

Managing and Archiving Records in the digital era: the same discipline or a difficult partnership of two different professions?

Invitational workshop to be held in Bern and organised by ERPANET in conjunction with the Swiss Federal Archives, 25-27 October 2004

Briefing Paper (outline)

Purpose and motivation:

In the workshop to be held in Bern, ERPANET will bring together a group of experts to explore how challenges posed by digital objects are reshaping the archival and records management disciplines.

In the past three years ERPANET has focused on a wide range of topics in the field of digital preservation. However, every discussion was underpinned by archival and records management issues. We realized that the fundamental theory underlying the practice of these disciplines is not yet sufficient to serve as a sound base and framework in the digital information world.

With this workshop, ERPANET hopes to move forward archival and records management theory and find innovative ways to further develop fundamental principles of both disciplines.

Shape:

- 2 days workshop: in order to allow for free debate this part is only open to invited experts and specialists.
- 1 day public presentation: the invited experts will present their thesis to an open audience (possibly in co-ordination to the Swiss association of archivists)

Main questions of the workshop:

- 1) What are the main challenges when managing and preserving digital information and records?
- 2) Will the new digital order change user needs or expectations of information, records and/or archives management?
- 3) Are the existing archival paradigms adequate to meet the challenges of the new digital order? What impact will the new continuum paradigm have on the way records and archives management are organised now? Do traditional archival traditions still offer us other - additional - different options?
- 4) What new organisational or business models does the new technology offer us to organise records and archives management? Will there perhaps be a shift in responsibilities from archives to records management or the other way around?
- 5) What impact will the new digital order have on the interaction with related disciplines, such as information management, libraries, content management, knowledge management etc.?
- 6) What impact will all this have on the archival or records management discipline?

Outcome:

- a) A framework for archival and records management practices and studies.
- b) A print publication containing an introduction, the finalized papers of the invited experts and the minutes of the expert debates during the workshop

Participants:

Cf. list in annex

Invited experts are expected to deliver in due time before the workshop (by 1st of October) a **paper** which answers to the above questions in form of a couple of thesis and which describes:

- the tradition and position from where they come,
- their position towards the above mentioned background questions,
- their own principal theses regarding the archival and records management paradigms.

The paper will be distributed after the 1st of October to all invited experts.

Invited experts are expected to present their thesis to an open audience on the third day.

After the workshops invited experts are expected to finalize their paper by 30th of November for publication.