

Trust Is Not All: Authenticity Requirements for Digital Records

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In the digital environment authenticity is an inference based on foundation evidence. To presume it through a contextual assessment, verify it through comparison or demonstration, or declare it through authentication require much more than trust in the creator, keeper or preserver of the digital entities at issue. Trust is a key factor, but it is not all. This paper will discuss authenticity from the perspective of diplomatics and archival science, and present the results of international research on digital records forensics (DRF Project) and the long-term preservation of the authenticity of digital records (InterPARES Project), focusing on the characteristics and typology of records in the digital environment and on the maintenance of their identity and integrity through time and across technologies.

Biography

Luciana Duranti is Chair of the Archival Studies master's and doctoral programs at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies of the University of British Columbia, and a Professor of archival theory, diplomatics, and the management of digital records. She is also Affiliate Full Professor of the iSchool of the University of Washington. Dr. Duranti is Project-Director of InterPARES (1998-2012), the largest research project on the long-term preservation of authentic electronic records; and principal investigator in a research project on Digital Records Forensics (2008-2011), and in a research project examining issues of copyright and long-term preservation in the context of universities' institutional digital repositories (2009-2011). She is developing education modules for trusted digital records professionals for the International Council on Archives; is active nationally and internationally in several archival associations and in boards and committees, such as the Italy's National Commission for Archives (2007-2013) and the UNESCO International Advisory Committee of the Memory of the World Program (2007-2015); and has been the President of the Society of American Archivists (1998-99), of which she is a Fellow. She publishes widely on archival theory and diplomatics.