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This book provides a single-source practical guide to basic crime scene processing and investigation, and also discusses forensic science theories and concepts, including: -Officer safety and emergency care to the injured -Securing and controlling the crime scene -Search methods, scene documentation and photography -Overview of many highly specialized areas of forensic science -How forensic science plays a vital role in the U.S. judicial system The O.J. Simpson trial. The Lindbergh kidnapping. The death of Marilyn Monroe. The assassination of the Romanovs. The Atlanta child murders. All controversial cases. All investigated with the latest techniques in forensic science. Nationally respected investigators Joe Nickell and John Fischer explain the science behind the criminal investigations that have captured the nation's attention. Crime Science is the only comprehensive guide to forensics. Without being overly technical or treating scientific techniques superficially, the authors introduce readers to the work of firearms experts, document examiners, fingerprint technicians, medical examiners, and forensic anthropologists. Each topic is treated in a separate chapter, in a clear and understandable style. Nickell and Fisher describe fingerprint classification and autopsies, explain how fibers link victims to their killers, and examine the science underlying DNA profiling and toxicological analysis. From weapons analysis to handwriting samples to shoe and tire impressions, Crime Science outlines the indispensable tools and techniques that investigators use to make sense of a crime scene. Each chapter closes with a study of a well-known case, revealing how the principles of forensic science work in practice. Television shows like CSI, Forensic Files, and The New Detectives make it look so easy. A crime-scene photographer snaps photographs, a fingerprint technician examines a gun, uniformed officers seal off a house while detectives gather hair and blood samples, placing them carefully into separate evidence containers. In a crime laboratory, a suspect's hands are meticulously examined for gunshot residue. An autopsy is performed in order to determine range and angle of the gunshot and time-of-death evidence. Dozens of tests and analyses are performed and cross-referenced. A conviction is made. Another crime is solved. The credits roll. The American public has become captivated by success stories like this one with their satisfyingly definitive conclusions, all made possible because of the wonders of forensic science. Unfortunately, however, popular television dramas do not represent the way most homicide cases in the United States are actually handled. Crime scenes are not always protected from contamination; physical evidence is often packaged improperly, lost, or left unaccounted for; forensic experts are not always consulted; and mistakes and omissions on the autopsy table frequently cut investigations short or send detectives down the wrong investigative path. In Forensics Under Fire, Jim Fisher makes a compelling case that these and other problems in the practice of forensic science allow offenders to escape justice and can also lead to the imprisonment of innocent people. Bringing together examples from a host of high-profile criminal cases and familiar figures, such as the JonBenet Ramsey case and Dr. Henry Lee who presented physical evidence in the O. J. Simpson trial, along with many lesser known but fascinating stories, Fisher presents daunting evidence that forensic science has a long way to go before it lives up to its potential and the public's expectations. Crime Scene Investigation offers an innovative approach to learning about crime scene investigation, taking the reader from the first response on the crime scene to documenting crime scene

evidence and preparing evidence for courtroom presentation. It includes topics not normally covered in other texts, such as forensic anthropology and pathology, arson and explosives, and the electronic crime scene. Numerous photographs and illustrations complement text material, and a chapter-by-chapter fictional narrative also provides the reader with a qualitative dimension of the crime scene experience. Disputed document inquiries encompass extensive and varied technical examinations, unique phases of investigation, and specialized legal presentations. This book serves as a guide to all aspects of a questioned document covering the broad spectrum of the work as it is practiced today. From the work of the field investigator and the examination of a document to the presentation of evidence in court, *Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents* provides a comprehensive approach that is ideal as a training manual for document examiners, investigators, and attorneys. Forensic document examination is a long established specialty and its practitioners have regularly been shown to have acquired skills that enable them to assist the judicial process. This book, aimed primarily at students studying forensic science and document examination in particular, introduces all of the essential ideas that are to be found in the work of the forensic document examiner in a concise and straightforward way. Each examination type is described not only in terms of its procedural basis but also the science and reasoning that underpins it. The reader will be able to relate the different kinds of interpretation skills used by the document examiner to those used in other forensic disciplines. This book will be an invaluable text for all students taking courses in Forensic Science or related subjects. The book will also be a useful reference for researchers new to this field or practitioners looking for an accessible overview. The author will be adding new references that are relevant as they are published and some more worked examples from time to time. Please visit qdbook.blogspot.co.uk for more details. This Second Edition of the best-selling *Introduction to Forensic Science and Criminalistics* presents the practice of forensic science from a broad viewpoint. The book has been developed to serve as an introductory textbook for courses at the