



Integrating Blaise 5 and DDI Lifecycle 3.3

Agenda

Introduction: Colectica, DDI, and Blaise

Blaise to DDI Converter

Benefits of the Blaise to DDI Converter

Availability



Introduction



Colectica Overview

- Software for standards-based data documentation
 - Survey design and specification
 - Data documentation
 - Study, process, and quality documentation
- Used by
 - National statistical organizations
 - Research data organizations
 - Data archives
- Goals
 - Let researchers discover data across datasets
 - Understand the data and its provenance or lineage
 - Allow data to be more widely found, used, cited and compared



The Colectica Platform

Colectica Repository and Portal

- Centralized, authoritative, metadata store built on DDI 3, ISO 11179, and Web Service standards
- Search and browse metadata from Colectica Repository

Colectica Designer

- Full DDI metadata editor

Colectica Questionnaires

- Survey authoring tool

Colectica SDK

- Developer library



Data Documentation Initiative



- Open standard for describing data, since 1995
 - ▣ Focus on social, behavioral, and economic sciences
 - ▣ XML
- DDI Lifecycle 3.3 in 2020
- Users: National statistical organizations, Research data groups, Data Archives
- [DDI Information Model](#)
- DDI is an implementation model of the Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM) from the UNECE
- Designed to be extended with user-defined fields



Colectica and Blaise Collaboration

2005

- Together, helped design the DDI Lifecycle data collection model

2011

- Colectica extracts DDI 3 metadata from Blaise source code
- Colectica generates Blaise source code

2018

- Blaise Colectica Questionnaires available through Blaise
- Complete package for standards-based survey authoring

2020

- Colectica Repository available through Blaise

2023

- Blaise to DDI Converter





Blaise to DDI Converter

Blaise to DDI Converter

- Past Colectica feature: import questions and surveys from Blaise source code
- New: Improved Blaise to DDI Conversion via the Blaise API
- New: CBS and Colectica collaboration



Benefits of integration with the official Blaise API

- Ability to adapt to changes in Blaise language
- Minimizing the risk of compatibility issues



Collaborative Initiative

- Partnership between CBS and Colectica
- Ensuring ongoing improvement, stability, and support

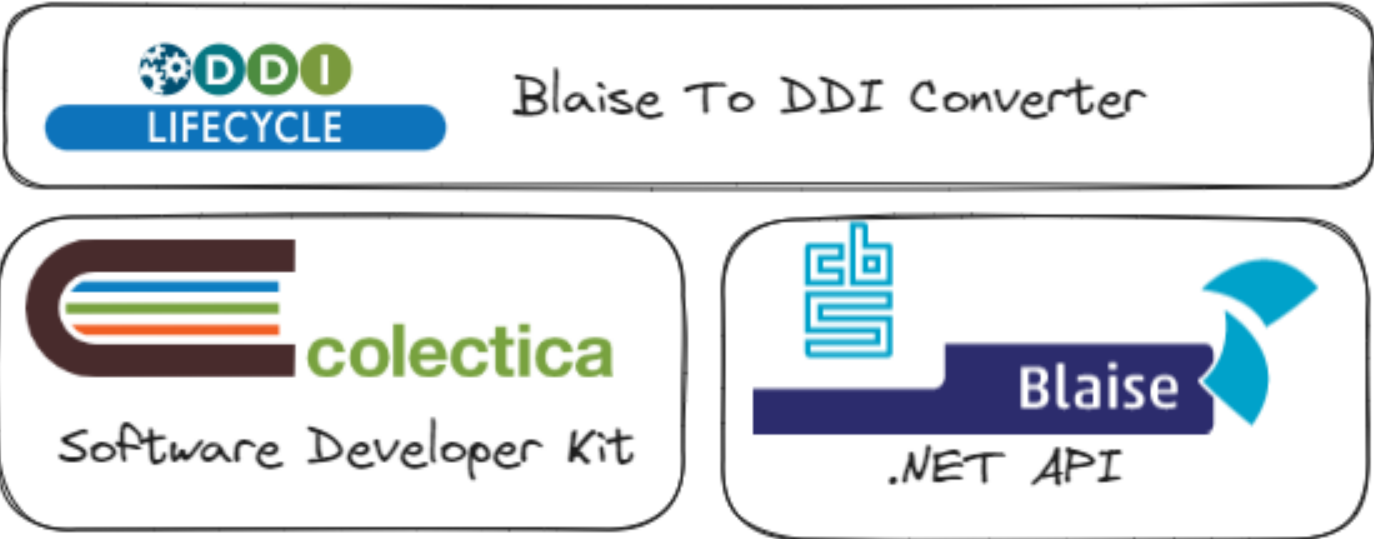


Features

- Map languages from Blaise surveys to standard language codes
- Detect duplicate fields and types (questions and code lists)
- Extract questions and surveys into DDI Lifecycle
- DDI can be exchanged or imported into any other tools that support the DDI standard



