

InterPARES

INTERNational **R**esearch on **P**ermanent **A**uthentic **R**ecords in **E**lectronic **S**ystems

*an international collaborative research
initiative*



InterPARES Project

Peter Van Garderen
Project Coordinator

Research Goal

“To develop the theoretical and methodological knowledge essential to the permanent preservation of authentic records generated and/or maintained electronically, and, on the basis of this knowledge, to formulate model policies, strategies and standards capable of ensuring that preservation.”



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Major Funding Sources

- Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada
 - Major Collaborative Research Initiative
- National Historical Publications and Records Commission (U.S.)
- National Archives and Records Administration (U.S.)
- Italian National Research Council



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National Archival Institutions

- National Archives of Canada
- National Archives of the United States
- National Archives of Italy
- Public Record Office of the United Kingdom
- Public Record Office of Hong Kong
- National Archives of the Netherlands
- National Archives of Sweden
- National Archives of Ireland
- National Archives of China
- National Archives of France



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InterPARES Research Teams

- Canadian Research Team
- American Research Team
- Italian Research Team
- European Research Team
- Australian Research Team
- Asian Research Team
- Global Industry Research Team



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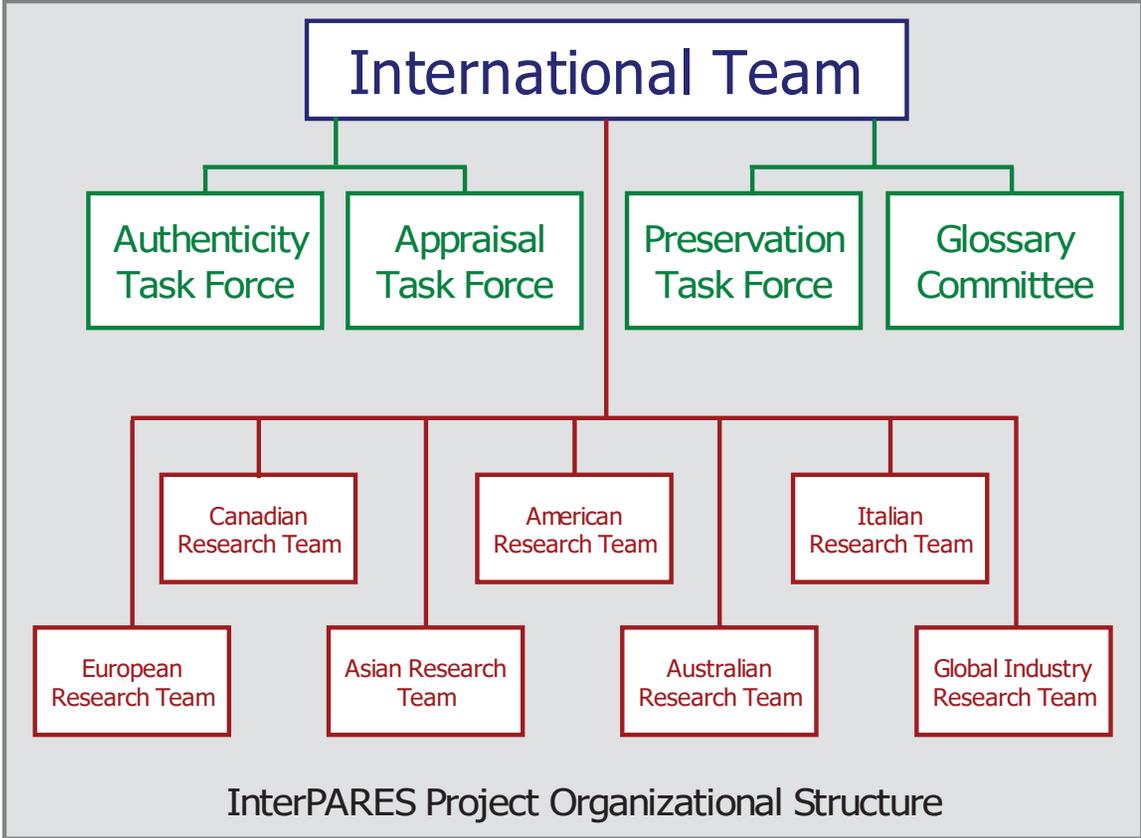
Canadian Research Team

