



# InterPARES 2 Project

International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

## Characterization of Case Study Validated

### Case Study 12: Antarctic Treaty Searchable Database

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#### Relevance of the Case Study to InterPARES 2

The purpose of this case study is to provide, “a practical demonstration of the design, implementation and application of a well-defined policy archive of digital records that are being used for governmental and non-governmental purposes.”<sup>1</sup> The relevance of the case study is therefore to enable InterPARES to meet its goals in relation to the study of government activities that are conducted using experiential, interactive and dynamic computer technology. In addition, this case study applies innovative technologies that enable relational schema (i.e., relationships within and between information resources) to be dynamically, comprehensively and objectively expressed without: (a) inserting markup that necessarily modifies authentic content; or (b) applying conventional metadata forms that would be increasingly redundant at higher levels of granularity.

#### Information about the Creator

The creator in this case is a private company (EvREsearch LTD), consisting of two members which has been active since 1999. One member also is a research professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The creator’s office is located in Ohio, and is subject to the United States and international laws, including copyright and patent laws. Funding for the activities of the creator has been received intermittently from government grants and otherwise has been provided by the company, which has continuously sustained public access to the integrated materials (<http://webhost.nvi.net/aspire>).

The mandate of the creator is to, “provide added value to the management, distribution, protection and rapid integration of digital information based on user-defined objectives, independent of scale, in all sectors of society across the world.” With regard to public-domain policy documents, the mission of the creator is to, “make legal resources more widely available through the use of patented technology” so that users can dynamically identify objective relationships within and between relevant digital information resources.

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<sup>1</sup> Case Study 12 Proposal, p. 2.

Functions of the creator include administration, research, and production. In terms of governance, one member of the company is the CEO, while the other is the President. Each technical production is guided by the two members, with some technical assistance through the President's other company. Importantly, implementation of the *Antarctic Treaty Searchable Database* has involved oversight by an independent advisory board composed of individuals from government, academia and not-for-profit corporations. The production is constrained by relevant laws, especially copyright and patents. The production is also constrained by relevant norms, such as those related to receiving a grant from a government agency.

### **Information about the Administration / Management Function**

The creator must administer activities related to grants and contracts as well as internal operations of the company. Most records are likely retained by the creator. No formal records management or archives program exists. Back-up copies of digitized material are made and preserved on a regular basis. Legal and normal requirements and constraints are similar for the administrative function as for the entire work of the creator. Technological requirements and constraints are not applicable as related to the administrative function.

### **Information about the Digital Entity Being Studied**

The *Antarctic Treaty Searchable Database* was produced in 1999 using materials from the Department of State to meet the teaching needs of Dr. Berkman in an undergraduate course that he been offering since 1982. The *Antarctic Treaty Searchable Database* is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, and is widely used in many spheres around the world, as indicated by Web sites that link to the database from: international government organizations (e.g., Antarctic Treaty Secretariat), non-governmental organization (e.g., Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research), national government agencies (e.g., Library of Congress), commercial institutions (e.g., International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators) and academic institutions (e.g., Oxford University) around the world.

Compilation and generation of accurate digital information resources is from the authentic source—United States Department of State (depository government for the 1959 Antarctic Treaty)—with supplementary materials from Marine Mammal Commission. The information resources in the *Antarctic Treaty Searchable Database* are the diverse measures that have been approved by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties from 1959 to the present. Identification of rules to automatically “break” the digital resources into discrete granules (e.g., Articles within a Convention) that: (a) contain tags with that define their unique parent-child relationships; and (b) can be dynamically combined in relational schema. Implementation of patented Digital Integration System™ (DigIn®) from EvREsearch LTD enables users to dynamically generate expandable-collapsible hierarchies that objectively and comprehensively identify relationships within and between the relevant parent information resources in the collection without metadata or markup.

EvREsearch LTD has continuously implemented and maintained public-access Web site (<http://webhost.nvi.net/aspire>) from 1999 through the present, along with periodic distribution of webCDserver™ with annual updates of the *Antarctic Treaty Searchable Database*. Copyright and patent laws apply to the *Antarctic Treaty Searchable Database*, and the creator includes information about the application of such laws on the Web site. The *Antarctic Treaty Searchable Database* is hosted by NVI (Native Voices International), which is separately owned by the President of EvREsearch LTD.