Reaching From The Present To The Future: Electronic Records Possibilities?

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Introduction

- Clarifying session title
- My perspective
- Presentation themes
  - Benchmarking the collaborative project
  - Critical issues
Benchmarking the SIA-RAC Collaborative Project

Open Archives Information System Model

- Preservation focus
- Ingest, manage, disseminate
- Excludes creation, use, and storage prior to ingest
Benchmarking the SIA-RAC Collaborative Project

InterPares Electronic Preservation Model

- Focuses on the total life cycle ("continuum")
- A comprehensive conceptual model
- Drills down in considerable detail
- It has informed a number of digital preservation projects, including ERA
- ISO standardization?
Benchmarking the SIA-RAC Collaborative Project

Electronic Records Archives (ERA) Project

- Ambitious federal project
- Resources
- Scope
- Scale
- Legacy records
- Success factors
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Washington State Archives Project

- Ambitious at the state level
- Resources
- Scope
- Scale
- Legacy records
- Success factors
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Georgia State Archives Project

- Ambitious at an agency level
- Resources
- Scope
- Scale
- Legacy records
- Success factors
Top of the Line to the Bottom of the Line

Smithsonian Institution

- Different constituencies and environments
- Systems architecture in place
- Strong IT infrastructure
- Electronic records policy in place
- Skilled archives staff
Top of the Line to the Bottom of the Line

Rockefeller Archives Center

- Serves a loose confederation of non-profit foundations
- Wide spread use of IT with little or no coordination and integration
- No overarching ER vision or policy
- Virtually no IT infrastructure in place
- Electronic records must be accessioned and preserved
**Critical Issues**

- Understanding the challenge
- Adaptable electronic records policy
- Electronic records and preservation “buy in”
- Are all electronic records equal?
- Selecting a digital archives model
- Transformation of the RAC
Critical Issues

- How much infrastructure is enough?
- Role of technology neutral standards
- Legacy electronic records
- Potential use of imaging and Grid computing technologies
- Managing expectations
Thank you!

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