

Authenticity as a Requirement of Preserving Digital Data and Records

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Definition of Authenticity

- “Archival science defines authentic records as being what they purport to be -- reliable records that over time have not been altered, changed or otherwise corrupted.” (Charles M. Dollar).
- Authenticity is an absolute concept.
- The status of being authentic, however, can change at any moment as a result of an action or migration that has been performed on the record over time.

The authenticity consideration in various communities of practice

- the legal community
- the medical community
- computer network systems
- the archival community

Research Questions Raised:

- What are authentic data and records?
- Which intellectual and technical elements of data and records are essential for ensuring authenticity?
- What are the requirements for ensuring the authenticity of data and records that will be applicable across jurisdictional and technological boundaries?
- What are the requirements for ensuring the authenticity of data and records, which can be applicable across the various communities of practice?
- How should authentic data and records be maintained and represented over time?

The InterPARES Project:

4 Research Domains

- **Authenticity:** the conceptual requirements for preserving authentic electronic records;
- **Appraisal:** appraisal criteria and methodology for authentic electronic records;
- **Preservation:** methodologies for preserving authentic electronic records;
- **Policy Development:** development of policies, strategies and standards to ensure preservation of the authenticity of those records.

Methodology

- Produced a typology of the conceptual requirements for authenticity for different types of electronic records
- the Case Study Interview Protocol (CSIP)
- Template Element Data Gathering Instrument (TEDGI)

Case Studies

- 12 case studies for round 1 and 9 case studies for round 2 have been completed or are underway
- 6 registration systems being conducted in six different institutions in five different countries

Contributions of the InterPARES

- A methodological typology derived from a variety of case studies in real-life settings
- An analysis of different communities of practice
- Standards establishing authenticity of electronic records that will be applicable across many communities of practice now and in the future

the InterPARES Preservation Task Force

- to identify and develop the procedures and resources required for the implementation of the conceptual requirements and criteria
- to model the preservation function and implementation, which will be based on information gathered from responses to the research questions.