undergraduate level—for both majors and non-majors—to provide students with a working understanding of forensic science. The Second Edition is fully updated to cover the latest scientific methods of evidence collection, evidence analytic techniques, and the application of the analysis results to an investigation and use in court. This includes coverage of physical evidence, evidence collection, crime scene processing, pattern evidence, fingerprint evidence, questioned documents, DNA and biological evidence, drug evidence, toolmarks and firearms, arson and explosives, chemical testing, and a new chapter of computer and digital forensic evidence. Chapters address crime scene evidence, laboratory procedures, emergency technologies, as well as an adjudication of both criminal and civil cases utilizing the evidence. All coverage has been fully updated in all areas that have advanced since the publication of the last edition. Features include: Progresses from introductory concepts—of the legal system and crime scene concepts—to DNA, forensic biology, chemistry, and laboratory principles Introduces students to the scientific method and the application of it to the analysis to various types, and classifications, of forensic evidence The authors' 90-plus years of real-world police, investigative, and forensic science laboratory experience is brought to bear on the application of forensic science to the investigation and prosecution of cases Addresses the latest developments and advances in forensic sciences, particularly in evidence collection Offers a full complement of instructor's resources to qualifying professors Includes full pedagogy—including learning objectives, key terms, end-of-chapter questions, and boxed case examples—to encourage classroom learning and retention *Introduction to Forensic Science and Criminalistics, Second Edition*, will serve as an invaluable resource for students in their quest to understand the application of science, and the scientific method, to various forensic disciplines in the pursuit of law and justice through the court system. An Instructor's Manual with Test Bank and Chapter PowerPoint® slides are available upon qualified course adoption. "A history of office copying through the twentieth century including document copying methods, trade names, dyes and papers."-- Provided by publisher. *Forensic Handwriting Identification: Fundamental Concepts and Principles* teaches the law enforcement and legal communities the major principles involved in handwriting and hand-printing analysis as applied to many types of investigations, including fraud, homicide, suicide, drug trafficking/ clandestine labs, sexual offenses, threats and extortion, blackmail, arson, bombings, and theft. Lawyers and investigators will learn how to interpret an examiner's report, the significance of various handwriting opinions and the influencing factors which must be considered. Reviews basic concepts

that affect a person's writing, demonstrates how to obtain handwriting specimens and evidence, and provides the appropriate ASTM and SWIGDOC standards and procedures Ideally suited for forensic science and legal professionals, investigators working with document examiners, and law enforcement students and professionals Includes model specimen handwriting forms Written by highly respected forensic scientists and legal practitioners, *Forensic Science: An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques, Second Edition* covers the latest theories and practices in areas such as DNA testing, toxicology, chemistry of explosives and arson, and vehicle accident reconstruction. This second edition offers a cutting-edge presentation of criminalistics and related laboratory subjects, including many exciting new features. What's New in the Second Edition New chapter on forensic entomology New chapter on forensic nursing Simplified DNA chapter More coverage of the chemistry of explosives and ignitable liquids Additional information on crime reconstruction Revised to include more investigation in computer forensics Complete revisions of engineering chapters New appendices showing basic principles of physics, math, and chemistry in forensic science More questions and answers in the Instructor's Guide Updated references and cases throughout An extensive glossary of terms Examines a variety of careers in the field of forensic science, covering the basics of the job, personal and professional requirements, work environment, salary statistics, future outlook for the career, and more. *Forensic Examination of Signatures* explains the neuroscience and kinematics of signature production, giving specific details of research carried out on the topic. It provides practical details for forensic examiners to consider when examining signatures, especially now that we are in an era of increasing digital signatures. Written by a foremost forensic document examiner, this reference provides FDEs, the legal community, the judiciary, and the academic community with a comprehensive record of the state-of-the-art of signature examination and plans for addressing future research into improving the reliability of FDEs. Devoted solely to signature examination Includes examination methods and the latest approaches to report conclusions and testimony Written by an internationally recognized forensic document examiner *Expert Bytes: Computer Expertise in Forensic Documents — Players, Needs, Resources and Pitfalls* —introduces computer scientists and forensic document examiners to the computer expertise of forensic documents and assists them with the design of research projects in this interdisciplinary field. This is not a textbook on how to perform the actual forensic document expertise or program expertise software, but a project design guide, an anthropological inquiry, and a technology, market, and policies review. After reading this book you will have deepened your knowledge on: What computational expertise of forensic documents is What has been done in the field so far and what the future looks like What the expertise is worth, what its public image is, and how to improve both Who is doing what in the field, where, and for how much How the expertise software functions The