

Deadline of Submission of Comments: 4-Nov-24
Document Number: ASB TR 071
Document Title: Forensic Document Examination Terms and Definitions

Comment #	Text Line # (s)	Document Section	Type of Comment	Current Document Wording	Proposed Revision	Revision Justification	<i>For Working Group and Consensus Body use only, not to be completed by commenter.</i>
			E-Editorial T-Technical				Final Resolution
1		3.1.2	T	"Accidental characteristic - An outlier of a writer's characteristic habits or abilities." - Outlier has a specific meaning in statistics and probability and it is not "accidental events". The definition is, overall, to vague also.	Perhaps something like "Characteristics that you would not expect to repeat in someone's writing because they are anomalies, thus they are not diagnostic for source judgments or consistent features of a person's handwriting." or something else like that.		Accept with modification: "One that falls outside of the writer's range of variation, and that would not be expected to be repeated in the writing because it may be an anomaly."
2		3.1.3.3	T	"Evaluation - The process of assessing similarities and dissimilarities in characteristics for purposes of associated or dissociation, as determined by the likelihood of occurrence, weight, or significance of each." This definition implies the existence of objective base rate data or frequency data for these characteristics that do not exist.	Make it clear that these variables/base rates that are used in the evaluation stages of the process are based on subjective experience or consensus, not objective data. As a result these will vary between and within examiner.		Accept with modification: "The process of assessing similarities and dissimilarities in characteristics for the purposes of association or dissociation."
3		3.1.32	T	"Bias - a general term for an tendency of a person or instrument to deviate systematically from an actual value in making measurement or rendering a judgment." Bias is not the same as inaccuracy, but this definition equates it with inaccuracy ("deviate systematically from an actual value") and is not always systematic. Also, bias does not just affect judgments or measurements, but also the confidence the examiner associates with those judgments and measurements.	Use a definition of bias that more clearly reflects the current understanding of how bias operates in decision contexts like Forensic Document Examination.		Accept with modification: "Any factor that has the potential of causing systematic deviation from any part of an evaluative process."
4		3.1.35	T	"Bias, contextual - Arising from an individual's exposure to or knowledge of task-irrelevant information when performing a judgmental task." Not a complete sentence. What arises from exposure to/knowledge of task-irrelevant info? Also task relevant information can also lead to bias, it's just less problematic in an applied sense. Also, contextual bias does not just affect judgments or measurements, but also the confidence the examiner associates with those judgments and measurements.	Use a definition of contextual bias that more clearly reflects the current understanding of how bias operates in decision contexts like Forensic Document Examination.		Accept with modification: "A deviation in human judgment caused by exposure to information that is either irrelevant to the judgmental task or inappropriate for consideration." OSAC Preferred 2020