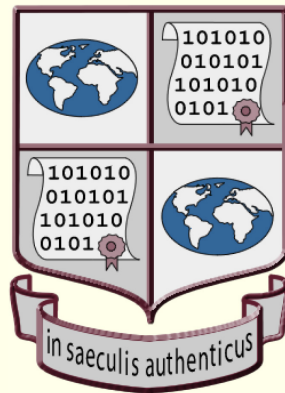


# InterPARES Project

International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

1998-2012



Luciana Duranti  
Chair and Professor, Archival Studies

Presentation for the Hon. Ida Chong  
12 January 2009



**InterPARES Project**

Luciana Duranti  
Project Director

# Object of Inquiry: Digital Records

Records are the **means** for carrying out our activities, their **by-product**, and their **residue**.

We create and maintain records in order **to act, to refer to them, and to provide evidence** of our actions and endeavours. The research we have heard today rely on records and produce records.

We preserve records over the long term for reasons of **administrative and historical accountability** to the next generations, and as **sources for research** of any kind, for cultural, business and personal purposes.



# Some Digital Records Challenges

- **They do not exist as physical entities**, but are constituted of linked digital components (the “manifested” record differs from the “stored” record, and only one of the two might exist)
- **The original disappears** as the record is saved: we cannot keep digital records, but only maintain the ability to re-produce or re-create them
- The **facility of reproduction and manipulation** makes it difficult to identify the final, official, reliable or accurate version
- Increasingly, **they do not have fixed form and stable content** but change constantly
- **Technological obsolescence** makes digital records **inaccessible** in a very short time span



# Some Digital Records Issues

- Protection of **Privacy** (Internet, lack of procedures)
- Protection of **Copyright** and **Moral Rights** (ongoing reproduction)
- **Identification** and **Retrieval** (lack of proper systems)
- **Accountability** (lack of trust, use of multiple technologies)
- **E-discovery** (abundance of disorganized information)
- **Cost** of systems (lack of policy frameworks and infrastructure)



# Records Qualities We Must Protect

- **Reliability**: the trustworthiness of a record as a statement of fact.
- **Accuracy**: the exactness and correctness of a record content,
- **Authenticity**: the trustworthiness of a record as a record: its identity and its integrity
- **Interrelatedness**: the relationship among the records related to same matter, regardless of medium



# InterPARES Project

## Goal and Products

To develop:

- **Theory and methods** for creating accurate and reliable digital records and preserve them in authentic form regardless of technology obsolescence and media fragility
- **Model policies and procedures** that ensure the records are identifiable, retrievable, accessible only to those who have a right to see them, and trustworthy
- **Policies, strategies and action plans** for small and/or low resource organizations (especially in BC: e.g. VPD, CTC, BCIT, ICBC, Cities)
- **Guidelines and education modules** for in-house training, training by professional associations, and by educational bodies
- **Standards**, through the Canadian Standards Board and the International Standards Organization
- **White papers** for policy setting and auditing bodies; **comments** on draft legislation and policy (UBC)



# Products Usability and Effectiveness

- **Produced by more than 100 co-investigators from 25 countries** in 5 continents, including civil law and common law countries, public and private sectors, academia and the professions, creators and preservers
- More than **100 case studies in existing organizations**
- **189 graduate students** to date have taken part in research and development.
- **15 books, more than 100 refereed articles and about 60 non-refereed,** offered more than 100 lectures and workshops, given many interviews
- **Formal partnerships** with several international research projects related to digital records

## Spin-offs:

**Digital Records Forensics Project:** to develop methods and procedures for the long term preservation of authentic digital records either generated or collected by the law enforcement profession as evidence of a crime

**Intellectual Rights and Long-term Preservation Project:** to develop concepts, principles, methods and procedures for the protection of the copyright and moral rights of authors throughout the process of digital preservation



# Findings and Products

All findings and products are available on the InterPARES Web site:

[www.interpares.org](http://www.interpares.org)

The Digital Records Forensics project website is :

[www.digitalrecordsforensics.ca](http://www.digitalrecordsforensics.ca)



**InterPARES Project**

Luciana Duranti

Project Director