**Il futuro della memoria:**
la trasmissione del patrimonio culturale nell'era digitale

TORINO, 10-11 NOVEMBRE 2004

# Committing the Web to memory

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## Defining the web

"The set of all information accessible using computers and networking, each unit of information identified by a URI [Universal Resource Indicator]."

Tim Berners-Lee

Address http://www.wowzone.com/hamlet.htm

w
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w
z

# Hamlet's Soliloquy

e, or t to be

**URI: http://wowzone.com/hamlet.htm**

c
o
m

**Unit of information**

To be, or not to be: that is the
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,

w

## Defining web content

"Units of information *developed for a specific purpose* and made accessible using computers and networking."

Jim Suderman

m
when we have snumed off this mortal coil,
Must give us pause: there's the respect

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**Accuracy:**

"the truthfulness of the content of the record and can only be established through content analysis. With administrative and legal records, it is usually inferred on the basis of the degree of the records' reliability and is only verified when such degree is very low."

**Authenticity:**

"the trustworthiness of a record as a record. An authentic record is one that is what it purports to be and has not been tampered with or otherwise corrupted. Authenticity is established by assessing the identity and the integrity of the record. It must be possible to ascertain at all times what a record is, when it was created, by whom, what action or matter it participated in, and what its juridical/administrative, cultural, and documentary contexts were. It must also be possible to ascertain the wholeness and soundness of the record: whether it is intact or, if not, what is missing."

**Reliability:**

"the trustworthiness of a record as a statement of fact. It exists when a record can stand for the fact it is about, and is established by examining the completeness of the record's form and the amount of control exercised on the process of its creation."

*InterPARES 2 Project Detailed Proposal*

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## Exhibit Creation – Research process

### Getting Started
– Setting the subject and focus of the exhibit.

### Researching
– Review of secondary (i.e., published) sources;
– use of the database of descriptions of archival holdings;
– selection of source materials based on:
  - authenticity of the records
  - variety of narrative viewpoints
  - crisp or colorful quotations that provide context for the narrative
  - documents with visual appeal.

### *Mise en place*
– Writing narrative text;
– final selection of items (including preparation for scanning);
– final proof reading and check for accuracy.

### This process is a curatorial responsibility.

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## Exhibit Creation – Administrative process

**Two key approvals**

- Initial approval of the exhibit concept
    - Enables Research and Technological processes to commence

- final approval of the completed exhibit
    - required before exhibit is made publicly accessible.

**Interim approvals govern**

- Narrative focus (including selection of images and text)
- allocation of resources
- "look and feel" of the exhibit.

**This process is a managerial responsibility.**

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# Exhibit Creation – Technological processes

**Creation of exhibit components (sub-process)**

- Scanning of images
  - high resolution master (.tif) with lower resolution derivatives (.jpg);
- citations to source records;
- sound or video files.

**Creation of web exhibit  (sub-process)**

- Definition of exhibit web pages;
- allocation of components to pages;
- development of a "look and feel" for the exhibit (usually visual motifs).

**The website coordinator and scanning technician share responsibility for these processes.**

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# Accuracy

**Administrative process contributes**
- – Interim approvals ensure accessibility requirements are met, e.g., accurate text descriptions of graphical components.

**Technological processes contribute**
- – Skilled staff and high quality tools provide accurate digital image of source materials;
- – utilizes an existing scanning process for representing records, i.e., scanning is not undertaken just to support exhibits;
- – testing the rendering of exhibits to ensure that exhibit will be accurately rendered.

**Research process contributes**
- – Scholarly research practices contribute to "truthfulness" of content.

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# Authenticity

## Administrative process contributes

– Final approval indicates institutional acceptance of the record, that it is what it purports to be;
– requires conformance with corporate requirements, e.g., use of web page template.

## Technological processes contribute

– Existing scanning process for representing photographic records authentically;
– usage of the corporate web page template provides identity information, including relationships (i.e., navigation links) with other information.

## Research process contributes

– Selection of authentic sources, i.e., archival holdings, to exhibit.

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# Reliability

## Administrative process contributes

– Initial, interim and final approvals indicate control over the exhibit creation process;

– final approval indicates completeness of exhibit.

## Technological processes contribute

– Existing scanning procedures establish completeness and reliability of scanned sources;

– assembly of components for testing prior to "launch" allows participants to check for completeness of overall exhibit.

## Research process contributes

– Listing of exhibit components;

– attribution of sources.

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## Gaps revealed

### Not integrated into existing record keeping systems

- File plan that establishes relationships between all institutional records;
- defined retention requirements specifying how long records must remain accessible.

### Corporate centralization of security and standards

- Security procedures developed independently of institutional or record requirements;
- web page template limits potential development of technology for web exhibits.

### Rendering

- Display testing standards not keeping up with emerging web access technologies;
- testing processes assume permanent "on-line" status.

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## About the Internet Archive

The Internet Archive is a 501(c)(3) public nonprofit that was founded to build an 'Internet library,' with the purpose of offering permanent access for researchers, historians, and scholars to historical collections that exist in digital format. Founded in 1996 and located in the Presidio of San Francisco, the Archive has been receiving data donations from Alexa Internet and others. In late 1999, the organization started to grow to build more well-rounded collections.

