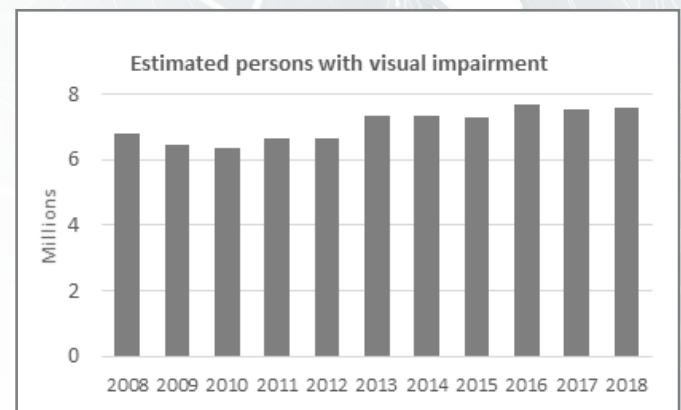


National Technical Information Service

Data Transformation and Access

The Department of Commerce's National Technical Information Service's (NTIS) Data Transformation and Access (DTA) office provides data-driven solutions for federal agencies serving the public and individuals with disabilities. The DTA's focus is on the transformation of raw data into various alternative formats allowing for the accessibility of the blind and visually impaired.

According to the latest disability statistics from Cornell University (2018), 3.14 million U.S. Citizens have a "Visual Disability." As a matter of fact, based on data available from 2008 to 2018, while the U.S. population increased by just under 8%, the population with a "Visual Disability" grew by 11% — out-pacing the general population growth. This disparity can only be expected to escalate given an aging U.S. Population.



Challenges Agencies Face Seeking 504/508 Compliance

- Transforming raw data from multiple sources in no standardized format or analytic protocol into a singular, uniform format capable of manipulation and interoperability.
- Providing accessibility to data in an alternate format that is customizable to the specific needs of individual users to include data in multiple languages.
- Providing accessibility to data within your current timeframe of preparing and mailing as standard notices.
- Ensuring the security of highly sensitive PII and integrity of the data.

Supporting Federal Agencies with 504/508 Compliance

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d) and additional relevant implementing regulations, federal agencies are required to provide individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in their programs and benefit from their services. Agencies must give employees with disabilities and members of the public access to information that is comparable to the access available to others.

NTIS, through its DTA office, has more than 10 years of experience in supporting federal agencies in meeting their 504/508 requirements to offer alternate formats to the blind and visually impaired. To date, NTIS has successfully produced and distributed more than 13 million alternate format notices for several federal agencies.

NTIS can help agencies accelerate results across the federal government by leveraging data as a strategic asset to achieve mission outcomes.

As a trusted Fed-to-Fed advisor, NTIS applies its unique joint venture partnership authority (15 U.S. Code 3704b) leveraging leading, innovative companies to help federal agencies solve their complex data challenges. Our efforts promote operational excellence through applied data science innovation in many areas of today's technology spectrum.

Benefits of the NTIS Partnership

NTIS collaborates with you to develop a solution fulfilling the agency's needs. A few of the benefits offered by the NTIS partnership include:

- Seamless communication between federal agencies, NTIS and our Joint Venture Partners (JVPs).
- Highly automated workflow, reducing the chances of error propagation.
- Secure transmissions within dedicated and secure networks.
- NTIS in-house developed tracking and logging solution providing complete visibility of all "touch points" on every single digital file — from receiving raw data from federal agencies, NTIS processing and subsequent JVP processing.
- NTIS can perform a Quality Control/Quality Assurance (QC/QA) on up to 100% of data and audio files remediated by the JVPs.
- Maintain hardware redundancy ensuring no downtime and all deliverables are typically met between one and five days.

Future Vision

Services offered by the DTA continue to grow with technology development, and these services demonstrate a progressive evolution which reflects major advancements in assistive technologies.

Delivering the Right Solutions

- Securely collecting raw data from hundreds of field offices nationwide with no standardized formats or analytic protocols and transforming this data into a singular, uniform format.
- Transforming your data into four alternate formats (Braille, large-print, audio CD and data CD).
- Ensuring the integrity of the transformed data by performing up to 100% quality assurance review.
- Ensuring the security of highly sensitive PII data throughout all phases of the process in both a cyber and physical environment. All communications are routed through secure and dedicated Virtual Private Networks (VPNs).
- Delivering the final output in a timely manner.
- Offering the blind and visually impaired access to all alternate formats in both English and Spanish.



Braille



Large Print
Format



CD-Rom



MP3

CONTACT US:

At NTIS, we recognize the myriad of data-centric challenges facing the Federal Government. Through the use of our joint venture authority, NTIS can help design and deliver better data outcomes that move your agency's mission forward. To learn more contact Elizabeth Shaw, Associate Director, Office of Program Development at eshaw@ntis.gov | 703.605.6136