Susanne Friese, Thomas Ringmayr (eds.)

ATLAS.ti User Conference 2015
Qualitative Data Analysis and Beyond

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http://dx.doi.org/10.14279/depositonce-5152
Anthropologists have a rich tradition of using a networked approach in data analysis. The purpose of this article is to continue that tradition by demonstrating how social network analysis can be used by anthropologists to improve their analysis and reporting of ethnographic data, and thereby expanding the methodological tool kit traditionally used by anthropologists. We use a case study based on a 1967 social movement aimed at increasing black power in a small Midwestern community in the United States to demonstrate the utility of network analysis in ethnographic studies and reporting, particularly ones that use oral or life story narratives as primary data sources. In addition to examining the data through Multinet, we also expand the Network View functionality in ATLAS.ti in our analysis. We suggest that the networked approach taken in this case study can be used by anthropologists across all four subfields as a method to show relations embedded in the ethnographic data anthropologists are known for collecting.

02 Wright, Steven
Exploring actor-network theory and CAQDAS: Provisional principles and practices for coding, connecting and describing data using ATLAS.ti
http://dx.doi.org/10.14279/depositonce-5153
This paper explores how ideas from actor-network theory (ANT) can be drawn on to inform ways of using computer assisted qualitative data analysis software (CAQDAS) in an ANT-oriented project. Through this it explores some of the challenges ANT poses to conventional uses of such tools, and the resources ANT provides for re-considering their agency in research practices and possibilities for future developments.
CAQDAS is often associated with particular approaches to engaging with data (e.g., coding data and retrieving the codes, abstracting and reducing data to themes etc.). These approaches have become dominant enough such that they are often presented and/or interpreted as the right, or only way to work qualitatively with qualitative data. In opposition to this orthodoxy some orienting principles are proposed from the ANT literature along with its intellectual antecedent ethnomethodology.
The proposed principles are: freedom of movement and data, logging the inquiry using Latour's four notebooks, coding and following heterogeneous actants as cases, supporting contextual exploration of fluid and multiple ontologies, staying close to the words of the actants and working in a scale-free manner that enables shifting magnifications and assemblages to preserve detail rather than abstract it into themes. A final principle concerns the intentions of ANT-informed approaches to assemble a detailed description, which are contrasted with the intentions of approaches aligned with Grounded Theory to abstract data in order to construct an explanation.
These principles are explored and illustrated with detailed descriptions that draw on examples from a multi-modal ethnographic PhD research project. The project used heterogeneous data to explore the information infrastructures and classification systems used in craft beer judging. Examples of how that diverse dataset was coded and connected are used along with excerpts from a reflective journal of the struggles and ideas for using CAQDAS to illustrate ways of effectively using ATLAS.ti in ANT-oriented research projects.

03 Stähler, Tobias; Taylor, Trynitie

Documents and "their" actors: An empirical pathway for power-sensitive frame analysis of political communication

http://dx.doi.org/10.14279/depositonce-5154

Framing has been termed a "fractured paradigm" by Robert Entman. Frames as media-text features are prime examples of coding complexity since frames may be regarded as factual media content or a loose extracted collection of data snippets docking at a specific theme or event. The potential of the concept for analyzing power relations within political communication is enormous and would benefit from further guiding information when working with CAQDAS. This paper seeks to provide an integral empirical perspective, and it includes suggestions for code families, coding rules, and query examples within ATLAS.ti. Furthermore, it discusses issues like frame types, frame setting, and frame sending.
At its core, the paper joins text-based analysis with probing for the relevant actors' view via guideline interviews. By doing so, it connects actor and process-oriented aspects of frame analysis, following one prevailing approach on framing in communication science. It also advises a flexible theoretical docking, but opts for a concise network perspective on actor-document relations. The result of the paper is not quite an empirical blueprint but a collection of helpful yet optional procedures for frame analysis.

04 Friese, Susanne

Computer-assisted grounded theory analysis with ATLAS.ti

http://dx.doi.org/10.14279/depositonce-5155

In this paper I show how the various steps of a Grounded Theory analysis can be conducted in a computer-assisted environment. As the Grounded Theory approach was developed before the event of CAQDAS, the various steps and procedures have been described for manual ways of analysis. In newer books one finds references that this can of course also be accomplished in CAQDAS, but little detail is provided on the practical aspects, as if the process were self-explanatory. Based on my experience, it is not, and this applies to the application of any methodological approach in CAQDAS. Learning the various tools and features in a software does not automatically teach the user which tool is the best fit for a particular process given a particular methodological framework. In this paper I want to show how the various steps and procedures of the Strauss and Corbin approach to Grounded Theory can be translated for use in ATLAS.ti.

