



Association  
of Canadian  
Archivists

# 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

## *Ethics and Accountability in the Archival Sphere*

May 26 – 29, 2004  
Montréal, Québec



**1. Montreal Harbour from Custom House, ca 1874**  
Alexander Henderson / National Archives of Canada / PA-149728



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### 3. The digital signature dilemma: subversion or enhancement of professional accountability?

Location: St. Laurent, Mezzanine level

This session will investigate the issues of digital signature technologies through two distinct inquiries: Jean-François Blanchette will present an historical overview of the concepts of electronic identification, integrity and imputability (including “non-repudiation”) develop by the cryptographic community. The issue of preserving authentic digital information has provided the basis for a clash between a vision of a process founded on professional attributions (as envisioned by the InterPARES project) and one founded on the reliance on mathematics and technology. Geneviève Shepherd will present an InterPARES 2 case study, focused on the use of digital signatures to meet legal requirements in the context of the computerization of a land registry. This registry, unique to this region of France as a leftover of German occupation, is founded on authentic acts, written and signed by magistrates, which order the transcription within the register of certain information relating to real estate transactions (identification of parties, land registry information, mortgages)

**Chair:** Jean Goulet, Professor, Faculté de Droit, Université Laval, Québec

**Speakers:** Jean-François Blanchette, University of British Columbia  
*Electronic security and the archival profession*

Geneviève Shepherd, University of British Columbia  
*Computerization and preservation — the Alsace-Moselle land registry*

### 4. History and Development of Records Classification Systems: Canada and the Netherlands. A Pathway to Accountability?

Location: Victoria, C-1 level

This session outlines the origins and early development of classification and scheduling systems and explores their use as records inventory, records retention schedule, archival selection tool, and documentation for accountability and access. Anglophone Canada’s versions of these systems are fairly widespread in provincial, municipal, and university settings and this session will provide an opportunity to compare these developments with experience in Quebec and the Netherlands.

**Chair:** Reuben Ware, City of Vancouver Archives

**Speakers:** **Diane Baillergeon, Université de Montréal**  
*"Les systèmes d'information et les outils de gestion de l'information au service de l'accès à l'information au Québec."*

Peter Horsman, Netherlands Institute for Archival Education and Research  
*Control Through Classification: Development of Standardized Records Classification Systems in Dutch Public Administration*

Alexandra Bradley, Records Management Consultant  
*Records Classification in Canadian Municipalities: Bloc Numeric, Tried and True*

Read by Reuben Ware