



GLOSSARY

ACE-V

The acronym for a scientific method: Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation, and Verification (see individual terms).

AFIS

The acronym for Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

ANALYSIS

The first step of the ACE-V method. The assessment of an impression to determine suitability for comparison.

APIS

The acronym for Automated Palmprint Identification System.

APPENDAGE

An attachment or connection within friction ridges.

ARCH - PLAIN

A fingerprint pattern in which the friction ridges enter on one side of the impression and flow, or tend to flow, out the other side with a rise or wave in the center.

ARCH - TENTED

A type of fingerprint pattern that possesses either an angle, an upthrust, or two of the three basic characteristics of the loop.

ARTIFACT

1. Any distortion or alteration not in the original friction ridge impression, produced by an external agent or action.
2. Any information not present in the original object or image, inadvertently introduced by image capture, processing, compressions, transmission, display, and printing.

BIAS

See Cognitive Bias, Confirmation Bias, and Contextual Bias.

BIFURCATION

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

BLIND VERIFICATION

The independent examination of one or more friction ridge impressions by another qualified examiner who has no expectation or knowledge of the conclusion of the original examiner.

BRIDGE

A connecting friction ridge between, and generally at right angles to, parallel running friction ridges.

CHARACTERISTICS

Features of the friction ridges. Commonly referred to as minutiae, points, or ridge formation morphologies.

CLASSIFICATION

Alpha numeric formula of finger and palmprint patterns used as a guide for filing and searching.

COGNITIVE BIAS

Influences that may affect the reliability and validity of one's observations and conclusions.

COMPARISON

The second step of the ACE-V method. The observation of two or more impressions to determine the existence of discrepancies, dissimilarities, or similarities.

COMPETENCY

Possessing and demonstrating the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities to successfully perform a specific task.

COMPLETE FRICTION RIDGE EXEMPLARS

A systematic recording of all 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.

COMPLEX EXAMINATIONS

The encountering of uncommon circumstances during an examination; for example, the existence of high distortion, low quality or quantity, the possibility of simultaneity, or conflicts among examiners.

CONFIRMATION BIAS

The tendency to search for data or interpret information in a manner that supports one's preconceptions.

CONFLICT

A difference of conclusion that becomes apparent during the application of an examination methodology.

CONSULTATION

A significant interaction between examiners regarding one or more impressions in question.

CONTEXTUAL BIAS

The tendency to allow information or outside influences to interfere with the evaluation and interpretation of data.

CORE

The approximate center of a pattern.

DELTA

The point on a friction ridge at or nearest to the point of divergence of two type lines, and located at or directly in front of the point of divergence.

DEVIATION

1. A change in friction ridge path.
2. An alteration or departure from a documented policy or standard procedure.

DISCREPANCY

The presence of friction ridge detail in one impression that does not exist in the corresponding area of another impression.

DISSIMILARITY

A difference in appearance between two friction ridge impressions.

DISSOCIATED RIDGES

1. Disrupted, rather than continuous, friction ridges.
2. An area of friction ridge units that did not form into friction ridges.

DISTAL

1. Farthest away from the center or point of attachment.
2. The direction away from the body.

DISTORTION

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

DOT

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

EDGEOSCOPY

1. Study of the morphological characteristics of friction ridges.
2. Contour or shape of the edges of friction ridges.

ELIMINATION PRINTS

Exemplars of friction ridge skin detail of persons known to have had legitimate access to an item.

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 EXCLUSION

The incorrect determination that two areas of friction ridge impressions did not originate from the same source.

ERRONEOUS INDIVIDUALIZATION

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

EVALUATION

The third step of the ACE-V method where an examiner assesses the value of the details observed during the analysis and the comparison steps and reaches a conclusion.

EXCLUSION

The determination by an examiner that there is sufficient quality and quantity of detail in disagreement to conclude that two areas of friction ridge impressions did not originate from the same source.

EXEMPLAR

The known prints of an individual, recorded electronically, photographically, by ink, or by another medium.

FINGERPRINT

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

FOCAL POINTS

1. In classification, those areas that are enclosed within the pattern area of loops and whorls. They are also known as the core and the delta.
2. In ACE-V, the areas selected for comparison purposes.

FRICITION RIDGE

A raised portion of the epidermis on the palmar or plantar skin, consisting of one or more connected ridge units.

FRICITION RIDGE DETAIL (MORPHOLOGY)

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

FRICITION RIDGE UNIT

A single section of ridge containing one pore.

FURROWS

Valleys or depressions between friction ridges.

GALTON DETAILS

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

HENRY CLASSIFICATION

A system of fingerprint classification named for Sir Edward Richard Henry (1850 - 1931).

IAFIS

The acronym for Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System, the FBI's national AFIS.

