



OSAC RESEARCH NEEDS ASSESSMENT FORM

Title of research need:

Keyword(s):

Submitting subcommittee(s): **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:

Huber R. (2000). "The Heterogeneity of Handwriting," Journal of American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, 3(1).
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
Raymond Marquis, Silvia Bozza, Matthieu Schmittbuhl and Franco Taroni Handwriting Evidence Evaluation Based on the Shape of Characters: Application of Multivariate Likelihood Ratios. J Forensic Sci. Volume 56, Issue S1, January 2011, Pages: S238-S242, . Article first published online: 11 NOV 2010, DOI: 10.1111/j.1556-4029.2010.01602.

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):

	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.

Approvals:

Subcommittee	Approval date: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
<i>(Approval is by majority vote of subcommittee. Once approved, forward to SAC.)</i>	

SAC		
1. Does the SAC agree with the research need?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the SAC agree with the status assessment?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If no, what is the status assessment of the SAC:	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	
Approval date:	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="17-Mar-2016"/>	
<i>(Approval is by majority vote of SAC. Once approved, forward to NIST for posting.)</i>		