

# **Introduction to Questioned Documents**

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# DOCUMENT - Definition

- The word '**Document**' denotes any matter expressed or described upon any substance by means of letters, figures or marks or by more than one of those means, intended to be used, or which may be used, as evidence of that matter.
  - **Section 29 of I.P.C. & Section 3 of Indian Evidence Act.**

# Forensic Document Examination

The application of science and analytical techniques to questions concerning documents is termed forensic document examination. The examination of questioned documents consists of the analysis and comparison of questioned handwriting and other documentary evidence with known material in order to establish the authenticity of contested material as well as the detection of alterations.

# **Scope of Forensic Document Examination by Document Division of CFSL, Hyderabad**

Examination of the following Types:

- Examination of Indentations
- Examination of Ink & Paper
- Examination of Torn Documents
- Examination of Stamp Impressions & Seal Impressions
- Handwriting Identification and Forgery Detection
- Detection of Alterations in Documents

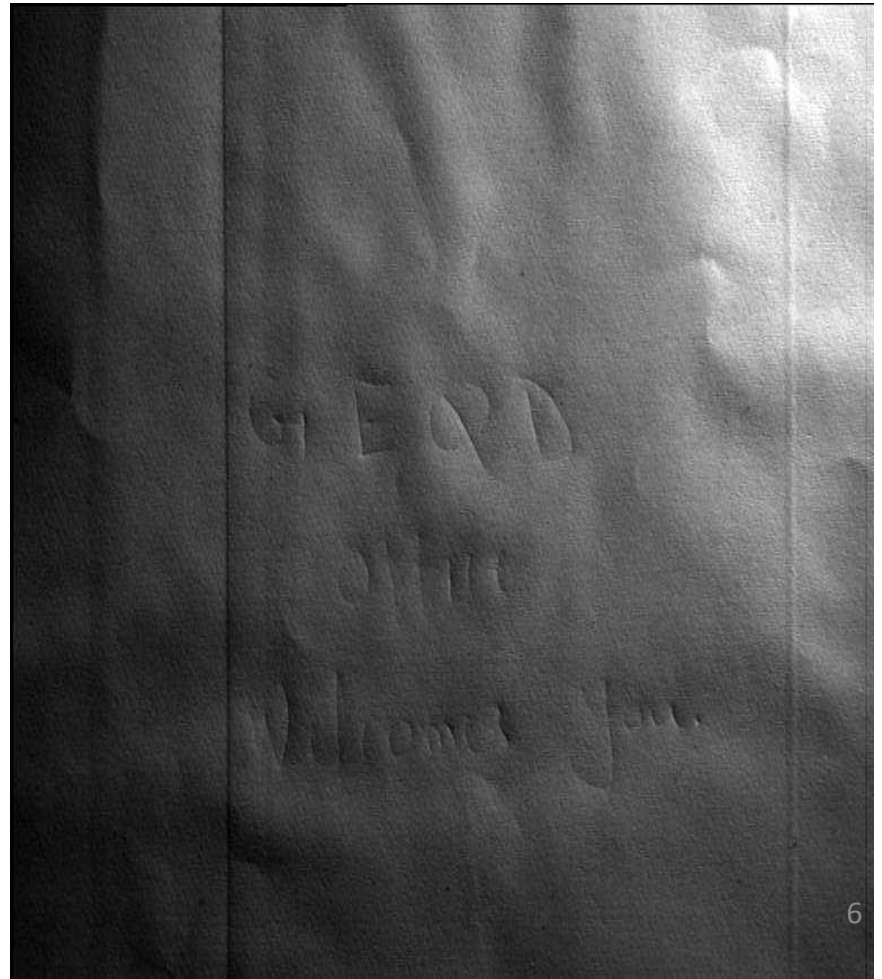
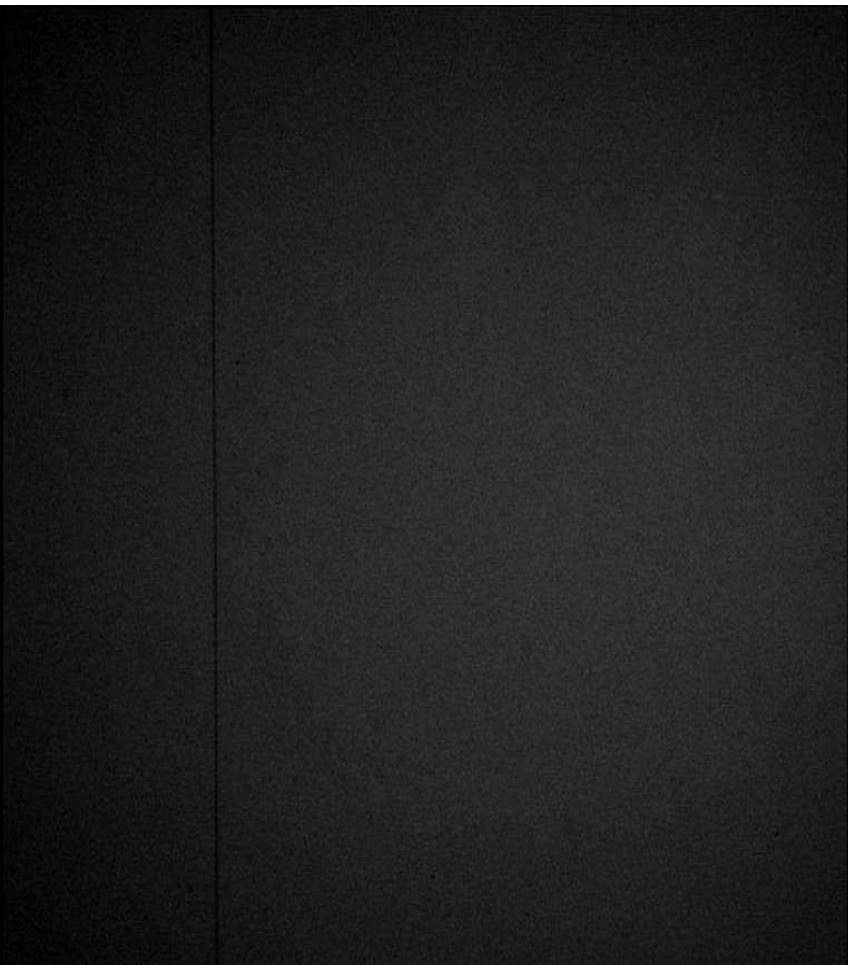
(By employing Non-destructive Techniques)

