



InterPARES 2 Project

International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

Domain 1 Research Questions

Case Study 02: Performance Artist Stelarc

Carolyn Petrie, UBC

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1.1 What types of documents are traditionally made or received and set aside (that is, created), in the course of artistic, scientific, and governmental activities that are expected to be delivered online? For what purposes? What types of electronic documents are currently being created to accomplish those same activities? Have the purposes for which these documents are created changed?

- Stelarc's artistic activities result in the creation of various types of documents that provide evidence his performances and activities, including photographs, notes, correspondence, contracts, sketches, instructions, prototypes, and films.
 - Stelarc, however, feels that the primary record of his work is his own body
- Stelarc's records are created as a means to both document the creation and administration of a performance, and capture the performance itself. These records are created as publicity tools and memory aids, and to document the various stages of a complex performance process.
- Electronic documents currently created include emails, technical drawings, text documents, digital animation, video stills, diagrams, sound files, still images, Virtual Reality Modeling Language, QuickTime VR files, and ShockWave files.
- The essential purposes for document creation have not changed.
 - Stelarc continues to use his documents as a means to publicize his performances and document their development and execution
 - The format of the Web site now allows for a wider publicity platform
 - Stelarc, however, considers the Web site to fulfill another purpose: as his own archives; he understands the Web site as a means for him to organize his artistic activities and as a record of his thoughts. He also notes that the Web site facilitates the retrieval of documents when he travels.

1.2 What are the nature and the characteristics of the traditional process of document creation in each activity? Have they been altered by the use of digital technology, and if yes, how?

- The activities impacting the development of documents primarily involve the development and implementation of a performance.
 - The development of a performance results in proposals, contracts, correspondence, applications for funding, sketches and instructions for the overall artistic design
 - The implementation of a performance results in prototypes, notes, film used to refine the project and in later performances
 - The above-noted records are later used as publicity material
- In the electronic environment, documents are created to reflect the same activities.
 - The Web site has been built to document the progress of projects, and Stelarc's participation at various stages is recorded with Internet and DVD-Rom technology
 - Some documents are created by digitizing traditional documents, including photographs, audio clips, technical drawings, and some text documents; these are edited, formatted and posted. Other documents, most notably text documents, are born-digital.

1.3 What are the formal elements and attributes of the documents generated by these processes in both a traditional and a digital environment? What is the function of each element and the significance of each attribute? Specifically, what is the manifestation of authorship in the records of each activities and its implications for the exercise of intellectual property rights and the attribution of responsibilities?

- Key elements are text, still image, moving image, and sound. Text and images are hyperlinked to open as animations or to reveal other levels of data on the Stelarc Web site or other Web sites. The Internet functions as part of Stelarc's presentation, performance and record keeping system.
 - The Web site involves: html and JavaScript documents containing .gif images and animation, .jpgs, .wav sound files, ShockWave and RealSpace viewer. The Web site also features plug-ins for video and audio files.
 - Emails are posted in .html format
 - Some records are also on CD-ROMS, which include CAD files and other professional applications made by project collaborators
 - Security software is provided by the company hosting the Web site
- Stelarc is considered to be the author of all the documents on the Web site, as it is he who chooses what to include and post; some documents, however, would involve those with whom Stelarc collaborates on projects.

1.4 Does the definition of a record adopted by InterPARES 1 apply to all or part of the documents generated by these processes? If yes, given the different manifestations of the records's nature in such documents, how do we recognize and demonstrate the necessary

components that the definition identifies? If not, is it possible to change the definition maintaining theoretical consistency in the identification of documents as records across the spectrum of human activities? In other words, should we be looking at other factors that make of a document a record than those that diplomatics and archival science have considered so far?

- The definition of a record, as adopted by InterPARES 1, applies to Stelarc's documents; diplomatic analysis has shown that these documents satisfy all necessary components of a record.
- Stelarc's records satisfy the requirements of a record in the following ways:¹
 - The documents content and form are fixed, and the commercial server hosting the site is stable
 - The digital entities studied are by-products of Stelarc's performance activities
 - The documents are bound to each other during the creation of projects and all records stored on the Web site are bound to each other
 - Stelarc is the author and writer of the documents, and is one of the addressees
 - Stelarc's documents possess identifiable juridical-administrative, provenancial, procedural, documentary and technological contexts.

1.5 As government and businesses deliver services electronically and enter into transactions based on more dynamic web-based presentations and exchanges of information, are they neglecting to capture adequate documentary evidence of the occurrence of these transactions?

- As an artist, Stelarc does work under the same requirement as government and businesses to capture documentary evidence.

1.6 Is the move more dynamic and open-ended exchanges of information blurring the responsibilities and altering the legal liabilities of the participants in electronic transactions?

- Stelarc does not have to live up to legal requirements in the same way as government or businesses.
- Funding agencies and sponsors may influence his projects, however, and thus his records.

1.7 How do record creators traditionally determine the retention of their records and implement this determination in the context of each activity? How do record retention decisions and practices differ for individual and institutional creators? How has the use of digital technology affected their decisions and practices?

- Stelarc, as an individual, is bound to retain records only by his own business needs; the institutions collaborating with him, however, may be bound by their own legal, procedural and accountability requirements to retain records.

¹ For a more in-depth discussion of how Stelarc's records satisfy these requirements, see "Case Study 02 Diplomatic Analysis."

- Records are chosen by Stelarc for their convenience, and if he thinks they are effective publicity tools.
- The selection of records to be posted to the Web site, and thus retained, is often technologically driven as well.