LDC: OPERATIONS

Share Data through LDC

Data Sharing and LDC's Mission

The mission of the Linguistic Data Consortium (LDC) is to support language-related education, research and technology development by creating and sharing language resources including data, tools and standards. An important aspect of that mission is ensuring that LDC's published resources reach a broad spectrum of users – students, scholars, researchers, developers – in academic, governmental and private organizations.

These communities require data across languages, genres and formats. Therefore, a second aspect of LDC's mission is to expand and diversify its Catalog of resources. LDC encourages you to share your data and help broaden the network of available resources.

LDC's Global Network

Data distributed through LDC becomes part of a strong global network. All published resources appear in LDC's online Catalog, accessed daily by users worldwide. LDC's monthly newsletter keeps the community abreast of all new publications, and its reach ensures the attention of interested researchers.

LDC members receive free copies of corpora published in their membership year, guaranteeing greater exposure to major organizations working in human language technologies (HLT) and related fields.

Data Sources

LDC's Catalog contains data from information publishers, researchers, universities and private organizations. These multilingual language resources run the gamut – written, spoken and signed languages encoded in text, speech and video – and are collected and annotated under a multitude of conditions.

Speech data may include materials from interviews and meetings and from broadcast programming and telephone conversations. Text materials come from many sources, including transcripts, newswires, websites, books and periodicals.

LDC also publishes lexicons and dictionaries in common and less commonly resourced languages.

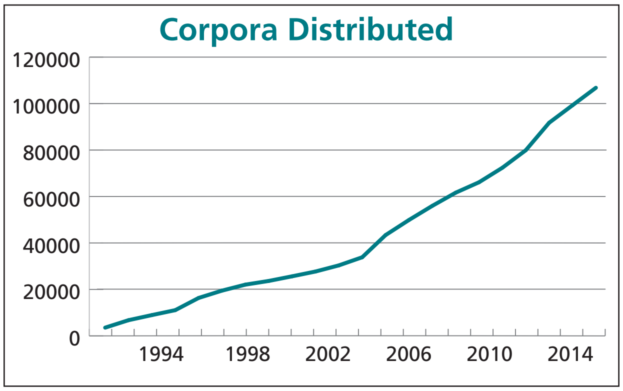
Why You Should Share Your Data through LDC

LDC is a recognized leader in language resource creation and distribution. Project sponsors rely on LDC data to support research and technology development in cutting-edge applications. Data providers benefit from having their materials used in research programs because their work is further tested for its validity and utility.

LDC is a data archive. Some information providers do not archive their materials or else store them in an inadequate format. In such cases, LDC is the best, or only, source for the data.

Here are some additional points to consider:

- LDC has over 20 years of experience in publishing data sets and negotiating complex user license agreements with data providers on behalf of the user community.
- LDC has distributed over 100,000 corpora since its founding in 1992.
- LDC's monthly newsletter announces new publications and is circulated to approximately 8,000 readers.
- LDC's Catalog has over 500 titles and new titles are added monthly (30-36 titles per year).
- LDC corpora are published in over 60 languages and new languages are added to the Catalog every year.



Corpus Integrity and Structure

LDC is committed to publishing high quality, broadly accessible resources. Because each resource is used by researchers working on a variety of platforms, LDC seeks to standardize data submissions to the extent possible.

Preferred Submission Formats

Audio

- FLAC, MS WAV, MP3, RIFF

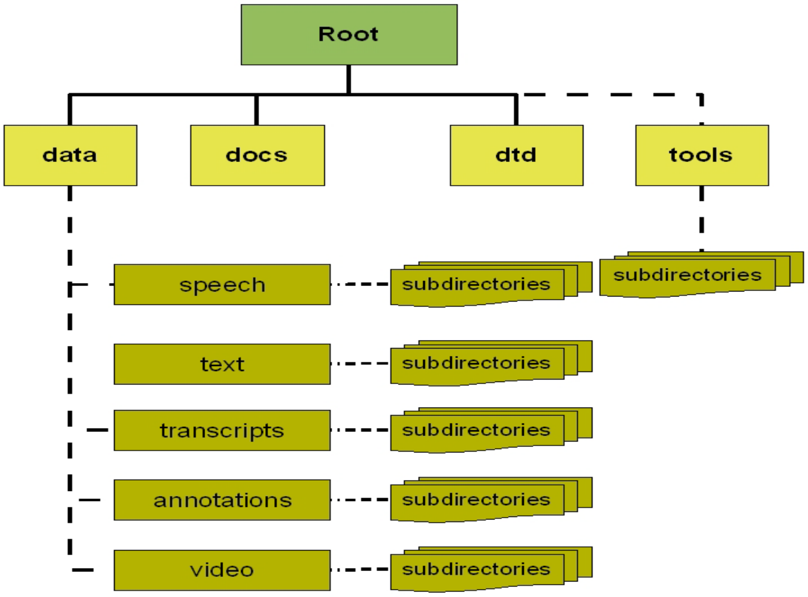
Video

- File containers: avi, dv, mpeg-ps (vob), mpeg-ts, mov, mp4
- Codecs: mpeg1, mpeg2, mpeg4, DivX, Mjpeg, Dv, Xvid

Text

- UTF-8 or UTF-16 encoding
- XML, SGML markup

A consistent corpus directory structure promotes easy reference by data users. Although data providers have leeway to organize their data as they see fit, LDC prefers the directory hierarchy below for published corpora:



Need to Know

To submit a corpus for publication, complete the LDC submissions form at https://www.ldc.upenn.edu/data-management/providing/submission or write to ldc@ldc.upenn.edu. Include the following information:

- Primary contact person: name, email address and telephone number
- Title of publication including version number if applicable
- Contributing author(s)
- A list of language and dialect names used in the corpus. When possible, use the language names and ids in the ISO 639-3 standard
- Data type (speech, text, video, lexicon, other)
- Estimated delivery date
- Size of publication: a rough estimate in bytes hours of speech, words of text or tokens as appropriate. At a minimum, provide the data size in bytes.
- Format: audio, video, text and markup schemes
  - Audio: sample rate, format and size, compression type and recording environment
  - Video: frame rate and size according to NTSC or PAL standards
  - Text: encoding and markup
- Origin and genre of data used, collection methodologies and copyright information
- A brief narrative description or abstract detailing the nature of the publication, its applications and other relevant information
- A representative sample of the data

All publications should be “camera ready” in terms of quality. LDC staff will perform basic quality control tests on all delivered data to ensure file integrity and data quality.

LDC will assist you through each step of the process from the initial inquiry to the final publication with the goal of ensuring that the published data will be complete, error free and ready to use.