# Questioned Documents containing INTENDATIONS

- Intendations are non-visible images applied to a sheet of paper positioned below the page actually written upon. Impressions from the writing instrument is captured on sheets of paper below the one that contains original writing in the form of grooves.
- Recovered using: Oblique (glancing) light examination or ESDA

# INDENTATIONS

Normal Incident Light (Left pic) & Oblique Light (Right pic)



# Questioned Document Examination of INK & PAPER

- Non-destructive examination of Ink and Paper
- Examination under various light conditions

# Comparison of INK in a Cheque

(upper half-Normal Light & lower half-Infrared Light)

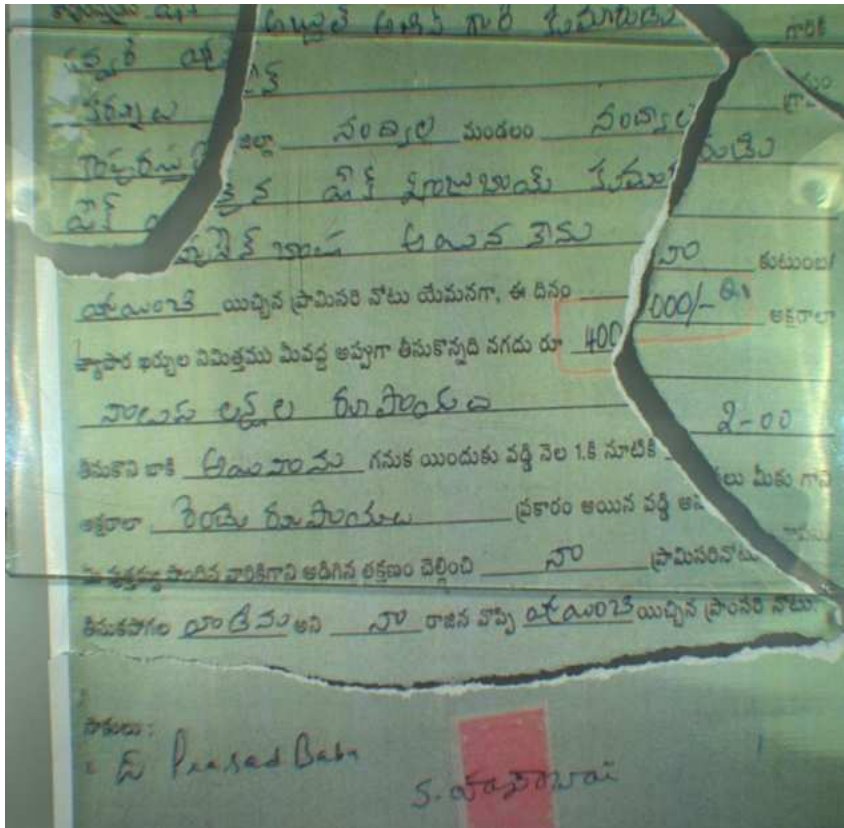


# Examination of TORN DOCUMENTS

- To determine whether the paper samples originate from a single piece or not.

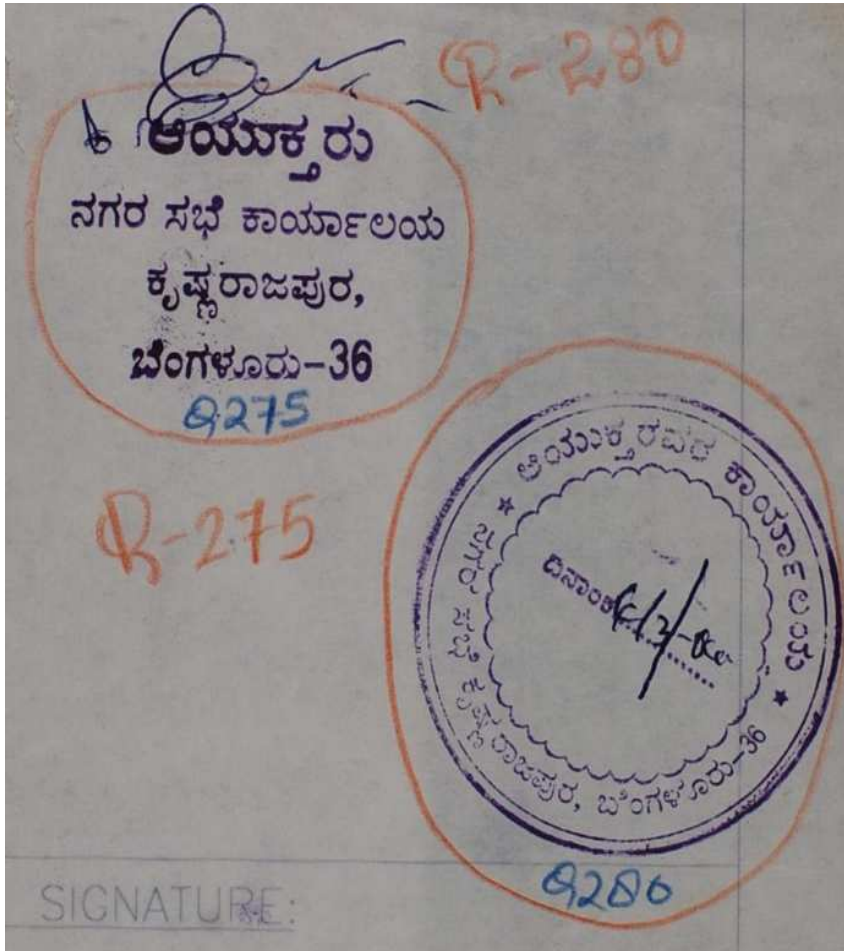
# Torn Document Examination

**Torn Document Arranged (left image) & Torn Edge Recognition (right image)**

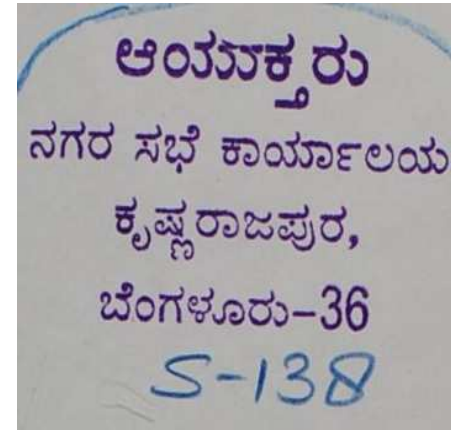


Questioned Stamp/Seal Impressions are compared with Standard Impressions to determine similarities/differences between them

