Claims

1. A method for document information authenticity verification, the method comprising:

a verification record creation stage comprising:

receiving document content metadata from a document;

generating a metadata hash using the document content metadata;

creating a blockchain transaction using the metadata hash;

generating computer readable data encoding the metadata hash; and

updating the document with the computer readable data; and

a document content updating stage comprising:

receiving updated document content metadata for the document;

generating a further metadata hash using the updated document content metadata;

creating a further blockchain transaction using the further metadata hash

a document verification stage comprising:

receiving the document;

extracting the metadata hash from the computer readable data;

identifying the blockchain transaction of the blockchain to verify the authenticity of the document metadata; and further comprising:

inspecting the blockchain in reverse chronological order to identify the further blockchain transaction to identify that the document content metadata is superseded by the updated document content metadata.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein creating the blockchain transaction using the meta data hash comprises storing a document ID of the document and the meta data hash within the blockchain and creating a further blockchain transaction comprises storing the document ID and the further metadata hash within the blockchain and wherein inspecting the chain in reverse chronological order comprises searching the blockchain using the document ID.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the computer readable data is a barcode.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the barcode is a two dimensional barcode.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the verification record creation stage further comprises signing the document with a private key associated with a document verification server.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising storing the document content metadata such that wherein the document verification stage further comprises retrieving the document content metadata and displaying the document content metadata.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein storing the document content metadata comprises encoding the document content metadata within the computer readable data.

8. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein storing the document content metadata comprises encoding the document content metadata within the blockchain transaction.

9. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the verification record creation stage further comprises identification of the document content metadata from the document.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the identification of the document content metadata comprises optical character recognition.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the identification of the document content metadata comprises performing search string queries against text extracted using the optical character recognition.

12. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the identification of the document content metadata comprises isolating text within at least one user defined region of the document.

13. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising identifying which of the documents is superseded.

14. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a document verification revocation stage comprising:

creating a revocation blockchain transaction such that, during the document verification stage, the method further comprises:

identifying the revocation blockchain transaction subsequent in time to the blockchain transaction to fail the verification of the authenticity of the document information.

15. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the blockchain transaction further specifies a validity period, such that, during the document verification stage, the method further comprises failing the verification of the document if the validity period has expired.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising creating a validity period renewal blockchain transaction comprising a further validity period such that, during the document verification stage, the further validity period is used when determining the validity of the document.