Components

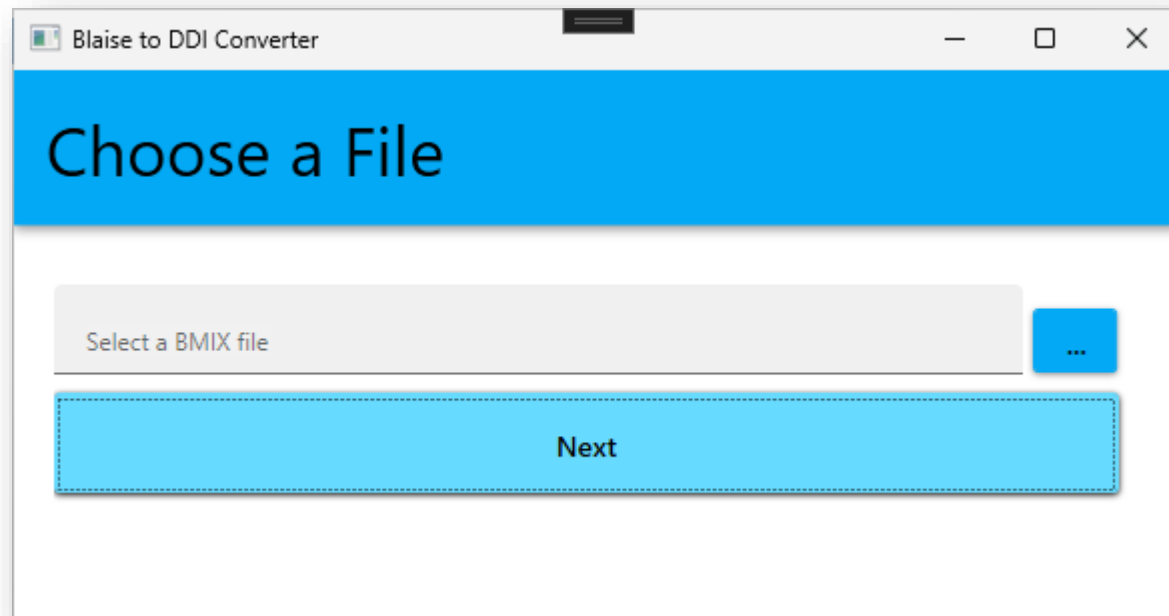


Two Applications

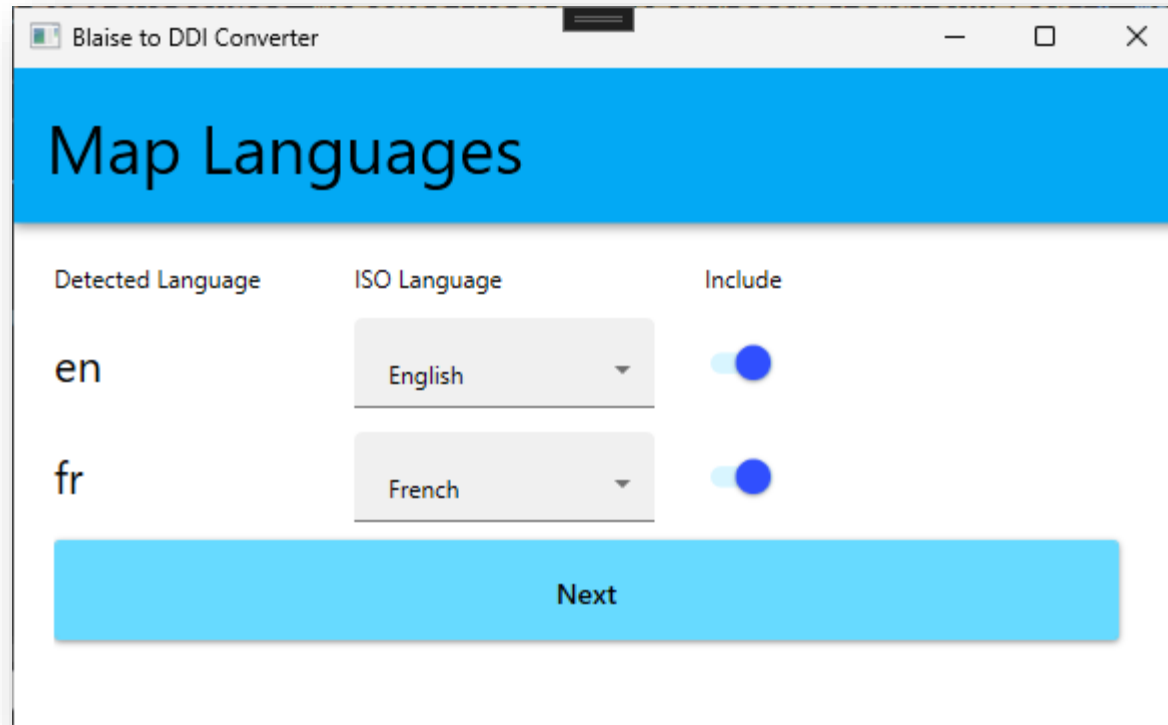
- Blaise to DDI Converter desktop application
 - ▣ Distributed and launchable from the Blaise Control Centre
- Command line application



Blaise to DDI Converter: Step 1



Blaise to DDI Converter: Step 2



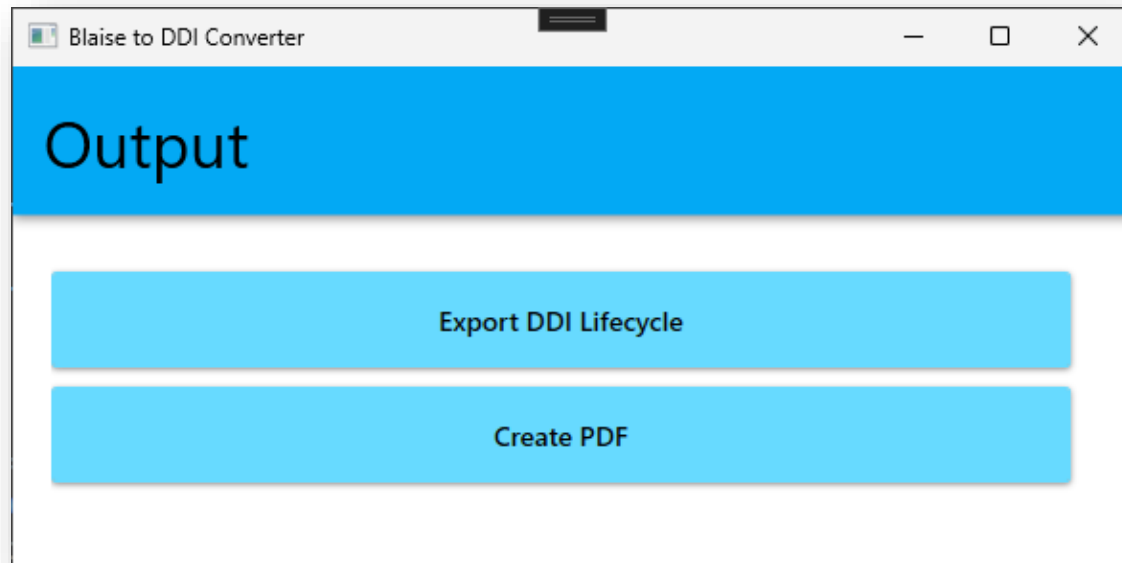
The screenshot shows a software window titled "Blaise to DDI Converter" with a blue header bar containing the text "Map Languages". Below the header, there is a table with three columns: "Detected Language", "ISO Language", and "Include".

Detected Language	ISO Language	Include
en	English	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
fr	French	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

At the bottom of the window, there is a large blue button labeled "Next".



