

Corpus Futures: Mitigating Risk

Purpose

This document records foreseeable long-horizon risks to the corpus that may arise over decades or centuries, along with the structural properties that mitigate them.

It is not a plan, roadmap, or mandate. It does not prescribe interventions.

Its purpose is to make future failure modes *visible in advance*, so they do not need to be rediscovered under pressure.

This document exists downstream of the framework. It does not reopen or modify any canonical content.

1. Temporal Perspective

This corpus is designed with the expectation that: - its importance may diminish - its language may age - its expressions may be surpassed - its role may become marginal

None of these outcomes constitute failure.

The primary risk addressed here is not obsolescence, but *distortion over time*.

2. Protocol Drift

Risk: Over long durations, procedural rules may be followed mechanically while their original intent is forgotten.

Manifestations: - checklist-based stewardship - compliance without judgment - rule adherence replacing structural understanding

Mitigation: - Stewardship defaults to inaction - No authority or incentive exists to enforce procedure - No benefit accrues from mechanical compliance

Protocol drift is self-limiting when no power attaches to it.

3. Excessive Preservation (The Museum Problem)

Risk: Respect for the corpus may lead future actors to freeze it, resisting even framework-demanded translation or renewal.

Manifestations: - reluctance to produce new translation layers - treating lateral expansion as contamination - equating preservation with correctness

Mitigation: - Translation is explicitly expected and renewable - Obsolescence is permitted - Supersession is not treated as loss

The framework remains fixed; its expressions are not.

4. Second-Order Canon Formation

Risk: Interpretations, summaries, or pedagogical materials become treated as authoritative substitutes for canonical documents.

Manifestations: - "standard readings" - dominant explanatory narratives - educational shortcuts replacing source material

Mitigation: - Single canonical document identity - Textbooks and guides are explicitly secondary - No pedagogical artifact is complete without the framework

Plurality of explanation prevents consolidation of authority.

5. Tool Supersession

Risk: Tooling derived from the framework becomes more visible than the framework itself, encouraging use without understanding.

Manifestations: - mechanical application of coherence rules - treating tools as arbiters of correctness - obscuring underlying constraints

Mitigation: - Tools do not claim epistemic authority - Failure modes surface quickly when coherence breaks - Tool misuse does not propagate upstream

Tooling may assist application but cannot replace understanding.

6. Hostile or Ideological Reframing

Risk: External actors attempt to frame the corpus as ideological, political, elitist, or threatening.

Manifestations: - attribution of motives not present in the work - demands for alignment or repudiation - adversarial narratives detached from content

Mitigation: - No call to action - No moral program - No institutional authority - No central spokesperson

Hostile framing lacks leverage when nothing depends on response.

7. Success-Induced Erasure

Risk: The corpus becomes so integrated into broader thinking that its origin is forgotten, producing the appearance of disappearance.

Manifestations: - unattributed reuse - ideas treated as obvious or ambient - loss of historical attribution

Mitigation: - Acceptance that absorption is not failure - No dependence on recognition or citation - Emphasis on correctness over credit

Durable ideas eventually become invisible.

8. Limits of Mitigation

Not all future risks can be anticipated.

This document does not attempt to prevent: - misunderstanding - misuse - neglect - decline in relevance

It exists to identify *structural* risks that recur historically and to show how the corpus already constrains them.

Closing Note

This corpus does not require protection from time.

It requires only that no new centers of authority, identity, or interpretation be allowed to form around it.

If future readers find this work useful, they may extend it. If they find it limited, they may replace it.

Either outcome is consistent with its intent.