Beyond Preservation to Trust: Toward An Application Profile for Identity and Integrity Metadata in UIRs

JOSEPH T. TENNIS, CORINNE ROGERS, AND ELIZABETH SHAFFER

Abstract: Digital records are the lasting traces of actions and transactions; their evidentiary capacity depends on their authenticity, reliability and accuracy, established at creation, maintained and preserved over time and across technological change. Much work has been done to develop metadata for preservation and retrieval. However, despite the wealth of research into the requirements for authenticity and reliability of records at their creation, and throughout their life cycle, culminating in preservation, less attention has focused on metadata for authenticity.

In this presentation we offer our research to date: the functional requirements, domain models, and areas of description for authenticity metadata. We test our findings in the institutional repository at the University of British Columbia, cIRcle. University Institutional Repositories have been developed across North America and Western Europe to provide access to and preserve the scholarly output of their host institutions. However, long-term digital preservation of their holdings, all of which have differing requirements for preservation, is a serious challenge.

Metadata applied at creation and throughout a record's life cycle can provide the means to account for its authenticity over time and across technological change. We hope to show, in the context of the UIR case study, that an authenticity metadata application profile can be applied to protect important records for future use, whatever that use may be. That metadata help us retrieve and preserve our digital heritage is well established – with the development of authenticity metadata we hope to move beyond preservation to new levels of trust.

About the authors:

Joe Tennis is an Assistant Professor at The Information School, University of Washington. He has been a researcher with International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems (InterPARES) since 2005, working on InterPARES 2, and currently with InterPARES 3.

Corinne Rogers is a doctoral student at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. She is a research assistant with InterPARES 3 and the Digital Records Forensics Project.

Elizabeth Shaffer is a doctoral student at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. She is a research assistant with InterPARES 3 and the University Institutional Repositories Project.