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ObraVera completes batch fingerprinting capability, opening a route for publishers to build content-derived registers of back catalogues and archives

The content-provenance registry, which launched free registration for writers this month, invites publisher and trade-body pilot discussions on a system designed to identify registered material after editing, extraction and reformatting.

ObraVera, a content-provenance registry for creative work, is now live at obravera.com.

Writers can register novels, screenplays, journalism, articles, blogs and other text-based work and receive a timestamped, content-anchored and cryptographically signed record. Unlike systems that depend solely on file metadata or identifiers embedded into the work, ObraVera derives its fingerprints from the content without changing the original text.

The purpose is not only to show that a particular document existed at a particular time. ObraVera is designed to identify related text after it has been copied, reformatted, edited or partially reused. When a suspect document or passage is

available for examination, it can be compared against eligible registered works to determine whether it is identical to, excerpted from or substantially derived from a registered source.

That distinction matters because content frequently becomes separated from its original file, metadata and publication context as it moves through websites, syndication systems, archives and datasets.

“Provenance evidence must remain useful after the original packaging has disappeared. A timestamp can show that a file existed. A content-derived record can also help identify the work when it later appears in another form. ObraVera makes that narrower claim because it is one we can test and evidence.”

BRADY RIDGWAY, OBRAVERA’S FOUNDER AND A SELF-PUBLISHED NOVELIST

ObraVera does not claim to detect AI-generated writing, certify that a work was written by a human or inspect undisclosed AI training systems. It can examine text that is available for comparison, including accessible copies, published outputs and disclosed or auditable datasets.

Publisher archive capability

The public service currently focuses on individual creators, for whom registration is free. ObraVera has also completed the underlying capability to fingerprint publisher back catalogues and archives in batches.

That could allow a publisher to create a content-derived asset register linking its own article identifiers, authorship and rights information to fingerprints that remain useful when the original metadata is absent. Possible applications include

licensing preparation, archive management, audit, attribution and investigation of unauthorised reuse.

The publisher workflow has not yet been incorporated into the public website. ObraVera is seeking pilot discussions before fixing requirements for ingestion, permissions, internal identifiers, access controls and reporting.

“Publishers are developing new ways to license access to their journalism, but access control and later content identification are different problems. ObraVera is intended as a complementary evidence layer: it does not decide whether a use is lawful or calculate what is owed, but it can help establish which registered material is present when that use becomes observable.”

BRADY RIDGWAY

Content-derived identification

ObraVera incorporates the International Standard Content Code, ISCC (ISO 24138:2024), an international standard for identifiers derived algorithmically from digital content. It combines ISCC with additional text-analysis signals and Ed25519-signed registry evidence.

The system reports three different forms of relationship:

- Document identity: whether the submitted document is the registered work.
- Excerpt provenance: whether a submitted passage matches part of a registered work.
- Source derivation: whether a text substantially derives from a registered work or source family.

In an internal Tier 2 benchmark of 4,500 verification cases generated from a registered corpus of 250 works, the source-derivation system returned either the exact expected work or a registered related edition or source-family member in

4,500 of 4,500 cases (100.0%). It ranked the exact expected work first in 4,435 cases (98.56%); the remaining 65 results were related source-family collisions, with no unrelated wrong-source misses. These figures are internal, registry-scoped validation, not a general attribution or production-scale guarantee.

ObraVera is a member of the Content Authenticity Initiative and a Contributor member of the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity. It is designed to complement provenance standards such as C2PA, not to replace them.

The registry launches with support for text, including manuscripts, common document formats and screenplays written in Fountain. Audio registration, building on creator-side watermarking currently being tested with working voice professionals, is the next planned medium.

REGISTRATION FOR
WRITERS:

Free

VERIFICATION RESULTS:

3 kinds

EXACT WORK RANKED
FIRST:

98.56%

Availability

- Registration is free for individual creators.
- Identity accreditation is available to members of recognised professional organisations and through independent identity verification.
- Publisher and trade-body pilot discussions are invited.

About ObraVera

ObraVera is a content-provenance registry founded in 2025 by novelist Brady Ridgway and based in southern France. It allows creators and rights-holders to register content-derived evidence of their work and later examine whether accessible text matches or derives from a registered source. ObraVera does

not perform AI detection, certify human authorship or inspect closed training systems. No tracking. No advertising. No sale of user data.

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No tracking · No ads · No data sales