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

Domain 3 Research Questions

Case Study 22:
Electronic Café International (ECI)

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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 entities related to the production of the Electronic Café International's art work "Hole in Space" as 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?**

   A stable content. The lack of documented recordkeeping procedures establishes doubt about the stability of the content of these records.

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

   Because "Hole in Space" took place in 1980, all records are analogue. That fact, and the unbroken chain of custody of the records at ECI are probably sufficient to ensure the reliability of the records.

   In the case of more recent digital entities, it is difficult to assert whether or not these entities were created in a controlled environment, and thus, whether they are complete in form due to the lack of formal recordkeeping procedures.

The creator does not believe that reliability is an issue because the work will never be re-installed/re-enacted (Final Report, Section D, Question 10: "it is the forensic evidence of the work that is important and not the reinstalling of the work which would require authenticity and reliability)."

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

The report does not address the issue of accuracy.

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**)**:

Due to the lack of formal recordkeeping procedures the following benchmark requirements cannot be fully answered.

1. Capture of identity and integrity metadata
2. Enforcement of access privileges
3. Protection against loss and corruption
4. Protection against media and technology obsolescence
5. Established documentary forms
6. Ability to authenticate records
7. Procedures in place to identify the authoritative record
8. Procedures in place to properly document removal and transfer of records from the creator's originating system

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

Again, due to the lack of formal recordkeeping procedures the following baseline requirements cannot be fully 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 creators expressed an interest in maintaining digital entities to make them accessible and available for artists and the public through a "living archives" Web site.

6. Has the feasibility of preservation been explored?

Yes, the feasibility of preservation has been explored by ECI.

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

ECI believes that the entire media collection should be preserved for posterity.

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

ECI has only identified digitization of analogue records as a possible preservation strategy. This would be particularly important for the video records. The balance of digitization work would be to provide access over the internet. Due to the amount of material, it is difficult to estimate the cost involved in this project.

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 ECI's digital entities. Again it is difficult to estimate the cost and degree of technical difficulty that this project would entail:

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?

The preserver should understand how the entities were created through a complete understanding of the recordkeeping procedures.

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

These procedures should be documented.

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

At the time of the report, there were no preservation policies in place.

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 ECI's appraisal and preservation policies can be documented, ECI must first seek to document their business transactions and establish formal recordkeeping practices and procedures.