

SWGFAST

Glossary - Identification

ARCHIVED

ANALYSIS

The methodical examination of friction skin impressions; separation into parts so as to determine the nature of the whole.

ARTIFACT

A structure or substance not normally present, but produced by some external agent or action.

BIFURCATION

The point at which one friction ridge divides into two friction ridges.

CHARACTERISTICS

Features of the friction ridges. Commonly referred to as minutia(e), Galton detail, point, feature, ridge formation, ridge morphology.

CLARITY

Visual quality of a friction ridge impression.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristics used to put things into groups or classes, e.g., arches, loops, whorls,

COMPARISON

The observation of two areas of friction ridge impressions for finding similarities and/or differences.

DISTORTION

Variances in the reproduction of friction skin caused by pressure, movement, force, contact surface, etc.

DOT

An isolated ridge unit whose length approximates its width in size.

EDGEOSCOPY

Study of the morphological characteristics of friction ridges; contour or shape of the edges of friction ridges.

ELASTICITY

The ability of skin to recover from stretching, compression, or distortion.

ELIMINATION PRINTS

Exemplars of friction ridge skin detail of persons known to have had access to the item examined for latent prints.

ENCLOSURE

A single friction ridge that bifurcates and rejoins after a short course and continues as a single friction ridge.

ENDING RIDGE

A single friction ridge that terminates within the friction ridge structure.

ERRONEOUS IDENTIFICATION

The incorrect determination that two areas of friction ridge impressions originated from the same source.

EVALUATION

The determination of the significance, value, or clarity of a friction ridge impression by careful observation and study.

EXEMPLAR

Friction ridge record of an individual, recorded electronically, photographically, by ink or other medium.

EXCLUSION

The determination that two areas of friction ridge impressions did not originate from the same source (non-identification).

FINGERPRINT

An impression of the friction ridges of all or any part of the finger.

FRICTION RIDGE

One or more connected ridge units of friction ridge skin.

FRICTION RIDGE DETAIL (MORPHOLOGY)

An area comprised of the combination of ridge flow, ridge characteristics, and ridge structure.

FRICTION RIDGE IDENTIFICATION

See *Individualization*.

FRICTION RIDGE UNIT

Single section of friction ridge containing one pore.

FURROWS

Valleys or depressions between the friction ridges.

GALTON DETAILS

Term referring to friction ridge characteristics attributed to the research of English fingerprint pioneer, Sir Francis Galton.

INCIPIENT RIDGE

A friction ridge not fully developed which may appear shorter and thinner in appearance than fully developed friction ridges (interstitial, nascent).

INCONCLUSIVE

The inability to either identify (individualize) or exclude an area of friction ridge.

IDENTIFICATION

See *Individualization*.

INDIVIDUALIZATION

The determination that corresponding areas of friction ridge impressions originated from the same source to the exclusion of all others (identification).

INKED PRINT (FINGER, PALM, FOOT)

See *Exemplar*.

INTERVENING RIDGES

The number of friction ridges between two characteristics.

LATENT PRINT

Transferred impression of friction ridge detail not readily visible; generic term used for questioned friction ridge detail.

LIFT

An adhesive or other medium on which recovered friction ridge detail is preserved.

LEVEL 1 DETAIL

Friction ridge flow and general morphological information.

LEVEL 2 DETAIL

Individual friction ridge paths and friction ridge events, e.g., bifurcations, ending ridges, dots.

LEVEL 3 DETAIL

Friction ridge dimensional attributes , e.g., width, edge shapes, and pores.

MAJOR CASE PRINTS

A systematic recording of all of the friction ridge detail appearing on the palmar sides of the hands. This includes the extreme sides of the palms, and joints, tips and sides of the fingers.

MATRIX

The substance that is deposited by the finger.

MINUTIAE

See *Characteristics*.

MISSED IDENTIFICATION

The failure to make an identification (individualization) when, in fact, both friction ridge impressions are from the same source.

NON-IDENTIFICATION

See *Exclusion*.

PATENT PRINT

Friction ridge impression of unknown origin, visible without development.

POINTS/POINTS OF IDENTIFICATION

See *Characteristics*.

POROSCOPY

A study of the size, shape and arrangement of pores.

QUALITATIVE

The clarity of information contained within a friction ridge impression.

QUANTITATIVE

The amount of information contained within a friction ridge impression.

RELATIVE POSITION

Proximity of characteristics to each other.

RIDGE CHARACTERISTICS

See *Characteristics*.

RIDGEOLOGY

The study of the uniqueness of friction ridge skin and its use for personal identification (individualization).

RIDGE FLOW

A series of adjacent friction ridges in a directional arrangement. Also see Classification Terms glossary.

RIDGE PATH

The directional flow of a single friction ridge. Also see Classification Terms glossary

SHORT RIDGE

A single friction ridge beginning, traveling a short distance, and ending.

SPUR

A bifurcation with one short ridge branching off a longer ridge.

SUBSTRATE

Surface upon which a friction ridge impression is deposited.

TRIFURCATION

The point at which one friction ridge divides into three friction ridges.

VERIFICATION

Confirmation of an examiner's conclusion by another qualified examiner¹.

¹ - SWGFAST Training to Competency for Latent Print Examiners