Holding governments, organizations, and individuals accountable

Preserving the authentic recorded memory of our society

Ensuring the trustworthiness of research sources and data

Research benefits:

Research methods:

Glossary

Prototyping

Modeling

Diplomatic Analysis

Case Studies

Surveys

Research Domain 1
What is required to prove the authenticity of electronic records?

Research Domain 2
How do we select electronic records for preservation?

Research Domain 3
How do we preserve authentic electronic records?

Research Domain 4
What policies, strategies & standards will protect the authenticity of electronic records over time?

How do you know it’s the real thing?

Today?

100 years from now?
Preserving Authentic Electronic Records
A Report on the InterPARES Project

US-InterPARES Project
International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

Philip B. Eppard
ECURE 2001

Purpose of the InterPARES Project

• To develop the theoretical and methodological knowledge essential for the permanent preservation of records generated electronically.
• To formulate model policies, strategies, and standards capable of ensuring their preservation.

Previous UBC Project

- Born out of previous UBC research.
  - "The Preservation of the Integrity of Electronic Records" ("The UBC Project").
  - Defined the requirements for creating, handling and preserving reliable and authentic electronic records in active recordkeeping systems.

- With U.S. Department of Defense.
  - Developed DoD Records Management standard 5015.2.

Participants

- International Team
- National Research Teams
  - Canada, USA, Italy, Australia, China
- Multi-National Research Teams
  - Europe (UK, Ireland, France, Netherlands, Sweden)
- National Archival Institutions
- Global Industry Team
Organization

Task Forces
1. Authenticity  3. Preservation

Glossary Committee

Methods & Analysis

- Contemporary Archival Diplomastics
- Functional Analysis
- Narrative Analysis
- IDEF0 Activity Modeling

Authenticity Task Force

Research Question:
- What is required to prove the authenticity of electronic records?

Research Methods:
- Literature Review
- Functional & Narrative Analysis of Case Studies
- Contemporary Archival Diplomatic Analysis
Template for Analysis

Based on elements of records identified by the study of diplomatics
1. Medium
2. Extrinsic elements
3. Intrinsic elements
4. Annotations
5. Context or framework

Systems Studied by ATF

- Relational databases
- Accounting systems
- Records management systems
- Patent grants systems
- Student Registration Systems
- Info Management Systems
- Government Registries
- Computer Aided Design

Conceptual Requirements for Assessing Authenticity

**Benchmark requirements**
- Before records are transferred to the preserver's custody

**Baseline requirements**
- After records are transferred to the preserver's custody

Benchmark Requirements

1. Expression of Record Attributes & Linkage to Record
2. Access Privileges
3. Protective Procedures: Loss and Corruption of Records
4. Protective Procedures: Media and Technology
**Benchmark Requirements (cont.)**

5. Establishment of Documentary Forms
6. Authentication of Records
7. Identification of Authoritative Record
8. Removal and Transfer of Relevant Documentation

**Baseline Requirements**

1. Controls over Records Transfer, Maintenance, and Reproduction
2. Documentation of Reproduction Process and its Effects
3. Archival Description

**Authenticity Findings**

- Authenticity often expressed implicitly, rather than explicitly
- Medium in not significant in assessing authenticity of records
- Records are inextricably embedded in their contexts

**Appraisal Task Force**

**Research Question**

- How do we select electronic records for preservation?

**Research Methods**

- Literature Review
- Activity Modeling
Appraisal Findings

- Assess authenticity of the records
- Determine the feasibility of preservation
- Records must be appraised early
- The appraisal decision must be regularly monitored

Preservation Task Force

Research Question:
- How do we preserve authentic electronic records?

Research Methods:
- Literature Review
- Surveys
- Case Studies
- Activity Modeling
Preservation Findings

- Identification of digital components of electronic records
- Systematic & dynamic controls for preservation
- Archival requirements for preservation

Preservation Findings (cont.)

- 'Original' electronic records vs. copies of electronic records
- Preservation means reproduction
- Chain of preservation
Strategies Task Force

Research Question:

- What policies, strategies and standards will protect the authenticity of electronic records over time?

Adapt the recommendations of the other task forces to each national environment

Further Information

US-InterPARES Website
http://is.gseis.ucla.edu/us-interpares/

InterPARES Website
http://www.interpares.org

InterPARES 2

Records generated by interactive, dynamic, experiential, sensory and performance systems

- Electronic Government
- The Arts
- eCommerce