05 Lewis, John Kennedy

Using ATLAS.ti to facilitate data analysis for a systematic review of leadership competencies in the completion of a doctoral dissertation

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The author used ATLAS.ti to conduct a systematic review of the literature on leadership competencies in fields undergoing rapid change to complete his dissertation. Studies were imported to ATLAS.ti for first, second and third stage analysis which led to the creation of final themes and concepts. The use of ATLAS.ti for coding encouraged a cyclical and iterative approach to data analysis that would have been difficult to accomplish through note cards, word processing, or spreadsheet applications. ATLAS.ti assisted with using meta-ethnography as the means of synthesizing both qualitative and quantitative research. ATLAS.ti provided the ability to make chains of multiple codes and linking of quotations to create networks, which was vital to third stage coding. These network diagrams were qualitative visual representations of the data and greatly assisted with third stage coding. Concepts, themes, and patterns emerged from the network diagrams. Also useful at this stage for identifying patterns in the data was mapping of co-occurring codes. ATLAS.ti allows co-occurring codes to be retrieved and visualized through network and mapping tools. Finally, ATLAS.ti was used to create hyperlinked maps of quotations which assisted with the analysis of proposition three of this dissertation.

06 Zakaria, Rohaiza; Musta'amal, Aede Hatib; Amin, Nor Fadilah Mohd; Saleh, Halmi Mashindra

Transcribing with ATLAS.ti

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Most qualitative studies engage interviews and/or observations in their data collection phase, which comprise of audio and/or video data. These data are usually transcribed into a written form for further analysis. Since transcribing takes considerable amount of time, an efficient tool is required to prepare for the transcription. In fact, there are many software available in the market to facilitate transcription including Inqscribe, Express Scribe and F4 Transkript. These transcription programs, however, were developed solely for transcribing purpose. ATLAS.ti, in addition to its superior tool set for the analysis of qualitative data, also can be used for transcription. In this paper, the authors emphasize the importance of the transcription process in qualitative studies, and share their experiences in using ATLAS.ti for transcribing audio and video data for a design study project.

07 Kalpokaite, Neringa; Radivojevic, Ivana

Integrating ATLAS.ti into an undergraduate qualitative research course: evaluating students' experiences

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This paper describes an evaluation of a qualitative research course for undergraduate psychology students at IE University (Instituto de Empresa, Segovia, Spain) by analyzing students' perceptions and experiences as gathered through an open-ended questionnaire. Students studied qualitative methods, learned to use the computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software (CAQDAS) ATLAS.ti, and applied their knowledge in a case study research project on the leadership of an international company. Overall perceptions of the course are positive, and students generally valued the learning and practical experience they gained. The students recognized this course as an important complement to their predominantly quantitative curriculum. As a result, this paper encourages other interested lecturers and professors of undergraduate students to integrate CAQDAS into their own qualitative research curricula.

08 Apelojg, Benjamin

Teachers do not make mistakes? Two explorative case studies ; relationships between biographical aspects, thinking and behavioral patterns and experiences in classes ; first results of a qualitative study on the aspect of dealing with mistakes

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This article provides some insights into the complex relationships between thinking and behavioral patterns, biographical aspects and teaching style. The data was analyzed in the Grounded Theory tradition and with the help of ATLAS.ti. The results presented here offer preliminary findings only since the research is still ongoing. The focus is on the ways teachers deal with mistakes. Based on two case examples, it will be shown how the fear of making mistakes can lead to teacher-centered lessons, and thereby limiting pupils' possibilities to learn autonomously.

09 Gutiérrez Espinosa, Enrique; Aguilar Gamboa, Hedaly; Castellanos León, Verónica C.; Carrillo González, Ileana del C.

The use of ATLAS.ti in investigating bullying in primary schools in the city of Tuxtla Gutiérrez, México

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Based on an apparent increase of bullying cases among primary school students in the city of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, México, research was conducted to identify the characteristics of the various forms of violence and abuse among children of this age group. The results of this research aided school authorities in implementing a prevention program that increased student awareness of bullying and encouraged them to denounce it in hopes of reducing this phenomenon. The subjects studied in the described research, were 117 fifth-grade boys and girls between the ages of ten and eleven. Subjects were observed to identify the different roles of this phenomenon such as bullies, victims, and bystanders, as well as the cause and effects of their behavior. Additionally, focus group activities were conducted to measure the subjects' awareness of the bullying phenomenon and sensitize them to it. In this study, both qualitative and quantitative methods were used to gather information about how the students experience this kind of violence between themselves. The instruments used for the qualitative phase were surveys, focus groups and individual interviews, which were digitized and analyzed using ATLAS.ti. The primary documents added to ATLAS.ti consisted of transcripts, video recordings and the survey data as individual documents per case.

10 Sebök, Miklós

Coding policy influence with ATLAS.ti. Methodological notes from a study on hungarian banking

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The paper provides a cursory analysis of the methodological problems of coding policy influence in ATLAS.ti. In a series of notes on a research project on Hungarian banking, the measuring problems of preference attainment are considered in the context of lobbying in developed democracies. Two such issues are discussed in more detail: The identification of policy issues in large-sized corpora (as well as their relative importance), and the estimation of relevant policy positions regarding these important issues. For the first point, the flexible coding schemes as well as grouping and commenting features of ATLAS.ti contribute to a proper identification of policy issues and their respective boundaries. For the second point, it is asserted that the estimation of lobby group and government policy positions is best assisted by the quotation managing, query and co-occurrence functions of the software. The discussion of this case study in applied qualitative data analysis also reveals the strong dependence of research results not only on appropriate research rules and procedures but also the transparency thereof.