

# InterPARES: Managing a Collaborative International Research Network

Dr. Corinne Rogers, Project Coordinator, InterPARES Trust AI  
2nd International Seminar on Documents, Records, and Archives  
Centre for Archival Research and Development of National Archives of Indonesia  
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# Introduction



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<https://interparestrustai.org>

*I acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.*

# What is InterPARES?

- An international, interdisciplinary network of researchers, academics, practitioners concerned with digital records and data
- Led by Luciana Duranti, Professor emerita, University of British Columbia since 1998
- Continuously funded by SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada)
- Underlying consistency of the research focus interpreted through many research questions



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

InterPARES  
TrustRI



# What is InterPARES?

- Five phases with an underlying consistency of focus, namely:
- Can we / how do we maintain the trustworthiness of digital records in and across different and constantly changing technological environments?
  - Trustworthiness is understood and evaluated through the principles of archival theory
  - Archival principles can be brought to bear in all disciplines where records are created, used, maintained, preserved





# Who is InterPARES?



1998, Washington,  
D.C.  
The inaugural meeting  
of InterPARES

InterPARES  
TrustRI



# Who is InterPARES?



2023, Ascoli Piceno,  
Italy  
Plenary meeting of  
InterPARES Trust AI,  
the 5th Phase

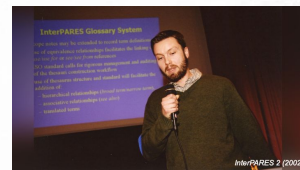
InterPARES  
Trust AI





# Who is InterPARES?

- Luciana Duranti, Principal Investigator and tireless champion
- SSHRC, UNESCO, ICA, UBC - funders
- Terry Eastwood, Heather MacNeil @ SLAIS
- Project coordinators:
  - Peter van Garderen (1999-2000) InterPARES 1
  - Tahra Fung (2000-2003) InterPARES 1, 2
  - Yau Min Chong (2003-2005) InterPARES 2
  - Greg Kozak (2005-2006) InterPARES 2
  - Randy Preston (2006-2011) InterPARES 2, InterPARES 3
  - Alexandra Allen (2011-2012) InterPARES 3
  - Corinne Rogers (2013-present) InterPARES Trust, InterPARES Trust AI



# Who is InterPARES?

- Graduate research assistants (GRA)
  - From UBC
  - From partner universities
- GRAs have gone on to become working professionals/academics around the world, for example:
  - Renmin University of China
  - Universiti Kebangsaan, Indonesia
  - UNESCO, Paris
  - NATO ... and many more





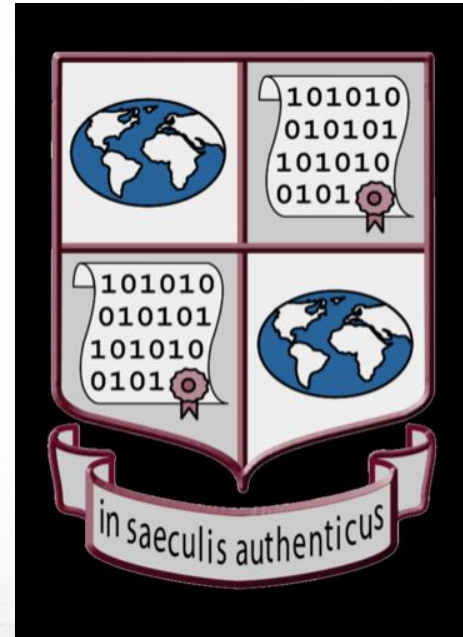
# Who is InterPARES?

- Partners around the world - academics, archivists & records managers, lawyers, forensic experts, industry professionals, consultants...