primary target readers are computer scientists and forensic document examiners, at the student and professional level. Paleographers, historians of science and technology, and scientific policy makers can also profit from the book. Concise and practical, featuring an attractive and functional layout design, the book is supplemented with graphical data representations, statistics, resource lists, and extensive references to facilitate further study. Questioned documents are any documents that may be used as evidence in a trial, ranging from handwritten notes to counterfeit currency to contracts. This concise new handbook is designed specifically to aid lawyers involved in cases that involve questioned documents (QD) evidence. It explains the basics of document examination and helps litigators improve the way they present document evidence and question witnesses. It also provides references to professional literature and other legal sources, making it easy to find further information when needed. *Questioned Documents: A Lawyer's Handbook* provides analyses applied to many types of investigations and types of documents. It outlines the techniques for determining authenticity, age, ink and paper sources, handwriting identification, equipment used, forgeries, alterations, erasures, and more. In addition to helping the attorneys who must present the QD evidence and ask the questions, this handbook is also an important resource for the expert witnesses who will be asked those questions at trial. Key Features * Explains the basics of document examination and shows how they apply to a variety of cases * Helps litigators improve the way they present document evidence and interrogate witnesses * Saves hours in pre-trial interviews by providing lawyers with the a thorough knowledge of the topic * Presents case examples from the US, UK, The Netherlands, Germany, Nepal, Israel, Jordan, Russia, Romania and more

* Includes actual questions that can be asked of expert witnesses * Provides an extensive list of references and research suggestions * Helps document examiners learn about the application of their expertise in the courtroom, and what to expect when questioned by attorneys "Forensic document examination is the study of physical evidence and physical evidence cannot lie. Only its interpretation can err. Only the failure to find it, or to hear its true testimony can deprive it of its value." - Roy Huber, author A definitive review of handwriting identification, this book presents, in a general manner, how to approach document examination and then, in particular, how to apply handwriting identification to the document. Types of handwriting are discussed in detail. For the first time in the field of questioned document examination, Handwriting Identification: Facts and Fundamentals consolidates the pertinent information from published and unpublished sources respecting writing, that is essential to the expansion of a practitioner's general knowledge of handwriting identification and to the proper education of novices. Written in a question and answer format, the book suggests some of the questions that one might ask of an examiner and provides the answers that knowledgeable and competent examiners should be expected to give. This book is a valuable addition to law libraries and to every practicing document examiner, as well as every lawyer handling cases in which the authenticity of handwriting might be disputed. Forensic Document Examination enlightens forensic document examiners, forensic investigators, attorneys, and others using the services of forensic document examiners with basic principles, current trends in the area, and standards and methodologies which were non-existent 20 years ago. Instrumentation has moved beyond the microscope and the magnifying glass to digital cameras, digital microscopes, video spectral comparators, electrostatic detection devices for the development of indented writing on paper, scanners, and software programs like Write-On 2® and Photoshop®. All of this equipment and these various techniques are covered here, and more. Covers basic principles and methodologies used in forensic document examination Contains state-of-the-art techniques and new trends Includes research over the last ten years and describes the future direction of forensic document examination Forensic Document Examination in the 21st Century covers the latest technology and techniques providing a complete resource on contemporary issues and methods in forensic document examination. Forensic document examiners provide their findings as expert testimony in court. Due to rapid changes in technology, including digital documents, printing and photocopying capabilities, and more, there is a great need for this up-to-date reference. The examination of documents can include comparison of handwriting or hand-printing; detection of alterations or photocopier and computer manipulation; restoration or decipherment of erased and obliterated writing; visualization of latent impressions; the identification of printing processes; and differentiation of inks. Computer-generated documents are prevalent, and electronically-captured signatures are becoming more widespread, meaning the knowledge of advances in technology and adoption of new validated techniques and methods of document examination are crucial to the reliability of forensic opinions. Forensic Document Examination in the 21st Century includes the latest research on the subject and with contributions from leading experts on their various areas of expertise. The book will be a welcome addition to the literature and support the foundational basis for methods and procedures for use it expert testimony in court, serving as a resource for forensic document examiners, trainees, and those in the criminal and legal communities who use the services of expert document examiners and witnesses Forensic document examination, performed correctly, is a reliable discipline that can demonstrate the innocence of your client or the guilt of your opponent. Used strategically, it can help you settle out of court. When court is necessary, your document examiner may be able to change their opinions. To achieve this, your document examiner must be proficient in the latest techniques and adept at reporting results. Knowing the techniques and strategies behind this discipline is crucial to selecting a proficient examiner. This book is an in-depth guide to help attorneys and legal professionals avoid common pitfalls in using forensic document examination. It dispels misunderstandings about the work performed by an examiner and their conclusions. You will learn the types of cases document examiners investigate, how you can partner with an examiner to develop your case and what deliverables to expect. This book introduces the reader to the basic principles of handwriting and the factors that affect their development. The book discusses the basic concept of the characteristics of writing that are compared when making an identification or elimination of a writer. In addition, readers will be

