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RM Standard going worldwide as ISO begins first review *(by M Steemson)* **pg 4 - 7**

“The International Standards Organization’s Records Management Standard, ISO 15489, is achieving worldwide importance and acceptance. Most English-speaking nations have adopted it or its tenets and around the world it is being or has been translated into upwards of a dozen other languages. ...”

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Electronic records research report – an introduction to InterPARES

There are numerous articles in professional and industry publications that have highlighted the dilemma the world faces in dealing with challenges of electronic age. However, there's not as much limelight on the efforts being made to meet these challenges. There are numerous research projects around that world that, while taking certain disciplinary perspectives are getting scholars to address issues such as media longevity, technological obsolescence, and inter-operability. One such project is the **International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems (InterPARES)** which aims at developing the theoretical and methodological knowledge essential to the long-term preservation of authentic records created and/or maintained in digital form.

What makes this project unique is among other things the fact that, to use the words of a recent project report, it is "highly interdisciplinary". The project has endeavoured to engage active participation of record creators (scientists, artists, government bodies, corporations and industry), the information technology sector, as well as the archival and information science and the conservation professions. The scholars involved in the formulation and selection of case studies, gathering of empirical evidence and analysis include those from Archival Science, Chemistry, Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Dance, Diplomats, Film, Geography, History, Information Studies, Law, Library Science, Linguistics, Media Studies, Music, Performance Art, Photography, and Theatre. With participation from different countries including Canada, the US, Australia, Singapore, China, Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, the UK and to a limited extent Spain and Portugal, this project can claim to be "somewhat international".

Often the question is asked, what about the participation of developing countries and Africa to be more specific? There was, at some point, an African team that was subsequently disbanded. However, this does not preclude anyone from exploring the wealth of information on the project from the website <http://www.interpares.org> While some have argued that Africa is often not given a respectable position on the table of global discussions, an engagement with projects like this is important at the very least to increase our awareness about the on-goings at global hubs and hopefully spark our imagination towards symbiotic interaction.

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