



InterPARES: The Management of the Research Project

**Luciana Duranti
University of British Columbia**



InterPARES

- **Original Title: Long-Term Preservation of Authentic Electronic Records**
- **Among Peers**
- **InterPARES: INTernational Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems**



Methodological Principles

- Interdisciplinarity
- Transferability
- Open Inquiry
- Layered Knowledge Environment
- Multi-method design: surveys, case studies, modeling, prototyping, diplomatic and archival analysis, and text analysis, etc. to address domain and cross-domain research questions



Team Structure

	FOCUS 1 Artistic activities	FOCUS 2 Scientific activities	FOCUS 3 Governmental activities
DOMAIN 1 Records creation & maintenance	Working Group 1.1	Working Group 1.2	Working Group 1.3
DOMAIN 2 Authenticity, accuracy & reliability	Working Group 2.1	Working Group 2.2	Working Group 2.3
DOMAIN 3 Methods of appraisal & preservation	Working Group 3.1	Working Group 3.2	Working Group 3.3

Terminology
Policy
Description
Modeling

Matrix depicting Task Forces, Working Groups and Cross-domain Research Teams



InterPARES Project

Dr. Luciana Duranti
Project Director

Issues

- Cultural
- Terminological
- Financial
- Collaborative
- Logistic
- Production related



Cultural Issues

Differences linked to nationality, discipline, profession, and sector, addressed through

- face to face week-long research workshops
- mixed composition of research units
- dissemination of work in each other's environment



Terminological issues

Differences in national, disciplinary, organizational, professional, sectorial languages, and within each, addressed through

- Intellectual Framework including basic concepts
- annotated bibliographies in each area
- translation of research questions, methodologies, and any other key document in lay terms
- terminology database



Financial Issues

Differences in funding and related demands on the project among participating teams and individual co-investigators, addressed through

- assignment of responsibilities based on 1) reasons for the received funding, 2) ability to fulfill them within the financial constrains, and 3) complementarities with other research carried out in each given environment
- use of part of the funding for the direction of the project to support the travel/work/technological needs of foreign individual researchers
- establishment of a technological infrastructure that supports team work through the internet



Collaboration issues

Differences in agenda between the private and the public sector, academics and professionals, seasoned and younger researchers, ... addressed through

- choice of research units chairs
- Organizational Policy



Organizational Policy (20 pages)

Categories of membership, responsibilities of members, admission of new members

Research units structure and responsibilities

Management units and their responsibilities

Workshops purpose, schedule, attendance, voting procedures, sponsorship

Publication, authorship, collaborative research, intellectual property guidelines, dissemination

Website policy, maintenance of data and research material, human subject and data protection



Logistic issues

Organization of research workshops in different cities and countries, assignment of research assistants to individuals and groups, maintenance of an effective web site accessible only to the researchers and of a public one, building and maintenance of a technological infrastructure usable by people in places with different technological capability, creating and distributing publicity, etc., addressed through

- The InterPARES central office staff
- The national Teams staff
- The good will of individual researchers



InterPARES Project

Dr. Luciana Duranti
Project Director

Production Issues

Overcoming differences in motivation, commitment, interest, financial and organizational support, availability of time and resources

Coordinating the many portions of a research that might turn out unwieldy towards the specific objectives of the project producing timely and consistent results

addressed through



Production Issues (cont.)

- constant communication with clear definition of timelines and assignment of both team and individual responsibilities (calendar and milestones document)
- redirection of resources
- definition of tasks tailored on the person/organization
- discussion of problems in meetings of all chairs
- Advisory Board
- diplomacy, flattery...whatever works



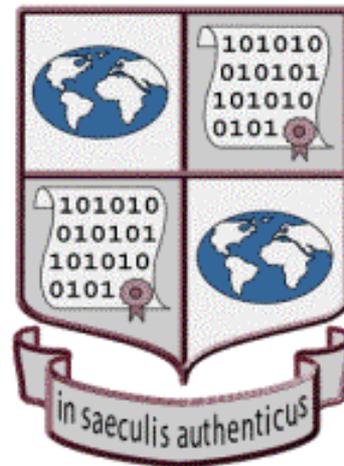
Critical Success Factors

- The large amount of dissemination carried out by researchers and students
- The timeliness of the results
- The substantial development of new knowledge, especially theoretical and methodological, and refinement and adaptation of traditional knowledge
- The applicability of the findings to a variety of contexts (see UNESCO's support)
- **Mostly: Each researcher feels that his/her contribution to the project is such that the results belong to him/her as much as to the group**



Reference

<http://www.interpares.org>



InterPARES Project

Dr. Luciana Duranti
Project Director