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TAPS: Checklist for responsible archiving of digital language resources

Linguists need to find trustworthy archival homes for their data, lest irreplaceable records of human languages be lost or misused. Half or more of the world's languages have the potential to become moribund or extinct within this century, but the longevity of the digital technologies that are increasingly being employed to create, describe, and disseminate language documentation are themselves short-lived. Language data further present issues involving the rights of language communities. The TAPS Checklist is an assessment tool for linguists to be smart consumers of digital language archives. TAPS is based on (1) areas of special concern to linguists and language communities (Target and Access), and (2) recommended best practices for the long-term preservation of digital information (Preservation and Sustainability). The assessments of a variety of digital language archives using TAPS suggest that most archives provide necessary services, but many lack adequate resources for preservation planning and for ensuring sustainability.