CAQDAS, Secondary Analysis and the Coding of Survey Data

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
December 2008

Professor Nigel Fielding [n.fielding@surrey.ac.uk]
Institute of Social Research
Department of Sociology, University of Surrey, UK
CAQDAS, Secondary Analysis and the Coding of Survey Data

- The open-ended question problem
- The audit trail requirement
- CAQDAS - Computer-Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis
- Data integration
- Secondary analysis: DDI v. NLP
- Conclusion
Closed and open questions on a mail survey

Accountability as practiced in our school system creates an undesirable atmosphere of anxiety among teachers.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Strongly agree</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Agree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Disagree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Strongly disagree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please add any personal comments you’d like to make in your own words about any part of the school system’s accountability approach:

“Fear” is the word for “accountability” as applied in our system ... “Accountability” is a political ploy to maintain power ... The bitterness and hatred in our system is incredible. What began as “noble” has been destroyed. You wouldn’t believe the new layers of administration that have been created just to keep this monster going. Our finest compliment around our state is that other school systems know what is going on and are having none of it. Lucky people. Come down and visit in hell sometime’.

Qualitative data are ‘an attractive nuisance’

Audit trail devices using manual methods

- field diaries and logs
- coding commentaries
- analytic memos
Key operations in qualitative software (‘CAQDAS’)

- Data entry and coding
- Memoing

- Analytic strategies
  - Code and Retrieve
  - Single retrieval
  - Multiple retrieval
  - Boolean operators
The three basic types of qualitative software

- text retrievers
- code-and-retrieve packages
- theory-building software


Search to recover only data where two particular characteristics apply but not a third

- “Data from MALE respondents with LOW PAY who are NOT registered voters”
Advanced features in qualitative software

- Network view (Atlas/ti)
- Hypothesis test (HyperRESEARCH)
- System closure (N.Vivo)
- Artificial Intelligence (Qualrus)

Data integration
- Atlas/ti
- MAXqda with MAX Dictio
- QDA Miner with Wordstat & SimStat
Hyperlinking between quotations in Atlas.ti

In ATLAS.ti hyperlinks can be created between quotations (within the same data file, or between different ones) in the Network Tool, perhaps to track a story or process or to illustrate arguments, contradictions etc....

Jump around the dataset by double-clicking on hyperlink icons in the margin area.

Quotations derived from multi-media documents can also be linked together in ATLAS.ti. Here the network tool is used as a way of retrieving graphics, codes and annotations.
Suggestive Coding using Qualrus
Word frequencies and Key Word in Context (KWIC) retrieval in MAXqda (with MAX Dictio add-on module)

Word frequency tables can be created across all or selected text documents using MAX Dictio. Here an index of one word has been created to located finds in context (KWIC). Results can be marked, annotated, coded and exported to a statistical application as required.
Conditions necessary to apply statistical techniques to quantitized qualitative data

- Enough cases to satisfy the validity criteria of the statistical technique
- Decision between simple absence/presence of code or ordinal measure
- Accommodation of non-directional codes
- Confidence in robustness and commensuracy of code assignment
CAQDAS, Secondary Analysis and the Coding of Survey Data

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
December 2008

Professor Nigel Fielding [n.fielding@surrey.ac.uk]
Institute of Social Research
Department of Sociology, University of Surrey, UK