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

Areas That Should Be Covered
Unvalidated

Case Study 22:
Electronic Café International (ECI)

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Creator of the Fonds

TOPIC	SPECIFICS	SOURCE
Name	Electronic Café International (ECI)	FR, pg. 2
Location	Santa Monica, California (United States)	FR, pg. 2
Origins	• Established in 1988 • Purpose to showcase creative, multi-cultural, multi-disciplinary, collaborative telecommunications	FR, pg. 2
Legal Status	Information not available in the final report	
Legislation	ECI is bound by the contracts it enters into	FR, pg. 2
Norms	Information is not available in the final report	
Funding	• Artists contributing to ECI may be commissioned by museums (e.g., Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art) • Getty Grants Program donated funds to catalogue the ECI collection and gain physical and intellectual control over the entire collection • Information on other funding sources and donors not available in the final report	FR, pg. 2 Diplomatic analysis
Resources	Information not available in the final report	
Governance	Information not available in the final report	
Mandate	Information not available in the final report	
Philosophy	Multi-disciplinary, multimedia, collaborative telecommunication	FR, pg. 2
Mission	To build cross-cultural telecollaborative, resource sharing, and informal community institutions and to explore cultural diversity and art in a hybrid-networked environment	FR, pg. 2
Functions	• Foster collaboration, communication and community • Bring people together over distances in a global collaborative environment • Place technology and a multi-media network in public spaces for people to encounter • Create a virtual space with no limits, create new contexts	FR, pg. 4
Recognitions	Information not available in the final report	

Activities Resulting in Document Creation

Administrative & Managerial Framework

TOPIC	*SPECIFICS*	*SOURCE*
General Description	ECI stores records in a variety of media, from textual to obsolete multi-media formats (ECI hopes to provide online access to and preserve these records)	FR, pg. 3
Type of activities	Projects of the ECI and the documentation relating to these projects	FR, pg. 4
Documents resulting from activities	• Records related to the planning of a work (sketches, correspondence) • Records related to the executing of a work (hardware, software) • Records created by participants in the course of performing a work (digital art, collaborative writing) • Records attempting to capture major portions of a work (composite or single channel video feeds) • Records that attempt to document a work (interviews, videos and photos of participants, news coverage, email correspondence)	FR, pg. 4
Existence of a RM and/or archives program	• No formal recordkeeping procedures for the works in ECI	FR, pg. 2
Individuals responsible for preservation	Information not available in the final report	
Existence of Preservation Strategies	• ECI has started to assess its collection to create a plan to stabilize and catalogue the collection, and to digitize it • ECI digitizes 3-dimensional objects (Quick Time VR) and plans to migrate analogue and other records to digital form • ECI wants to create a 'living archive,' in that their records will be available for access on the Internet and people will be able to add their own contributions in response to a work/event.	FR, pg. 4 FR, pg. 10 FR, pg. 8
Legal Requirements and Constraints	• ECI owns the rights to the telecollaborative work • Certain performances cannot be recreated until third parties have released their rights	FR, pg. 11
Normative Requirements and Constraints	Information not available in the final report	
Technological Requirements and Constraints	• Architecture: not available in the final report • Creation tools: video, computer, robot equipment • Processing tools: variety of hardware and software • Media: textual, video, audio recordings, • Formats: variety ECI stores a variety of media formats and is faced with the problem of obsolescence	FR, pg. 3 FR, pg. 7 FR, pg. 5 FR, pg. 3

Digital entity being studied		
General Description	ECI's early work and telecollaborative art projects leading up to Electronic Café International: • "Hole in Space" • Satellite Arts • Electronic Café The Electronic Café International project itself as well as the creator's documentation of these events and archives.	FR, pg. 4
Type of activities	Informal processes and procedures that generally proceed as follows: • Planning activities (drawing ideas, writing proposals) • Executing and performing work/event & recording portions of that work • Documenting the work and reviewing it (interviews, news coverage)	FR, pg. 6
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Normative Requirements and Constraints	• ECI want to ensure the look of a work is faithful in terms of aspect ratio along with a faithful reproduction of color, hue, size, and sometimes font. ECI also wants the informational content to be as faithful as possible and for the human story to be made a part of the preservation of the records • ECI believes the physical medium and type of software is not intrinsic to the art	FR, pg. 8-9
Technological Requirements and Constraints	• Architecture: 12 computers and servers; 40 sub-systems, components and devices • Creation tools: 25 peripheral computer devices, 30 video production, processing and display devices, 22 audio and MIDI production devices, 30 specialized teleconferencing devices, 18 customized devices • Processing tools: SyQuest, 25 descriptions of industry networks satellites, communications systems and services • Media: audio, graphic	FR, pg. 5-6

	• Formats: DC300 XL and DC6150 data cartridges, Kodak Photo CD, CD ROM, DVD, Yamaha Diskalvier piano floppy disks, mini-floppy (photographic), various floppy disks Early ECI works were created using global connectivity technology (satellites and dial up phone networks). Later a variety of cheap narrow band technology and broadband technology was used for web casts. Currently, public ECI events are video and audio cybercast using JAVA –based technology requiring plug-ins to view	