# What's in a name?

- InterPARES (acronym): International research into the Preservation of Authentic Records in Electronic Systems
- *inter pares* (Latin): among peers
- Coat of arms: enduring continuity & permanence that is the goal for authentic digital records
- Globe: represents the international, collaborative nature of the project
- Record with a seal: symbolizes authenticity
- Binary code: indicates digital nature
- Latin motto: “Throughout the ages authentic”





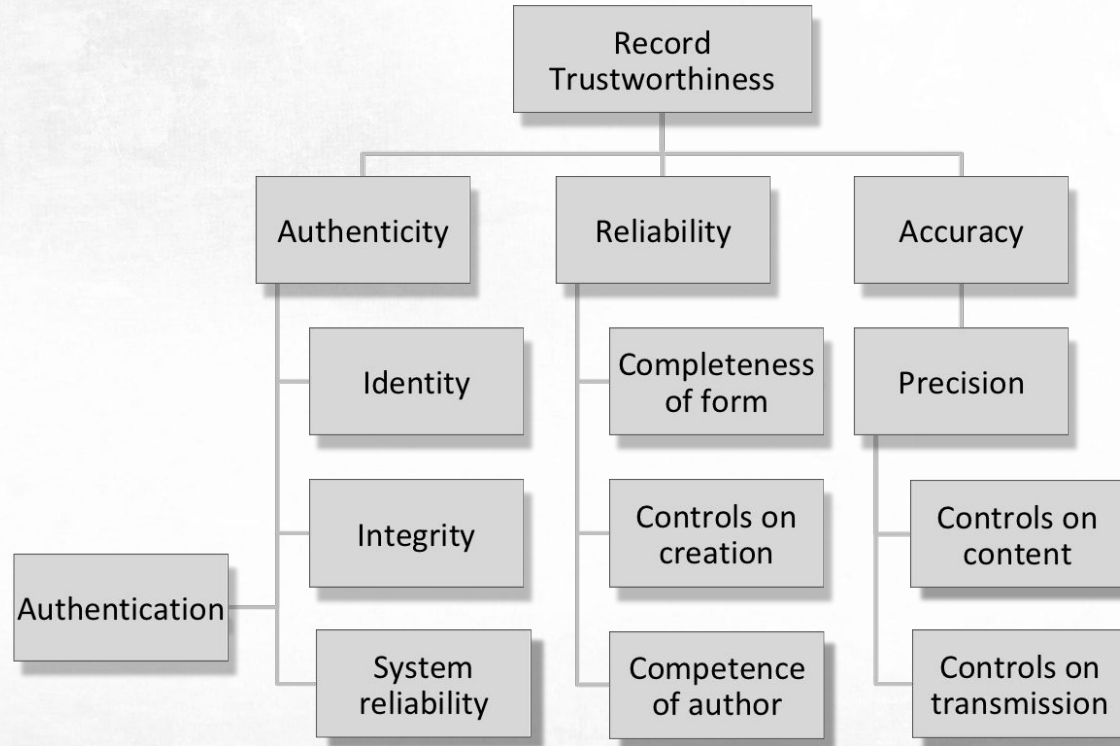
# How does InterPARES work?

- Records are used in every facet of our personal and professional lives, therefore
- Issues of trustworthiness are relevant in every field and discipline => research partners are interdisciplinary and intersectoral
- Managing trustworthiness of records is a core function of a theory based archival practice => key concepts and methodologies are drawn from diplomatics and archival science





# Underpinning InterPARES is the ontology of record trustworthiness



# Five phases of InterPARES - InterPARES 1

- InterPARES 1 (1998-2001) [www.interpares.org](http://www.interpares.org)
- Researched issues pertaining to digital records in databases and office management systems in the course of administrative activity
- Focused on developing theory and methods to ensure preservation of authenticity
- Studied records from the perspective of the records preserver
- Organized in 4 research domains: Authenticity, Appraisal, Preservation, Strategy
- Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Australia, China and Hong Kong, France, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Sweden and Portugal

InterPARES  
TrustRI



# Five phases of InterPARES - InterPARES 2

- InterPARES 2 (2002-2007) [www.interpares.org](http://www.interpares.org)
- Researched issues pertaining to digital records in dynamic and interactive systems in artistic, scientific, and government activity
- Examined issues of authenticity, reliability, and accuracy over the lifecycle
- Studied records from the perspective of the records creator
- Organized in 3 domains of inquiry: records creation & maintenance; authenticity, accuracy & reliability; methods of appraisal & preservation
- Each domain was studied in 3 sectors: Arts; Science; Government
- 4 cross-domains cut across research domains: technology; policy; description; modeling
- Researchers were organized in regional teams: American; Asian; Australian; Canadian; European





## Structure of research activities within InterPARES 2

InterPARES 2 research activities are subdivided as follows:

