The International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems (InterPARES) aims at developing the theoretical and methodological knowledge essential to the long-term preservation of authentic records created and/or maintained in digital form. This knowledge should provide the basis from which to formulate model policies, strategies and standards capable of ensuring the longevity of such material and the ability of its users to trust its authenticity. InterPARES has developed in two phases:

**InterPARES 1** was initiated in 1999 and concluded in 2001. It focused on the preservation of the authenticity of records created and/or maintained in databases and document management systems in the course of administrative activities. In addition, a component of the project was dedicated to the exploration of the issues related to the long-term preservation of digital sound, the findings of which led to InterPARES 2.

**InterPARES 2** was initiated in 2002 and is expected to be completed in 2006. In addition to dealing with issues of authenticity, it delves into the issues of reliability and accuracy from the perspective of the entire life-cycle of records, from creation to permanent preservation. It focuses on records produced in complex digital environments in the course of artistic, scientific and e-government activities.

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