

The forgetting function for conscious and automatic components of memory were evaluated in two stem completion experiments with retention delays ranging from 1 to 70 min. Jacoby's (1991) original process dissociation equations were used to estimate conscious and unconscious memory. In addition, two guessing-elaborated multinomial models of process dissociation as well as a generate-source model were evaluated. Different levels of processing produced differing levels of initial availability. However, the form and rate of forgetting did not differ for conscious and automatic memory estimates under any model. The results are consistent both qualitatively and quantitatively with recent findings (McBride & Doshier, 1997) on the form and rate of forgetting in implicit stem completion and explicit stem-cued recall. Either conscious and automatic memory reflect different systems with very similar forgetting characteristics, or they reflect different types of information in a common memory store.