



InterPARES Trust

Trust and Digital Records in an Increasingly Networked Society

Do you trust your records online? Individuals and organizations are increasingly making, storing and accessing records in the highly networked, easily hacked environment of the Internet. But, where are these records, how well are they being managed, how long will they be available? Many organizations are becoming concerned about a liability they may not have thought they were assuming. Others are amassing huge volumes of data that they use to provide a host of services, many of which focus on marketing and securing competitive advantage. This is the world of the so-called 'big data', the exploitation of seemingly innocuous records to produce data that can be manipulated and reused to serve many purposes, not always noble. However, big data also fosters a range of democratic objectives, from promoting government transparency to supporting research to contributing to public-private sector goals and priorities.

The issues presented by this scenario are clear: Can the data be trusted? How and where are they stored? Who has control and jurisdiction? Who has access? How secure are they? Will your privacy be protected?

InterPARES Trust (ITrust) is a multi-national, interdisciplinary research project exploring issues concerning digital records entrusted to the Internet. Its goal is 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.

ITrust is a research partnership that comprises over fifty universities and organizations, national and multinational, public and private, in North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Australasia, and Asia (the International Alliance). The researchers are experts in archival science, records management, diplomatics, law, information technology, communication and media, journalism, e-commerce, health informatics, cybersecurity, information governance and assurance, digital forensics, computer engineering, and information policy. New partners bringing diverse perspectives and complementary knowledge are welcome to apply to join the International Alliance partnership (contact Project Director.)



Five Research Domains

Infrastructure: Considers issues relating to system architecture and related infrastructure as they affect records held in online environments.

Security: Considers records issues relating to online data security, including: security methods, data breaches, cybercrime, risks associated with shared servers, information assurance, governance, audits and auditability, forensic readiness, risk assessment, and backup.

Control: Focuses on the management of digital material in online environments. It addresses such issues as: authenticity, reliability, and accuracy of data; integrity metadata; chain of custody; retention and disposition; transfer and acquisition; intellectual control, and access controls.

Access: Researches open access/open data; the right to know/duty to remember/right to be forgotten; privacy; accountability; and transparency.

Legal: Considers issues such as the application of legal privilege (including the issue of extra-territoriality); legal hold; chain of evidence; authentication of evidence offered at trial; certification; and soft laws (in particular UN standard-setting instruments).

Five Research Cross Domains

Terminology: The ongoing production of a multilingual glossary; a multilingual dictionary with sources; ontologies; and background papers explaining the use of terms and concepts within the project.

Resources: Ongoing production of annotated bibliographies, identifying relevant published articles, books, etc., case law, policies, statutes, standards, blogs and similar grey literature.

Policy: Considers policy-related issues emerging from the five research domains; in general, it addresses recordkeeping issues associated with the development and implementation of policies having an impact on the management of records in an online environment.

Social/Societal Issues: Concerned with the analysis of social change consequent to the use of the Internet, including but not limited to use/misuse of social media of all types, trustworthiness of news, data leaks (intentional or accidental/*force majeure*) consequences, development issues (power balance in a global perspective), organizational culture issues, and individual behaviour issues.

Education: Develops different models of curricula for transmitting the new knowledge produced by the project.

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The InterPARES Trust Project is based at the [Centre for the International Study of Contemporary Records and Archives](#) (www.ciscra.org), School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

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