Blaise to DDI Converter: Step 3





Benefits of the Blaise to DDI Converter

Uses of DDI Lifecycle and Metadata Repositories

- Question Banks
 - ▣ Search and re-use questions
- Documentation
 - ▣ Show clients and researchers how data were collected
- Change tracking, variable lineage documentation



Survey in Colectica Repository's Web Portal

Family

Demographics

age
How old are you?

Numeric

country
What country do you live in?

Text

Work

haveJob
Do you have a job outside the home?

Hide Codes ^

Code Domain

1	Yes
2	No



PDF specification

country		
Name	country [country]	Location Sample Social Survey > Demographics
Type	Text	Minimum Length Maximum Length
Question		
What country do you live in?		
Work		
Label	Work	Location Sample Social Survey
Type	Sequence	Order InOrderOfAppearance
haveJob		
Name	haveJob [haveJob]	Location Sample Social Survey > Work
Type	Multiple Choice	Selection Type Display Style SelectOne
Question		
Do you have a job outside the home?		
Choices		
	1	Yes
	2	No
timeUse		
Name	timeUse	Location Sample Social Survey > Work
Type	Question Grid	



Uniquely identified items

- Creation of SHA-256 hashes for efficient identification of duplicates
- Deduplication during the conversion process
 - ▣ Within the same survey
 - ▣ Connected to a question bank / repository



Demonstration

The screenshot displays the Blaise Control Centre application window. The title bar reads "Blaise Control Centre" and the configuration is set to "Development". The interface includes a menu bar (File, Home), a toolbar with various tools like "Find and Replace", "Options", "Server Manager", and "Data Viewer", and a main content area. The main content area shows a "Start Page" for "Blaise 5" with a "BLAISE 5 NEWS" section. This section lists several "NEW BUG FIX RELEASE" entries with dates: 5.13.9, 5.12.14, 5.9.16, 5.13.8, 5.12.13, and 5.13.7. A detailed description for the 5.13.9 release is provided, stating it is available on the FTP server of Statistics Netherlands and resolves several reported issues. To the right of the news section is a "USEFUL LINKS" area with links for Online help, User forum, Contact us, and Video Tutorials. Below that is a "LATEST NEWS" section listing recent releases: Blaise 5.13 - The December 2022 release, Helpdesk migration, Blaise 5.12 - The June 2022 release, and Blaise 5.11 - The December 2021 release. At the bottom of the window is an "Output" pane showing a log of system events with timestamps and descriptions of actions like "Blaise to DDIAddin started" and "ended". The status bar at the very bottom indicates "Services" and "Version : 5.13.9.3463 (Developer)".

BLAISE 5 NEWS

NEW BUG FIX RELEASE: 5.13.9

A new release of Blaise 5 (5.13.9.3463) is available on the FTP server of Statistics Netherlands. This release is a bug fix version. It resolves several reported issues in the system. For a list of fixed issues, check the changelog.txt file.

NEW BUG FIX RELEASE: 5.12.14

NEW BUG FIX RELEASE: 5.9.16

NEW BUG FIX RELEASE: 5.13.8

NEW BUG FIX RELEASE: 5.12.13

NEW BUG FIX RELEASE: 5.13.7

USEFUL LINKS

- Online help
- User forum
- Contact us
- Video Tutorials

LATEST NEWS

- Blaise 5.13 - The December 2022 release
- Helpdesk migration
- Blaise 5.12 - The June 2022 release
- Blaise 5.11 - The December 2021 release

Output

```
14:07:22 : Blaise to DDIAddin ended
14:07:25 : Data Export Addin started
14:07:59 : Blaise to DDIAddin started
14:08:51 : Blaise to DDIAddin ended
14:08:52 : Data Export Addin ended
15:30:31 : Blaise to DDIAddin started
15:31:23 : Blaise to DDIAddin ended
15:33:19 : Data Export Addin started
15:33:28 : Data Export Addin ended
15:33:29 : Blaise to DDIAddin started
15:36:32 : Blaise to DDIAddin ended
```

Messages | Output | References List | Find List

Solution Explorer | Properties

Services: Version : 5.13.9.3463 (Developer)





Availability

Availability

- Preview version available in the Blaise Store soon
- Included with the Blaise Control Center soon



Future work

- OutParameters
- Detection of grids
- Comparison against repository content, to detect duplicates



Let's Build Together

- Try out the tool and let us know how it works for you



Thank you



<https://docs.colectica.com>