

Diplomatics, Archival Science and Electronic Records

InterPARES 2

Diplomatic Analysis Team

2005-11-04

Overview

- Diplomats and archival science
- Research projects with this theoretical framework
- Why diplomatic analysis?
- Diplomatic analysis of electronic records
- Our analysis template now...
- Example of analysis: CS05 – Archives of Ontario Website Exhibits

Diplomatics

- a sophisticated system of ideas about the nature of records, their genesis and composition, their relationships with the actions and persons connected to them, and with their organizational, social, and legal context.

Duranti, Luciana and Terry Eastwood. "Protecting Electronic Evidence: A Progress Report on a Research Study and its Methodology." *Archivi & Computer* anno V: fasc. 3 (1995):214-15.

Archival Science

- Whereas diplomatics studies records as individual entities, "archival science studies them as aggregations, analyses their documentary and functional interrelationships, and studies the ways in which the records with all their relations can be controlled and communicated.

Luciana Duranti and Terry Eastwood. p. 215

Research Projects

(Diplomatics & Archival Science)

UBC project

- The Preservation of the Integrity of Electronic Records (April 1994-March 1997)
- identify and define the requirements for creating, handling and preserving reliable and authentic electronic records
- The resulting standard (DOD 5015.2) is now being used by the U.S. Defense Information Systems Agency to certify RMA vendors

Research Projects

(Diplomatics & Archival Science)

InterPARES 1

- The International Research on Permanent Authentic records in Electronic Systems (1999-2001)
- focused on the preservation of the authenticity of records created and/or maintained in databases and document management systems in the course of administrative activities
- Benchmark requirements supporting the presumption of authenticity
- Baseline requirements supporting the production of authentic copies of electronic records

Research Projects

(Diplomatics & Archival Science)

InterPARES 2

- Looks at experiential, interactive, dynamic systems with an aim to:

‘....develop and articulate the concepts, principles, criteria and methods that can ensure the creation and maintenance of accurate and reliable records and the long term preservation of authentic records.’

www.interpares.org

InterPARES 2

● 3 focus areas

- Arts
- Science
- Government

● 3 domains

- Records creation and maintenance
- Authenticity, accuracy and reliability
- Preservation

InterPARES 2

● 4 cross domains

- Terminology
- Description
- Policy
- Modelling

Case Studies

- 26 case studies
- Final Report
 - Overview
 - Methodology
 - Contexts
 - 23 questions
 - Domain and cross domain questions
 - Bibliography

Why diplomatic analysis?

- To determine whether system produces records;
- If the system does produce records, to identify
 - The action in which the record participates
 - The persons concurring in its formation
 - Its archival bond

Why diplomatic analysis?

- If the system does produce records, to identify
 - Procedures and controls that ensure the records reliability
 - Elements of the record that must be maintained and preserved in order to ensure its authenticity over time

Record Components

(Traditional/paper Records)

- Medium
- Content
- Act/transaction
- Persons
- Context
- Forms
- Archival bond

Record Components

(Electronic Records)

- Stable Medium
- Fixed Content
- Fixed Forms
- Act/transaction
- Persons (originator)
- Context
- Archival bond

The DA Team's template for assessing digital entities as records

Diplomatic Analysis of Electronic Records: The Journey

- IP1 template for analysis
- Template #1



Diplomatic Analysis of Electronic Records: The Journey



● Problems

- Is it possible to analyze something that you cannot see?
- Many of the IP2 researchers did not understand
- How much detail do we need to accomplish our goals for IP2?

Our Analysis Template Now...

- Uses a narrative format
- Clearly defines all terminology
- Doesn't include extrinsic or intrinsic elements

CS05 – Archives of Ontario Website Exhibits

● Exhibits:

- “War of 1812”
- “Government of Ontario Art Collection”
- “Toys of Our Childhood”
- <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/exhibits/index.html>

CS05 – Archives of Ontario Website Exhibits

- The finished diplomatic analysis!!



- Do you think the website exhibits are records?