the right tools for the job
affordances of dedicated CAQDAS-packages for high-quality analysis

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Overview

- **analytic activities** facilitated by dedicated CAQDAS-packages
- fostering **high-quality analysis**: access, validation and transparency
- making **informed choices** between products

but first...
- a bit of history
- terminology

A bit of history...origins

1980s academic social sciences

*Qualitative* approaches to analysing *qualitative* data

**Now....**

**Cross-sector**
- Public opinion
- Government
- Market research
- Voluntary
- Commercial

**Cross-method**
- Qualitative data
- Mixed data
- Qual analytic approaches
- Quant analytic approaches
- Mixed analytic approaches
- Throughout the research cycle
Plethora of choices

Terminology

- Computer **Assisted** Qualitative Data Analysis (CAQDAS) packages
  - Qualitative Data Analysis Software (QDAS)
  - Digital tools for qualitative analysis

**dedicated** CAQDAS-packages...?
- qualitative data (maybe also mixed and quantitative data)
  - Content searching
  - Coding
  - Linking
  - Querying
  - Writing/annotating
  - Mapping
High-level Analytic Activities undertaken in qualitative & mixed-methods research

Adapted from Silver & Lewins (2014:44-58). See also Appendix 2, Woolf & Silver, pp198-200

- Integrate (combining parts into a whole)
  - MATERIALS: types, role, relationship
  - ANALYSES: qualitative, quantitative, mixed
  - CONTRIBUTIONS: split and combine work, assess consistency

- Organise (creating structures relating to objectives)
  - FACTS: metadata, socio-demographics etc.
  - IDEAS: transcription, conceptualisation, associations

- Explore (examining the inherent nature of data)
  - CONTENT: surface level, language, familiarise
  - STRUCTURE: inherent structure repeated within/ across data files

- Reflect (considering carefully and deeply)
  - WRITE: about data, process, interpretations and results
  - MAP: connections between and within data and concepts

- Interrogate (following up what has been done)
  - IDENTIFY patterns, relationships, anomalies
  - TEST theories/hypotheses, validate interpretations
  - COMPARE subsets and cases

Fostering high-quality analysis

The ‘criteriology’ debate

How can CAQDAS-packages contribute...?
...No direct correlation between use of CAQDAS-packages and quality

Access: to...

data: viewing multiple sources, synchronising media
analytic work: coding, in-text memo-ing, hyperlinking
contributions: comparing coding, adjudicating coding
Access: to data (viewing multiple sources)

Access: to data (synchronising media)
Access: to analytic work (coding)
Access: to analytic work (coding)  

Access: to analytic work (in-text memo-ing)
Access: to analytic work (hyperlinking)

Access: to contributions (comparing coding)
Access: to contributions (comparing coding)

What I want to talk to you about is the debate about globalization in political terms and in terms of its potential for inclusive political processes. People of right versus left, over to the right or the middle, which is open.

Access: to contributions (adjudicating coding)

Access to contributions (adjudicating coding)
Validation

Interrogating patterns and relationships
Identifying anomalies
Confirming interpretations

Validation: interrogating patterns and relationships

Common queries

• Text search
• Word frequency

• Code co-occurrence
• Code proximity
• Code comparison
Validation: identifying patterns and relationships
Validation: identifying anomalies

Validation: confirming interpretations
Validation: confirming interpretations

"I don’t see how married people could be happy without children. I don’t see how single people could be happy without being married and without children..."

My husband and I agree that our son is the greatest invention ever and joy personified. We also think that he is the mother of all inconvenience, a monumental hassle in cute little shoes.

I agree with people who have said that the authors of this study didn’t think too hard about the concept of happiness, and how it might be related to such concepts as accomplishment, connection, joy, struggle, and so forth.

In his song "Graceland", Paul Simon tells his son:

You are the burden of my generation.

I sure do love you—let’s get that straight.

I think that sums it up.

I went into parenthood willingly and with eyes wide open, but at the same..."

Transparency

Documenting process: technical, narrative & visual
Visualising results
Exporting and sharing
Exchanging between products
Transparency: documenting process (technical)

Transparency: documenting process (narrative)
Transparency: documenting process (visual)

Transparency: visualising results
Transparency: visualising results

Transparency: exporting and sharing
Transparency: exchanging between products

Using CAQDAS-packages to illustrate quality

access

validation

transparency
Making informed choices between products

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Plethora of choices

- @atlasti
- CAT Coding Analysis Toolkit
- dedoose
- Delve
- discovertext
- ELAN
- Ethnograph
- f4analyse
- HyperRESEARCH
- interpris
- Kwalitan
- LEIPZIG CORPUS MINER
- LEXIMANCER
- LIGRE
- MAXQDA
- QDA Miner
- QDA Miner Qualitative Data Analysis
- Qiqqa
- QuilP
- Quirkos
- Raven's Eye
- recollective
- Sonal
- TLAB
- transana
- webQDA
- WordSmith Tools
Resources

Product websites – feature overviews, demo versions, tutorials

CAQDAS Networking Project reviews
https://www.surrey.ac.uk/computer-assisted-qualitative-data-analysis/resources/choosing-appropriate-caqdas-package