



# InterPARES 2 Project

International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

## Domain 3 Research Questions

### Case Study 09(1): Digital Moving Images – Altair4 di Roma

Natalie Catto, UBC

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1. **What types of entities does the diplomatic analysis identify in this case study? (i.e., records, publications, data, etc.)**

The diplomatic analysis identifies all digital entities produced and set aside in the course of creating the final multimedia production, *The House of Julius Polybius*, to be records.

- 1a. **If there are no records, should there be records? If not, why not?**

Not applicable.

- 1b. **If there should be records, what kinds of records should be created to satisfy the creator's needs (as defined by an archivist)?**

Not applicable.

- 1c. **What characteristics of records (as defined by an archivist) are missing yet necessary to preserve these entities?**

Not applicable.

2. **Are the entities reliable? If not, why not?**

The reliability of the entities rests on the authority of all people involved in their creation, and also on the control exerted by organizational policies, legal obligations and commission specifications over their creation.

The creator considers the entities to be reliable if they can adequately carry out the next stage of work.

3. **Are the entities accurate? If not, why not?**

The accuracy of the digital entities entirely depends on the accuracy of the collected archaeological analogical data from which they are created. No further mention of accuracy is made in the final report.

4. **To what degree can the entities be presumed to be authentic, and why?**

**Benchmark Requirements Supporting the Production of Authentic Copies of Electronic Records** (these apply to the creator):

The concept of authenticity used by the creator is based upon the historical ideal of the virtual reconstruction mirroring the original as closely as possible. However, this ideal is not in line with that supplied by the InterPARES Project. According to the following baseline requirements supporting the production of authentic copies of electronic records established by InterPARES 1, the digital entities of Altair4 can be presumed to be authentic at only a very low level. Only the metadata and daily backups contribute to ensuring the authenticity of the entities under examination in this case study.

1. **Capture of identity and integrity metadata:**  
The only metadata specified in the final report include: the folder with project name/file, object name/number of version, and the last version file or object name/file.
2. **Enforcement of access privileges:**  
Staff access is not restricted, and use of part of the digital entities for promotional purposes by external users is permitted.
3. **Protection against loss and corruption:**  
A global backup of the system is made daily.
4. **Protection against media and technology obsolescence:**  
No protection measures against obsolescence have been taken.
5. **Established documentary forms:**  
No specific documentary form is mentioned in the final report.
6. **Ability to authenticate records:**  
Beyond the ability to identify one version from another, there exists no ability to authenticate the records according to the final report.
7. **Procedures in place to identify the authoritative record:**  
No authoritative record has been determined by the creator.

8. **Procedures in place to properly document removal and transfer of records from the creator's originating system:**

The records have not moved from the creator's originating system; thus, there are no procedures in place to document their removal and transfer.

**Baseline Requirements Supporting the Production of Authentic Copies of Electronic Records** (these apply to the preserver):

Due to the lack of a formal recordkeeping system and a preserver, the following baseline requirements cannot be answered.

1. Controls over Records Transfer, Maintenance, and Reproduction
2. Documentation of Reproduction Process and its Effects
3. Archival Description

5. **For what purpose(s) are the entities to be preserved?**

The creator has not identified or considered a preservation purpose. However, the entities should be preserved for the purpose of memorializing Italy's cultural heritage.

6. **Has the feasibility of preservation been explored?**

No, the feasibility of preservation has not been explored.

6a. **If yes, what elements and components need to be preserved?**

Not applicable.

7. **Which preservation strategies might most usefully be applied, and what are their strengths and weaknesses, including costs and degree of technical difficulty?**

Currently, digital entities are preserved within the creator's server. No strategy has been employed to preserve them and as a result some entities have been rendered obsolete. In addition, maintenance strategies have not been employed, with the exception of the system backups that are performed daily.

7a. **Which alternative preservation strategies might be applied? What are their strengths and weaknesses, including costs and degree of technical difficulty?**

The following alternative preservation strategies could be applied to Altair4's digital entities. It is difficult to estimate the cost and degree of technical difficulty this project would entail:

B1.2. Encapsulation

B1.3. Normalization

B1.4. Conversion

B2. Technology preservation

B2.5. Emulation

B4. Data restoration

**8. What additional information does the preserver need to know to facilitate appraisal and preservation?**

A clear understanding of recordkeeping procedures needs to be obtained, including a better understanding of what authenticity entails. Also important is an understanding of why and how the entities should be preserved, and an identification of the purpose for which the entities should be preserved.

**8a. If required information is missing, where should it come from and how should it be made manifest?**

Records creation and maintenance needs to be documented by the creators. Altair4 must also develop a purpose for the preservation of the digital entities, and identify an authoritative record.

**9. Are there any policies in place that affect preservation?**

No policies are mentioned in the final report that would affect preservation.

**9a. Are there any policies in place that present obstacles to preservation?**

Not applicable.

**9b. Are there any policies that would need to be put in place to facilitate appraisal and preservation?**

Before appraisal and preservation policies are implemented, formal recordkeeping practices and procedures need to be established to ensure the authenticity of the entities and provide access to them. A competent person also needs to be designated in the role of preserver/records manager of the entities. This will enable the maintenance strategies to be carried out and preservation strategies to be identified and followed.