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**Challenges for the Audiovisual  
Industry in the Digital Age:  
Accessibility and Multilingualism**

## Abstract

Every facet of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is defined by technological advances in digitisation and networked communication, which result in endless information exchange. Such developments would seem to uphold the very core of democracy as regards freedom of speech and accessibility of information. But is information truly accessible? The mind boggling amount of content made available every day through a variety of media has already resulted in an increased need for making such information accessible both to speakers of different languages as well as to people with disabilities, who have the inalienable right to quality of life. Such demand is only going to increase exponentially in the years to come. This is certainly true of the audiovisual industry, as translated audiovisual content made available through the various distribution channels that exist today probably reaches a wider audience than any other type of translation. The audiovisual industry is thus experiencing an ever increasing demand for audiovisual translation services, yet at the same time is forced to contend with the reduction of budgets as well as the contraction of timeframes in which these services need to be provided. As an industry which has strong links with and is heavily influenced by changes in technology, it is only natural to turn to language technology experts seeking from them solutions to meet the demand and deliver quality end products.

*The full script is available from the author on request. Please contact [Yota@ecisubtitling.com](mailto:Yota@ecisubtitling.com).*