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

Domain 1 Research Questions

Case Study 22:
Electronic Café International (ECI)

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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 on-line? 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?

- It should be noted that the ECI documents studied are those resulting from past works and performances, and as such, the case study has not examined the current creation of documents. It should also be noted that the digital entities studied in CS22 include both ECI's telecollaborative art projects, and the electronic documents contributing to and documenting these events.

- Documents created in the traditional environment include sketches, correspondence, collaborative writing, composite or single channel video feeds, interviews, videos, photographs, and news coverage.

- Documents are created to plan activities, execute and perform works/events, record portions of these, and document and review these works/events. These, in turn, satisfy ECI's mission to build cross-cultural telecollaborative, resource sharing, and informal community institutions, and to explore cultural diversity and art in a hybrid-networked environment.

- While the documents created electronically are not explicitly listed in the Final Report, these can be presumed to include emails, digital art, video and audio files, photographs, etc.

- Electronic documents are, like traditional documents, created during the process of planning, implementing and performing ECI's more recent works.

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 involved in the creation of ECI's documents include: aesthetic inquiry, research, development, and the production of telecollaborative art projects.

- Digital technology has affected document creation in the sense that ECI's works/performances have been limited by available technologies and their functionality.

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 activity and its implications for the exercise of intellectual property rights and the attribution of responsibilities?

- The formal elements and attributes of ECI's documents are not noted in the case study's final report.

- ECI's digital entities take the following forms: data cartridges, optical media and video disks, Kodak Photo CDs, floppy disks (various types), SyQuest, photographic storage devices, piano floppy disks, CD-ROMS and DVDs.

- ECI is the author of the digital documents; in particular, Sherrie Rabinowitz and Kit Galloway hold intellectual rights over entire projects, as they envision, develop and manage the collaborative works.

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 record'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?

- It should first be noted that the diplomatic analysis was conducted on a single ECI work, "Hole in Space," and is focused on the identification of the artwork as a record.

- While ECI's documents may not currently satisfy all requirements of a record, as defined by InterPARES 1, diplomatic analysis has concluded that the artwork created in telecollaborative works are records.

- ECI's documents satisfy the following requirements:
  - The content of ECI's documents is fixed.
  - ECI's documents participate in the activity of composing telecollaborative works.

- ECI documents possess an intellectual bond with every other element of the telecollaborative work that occurs; a physical archival bond is also present, as documents are stored on the basis of format.
- ECI's documents demonstrate the involvement of all necessary persons.
- ECI's documents possess identifiable juridical-administrative, provenancial, procedural, documentary and technological contexts.

- ECI's documents, however, do not satisfy the requirement of fixed content.

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?

- ECI is an artistic endeavour. Since no transaction occurs, this question does not apply.

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

- The final report notes the following legal requirements applying to ECI's documents:
  - ECI is bound by the contracts into which it enters
  - ECI owns the rights to telecollaborative works
  - Certain performances cannot be recreated until third parties have released their rights

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?

- No formal recordkeeping procedures have been identified.

- ECI is currently considering the creation of a "living archive," to enable the availability of documents over the Internet, and to enable users to add their own contributions in response to a work/performance.