

the research organization be mentioned." The first four status reports on Project Stork were classified Secret, the fifth and sixth status reports were marked "Restricted Security Information," and the seventh was unmarked. The end result of the Battelle study, Special Report #14, was initially classified "Confidential" and even the title was marked "Confidential"; the report was also marked "For Official Use Only."

Aside from providing consultants to PBB, Battelle was also contracted to produce an improved sighting questionnaire, and to carry out a statistical study of UFO reports. Special Report #14 (SR 14), which was completed in May 1955, contained both the questionnaire and the statistical study. The questionnaire had already been in use for about two years. According to SR 14, the final sighting form was developed after two previous tentative questionnaires had been tried and evaluated by a panel of consultants and by a psychologist.

The development of the questionnaire was important for accurate information retrieval. However, in later years, it was not as important to the Air Force as the statistical study because the statistics, as interpreted by the Air Force, formed the cornerstone of the AF position with respect to the reality of UFOs:⁵ "a scientific study of UFO reports had found no evidence of an unknown phenomena or an unknown technological development." After the public release of SR 14 in October 1955 (perhaps as a public relations ploy to counteract the effects of the books by Keyhoe and Ruppelt⁵), SR 14 was often referred to in the following years, but the full report was never made easily available to the interested public. An abstracted version which contains the text, some interesting associated material, and some of the charts (but only a couple of the statistical tables from which the charts were made) was published by a private investigator in 1956.⁶ The complete version is now available on microfilm from the National Archives.⁷