

# Digital Records Forensics

CORINNE ROGERS

**Abstract:** Records managers are responsible for determining and maintaining authenticity over time of digital records in their care, and must be prepared to comply with litigation holds and demands for legal discovery. This is of concern to law enforcement professionals, who increasingly rely on digital forensics to identify, extract, maintain and preserve records required for court. While digital forensic investigations in law enforcement are “post-event”, organizations are increasingly using forensic tools to prepare for information security incidents or litigation holds. Forensic readiness, maximizing the potential to use digital evidence while minimizing disruption and cost, concerns records managers, IT professionals and legal departments. The Digital Records Forensics Project combines archival diplomatics, digital recordkeeping best practices, the Law of Evidence and digital forensics into a body of knowledge called "Digital Records Forensics." This poster offers an overview of the DRF project and need for an interdisciplinary approach to risk management in the development of organizational “forensic readiness.”

The Digital Records Forensics (DRF) Project is a 3-year collaboration between the University of British Columbia's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS), the UBC Faculty of Law, and the Computer Forensics Division of the Vancouver Police Department, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Through literature review, analysis of North American case law, case studies and cross-disciplinary interviews, the project addresses the challenge of identification of records among all the digital objects produced by complex digital systems, and the determination of their authenticity, particularly with records removed from their system of origin.

## About the author:

*Corinne Rogers* is a PhD student at the University of British Columbia in the School of Library and Information Studies under the supervision of Dr. Luciana Duranti. Her area of research is in establishing the requirements for preservation of authenticity of digital evidence over time. She works as a graduate research assistant on the Digital Records Forensics Project, focusing on management of digital evidence by law enforcement and the courts.