able to recognize the signs of forgery and disguise and to distinguish between simulation and disguise. The Most Dangerous Animal of All was co-written by the estranged son of California's infamous Zodiac killer to reveal his father's true identity. When the book hit the streets the skeptics were in full force. Just like those who mocked the boy who cried wolf, no one could blame them. Too many people had already claimed to either be the killer or to know who he really was. The problem is-the skeptics weren't considering the handwriting comparisons skillfully performed by Document Examiner, Michael Wakshull, to finally crack the case. The End of the Zodiac Mystery will enable you to reach your own conclusion whether this decades-long cold case has finally been solved. In it, Wakshull walks you step-by-step through his intriguing forensic analysis, revealing the methodology he used to solve the case other document examiners refused to accept. There is a twist to every story, and his methodology required a twist, too, in order to ensure a credible conclusion. Where The Most Dangerous Animal of All leaves off, The End of the Zodiac Mystery picks up, sharing actual handwriting comparisons between Earl Van Best Jr. and the self-named Zodiac killer. It is virtually certain the documents were written by the same man. If you like surprise endings, don't start reading from the back of the book. Save the thrill in the epilogue for the end! Guides lawyers through the entire process of forensic document examination, including handwriting analysis, equipment identification, fraud and forgery detection, and cross-examination of opposing witnesses. The examination of handwriting and signatures has a long and established history as a forensic discipline. With the advancement of technology in the use of digital tablets for signature capture, changes in handwriting examination are necessary. Other changes in handwriting, such as in increase in printed writing styles and the decrease in handwriting training in schools necessitates a re-examination of forensic handwriting identification problems. This text takes a fresh and modern look at handwriting examination as it pertains to forensic, legal, and criminal justice applications. Offers a diverse, interdisciplinary, and eye-opening view of the future direction of forensic science This one-of-a-kind book is a collection of content from the Past and Current Presidents of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences—providing readers with all of their forensic science experience, knowledge, insight, and wisdom. It envisions where forensic science will be a decade from now and the impact of these emerging advances on the law (along with our place in it), emphasizing theoretical advances, innovative leads from the laboratory, and emerging technologies. Filled with information from some of the greatest forensic minds of their generation, The Future of Forensic Science covers all of the eleven sections that comprise the AAFS. It discusses new directions in forensic anthropology, and looks at the future of such disciplines as criminalistics, forensic engineering science, forensic psychiatry and behavioral science, forensic toxicology, and forensic document examination. It also touches on the current and future state of digital and multimedia sciences. Contains contributions from an eminent group of forensic science experts Presents a valuable repository of forensic science experience, knowledge, insight, and wisdom Offers an insightful interdisciplinary look at the future of forensic science and how it is changing forensic science for the better Timed to coincide with the NIST forensic science initiative and the OSAC process The Future of Forensic Science is a must-have book for practicing forensic science professionals, academics, and advanced undergraduate and graduate students in forensic science. This book is published as part of the AAFS series 'Forensic Science in Focus'. "Forensic document examination is the study of physical evidence and physical evidence cannot lie. Only its interpretation can err. Only the failure to find it, or to hear its true testimony can deprive it of its value."—Roy Huber This is a comprehensive update of Huber and Headrick's seminal work on handwriting examination. New coverage includes a review of forensic handwriting examination research, handwriting analysis training and proficiency, revised methods and procedures, an updated listing and clarification of terminology and electronic signatures, the analysis of digitized handwriting, and other related technological advances. The book includes updated photographs, several added illustrations, and advances in techniques based on the scientific research conducted in the area over the last 20 years. Features of the new edition include: The latest on electronic signatures, digital handwriting, automated handwriting verification, and the many advances in technology and research over the last two decades An overview of the fundamentals of handwriting examination with updated discussion of the intrinsic and extrinsic variables associated with handwriting identification A review of the criticism of handwriting expert opinions and methodology, addressing both the strengths and scientific limitations

