InterPARES: Managing a Collaborative International Research Network

Dr. Corinne Rogers, Project Coordinator, InterPARES Trust

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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I acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumíxw (Squamish), and səl̓il̓wətaʔɬ (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
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
Who is InterPARES?

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

- **Record Trustworthiness**
  - **Authenticity**
    - Identity
    - Integrity
    - System reliability
  - **Reliability**
    - Completeness of form
    - Controls on creation
    - Competence of author
  - **Accuracy**
    - Precision
    - Controls on content
    - Controls on transmission
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
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOMAIN 1</th>
<th>FOCUS 1 Artistic activities</th>
<th>FOCUS 2 Scientific activities</th>
<th>FOCUS 3 Governmental activities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Records creation &amp; maintenance</td>
<td>Working Group 1.1 Creation and Maintenance of Artistic Records</td>
<td>Working Group 1.2 Creation and Maintenance of Scientific Records</td>
<td>Working Group 1.3 Creation and Maintenance of E-Government Records</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOMAIN 2</td>
<td>Working Group 2.1 Accuracy, Reliability, Authenticity of Artistic Records</td>
<td>Working Group 2.2 Accuracy, Reliability, Authenticity of Scientific Records</td>
<td>Working Group 2.3 Accuracy, Reliability, Authenticity of E-Government Records</td>
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<td>Authentication, accuracy &amp; reliability</td>
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<td>Methods of appraisal &amp; preservation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 Brazil**
  - **TEAM Canada**
  - **TEAM Catalonia**
  - **TEAM China**
  - **TEAM Colombia**
  - **TEAM Italy**
  - **TEAM Korea**
  - **TEAM Malaysia**
  - **TEAM Mexico**
  - **TEAM Norway**
  - **TEAM Turkey**
Five phases of InterPARES - InterPARES Trust

• InterPARES Trust (2013-2019) 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
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

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,
Faberllu - Olot Residency on
InterPARES Summer School - Program
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
• Policies & procedures: all participating countries, public/private sector
• Research reports, tools, books freely available on InterPARES sites
InterPARES @ 20
‘Among peers’

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

InterPARES has given us the inspiration to drive safely on the digital roads ahead to Belgium. It has provided us with the momentum 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 (e.g., archives and libraries, universities, government bodies) and it will remain the lighthouse of trust for many years ––

Sébastien Seya, Digital Archivist, State Archives Belgium

The Policy of electronic records management of the City of Cartagena (mandatory). Article 22: Management of essential records must – handle and preserve them, keep original and copies, according to a strategy based upon ... Findings of the research of InterPARES project

Alejandro Delgado, City Council of Cartagena, South America

Principal Investigator
Dr. Luciana Duranti, UBC

• Research partners from national libraries and archives, governments, academic, 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 documentarians, computer science and engineering, information science, law, sciences, social sciences and humanities, visual and performing arts, journalism.

Project coordinators
• Peter van Garderen (1999-2000)
• Tai-Hwa Fung (2000-2001)
• You Min Chung (2002-2005)
• Greg Roziak (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, Catalunya, Croatia, Russia, Sweden, UK, Israel, Turkey.
• Curriculum for undergraduate 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
• Chairs 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 (PaaS)
• TRUST model for preservation of digitally signed & timestamped records

InterPARES 1 Project

• 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 creators

InterPARES 2 Project

• Project summary
2001-2007

• 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 creators

InterPARES 3 Project

• Project summary
2007-2019

• 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

• Trust summary
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.

“Can we say that today handling and preserving digital records in Brazil is strongly influenced by the concept of digital preservation ethics? Ethical Digital as well as records management initiatives are mostly based on InterPARES principles, concepts and methodological key concepts that guide our work are the attributes of digital records such as truth, quality, security, verifiability, concepts of metadata and stored digital record, authenticity, chain of preservation etc. Digital preservation is a huge challenge and it’s a long way we are moving to walk.”

Claudia Larombe Rocha, National Archives of Brazil

The first diploma course of digital records in Mexico at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Centro Universitario de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas). In 2011 it issued 40 to 70% on InterPARES 3 knowledge

Álvaro Barrera, Archivo General de la Nación, Mexico

Through InterPARES Trust, in Africa we were able to play catch-up and we caught up with curricular development, national standards, and guidelines on digital records. InterPARES trust we trust the collegial will in which we carry our activist vision. It gave us the opportunity to meet archival tribes.

Myko Mayoka, Associate Professor, Dept. of Information Science, University of South Africa

www.interpares.org
www.interparestrust.org

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Claudia Larombe Rocha, National Archives of Brazil

www.interpares.org
www.interparestrust.org
You’re invited...

InterPARES – 25th Anniversary Party

When: Friday October 27, 5-8 pm
Where: City of Vancouver Archives
       1150 Chestnut St., Vancouver
RSVP: itrustai@gmail.com

InterPARES Project
International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

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

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 for more information
- https://interparestrustai.org
- @itrustai
- https://www.facebook.com/interparestrust
Thank You!

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