

# **INTERPARES, THE LONG TERM AND ITS IMPACT: AN EXPERIENCE**

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## **I. Introduction.**

InterPARES (IP) is the project directed by Dr. Luciana Duranti, which undoubtedly has had a favorable impact on many other projects, studies and archival work around digital records in the world. The participation of numerous researchers from different continents has allowed its dissemination in almost all areas of research on the subject. On the other hand, the numerous references in countless specialized works demonstrate the academic rigor achieved by IP during all the years of its existence.

When she was summoned by Dr. Duranti in 2005 as part of the Team for the Dissemination of the InterPARES Project in the Caribbean and Latin America (Caribbean and Latin American InterPARES Dissemination, CLAUD Team for its acronym in English, precisely in Havana-Cuba, place in which we are now again, I thought that my participation would begin and conclude in a very short time, however, although not physically, I remained linked during all the years following IP, noting the progress of the project and its continuation with InterPARES Trust (ITrust) thanks to Team Mexico and of course to Alicia Barnard, who asked me to be part of some of the research I could collaborate in. Currently, I'm sure I'm enriched by the knowledge and information obtained during the follow-up of the works of the project's development.

Now in this space I have much to be thankful for and much more to learn about the results of the investigations of both projects, as the materials produced in its years of existence is inexhaustible and I consider it impossible to address it in its entirety. However, being so useful for my professional performance I will continue to research and go back again and again to the valuable IP and IPTrust products.

My experience about of the research results, will be precisely what I will briefly comment

on, but not before thanking the opportunity that gave me Dr. Luciana Duranti to be a participant, in some way, of both projects.

## **II. Impact from the professional academic area**

One of the commitments of my permanence in Vancouver-Canada to know the operation and progress of IP was the dissemination of the knowledge and the information collected during that stay

The dissemination I did of the Project took place in Quito-Ecuador and in Bogotá-Colombia where I presented IP to the archival community of those countries, thanks to the support of the directors of the National Archive of Ecuador and the General Archive of the Nation of Colombia. What followed in the months and successive years was a sequence of conferences in different activities of Peru and other countries to which I was invited, up to the present.

I believe that the main activity that I have been able to develop with respect to IP research results is in the professional training of future archivists at the Sedes Sapientiae Catholic University (SSCU) as a teacher and coordinator of the Archival and Record Management Program (ARM-Program) located in the Faculty of Sciences of Education and Humanities that trains to the archives graduates in archives, which is the only higher center of education in archives of university level in the country.

The Curricular Plan (3rd version since the creation of the Program) contemplates in the VIII Semester of the course of Appraisal of electronic documents that I have been teaching from the year 2010 to the date, whose definition (sumilla) and contents of the syllabus corresponds to me. The course that precedes it is that of Appraisal Records (Seventh Semester) where the theoretical bases, criteria, methods and assessment techniques that constitute the necessary knowledge for the next course about to electronic records are established. The denomination of the course conserves the term electronic, although for IP it happened to be digital at long time. The reason of the denomination is because the Peruvian laws on computer technology applied to the archive's records use the electronic term preferably.

## **III. Course: Appraisal of Electronic Records (digital)**

In the course of Appraisal of Electronic records in its first introductory class, the questions that we try to answer with students during their development arise. We discuss the different ideas widely between I as a teacher and the students during the academic semester. The questions to be formulated are:

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- What challenges does Records Keeping present in electronic media respect to Records Appraisal?
- What is the importance of the authenticity of the records during the records appraisal process?
- What measures will be taken to preserve the records in electronic media in the long term?
- What should be the policies of the States and institutions for document evaluation and the preservation of electronic (digital) documents of permanent value?

The students contribute their different points of view in a wide debate in the classroom, but at the same time they add a series of questions, being interested at the beginning of the classes in a subject, until that moment, little known by most of them, although there is no lack someone who has a work experience (95% of archival students work in archives) that allows them to express their experiences on the subject.

In the successive classes the situation of the valuation of archival electronic records in the national and international scope as part of the syllabus is addressed, which allows the student to situate himself in context. The goal is to know the attention they provide to the valuation of archival digital records, the countries, international organizations and research projects related to the subject and the degree of progress achieved. It is at this moment where the continuous reference to IP begins in what corresponds to the Appraisal of digital records.

To place students in the context of IP it is necessary to refer to the background of the project, its stages in time, the domains worked in each of the stages of the project, the findings and the products achieved during the investigations.

### 3.1 Concrete topics of IP

The contents, which are part of the syllabus in what corresponds to IP, are linked to the products or findings, both IP1 and IP2. Specifically, the corresponding to authenticity, valuation and guidelines for long-term digital preservation of archival institutions is assumed.

The chain of preservation, the record appraisal for its permanent preservation and the transfer of digital records are treated extensively by going to the publications of various IP authors, being of special interest the long-term preservation of digital records transferred to the historical repository and the role of the conservator in that phase of the life cycle. Equally, access to archival documents is emphasized if they are required. I must make special mention and thanks to Alicia Barnard, Juan Voutssas and Alejandro Delgado for the translations into Spanish of important IP records that are of valuable help and bibliographical sources for teaching at the UCSS and dissemination of the project in Latin America.

