

## **A New Focus on Modern Electronic Record Management in The Netherlands**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Over the past few years, a great deal of hard work has been done in Western Europe and the Netherlands to develop and implement an electronic repository for the sustainable, reliable and secure storage and accessibility of digital information, the 'e-Depot'. But with the introduction of the first elements for born-digital material, we are increasingly coming to the conclusion that such an electronic depot can only offer a partial solution. It is chiefly suitable for the management of documentary information.

However, for many forms of information, stored in relational databases, the e-Depot offers no solution without the loss of valuable relational information. That is why new efforts in the field of electronic record management in the Netherlands focus, on the one hand, on finding a reliable and secure solution for the management of relational databases, the 'archiving of database technology'.

On the other hand, the focus is explicitly on the front end of the information system; the destination of this information being determined during the development and design phases for modern information and archive management systems. This 'archiving by design' represents a complete revolution for the traditional archival world, but is also inevitable if information specialists and archivists want to remain in control in the information spectrum of tomorrow.