of the area Fully revised while remaining true to the spirit and approach of original authors Roy Huber and A. M. Headrick Addition of nearly 200 new references and new glossary terms representing advances in research and methods. With extensive photographs to help clearly illustrate concepts, Huber and Headrick's Handwriting Identification: Facts and Fundamentals, Second Edition serves as an invaluable reference to law libraries, practicing document examiners, forensic and criminal justice students, and every lawyer handling cases in which the authenticity of handwriting and documents might be disputed. Secure the scene and gather up your eyewitnesses! This cool title introduces readers to the art of crime scene investigations and the scientific method. Each book includes step-by-step directions on how to conduct experiments and tests. Readers will complete a variety of activities, from analyzing someone's handwriting to determining the type of ink and paper used. When the readers are done with this investigative and intriguing title, their "CSI" journal will be full of problem-solving information, and they'll be thinking like real investigators! Checkerboard Library is an imprint of ABDO Publishing Company. This second edition of Bates' I.S.Q.D. updates and expands the previous volume and continues to reflect the scientific method of detecting whether a writing is genuine or forged. This book serves as a guide and reference for the investigator or examiner in matters relating to the identification of handwriting. In and of itself, it is not intended in any way to qualify an individual as an expert, but is to be used as a tool with which to assist in the discovery and proof of fact. These are the two essential parts of handwriting comparison. Divided into three sections, the book presents the twelve points of comparison and the method of making a scientific analysis, a guide for presentation of facts in court, and a sample demonstration of the discovery and proof of fact. Once these points of comparison have been determined, the examiner has a basis from which to offer an opinion. This book can be used as a primary text in questioned document examinations, and will be an excellent resource for law enforcement agencies, including private and industrial investigative groups "He [Doud] was active in the Alger Hiss case, as well as two cases involving the entrepreneur industrialist Howard Hughes."--Back cover. Forensic document examination, performed correctly, is a reliable discipline that can demonstrate the innocence of your client or the guilt of your opponent. Used strategically, it can help you settle out of court. When court is necessary, your document examiner can present a case so clearly that the outcome is beyond doubt. To achieve this, your document examiner must be proficient in the latest techniques and adept at reporting results. Knowing the techniques and strategies behind this discipline is crucial to selecting a proficient examiner. This book is an in-depth guide to help attorneys and legal professionals avoid common pitfalls in using forensic document examination. It dispels misunderstandings about the work performed by an examiner and their conclusions. You will learn the types of cases document examiners investigate, how you can partner with an examiner to develop your case and what deliverables to expect. Each book offers: The latest information on a field of interest Training and educational requirements for each career Salary statistics for different positions within each field Up-to-date professional and Internet resources The famous Lindbergh kidnapping in the 1930s was solved, in part, through a detailed analysis of the kidnapper's handwriting. Other criminal cases, such as selling phony manuscripts, forgery, and fraud can be broken with detailed analyses of handwriting, typewriting, photocopied documents, and the inks and papers used on documents. The science of analyzing documents has been growing for more than a century. In this book, readers will learn how to document analysis has helped solve various crimes, from kidnappings and famous forgeries, to bombings and other violent crimes. Readers will also see how document examiners present their findings in court. Crime leaves a paper trail—and document analysis provides the techniques for following that trail. Questioned documents are any documents that may be used as evidence in a trial, ranging from handwritten notes to counterfeit currency to contracts. This concise new handbook is designed specifically to aid lawyers involved in cases that involve questioned documents (QD) evidence. It explains the basics of document examination and helps litigators improve the way they present document evidence and question witnesses. It also provides references to professional literature and other legal sources, making it easy to find further information when needed. Questioned Documents: A Lawyer's Handbook provides analyses applied to many types of investigations and types of documents. It outlines the techniques for determining authenticity, age, ink and paper sources, handwriting identification, equipment used, forgeries, alterations, erasures, and more. In addition to

helping the attorneys who must present the QD evidence and ask the questions, this handbook is also an important resource for the expert witnesses who will be asked those questions at trial. Key Features * Explains the basics of document examination and shows how they apply to a variety of cases * Helps litigators improve the way they present document evidence and interrogate witnesses * Saves hours in pre-trial interviews by providing lawyers with the a thorough knowledge of the topic * Presents case examples from the US, UK, The Netherlands, Germany, Nepal, Israel, Jordan, Russia, Romania and more * Includes actual questions that can be asked of expert witnesses * Provides an extensive list of references and research suggestions * Helps document examiners learn about the application of their expertise in the courtroom, and what to expect when questioned by attorneys This Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) volume contains the papers presented at the Second International Workshop on Computational Forensics (IWCF 2008), held August 7-8, 2008. It was a great