Diplomotics, Archival Science and Electronic Records

InterPARES 2

Diplomatic Analysis Team

2005-11-04
Overview

- Diplomatics and archival science
- Research projects with this theoretical framework
- Why diplomatic analysis?
- Diplomatic analysis of electronic records
- Our analysis template now...
- Example of analysis: CS05 – Archives of Ontario Website Exhibits
Diplomatics

A sophisticated system of ideas about the nature of records, their genesis and composition, their relationships with the actions and persons connected to them, and with their organizational, social, and legal context.

Archival Science

Whereas diplomatics studies records as individual entities, "archival science studies them as aggregations, analyses their documentary and functional interrelationships, and studies the ways in which the records with all their relations can be controlled and communicated.

Luciana Duranti and Terry Eastwood. p. 215
Research Projects
(Diplomatics & Archival Science)

UBC project


- identify and define the requirements for creating, handling and preserving reliable and authentic electronic records

- The resulting standard (DOD 5015.2) is now being used by the U.S. Defense Information Systems Agency to certify RMA vendors
Research Projects
(Diplomatics & Archival Science)

InterPARES 1

- focused on the preservation of the authenticity of records created and/or maintained in databases and document management systems in the course of administrative activities
- Benchmark requirements supporting the presumption of authenticity
- Baseline requirements supporting the production of authentic copies of electronic records
Research Projects
(Diplomatics & Archival Science)

InterPARES 2

Looks at experiential, interactive, dynamic systems with an aim to:
‘….develop and articulate the concepts, principles, criteria and methods that can ensure the creation and maintenance of accurate and reliable records and the long term preservation of authentic records.”

www.interpares.org
InterPARES 2

3 focus areas
- Arts
- Science
- Government

3 domains
- Records creation and maintenance
- Authenticity, accuracy and reliability
- Preservation
InterPARES 2

4 cross domains

- Terminology
- Description
- Policy
- Modelling
Case Studies

- 26 case studies
- Final Report
  - Overview
  - Methodology
  - Contexts
  - 23 questions
  - Domain and cross domain questions
  - Bibliography
Why diplomatic analysis?

- To determine whether system produces records;
- If the system does produce records, to identify
  - The action in which the record participates
  - The persons concurring in its formation
  - Its archival bond
Why diplomatic analysis?

- If the system does produce records, to identify
  - Procedures and controls that ensure the records reliability
  - Elements of the record that must be maintained and preserved in order to ensure its authenticity over time
Record Components
(Traditional/paper Records)

- Medium
- Content
- Act/transaction
- Persons
- Context
- Forms
- Archival bond
Record Components
(Electronic Records)

- Stable Medium
- Fixed Content
- Fixed Forms
- Act/transaction
- Persons (originator)
- Context
- Archival bond

The DA Team’s template for assessing digital entities as records
Diplomatic Analysis of Electronic Records: The Journey

- IP1 template for analysis
- Template #1

Diplomatic Analysis of Electronic Records: The Journey

Problems

- Is it possible to analyze something that you cannot see?
- Many of the IP2 researchers did not understand
- How much detail do we need to accomplish our goals for IP2?
Our Analysis Template Now...

- Uses a narrative format
- Clearly defines all terminology
- Doesn’t include extrinsic or intrinsic elements
CS05 – Archives of Ontario Website Exhibits

Exhibits:

- “War of 1812”
- “Government of Ontario Art Collection”
- “Toys of Our Childhood”
CS05 – Archives of Ontario
Website Exhibits

The finished diplomatic analysis!!

Do you think the website exhibits are records?