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Address 🔲 http://www.wowzone.com/hamlet.htm

wowzone.com wowzone.com wowzone.com wowzone.co

## Hamlet's Soliloquy

### To be, or not to be

This soliloquy is spoken by the character Hamlet in a play of the same name by an early seventeenth century English playwright named William Shakespeare.
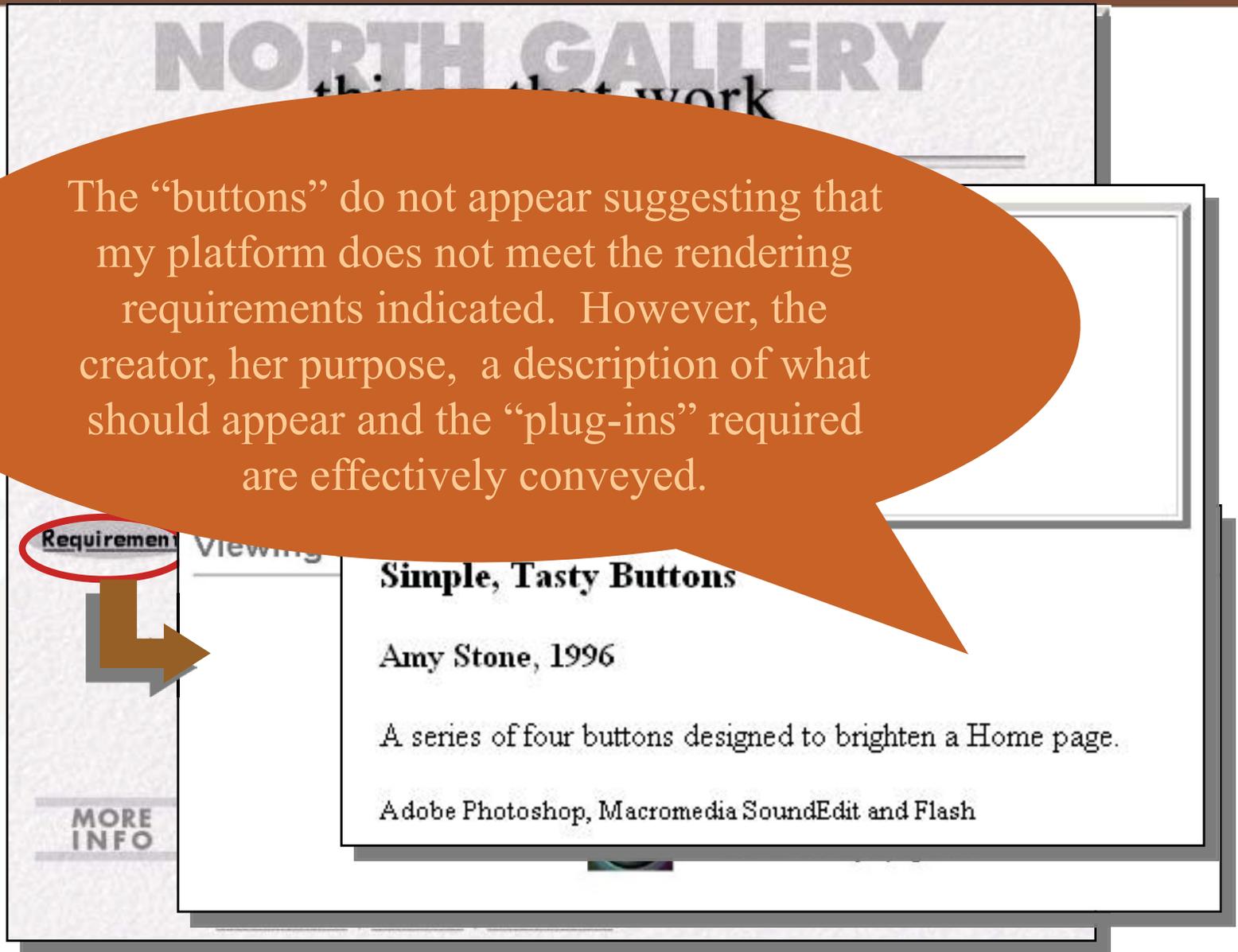
To be, or not to be: that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them? To die: to sleep;
No more; and by a sleep to say we end
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to, 'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep;
To sleep: perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub;
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
Must give us pause: there's the respect
That makes calamity of so long life;
For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,
The oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,
The pangs of despised love, the law's delay,
The insolence of office and the spurns
That patient merit of the unworthy takes,
When he himself might his quietus make
With a bare bodkin? who would fardels bear,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
But that the dread of something after death,

Properly rendered, the soliloquy consists of 35 lines of text, each beginning with a capital letter.

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NORTH GALLERY

The "buttons" do not appear suggesting that my platform does not meet the rendering requirements indicated. However, the creator, her purpose, a description of what should appear and the "plug-ins" required are effectively conveyed.

Requirement Viewing

**Simple, Tasty Buttons**

**Amy Stone, 1996**

A series of four buttons designed to brighten a Home page.

Adobe Photoshop, Macromedia SoundEdit and Flash

MORE INFO

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# THANK YOU!

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