IDENTIFICATION

1. In some forensic disciplines, this term denotes the similarity of class characteristics.
2. See Individualization.

INCIPIENT RIDGE

A friction ridge not fully developed that may appear shorter and thinner than fully developed friction ridges.

INCONCLUSIVE

During Evaluation, the conclusion reached that neither sufficient agreement exists to individualize nor sufficient disagreement exists to exclude.

INDIVIDUALIZATION

The determination of an examiner that there is sufficient quality and quantity of detail in agreement to conclude that two friction ridge impressions originated from the same source.

KNOWN PRINT (FINGER, PALM, FOOT)

A recording of an individual's friction ridges with black ink, electronic imaging, photography, or other medium on a contrasting background.

LATENT PRINT

1. Transferred impression of friction ridge detail not readily visible.
2. Generic term used for questioned friction ridge detail.

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, and dots).

LEVEL 3 DETAIL

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

LIFT

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

LOOP - ULNAR

A type of pattern in which one or more friction ridges enter upon either side, recurve, touch or pass an imaginary line between delta and core and flow out, or tend to flow out, on the same side the friction ridges entered. The flow of the pattern runs in the direction of the ulna bone of the forearm (toward the little finger).

LOOP - RADIAL

A type of pattern in which one or more friction ridges enter upon either side, recurve, touch or pass an imaginary line between delta and core and flow out, or tend to flow out, on the same side the friction ridges entered. The flow of the pattern runs in the direction of the radius bone of the forearm (toward the thumb).

MAJOR CASE PRINTS

1. A systematic recording 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.
2. See Complete Friction Ridge Exemplars.

MARK

1. Term commonly used in the United Kingdom and some Commonwealth countries to designate a latent impression.
2. See Latent Print.

MATRIX

The substance that is deposited or removed by the friction ridge skin when making an impression.

MEDIAL

At or near the center.

MINUTIAE

See Characteristics.

MISSED IDENTIFICATION

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

NGI

The acronym for Next Generation Identification, the updated version of IAFIS.

ORIGINAL IMAGE

An accurate replica (bit-for-bit value) of the primary image.

POROSCOPY

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

PRIMARY IMAGE

The first recording of an image onto media.

PROFICIENCY

The ongoing demonstration of competency.

QUALITATIVE

The clarity of information contained within a friction ridge impression.

QUANTITATIVE

The amount of information contained within a friction ridge impression.

RIDGE FLOW

1. The direction of one or more friction ridges.
2. See Level 1 Detail.

RIDGE PATH

1. The course of a single friction ridge.
2. See Level 2 Detail.

RIDGE UNIT

See Friction Ridge Unit.

SHORT RIDGE

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

SIMULTANEOUS IMPRESSION

Two or more friction ridge impressions from the same hand or foot deposited concurrently.

SOURCE

Specific area of friction ridge skin.

SPUR

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

STAND-ALONE

A segment of a simultaneous impression that has sufficient information to arrive at a conclusion of individualization independent of other impressions within the aggregate.

SUBSTRATE

Surface upon which a friction ridge impression is deposited.

SUITABLE (SUFFICIENT)

The determination that there is adequate quality and quantity of detail in an impression for further analysis, comparison, or to reach a conclusion.

TECHNICAL REVIEW

Review of notes, documents, and other data that forms the basis for a scientific conclusion (see *ASCLD-LAB 2008 Manual*).

TENPRINT

1. A generic reference to examinations performed on intentionally recorded friction ridge impressions, usually ten fingers.
2. A controlled recording of available fingers of an individual using black ink, electronic imaging, photography, or other medium on a contrasting background.

TRIFURCATION

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

TYPE LINES

The two innermost friction ridges associated with a delta that parallel, diverge, and surround or tend to surround the pattern area.

VERIFICATION

The final step of the ACE-V method. A review and independent analysis of the conclusion of another examiner.

WHORL - ACCIDENTAL

1. With the exception of the plain arch, a fingerprint pattern consisting of two different types of patterns with two or more deltas.
2. A pattern that possesses some of the requirements for two or more different types.
3. A pattern that conforms to none of the definitions.

WHORL - CENTRAL POCKET LOOP

A type of fingerprint pattern that has two deltas and at least one friction ridge which makes, or tends to make, one complete circuit, which may be spiral, oval, circular, or any variant of a circle. An imaginary line drawn between the two deltas must not touch or cross any recurving friction ridges within the inner pattern area.

WHORL - DOUBLE LOOP

A type of fingerprint pattern that consists of two separate loop formations with two separate and distinct sets of shoulders and two deltas.

WHORL - PLAIN

A type of fingerprint pattern that consists of one or more friction ridges which make, or tends to make, a complete circuit, with two deltas, between which, when an imaginary line is drawn, at least one recurving friction ridge within the inner pattern area is cut or touched.