Comparing Approaches to Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA)

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Department of Sociology and IQSS, Harvard University

Organizer: Alison Denton Jones is a Graduate Student in the Department of Sociology at Harvard University:
http://www.wjh.harvard.edu/soc/gs/Jones_Alison
Overview

- This packet of slides records information and resources from a panel discussion comparing different QDA software and different approaches to Qualitative Data Analysis.

- Information here was compiled by the panel organizer, and some was provided by the panelists. It is not meant to be an exhaustive resource; we hope others will add to it.
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM: Introduction and Overview of Resources
Alison Denton Jones, Harvard University, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Sociology

9:30 AM – 10:05 AM: NVivo
Stacy Penna, QSR International, Business Development Manager

10:05 AM – 10:40 AM: HyperRESEARCH
Sharlene J.N.Hesse-Biber, Boston College, Professor, Department of Sociology

10:40 AM – 10:55 AM: Coffee Break

10:55 AM – 11:30 AM: Atlas.ti
Jessica S. Welburn, Harvard University, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Sociology

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Framework
Heather Wardle, National Centre for Social Research (UK), Research Director

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Lunch, Q&A, and General Discussion
Background

- Professor Michele Lamont, Sociology and a university-wide steering committee of qualitative faculty.
  
  http://www.wjh.harvard.edu/soc/faculty/lamont/index.html

- Series of workshops and panels on Qualitative Methods. (eg, Atlas.ti training)

- Website on teaching resources in qualitative methods at Harvard. (faculty and courses, software transcribers, etc.)
  
  http://projects.iq.harvard.edu/qualitative
Aims of this Panel

- Comparing QDA software
  - NOT a how-to workshop!
  - Demonstrating four QDA programs in action
  - Users’ experiences, likes, and dis-likes

- Discussing different approaches to research involving QDA
  - relationship between research approach, data, and software
  - inductive vs deductive approaches
  - When you work in this program, what is "coding?"
Selection of QDA programs

- NVivo: http://www.qsrinternational.com/
- HyperResearch: http://www.researchware.com/
- Framework: http://www.framework-natcen.co.uk/
- MaxQDA: http://www.maxqda.com/
- Transana: http://www.transana.org/
- QDA Miner: http://www.provalisresearch.com/QDAMiner/QDAMinerDesc.html
- Qualrus: http://www.qualrus.com/
- Sensemaker: http://www.sensemaker-suite.com/
- And more!
Resources for Comparing Programs

- Want a side-by-side comparison? Hire a professional
- Publications comparing programs
- Online forums
- Europe is the place to look
Professional Training

- **SdG Associates:**

- **Merlien Institute:** [http://merlien.org/](http://merlien.org/)

- **ResearchTalk** - Qualitative Research Consulting and Professional Development — Software Sales: [www.researchtalk.com](http://www.researchtalk.com)
Resources for Comparing QDA Programs


- NVivo 2.0 and ATLAS.ti 5.0: A Comparative Review of Two Popular Qualitative Data-Analysis Programs. R. BARRY LEWIS. Field Methods, Vol. 16, No. 4, November 2004 439–469


- “CAQDAS Comparison.” by Thomas Koenig. This is a comparative overview of the most important computer-assisted qualitative data analyses software packages. Unlike most other reviews, it is not ordered by software products, but by product functions. http://www.restore.ac.uk/lboro/research/software/caqdas_comparison.php
Resources for Using QDA Programs

FQS FORUM: QUALITATIVE SOCIAL RESEARCH

- *FQS* is a peer-reviewed multilingual online journal for qualitative research established in 1999. [http://www.qualitative-research.net/fqs/fqs-eng.htm](http://www.qualitative-research.net/fqs/fqs-eng.htm)

- The CAQDAS Project was set up to increase awareness and debate about Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Software. Practical support, training and information in the use of a range of software programs designed to assist qualitative data analysis. Lots of stuff here! [http://caqdas.soc.surrey.ac.uk/index.htm](http://caqdas.soc.surrey.ac.uk/index.htm)
More QDA Resources


- University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Office of Survey, Statistics & Psychometrics: ppt or video versions of training sessions for atlas, maxqda, nvivo, and qda in general (just keep scrolling down – not organized): http://ssp.unl.edu/archives.html


Panelist Bios

- **Stacy Penna** works as a Business Development Manager for QSR International, the company that develops and markets NVIVO software for qualitative research. She received her Doctorate in Education at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Stacy’s dissertation was a qualitative case study I which she used Nvivo to help her analyze her data and write her literature review.
  
  s.penna@qsrinternational.com | www.qsrinternational.com

  
  hesse@bc.edu | www.researchware.com | http://www2.bc.edu/~hesse/

- **Jessica Welburn** is a Graduate Student in the Department of Sociology at Harvard University and a Doctoral Fellow, Multidisciplinary Program on Inequality and Social Policy. Her research Interests include: Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Family, Culture, and Qualitative Methodology. The title of her dissertation is: “Examining Downward Mobility among Middle Class African Americans.”
  
  jwelburn@fas.harvard.edu | http://www.wjh.harvard.edu/soc/gs/Welburn_Jessica/

- **Heather Wardle** is a Research Director at the National Centre for Social Research, the UK’s largest independent social research organisation. As a Research Director within the Health and Lifestyles Department, Heather’s main interests lie in public health research. She specialises in the areas of gambling research and tobacco control. Currently Heather is Project Director of the British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010, which will be assessing how gambling behaviour has changed in Britain in the last three years. Heather also has a strong interest in methodological issues, in particular the effective design and implementation of web surveys.
  
  Heather.Wardle@natcen.ac.uk | http://www.natcen.ac.uk/people/heather-wardle