	<b>FOCUS 1</b> <b>Artistic activities</b>	<b>FOCUS 2</b> <b>Scientific activities</b>	<b>FOCUS 3</b> <b>Governmental activities</b>
<b>DOMAIN 1</b> <b>Records creation &amp; maintenance</b>	<b>Working Group 1.1</b> Creation and Maintenance of Artistic Records	<b>Working Group 1.2</b> Creation and Maintenance of Scientific Records	<b>Working Group 1.3</b> Creation and Maintenance of E-Government Records
<b>DOMAIN 2</b> <b>Authenticity, accuracy &amp; reliability</b>	<b>Working Group 2.1</b> Accuracy, Reliability, Authenticity of Artistic Records	<b>Working Group 2.2</b> Accuracy, Reliability, Authenticity of Scientific Records	<b>Working Group 2.3</b> Accuracy, Reliability, Authenticity of E-Government Records
<b>DOMAIN 3</b> <b>Methods of appraisal &amp; preservation</b>	<b>Working Group 3.1</b> Appraisal and Preservation of Artistic Records	<b>Working Group 3.2</b> Appraisal and Preservation of Scientific Records	<b>Working Group 3.3</b> Appraisal and Preservation of E-Government Records

**Terminology Cross-domain**

**Policy Cross-domain**

**Description Cross-domain**

**Modeling Cross-domain**



# Five phases of InterPARES - InterPARES 3

- InterPARES 3 (2007-2012) [www.interpares.org](http://www.interpares.org)
- Put the theory and methods developed in InterPARES 1 and 2 into practice in archives & organizational archival and records management units with limited human or financial resources, or technological knowledge
- Researchers were organized in regional TEAMS: Theoretical Elaborations into Archival Management: Implementing the theory of preservation of authentic records in digital systems in small and medium-sized archival organizations:

[TEAM Africa](#)

[TEAM China](#)

[TEAM Malaysia](#)

[TEAM Brazil](#)

[TEAM Colombia](#)

[TEAM Mexico](#)

[TEAM Canada](#)

[TEAM Italy](#)

[TEAM Norway](#)

[TEAM Catalonia](#)

[TEAM Korea](#)

[TEAM Turkey](#)



# Five phases of InterPARES - InterPARES Trust

- InterPARES Trust (2013-2019) [www.interparestrust.org](http://www.interparestrust.org)
- What happens when records are increasingly created, maintained & used, and preserved (actively or passively) in cloud infrastructures?
- Five domains: Infrastructure; Security; Control; Access; Legal issues
- Five cross-domains: Terminology; Resources; Education; Policy; Social/societal issues
- Seven regional teams: North America (Canada & US); Latin America (plus Mexico); Europe; Asia; Australasia; Africa; Transnational organizations





# Five phases of InterPARES: InterPARES Trust AI

- InterPARES Trust AI (2021-2026) [www.interparestrustai.org](http://www.interparestrustai.org)
- ITrust AI focuses on the application and use of Artificial Intelligence in archival and records management functions
- Organized in 6 international and interdisciplinary Working Groups based on archival functions, across domains and international regions: Creation & Use; Appraisal & Acquisition; Arrangement & Description; Retention & Preservation; Management & Administration; Reference & Access
- Relies heavily on the partnership between AI engineers and computer scientists and archives and records professionals



# Five phases of InterPARES: InterPARES Trust AI

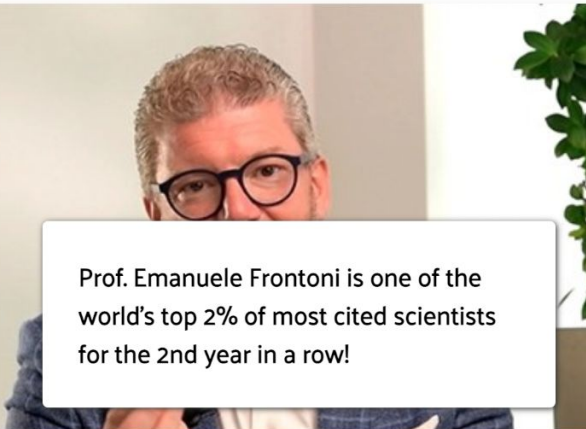
- As in the previous phases, ITrust AI focuses on
  - maintaining the trustworthiness of digital records over time, and on
  - digital means of trustworthy access to and preservation of records in all media and form
- Studies address common concerns across domains (cultural heritage, government, education, private sector)
  - Privacy, personal and sensitive information
  - Ethical issues about records and about use of AI
  - Education, teaching, and AI literacy
  - Cultural heritage: digitization, access and retrieval, analysis and data mining
  - Records management and metadata
  - Municipal, regional, and national digital strategies



