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I am system administrator in a research institute for oriental studies, dealing with linguistic and nonlinguistic projects. Problems I am facing can be reduced

1. Unicode usability

Integration of system capabilities like unicode keyboards to linguistic application
Full implementation of unicode (for example combinations of l-r and r-l systems) within applications

The smaller part of the problem: There are applications with unicode processing capability, but without the necessary keyboard resources. Should be solved.

The bigger problem is the application of non l-r alphabets (like hebrew or arabic) in documentation tools, especially if they are connected to video- and audiostreams, meaning that the textstream has to be able to adapt to the used language script.

2. User interfaces, handling (scalability)

For linguists

For non-linguists

For non-English-speakers

One part of the problem: it should be possible to solve simple tasks with a tool without having to know the underlying concept of an extreme powerful application, as it is possible to write a text in Microsoft Word without knowing whatever Word can (and sometimes will) do to the text.

Another part is to implement standards that can enable a linguist to adapt (partly or in total) an application to the language of local consultants by using user-friendly internationalization tools, menu- and help-system editors. Of course it is possible right now but not really user-friendly.

3. Format documentation and conversion

Easily usable tools

Scalable feature implementation

Of course there are lots of conversion tools but most of them are either not easy to handle or not powerful enough

Another issue is to collect a collection of existing conversion files for character converting and for data format converting to avoid to do the same work a second time.

4. Connection of linguistic data to non-linguistic data

Anthropologic data

Description of material items

Description of immaterial items

Philological Data

There are lots of projects involving linguistic and non-linguistic data. We need interfaces to connect linguistic and non-linguistic data in archives and in applications as well.

5. DRM as a tool for protecting of individual or community-based intellectual properties

Long-term protection of data and user access

One problem of archives is the protection of privacy of the consultants and the intellectual property. Putting aside the reservations about digital rights management technologies, it could be used for protecting consultants and researchers against abuse and theft of research data. In this case it has to be either a public or at least a non-profit, controllable DRM-agency.