### 3.2 Appraisal Activities for the long-term preservation of digital records of permanent value

In this space, the specific activities that IP analyzed and recommended for the evaluation of digital records for its long-term or permanent preservation are developed, which are widely explained and discussed with the students. These are:

- Compile the information
- Weight the value of digital records
- Identification of digital components
- Determine the feasibility of preserving them (authenticity)
- Make an evaluation decision

Other collateral issues found in various IP records complement the knowledge on the valuation of digital records, as well as various case studies that are reviewed during the academic semester.

In IP2, IP1 is reaffirmed emphasizing the need for important changes in the traditional valuation methodology. The Chain of Preservation is particularly attentive regarding its recommendation the retention table. In the same way, the authenticity of the digital record

and the need to document the sustenance of the authenticity of the digital records that could later be accidentally damaged or intentionally modified are understood as a central aspect to be addressed in the course.

The frame of reference on principles to define policies, strategies and standards for the preservation of digital records and the principles for the definition of policies for the Appraisal of digital records, under the InterPARES model are other necessary and essential aspects to be addressed in the course.

On the other hand, in my opinion, I think it is important to make a reflection and an in-depth analysis on the following aspects that I explain to the students:

- There is a clear association of the appraisal of digital records with their preservation in the long term that must be addressed together.
- Special attention is required to the authenticity in the Appraisal as a determining element to be protected.
- Access and readability of the record must be ensured during the retention period established and the permanent value (long term)

Other associated topics concur, but they cannot be included in the course of an academic semester and can very well be addressed in other courses of the ARM-Program. As the Program Coordinator I have the possibility to define and include certain topics that I consider important, in coordination and agreement with the teachers of the respective courses that comprise the Curricular Plan. These courses are:

- Diplomatic of the electronic records
- Electronic record keeping
- Digital Government

They complete the reference to IP in the Appraisal of Electronic Records course: The Digital Preservation Policy in order to protect records that must be retained in terms that exceed what the technology can support.

It is my purpose to locate the student, as a teacher of the course under my charge, I place special emphasis on pointing out to each of the students, the revision and mandatory reading of the documents published by IP on aspects of the policies that the preservation of long-term digital records after their valuation as permanent value records, taking into account that the Appraisal implies their preservation indefinitely.

From the IP Appraisal and research in what corresponds to the E-mail, and the Web pages, the criteria for preserving e-mails are developed, from the retention tables for this type of records (valuation to preserve or for disposal -elimination) and the evaluation criteria for the Appraisal and preservation of institutional websites and social networks.

#### **IV. Other activities around InterPARES and InterPARES Trust**

The use of IP information and research, in my particular case, has not only been reduced to teaching, but in an important source of consultation and reference for the various national and international academic activities (conferences, seminars, workshops, courses of training, etc.) in which I have participated and participated to the present, as well as constituting mandatory bibliographic sources cited in my articles and books published in various national and foreign media. Additionally, I reference IP in the academic meetings held at the SSCU where I work. In these activities, of course, I include, of course, topics worked on at InterPARES Trust thanks to my brief participation in the project through Team-Mexico at the invitation of Alicia Barnard.

#### **V. The researchs are not exhausted**

The InterPARES and InterPARES Trust project addressed different topic related to digital records in various domain areas. A review of the project can lead us to innumerable and inexhaustible research entries on digital records from the point of view of authenticity, valuation, preservation of long-term records, description and policies for digital records, etc.

In that scenario, it is my purpose to encourage students to take on research for undergraduate or postgraduate theses on the topics indicated because I am convinced that there will always be something more to contribute when you go deeper into a research topic trying to achieve a valid proposal and new knowledge from IP because it is an inexhaustible source of information for future research.

#### **VI. Digital records in Peru**

In Peru, the Digital Government Secretariat, dependent on the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, has been intensively working on the modernization of the Peruvian State for the implementation of digitalization and a Digital Records Keeping model in public administration on the basis of the specialized legislation applicable to archives, the legal value of the digital record, the requirements of regulations on transparency and accountability (public administration), specific rules on modernization of the State, data protection, intellectual property, storage of information in the cloud (not yet legislated in Peru, only the "Guidelines for the Use of Services in the Cloud for entities of the Public Administration of the Peruvian State, approved by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [https://www.peru.gob.pe/normas/docs/Lineamientos\\_Nube.PDF](https://www.peru.gob.pe/normas/docs/Lineamientos_Nube.PDF)) besides Peru has assumed international commitments such as: The Alliance for Open Government and with the OECD (in progress) in which the government work hard.

It is a task that will take many years. In the short and medium term, trained personnel are required to comply with the objectives and goals of the government, so I believe that, from the academy and specifically through the ARM-Program, we can support the feasibility of those purposes by preparing our students to take on the task and what better source than that provided by InterPARES and InterPARES Trust to guarantee competitiveness and solid knowledge to future Peruvian archivists in the field of digital records and archives.