InterPARES 2 Project
International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems (InterPARES) 2: Experiential, Interactive and Dynamic Records

APPENDIX 12

Domain 2 Research Questions

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Domain 2 Research Questions

- What does record reliability mean in the context of artistic, scientific and governmental activities? To what extent can the electronic records created in the course of each type of activity be considered reliable and why? What requirements on their form and controls on their creation would make us presume that they are reliable?

- What does record accuracy mean in the context of each activity? To what extent can the electronic records created in the course of each type of activity be considered accurate and why? What controls on their creation would make us presume that these records are accurate?

- What does authenticity mean in the context of each activity? To what extent is the definition of record authenticity adopted by InterPARES 1 relevant to the records resulting from each type of activity and from the use of increasingly complex digital technology?

- On what basis can the records created in the course of each activity be presumed authentic? How, in the absence of such presumption, can their authenticity be verified?

- How is the authenticity of these records affected by their transmission across space and time? What controls on the process of transmission would ensure that these records will continue to be recognized as authentic?

- Are the conceptual requirements for reliability and authenticity developed by the UBC-MAS project and InterPARES 1 for administrative and legal records generated within databases and document management systems applicable to the records studied by InterPARES 2?

- Do the participants in electronic transactions have shared access to reliable and accurate information about the terms and effects of the transactions? What would constitute reliable and accurate records of transactions in current electronic service delivery initiatives?

- What would be the consequence of issuing guidelines for record creation on the nature of the records of each activity?

- How can cultural differences, freedom of expression, freedom of inquiry, and right to privacy be reflected in those guidelines?

- What technological and intellectual tools would assist creators to generate records that can be authentically preserved over time?

- What legal or moral obligations exist regarding the creation, use and preservation of the records under investigation?