majority vote of SAC. Once approved, forward to NIST for posting.)