

The SCOPE of FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINATION

Below are categories of types of examinations for which document examiners receive formal training and routinely conduct. Some examiners may conduct destructive testing in addition to the non-destructive methods listed below.

- Examination of handwriting, handprinting, numerals and signatures
- Classification and identification of typewriters, facsimile, photocopiers, checkwriters, computer printers and other devices
- Restoration and decipherment of obliterated or erased entries
- Development of indented writing or markings
- Detection of counterfeit documents
- Recovery and restoration of charred, damaged, shredded or water-soaked documents
- Non-destructive ink and paper analysis
- Detection of alteration, substitutions or additions
- Ribbon text decipherment and identification
- Fracture matching
- Sequence of preparation
- Dating of documents and materials
- Recognition of technological advances in the production and manipulation of documents

Forensic document examination does not include any attempts to attribute personality characteristics of a writer or author (e.g., graphology or linguistics) and is confined to a pattern analysis and physical study of materials.