honor for the organizers to host this scienti?c event at the renowned National Academy of Sciences: Keck Center in Washington, DC, USA. Computational Forensics is an emerging research domain focusing on the investigation of forensic problems using computational methods. Its primary goal is the discovery and advancement of forensic knowledge involving modeling, computer simulation, and computer-based analysis and recognition in studying and solving forensic problems. The Computational Forensics workshop series is intended as a forum for researchers and practitioners in all areas of computational and forensic sciences. This forum discusses current challenges in computer-assisted forensic investigations and presents recent progress and advances. IWCF addresses a broad spectrum of forensic disciplines that use computer tools for criminal investigation. This year's edition covers presentations on computational methods for individuality studies, computer-based 3D processing and analysis of skulls and human bodies, shoe print preprocessing and analysis, natural language analysis and information retrieval to support law enforcement, analysis and group visualization of speech recordings, scanner and print device forensics, and computer-based questioned document and signature analysis. Forensic Document Examination in the 21st Century covers the latest technology and techniques providing a complete resource on contemporary issues and methods in forensic document examination. Forensic document examiners provide their findings as expert testimony in court. Due to rapid changes in technology, including digital documents, printing and photocopying capabilities, and more, there is a great need for this up-to-date reference. The examination of documents can include comparison of handwriting or hand-printing; detection of alterations or photocopier and computer manipulation; restoration or decipherment of erased and obliterated writing; visualization of latent impressions; the identification of printing processes; and differentiation of inks. Computer-generated documents are prevalent, and electronically-captured signatures are becoming more widespread, meaning the knowledge of advances in technology and adoption of new validated techniques and methods of document examination are crucial to the reliability of forensic opinions. Forensic Document Examination in the 21st Century includes the latest research on the subject and with contributions from leading experts on their various areas of expertise. The book will be a welcome addition to the literature and support the foundational basis for methods and procedures for use it expert testimony in court, serving as a resource for forensic document examiners, trainees, and those in the criminal and legal communities who use the services of expert document examiners and witnesses Introduction to Forensic Sciences, Second Edition is the current edition of this bestselling introductory textbook. Dr. William Eckert, one of the world's foremost authorities in the area of forensic medicine, presents each of the distinct fields that collectively comprise the forensic sciences in a logical, relatively non-technical fashion. Each chapter is written by a well-known expert in his/her respective field, and each specialty area is thoroughly treated. When appropriate, the various methods of applying these sciences in different countries are covered. Heavily illustrated, the Second Edition has been updated to include current procedures and techniques that were not available or usefully developed when the first edition was published. Features include: This book introduces the reader to the basic principles of handwriting and the factors that affect their development. The book discusses the basic concept of the characteristics of writing that are compared when making an identification or elimination of a writer. In addition, readers will be able to recognize the signs of forgery and disguise and to distinguish between simulation and disguise. This book constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 7th

International Conference on Document Analysis Systems, DAS 2006, held in Nelson, New Zealand, in February 2006. The 33 revised full papers and 22 poster papers presented were carefully reviewed and selected from 78 submissions. The papers are organized in topical sections on digital libraries, image processing, handwriting, document structure and format, tables, language and script identification, systems and performance evaluation, and retrieval and segmentation. Scores of talented and dedicated people serve the forensic science community, performing vitally important work. However, they are often constrained by lack of adequate resources, sound policies, and national support. It is clear that change and advancements, both systematic and scientific, are needed in a number of forensic science disciplines to ensure the reliability of work, establish enforceable standards, and promote best practices with consistent application. *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward* provides a detailed plan for addressing these needs and suggests the creation of a new government

entity, the National Institute of Forensic Science, to establish and enforce standards within the forensic science community. The benefits of improving and regulating the forensic science disciplines are clear: assisting law enforcement officials, enhancing homeland security, and reducing the risk of wrongful conviction and exoneration. *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States* gives a full account of what is needed to advance the forensic science disciplines, including upgrading of systems and organizational structures, better training, widespread adoption of uniform and enforceable best practices, and mandatory certification and accreditation programs. While this book provides an essential call-to-action for congress and policy makers, it also serves as a vital tool for law enforcement agencies, criminal prosecutors and attorneys, and forensic science educators. To find more information about Rowman and Littlefield titles, please visit www.rowmanlittlefield.com.

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