Introduction to Qualitative Data Analysis Software

Dedoose, ATLAS.ti, MaxQDA, & NVivo

created by Josué Meléndez Rodríguez

credit to Shelly Steward and Zawadi Rucks Ahidiana

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Introductions

Facilitator: Josué Meléndez Rodríguez, MA, MSW

PhD Student, School of Social Welfare

Qualitative Research Lead, D-Lab

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Attendees: Name, Previous Education

Roles/Titles, Departments

Additional Information (e.g., past & future work)

Schedule

- Coding & Analysis within the Research Process
- QDA Software as a Tool for Coding & Analysis
- Introduction of QDA Software Programs
  - Dedoose
  - ATLAS.ti
  - MaxQDA
  - NVivo
- Q&A

Coding & Analysis within the Qualitative Research Process

- Philosophy, Theory, Framework, Conceptualization
- Nonlinear Process: Determine Question(s), Conduct Literature Review, Determine Methodology & Methods, Collect Data, **Code & Analyze Data**, Write Findings, Discussion, & Conclusion

- Coding & Analysis
  - Separate and Related
  - Inductive and Deductive
  - Remain True to Your Project, Not to the Software

QDA Software as a Tool for Coding & Analysis

What It Does

- Structure and Organize
- Explore
- Annotate
- Memo
- Code and Retrieve
- Visualize

Potential Benefits

- Can Deal with Large Data Sets
- Frees Time to Focus on Analysis
- Improves Validity/Auditability
- Improves Credibility (among some audiences)

What It Does Not

- Analytic Thinking
- Error-Free Auto Coding
- Eliminate Bias
- Advanced Quantitative Analysis

Potential Drawbacks

- Can Impose Deterministic Understandings
- Can Produce Nonsensical Findings
- May Create Pressure to Engage Excessive Features and Large Data Sets
- Requires Learning the Software

Overview of QDA Software Programs

QDA Miner

HyperResearch

ANSWR

Transana

Aquad (open source)

Quirkos (visual exports)

Saturate (app-based)

Dedoose - sample video

Pros	Cons
• Intuitive Interface	• Larger Projects = Lower Speeds
• Allows for Weighing Codes	• Poor Internet Connection = Interrupted Work
• Teamwork is Simple	• No Auto-Coding
– Does Not Require Additional Infrastructure, Shared Location	• Limited Query Options
• Internet Based	• Cannot Merge Projects
– Easy to Access from Any Computer	
– No Difference Across PC, Mac, or Chromebook	
• Monthly Access	
– No Charge when Not Active	

D-Lab Support

Consulting – by appointment

Workshop – RRR week

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ATLAS.ti – sample video

Pros	Cons

• Ability to Interlink Components
  – e.g., memos, notes, comments, codes, coded segments
• Significant Manual Diagraming Options
• Great Mapping Tool
  – Google Earth is Embedded
• Customizable Interface
• Great User Support
	• Flat Coding
	• Some Data Sources Not in Project
	• Comparatively Complex Process to Facilitate Teamwork
	  – No Automatically-Generated Codes for Inter-Coder Reliability

	D-Lab Support Consulting – by appointment Workshop – TBD

MaxQDA – sample video

Pros	Cons

• Intuitive Interface
• Variety of Coding Colors
• Allows Weighing Codes
• Flexible Application for Different Methodologies
• Accepts Most File Types
• Great Automated Data Visualization Tools
• Semi-Customizable Interface
• Good Integration of Statistical Data for Mixed-Methods
	• Comparatively Few Users
	  – Translates to Less User Support
	  – Less Likely to Find Collaborators Already Using the Program
	• Comparatively Complex Process to Facilitate Teamwork

D-Lab Support

Consulting – by appointment
Workshop – Mon., Apr. 9, 1-3 p.m.

NVivo – sample video

Pros	Cons
• Accepts Most File Types	• Steep Learning Curve
• Great Automated Data Visualization Tools	– Interface May Not Feel Intuitive
• Most Advanced Visual Coding Abilities	– Advanced Features May Clutter Control Options
• Allows for Weighing Codes	• Time-Consuming Coding Process
• Available in Several Languages	• Comparatively Complex Process to Facilitate Teamwork
• Can Import Social Media	
• Integrates EverNote, EndNote, Survey Monkey, and OneNote	**D-Lab Support** Consulting – by appointment Workshop – TBD

Q & A