**2018 Latent Print Comparison case processing data variables and their definitions**

This dataset was generated by running a crystal report in JusticeTrax LIMS. Much of the information is entered manually, leaving room for error despite Technical and Administrative reviews performed on every case (see my NOTE under Conflict Resolution).

* **BQC.** Blind quality control. A blind testing mechanism by which a case is created by the Quality Division, submitted into normal case workflow, and assigned to an analyst without informing the analysts that they will be examining a test case.
* **FCN.** The unique case number.
* **Request #.** A number assigned to a specific request in a case. Cases can have multiple requests for multiple types of analyses.
* **Offense.** Offense type as assigned by Houston Police Department.
* **Analyst.** The analyst assigned the case.
* **Request Date.** The date that the requestor (usually an HPD officer) requested analysis.
* **Item of Evidence.** Each unique item of evidence is given its own item number.
* **Sufficiency.** An indication of the overall quality of the latent print.
  + **NRD.** No ridge detail. When no ridge detail is observed. Usually refers to the whole latent lift card.
  + **NV.** No value. When ridge detail is visible but determined to not be suitable for comparison. Can refer to individual prints or an entire latent lift card.
  + **AQ.** AFIS quality. When a latent print is deemed suitable for comparison and entry into AFIS.
  + **NAQ.** Not AFIS quality. When a latent print is deemed suitable for comparison purposes but not for AFIS entry.
  + **VEO.** Value for exclusion only. When a latent is determined to be NAQ and it is not believed that it is identifiable. [This option was established in 2019]
* **L#.** A number assigned, in no certain order, to latents of value in order to distinguish them from one another.
* **Anatomical source.** The source of the latent print.
  + **FP.** Fingerprint.
  + **PP.** Palm print.
  + **IMP.** Impression.
  + **JNT.** Joint.
* **Complex.**The complexity of evaluating the print as determined by the analyst.
* **Date searched.** The date the latent was searched in AFIS.
* **AFIS System.** Automated Fingerprint Identification System.
  + **MorphoTrak.** Local/county AFIS housed and maintained by Harris County. All prints searched here first.
    - **NOTE:** crimes not against a person (like property crimes, burglary, and auto theft) are searched only at the local level at this time.
  + **NEC.** State AFIS accessed by using the FBI’s Universal Latent Workstation (ULW) software.
  + **NGI.** Federal database housed and maintained by the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division (CJIS).
* **AFIS Result.** 
  + **PAA.** Preliminary AFIS Association. A “hit” in AFIS that is reported out as an investigative lead only. NOT an Identification.
  + **No Hit.** The latent did not “hit” in the AFIS system. Latents that don’t result in an AFIS association can be registered to the Unsolved Latent File (ULF). See **Registered** definition.
  + **Reverse.** A reverse “hit.” See **Registered** definition.
* **Registered.** If the latent did not “hit” in AFIS, the print can be registered to the Unsolved Latent File (ULF), allowing for a potential reverse hit.
  + If a latent impression is registered to the ULF, all incoming record finger and/or palm prints are compared by the database software to the latent impressions registered in the ULF. Using a matching algorithm, the system searches for relationships between the registered print and all incoming record prints. Once a set threshold of correlation exists, the system will then send potential candidates back to the submitting agency to be reviewed. An examiner can then determine if any of these candidates are preliminary associations (PAAs).
* **Verified By.** The analyst that performs a verification before Tech or Admin reviews are performed. At this time, only full comparison conclusions were verified.
* **Consultation.** A significant interaction between examiners/processors regarding one or more latent impressions. A significant interaction is when the consulting examiner/processor consults on suitability or the determination of a comparison.
* **Conflict Resolution.** A conflict arises when two examiners/processors arrive at two different conclusions in which a consultation has not been successful.
  + **NOTE:** Both the consultation and conflict resolutions boxed are selected by the examiners in the laboratory information system (LIMS). The analyst must remember to check this box in order for the result to show up in the report used to generate this dataset.
* **ACCS accurate to latents.** A quality control check by which the examiners verify that the candidate on the ACCS candidate sheet is the same as in their notes.
* **Report Release Date.** The date the final report is released to the stakeholder/customer.