# News

The latest news from InterPARES Trust AI

WORLD'S TOP  
20%



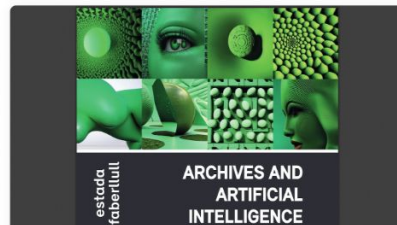
Prof. Emanuele Frontoni is one of the world's top 2% of most cited scientists for the 2nd year in a row!



4th International Symposium



3rd International Symposium,



Faberlull - Olot Residency on

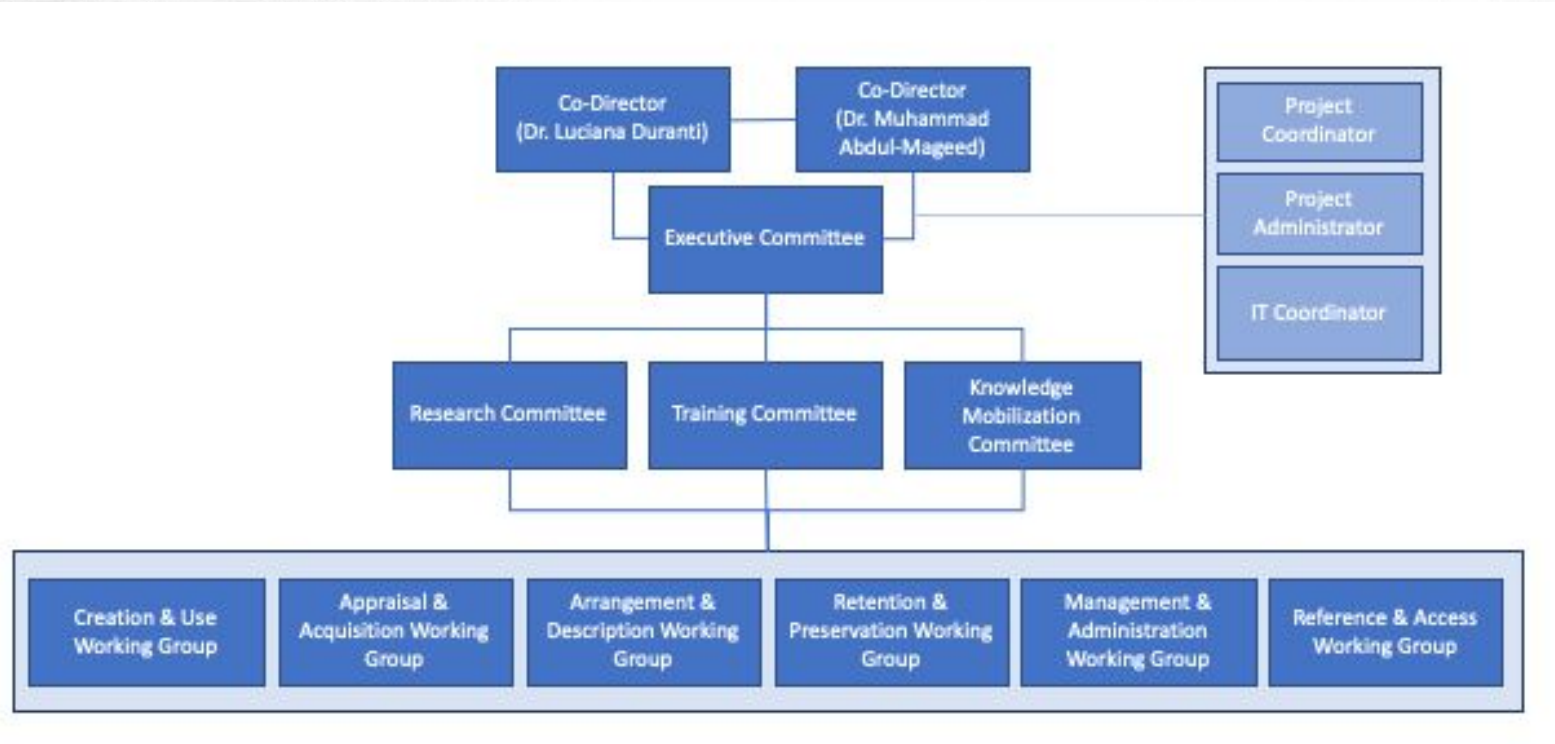


InterPARES Summer School – Program

InterPARES Summer School -



# Five phases of InterPARES: InterPARES Trust AI



# Secrets of success, despite challenges

- There are many challenges to running such a large, complex research project/network over 25 years!
- These are overcome by
  - People: strong, unwavering leadership from the Principal Investigator; close collaboration of PI and project coordinator; engagement of researchers through an executive committee of domain chairs; engagement of student researchers
  - Consistency of research focus
  - Activity: 3-times yearly in-person meetings in partner locations; regular dissemination opportunities through publications, conferences, and public InterPARES symposia in partner locations; frequent communication;
- Despite regional differences of laws, archival practice, terminology, all partners share a common purpose: to ensure trustworthy records to support society.



# Impact of InterPARES

- Creation of an international network of scholars and professionals devoted to a common cause
- Legislation: Italy, China
- Standards: DOD 5015.2 (2007), MoReq 2 (2008), OAIS (2009), CGSB 72.34 (2017-reaffirmed in 2022)
- Policies & procedures: all participating countries, public/private sector
- Curriculum for continuing education, university training: ICA Education Modules for Digital Preservation (2012 with translation to Chinese, Spanish, Arabic); Digital Diplomats and Digital Records Forensics (2013-present, UBC)
- Research reports, tools, books freely available on InterPARES sites





Developing knowledge essential to the long-term preservation of authentic records, created and/or maintained in digital form

# InterPARES @ 20 'Among peers'

Providing the basis for standards, policies, strategies, and plans of action capable of ensuring longevity and trustworthiness of digital records

1999

2019

Corinne Rogers, ACA, Toronto, June 6-9, 2019

## InterPARES 1 Project

International Research in Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems  
project summary 1999-2001

- Researched issues pertaining to digital records in databases and office management systems in the course of administrative activity
- Focused on developing theory and methods to ensure preservation of authenticity
