

An Overview of the Handwriting Analysis Systems in the Market

Siew Hock Ow and Kean Siang Teh*

Department of Software Engineering, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, University of Malaya, 50603, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

* Corresponding author. E-mail: keanteh@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Handwriting Analysis or Graphology is a field of study that uses analysis of handwriting to identify a person's personality and character. As computer technologies advance, the amount of time, exhaustion of repetitive analyse, complexity of the graphology processes and the ability to produce the graphology reports to clients timely, make the graphologists realise the importance of computerising their handwriting analysis process. The computerised handwriting analysis or handwriting analysis system allows graphologists to meet the increasing demands for graphology. There are many computer-aided handwriting analysis systems in the market. This paper aims to provide an overview of the handwriting analysis systems in the market. Five computerised handwriting analysis systems are discussed. Graphologists sponsor these systems with the aim of promoting the use of graphology by providing an overview of how handwriting analysis works for non-graphologists. The respective websites of these systems also include comprehensive information about graphology.

Key words: Handwriting analysis, Graphology, Computerised handwriting analysis, Handwriting analysis system

INTRODUCTION

Handwriting Analysis or Graphology is a field of study for identifying and understanding people's personality, behaviours and characters through analysing their handwritings. It is not something new as the techniques of graphology have been used for many years in numerous applications. The most common application of graphology is in employment profiling (Internet Health Library, 2000).

Handwriting analysis is a time-consuming and complicated process. It may take a few hours or even a few days to analyse a page of handwriting, depending on the level of detail and comprehensiveness of the report required. Each handwriting needs to go through a series of rigorous analysis processes which consider such factors as size, slant, width rhythm, style and pressure of the handwriting. Usually, a few lines of words are not sufficient for an analysis. A page of handwriting is required for a thorough analysis. Owing to the amount of time, exhaustion due to repetitive analysis, complexity of the processes and the need to produce reports to clients in a timely manner, graphologists have realised the importance of computerising their handwriting analysis process. Handwriting Analysis System (also called Graphology Analyser) allows graphologists to meet the increasing demands for their skills. Some graphologists have even commercialised their handwriting analyser as off-the-shelf software. Sheila Lowe & Associates is an example of a graphology website (RI Software Inc., 2004) and there are many similar websites.