- (Chair) Terry Eastwood, U.B.C. (S.L.A.I.S.)
- Heather Macneil, U.B.C. (S.L.A.I.S.)
- Babak Hamidzadeh, U.B.C. (Computer Engineering)
- John Roeder, U.B.C. (School of Music)
- Barbara Craig, University of Toronto (F.I.S.)
- Bruce Walton, National Archives of Canada
- John McDonald, National Archives of Canada



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Research Domains

- Domain I: Conceptual Requirements for Preserving Authentic Electronic Records

→ *Authenticity Task Force*

- Domain II: Appraisal Criteria and Methods for Selection of Authentic Electronic Records

→ *Appraisal Task Force*



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Research Domains

- Domain III: Methods and Responsibilities for Preserving Authentic Electronic Records

→ *Preservation Task Force*

- Domain IV: Framework for the Formulation of Policies, Strategies, and Standards



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Domain I Research Questions

- What are the elements that all electronic records share?
- What are the elements that allow us to differentiate between different types of electronic records?
- Which of those elements will permit us to verify their authenticity over time?
- Are the elements for verifying authenticity over time the same as those that permit us to verify their authenticity in time (i.e. at the point at which they are originally used?)
- Can the elements be removed from where they are currently found to a place where they can more easily be preserved and still maintain the same validity?



Authenticity

Refers to the fact that a record is what it purports to be and has not been tampered with or otherwise corrupted.

In other words, the trustworthiness of the record as a record.

Record

Any document made or received and set aside for further action or reference in the course of a practical activity



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Authenticity Task Force

- Identify the elements of electronic records that are required to ensure their authenticity over time
- Create a typology of electronic records based on their requirements of authenticity
- Primary tool: Template for Analysis
- Case Studies of information systems which produce or are capable of producing electronic records



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Domain II

Research Questions

- What is the influence of digital technology on appraisal criteria?
- Does the life-cycle of electronic records differ from that for traditional records?
- When in the course of their existence should electronic records be appraised?
- Who should be responsible for appraising electronic records
- What are the appraisal criteria and methods for authentic electronic records?



Appraisal Task Force

- Literature review
- Analysis of existing practices
- Modeling the Appraisal Function



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Domain III

Research Questions

- What technological and procedural methods of long-term preservation are in use or being developed?
 - Which of these meet the conceptual requirements for authenticity identified in Domain I?
 - Which methods of long-term preservation need to be developed?
 - Which of these methods are required or subject to standards, regulations and guidelines in specific industry or institutional settings?



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Domain III

Research Questions

- What are the procedural methods of authentication for preserved electronic records?
 - In what way can archival description be a method of authentication for electronic records?
 - In what way can appraisal and acquisition/accession reports be constructed to allow for the authentication of electronic records?
 - What are the procedures for certifying electronic records when they cross technical boundaries (e.g. refreshing, copying, migrating) to preserve their authenticity?



Domain III

Research Questions

- What are the technical methods of authentication for preserved electronic records?
- What are the principles and criteria for media and storage management that are required for the preservation of authentic electronic records?
- What are the responsibilities for the long-term preservation of authentic electronic records?



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Preservation Task Force

- Storage media study
- Certification methods study
- Digital Preservation technologies study
- Modeling the Preservation Function

- Research Teams: preservation system prototyping



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Domain IV

Research Questions

- What principles should guide the formulation of international policies, strategies, and standards related to the long-term preservation of authentic electronic records?
- What should be the criteria for developing national policies, strategies, and standards?
- What should be the criteria for developing organizational policies, strategies, and standards?



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