- Studied records from the perspective of the records preserver

## InterPARES 2 Project

International Research in Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems  
project summary 2002-2007

- Researched issues pertaining to digital records in dynamic and interactive systems in artistic, scientific, and government activity
- Examined issues of authenticity, reliability, and accuracy over the lifecycle
- Studied records from the perspective of the records creator

## InterPARES 3 Project

International Research in Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems  
project summary 2007-2012

- Put theory into practice in archives / records units in organizations with limited financial or human resources
- Applied and tested the findings of InterPARES 1 and 2 to implement sound programs supporting the creation and preservation of digital records that could be shown to be authentic, reliable, accurate

## InterPARES Trust (ITrust) 2012-2019



Multi-national, interdisciplinary research exploring issues of trust and trustworthiness of records and data in online environments.

Its goal: to generate the theoretical and methodological frameworks to develop local, national and international policies, procedures, regulations, standards and legislation, in order to ensure public trust grounded on evidence of good governance, a strong digital economy, and a persistent digital memory.



In the Policy of electronic records management of the City of Cartagena (mandatory), Article 32: Management of essential records must ... handle and preserve them, both original and copies, according to a strategy based upon ... findings of the research of InterPares Project.

Alejandro Delgado, City Council of Cartagena, Spain



The first diploma course of digital records in Mexico at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Centro Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas) in 2011 is based 60 to 70% on InterPARES 2 knowledge.

Alicia Barnard, Archivo General de la Nación, Mexico



"I can say that today handling and preserving digital records in Brazil is strongly influenced by InterPARES. The National Archives of Brazil's digital preservation initiative - AN Digital - as well as records management initiatives are totally based on InterPARES principles, concepts and methodology. Some key concepts that guide our work are the attributes of digital records such as fixed form, stable content, bounded variability, concepts of manifested and stored digital record, authenticity, chain of preservation etc. Digital preservation is a huge challenge and it's a long way that we are beginning to walk."