Questioned

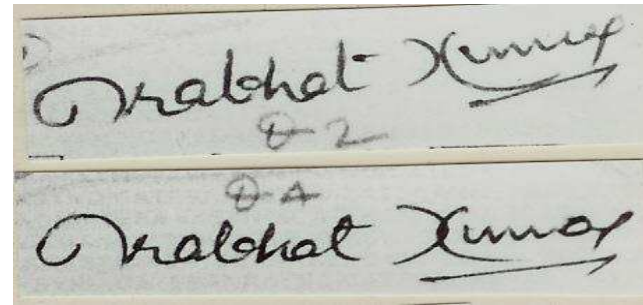


Standards

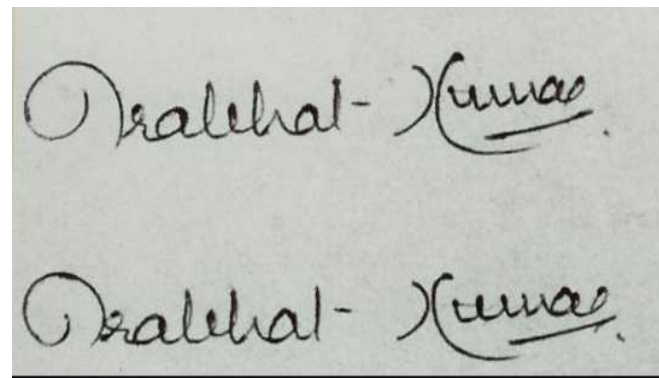


# Handwriting Identification

- A discriminatory process that derives from the **comparison of writing habits**, and an evaluation of the significance of their similarities or differences.
- Analysis
- Comparison
- Evaluation



**Disputed Signatures**



**Standard Signatures of Real Person**

# PRINCIPLES OF HANDWRITING IDENTIFICATION

## Principle of Habituation:

- *“Writing is an acquired skill that is a complex neuromuscular coordinated activity”*
- *“The execution of writing is a voluntary act that follows behaviour patterns learned as writing habits”*

## Principle of Heterogeneity:

- *“As a complex neuromuscular coordinated task, writing is heterogeneous”*

# PRINCIPLES OF HANDWRITING IDENTIFICATION

- *“In handwriting identification, what analysis has found and comparison has revealed, only proper evaluation can render useful”*
- *“The identification of a writer is a consequence of the evaluation of similarities; the elimination of or differentiation between writers (non-identity) is a consequence of the evaluation of differences”*

# PRINCIPLES OF HANDWRITING IDENTIFICATION

Principle of Natural Variation:

- *“The imprecisions with which the writing habits of a writer are executed on repeated occasions”*  
(An inherent property of genuineness)

# PRINCIPLES OF HANDWRITING IDENTIFICATION

- Principle of Exclusion and Inclusion: *“One cannot exclude from one’s own writing those discriminating elements of which one is not aware, or include those elements of another’s writing of which one is not cognizant”*
- Principle of Interference: *“It is a greater task to duplicate another’s writing habits that are similar to, but discriminable from one’s own, because of the difficulty in maintaining subtle or minor changes to one’s normal writing habits”*

# PRINCIPLES OF HANDWRITING IDENTIFICATION

Principle of Comparison:

- *“For an effective comparison, **like material has to be compared with like.**”*

# HANDWRITING CHARACTERISTICS

Huber & Headrick segregated the discriminating elements of writing (or handwriting characteristics or writing habits) into two principal categories:

***Elements of Style:*** Arrangement, Class of Allograph, Connections, Design & Construction of Allographs, Dimensions, Slant, Spacing.

***Elements of Execution:*** Abbreviations, Alignment, Commencements & Terminations, Diacritics & Punctuation, Embellishments, Legibility or Writing Quality, Line Continuity, Line Quality, Pen Control, Writing Movement.

# Handwriting Identification – Case Study

Questioned Signatures  
(Q1, Q2 & Q3)

Genuine Signatures  
(A4 to A6, S1 & S2)

