OSAC RESEARCH NEEDS ASSESSMENT FORM

Title of research need: Comparability and Complexity in Handwriting

Keyword(s):

Submitting subcommittee(s): Forensic Document Examination Date Approved:

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

Background Information:

1. Description of research need:

A study to show what level of handwriting complexity, and what amount of writing, is necessary to make a reliable and precise conclusion. This might be broken into two separate projects one on complexity and one on writing amounts. This could extend to initials and symbolic signatures as well.

2. Key bibliographic references relating to this research need:


Validity, Reliability, Accuracy, and Bias in Forensic Signature Identification Mara L. Merlino and Tierra M. Freeman, Veronica Blas Dahir and Victoria Springer, Derek Hammond, Adrian Dyer, Bryan Found. Kentucky State University, Frankfurt, Kentucky


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

Having research that shows how complex writing needs to be or the amount of writing that is necessary to formulate an accurate and precise opinion will only strengthen the field. Error rates could possibly go down and the range of opinions given by different examiners could be narrowed.

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

Additional research, especially new research, will need to be reflected in the standards created for the applicable forensic field. More research should make writing standards easier.
3c. In what ways would the research results improve services to the criminal justice system?

Any research that can further validate forensic examinations will be a positive to the criminal justice system.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major gap in current knowledge</th>
<th>Minor gap in current knowledge</th>
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<td>I</td>
<td>III</td>
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No or limited current research is being conducted

Existing current research is being conducted

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

Approvals:

Subcommittee Approval date: [ ]

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

SAC

1. Does the SAC agree with the research need? Yes [x] No [ ]
2. Does the SAC agree with the status assessment? Yes [x] No [ ]

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

Approval date: 17-Mar-2016

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