Claudia Lacombe Rocha, National Archives of Brazil

InterPARES has given us the inspiration to drive safely on the digital archives road in Belgium; it has provided us the network of expertise that was useful to build the legal, technical and organisational environments of the digital management and preservation of information; it has been so beneficial for the improvement of archival knowledge within our national institutions (i.e. Archives Institutions, Universities, Government bodies) and it will remain the lighthouse of trust for many years...

Sébastien Sayez, Digital Archivist, State Archives Belgium

Through InterPARES Trust, in Africa we were able to play catch-up and we caught up with curriculum development, national standards, and guidelines on digital records. In InterPARES we trust the colossal well in which we quench our archival thirst. It gave us the opportunity to meet archival divas.

Mpho Nsoepe, Associate Professor, Dept. of Information Science, University of South Africa



## Principal Investigator

Dr. Luciana Duranti, UBC

- Research partners from national libraries and archives, governments, academia, international organizations, private industry, not-for-profit consortia
- Over 600 researchers and graduate research assistants from 6 continents, organized by regional teams and research domains
- From disciplines including archival science and diplomatics, computer science and engineering, information science, law, sciences, social sciences and humanities, visual and performing arts, journalism

## Project coordinators

- Peter van Garderen (1999-2000)
- Tahra Fung (2000-2003)
- Yau Min Chong (2003-2005)
- Greg Kozak (2005-2006)
- Randy Preston (2006-2011)
- Alexandra Allen (2011-2012)
- Corinne Rogers (2013-2019)

## Selected Impact

- Legislation: China, Italy, Mexico
- Standards: Canada, United States, Europe
- Policies & procedures: public & private sector in Canada, USA, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Cuba, Chile, Australia, China, Indonesia, South Africa, Italy, Spain, Catalonia, Croatia, Russia, Sweden, UK, Israel, Turkey
- Curricula for university and continuing education: Canada, Mexico, South America, Europe, Africa, UAE
- Digital Records Pathways: ICA-InterPARES Education Modules for Digital Preservation (English, with translations into Chinese, Spanish, Arabic)
- Several hundred books, chapters, articles, conference papers, with translations in English, Spanish, Catalan, Dutch, Portuguese, Chinese
- Multi-lingual terminology databases

InterPARES products include:

- Creator & Preserver Guidelines
  - Policy framework for long-term digital preservation
  - Chain of Preservation model
  - Ontologies of trustworthy digital records
  - Application profile for authenticity metadata
  - Digital Records Pathways: Education Modules
- InterPares Trust products include:
- Checklist for ensuring trust in Storage in IaaS
  - Comparative analysis of implemented government e-services
  - Checklist for single sign-on systems
  - Functional requirements for retention & disposition in the cloud
  - Checklist for cloud service contracts
  - Security classification checklist
  - Preservation as a Service for Trust (PaST)
  - TRUSTER model for preservation of digitally signed & timestamped records

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

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

*You're invited...*

# InterPARES – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party



InterPARES planning, Washington D.C. 1998



InterPARES Trust AI Plenary, Ascoli Piceno, Italy, July 2023

**When:** Friday October 27, 5-8 pm

**Where:** [City of Vancouver Archives](#)  
1150 Chestnut St., Vancouver

**RSVP:** [itrustai@gmail.com](mailto:itrustai@gmail.com)



## InterPARES Project

International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

InterPARES  
Trust AI



*Thank you...*

- SSHRC & UBC
- Information School (formerly SLAIS)
- City of Vancouver Archives
- *And all the researchers and students who have built the InterPARES network over 25 years and beyond!*

Catering: [Boy with a Knife](#)

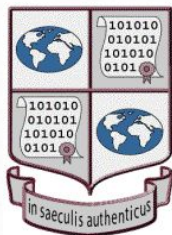


# Join us!

- InterPARES Trust AI is a partnership of organizations (archives and cultural heritage institutions, universities, technology companies, government departments...)
- We welcome new partners at any time
- Contact [corinne.rogers@ubc.ca](mailto:corinne.rogers@ubc.ca) for more information
- <https://interparestrustai.org>
- @itrustai
- <https://www.facebook.com/interparestrust>
- <http://interpares.org> & <http://interparestrust.org>







Luciana Duranti & Hrvoje Stančić enjoy a celebratory cigar, Havanna, Cuba, February 2019

InterPARES  
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*THANK YOU!*

InterPARES  
Trust

