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Changing tools without losing your content.

A question asked in 2021 is still relevant: how do you keep content usable when tools change?

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The article published in 2021 questioned dependence on formats and publishers. The subject still deserves to be examined whenever a document collection is created or taken over.

Preparing reusable content

Structured sources can be reused in several publications. Documented formats such as HTML, XML or Markdown can make some transfers easier, depending on the documents and the tools used.

Trying to recover a complete document

Text alone does not always represent the complete document. Images, links, variables, translations and the relationships between content items must also be recoverable.

The useful test is to open an exported sample with another tool, then check that it can be understood and edited.

Planning for a change of tool

The formats delivered, the software required and the recovery method are defined with the publication. You then know what can be taken over and what will need work.

Organising your documentation sources

History of this article

This page takes up and updates the article “Technical communication: proprietary format or not?”, published by Karbonic on 25 November 2021.