

Questionnaire Specification Database for Blaise Surveys

*Lilia Filippenko, Joe Nofziger, and Valentina Grouverman
RTI International*

CAI development is a team effort that presents many challenges. When a group of specification writers, translators, programmers, and testers are working in parallel, specifications quickly get out of sync with program code. The Questionnaire Specifications Database (QSD) facilitates all facets of the CAI development lifecycle and streamlines the process of creating Blaise instruments, especially those with a second language and/or ACASI.

More than a common code generator, QSD allows spec writers and translators to make iterative changes at any point in development, while maintaining the integrity of the instrument. Changes to wording, question fills, and response types are inserted directly into the Blaise instruments. QSD's user-friendly specifications are complete with response options, fills, and question text in two languages. Since these specs and the current Blaise code are both generated from QSD, they are always in sync. Extensive support for ACASI includes script generation, audio review, and synchronization of code with audio files. Issue tracking and change logging are built in features.

QSD is a management tool that tracks all aspects of questionnaire development. It has reduced Blaise instrument development time at RTI. This paper will describe the functionality of QSD in some detail.

Abstract