

Digital Resources in Title VI: Planning the Next 50 Years

Decade after decade, Title VI projects produce an impressive array of reference materials. The print resources created in the past are today joined by digital materials; often dictionaries, and increasingly *corpora* – collected sets of authentic text, image, audio, and video data.

Inevitably, the success of IRS, TICFIA, and the LRCs in nurturing project *output* brings increased expectations for contributions to long-term Title VI program *impact*. As a recent evaluation of Title VI notes, we expect “generic tools” and “common platforms” to build a “national technology infrastructure” for the future.

But today, even the simplest infrastructure-dependent tasks – such as looking up a single word in *all* of the Title VI-supported dictionaries – are beyond our means.

Technology is not the problem. Letting students query every taxpayer-funded text, audio, or image resource from a classroom homepage – and see actual results, not just website links – could be as easy as embedding searches for Google maps or Amazon books.

Rather, the digital legacy of Title VI is often stored in standalone data silos whose content isn't open (due sometimes to copyrighted or unfinished data), and whose long-term accessibility is not assured. Project output can be consulted, but it doesn't develop the extended program impact that accrues from letting it be *reused*.

Metadata and archives are part of the solution, but only a commitment to digital “best practices” in building shared data resources can ensure that the 2059 Title VI centennial conference will celebrate today's contributions. We will discuss the most pressing digital-resource management issues:

portability to enable data reuse,

interoperability to empower generic tools, and

preservation to ensure ongoing resource availability,

and suggest innovative ways to accommodate copyright and works-in-progress, including selective access via *Web services*, and data preservation in *dark archives*.