

Wiki's as a Form of Qualitative Data Analysis Software (QDAS)

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As a spinner I spent years studying fibers and how to combine them...when I met felt, it all came together in a new form.

As a user of QDAS, I spent years studying the tools and their uses...when I met wiki's, it all came together in a new form.

Spinning and fleece are to Felting as
Qualitative Data Analysis Software (QDAS)
is to Wikis

NVivo	Max-QDA	Atlas-ti
The Ethnograph	Hyper-Research	Qualrus...



QDAS meets Web 2.0 = QDAS 2.0

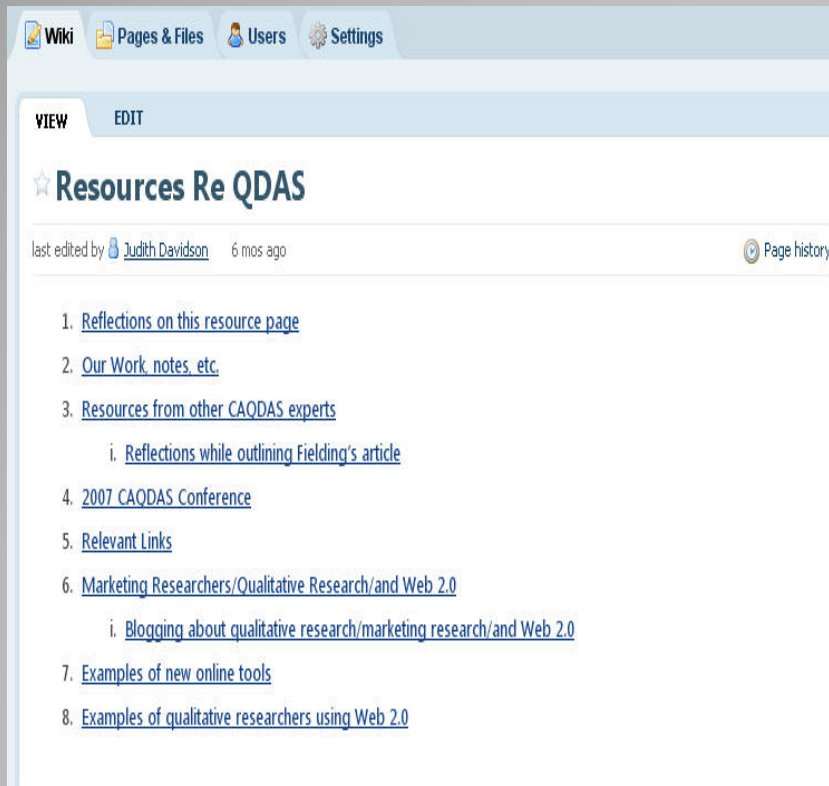


Qualitative
Research Design
for Software Users



Silvana Di Gregorio Judith Davidson

**Silvana di Gregorio introduced me
to QDAS AND Wiki's!**



Davidson, J. & diGregorio, S. (in press). Qualitative research and technology: In the midst of a revolution. In Denzin and Lincoln's 4th ed of the *Handbook of Qualitative Inquiry*.

Wiki's: She made me do it!

**Kakali Battacharya
(2008)**



**Melanie Hundley
(2009)**



The Bard on a Digital Porch

Exploring a Southern Family's
Appropriation of Shakespeare

[Enter](#)

**ICQI: Qualitative Research and
Wiki's**

Fall 2009

- Wetpaint; Robust commercial wiki
- Face-to-face classes
- Wiki served many purposes; less consistency, more diversity.

Spring 2010

- Barebones University Provided Wiki
- 3 online classes
- Wiki used as electronic portfolios for data and assignments
- Every assignment required collaborative critique

**Teaching Qualitative Research
with Wiki's**

- A digital container:
E-project
- Hyperlinking in multiple ways
- Memoing/Tools for Annotating and Reflecting
- Portability and Transparency

Qualitative Research Core Tasks

Wiki's and QDAS provide important capacity in several areas that are key to a digital qualitative research tool for the organization and analysis of data.

QDAS	Wiki's
Stand-alone Software	In-the-Cloud; Network-based application
Developed by social scientists for Social scientists	Developed by developers in a range of different worlds for academics and non-academics
Used exclusively by Qualitative Researchers	Used by people in a variety of different work and recreational areas
QDAS came about because qualitative researchers were searching for efficient ways to organize and analyze data. To do this it was necessary to provide a means for non-programmers to be able to use organization and analysis tools.	Wiki's came about because businesses and others wanted efficient ways to organize and work collaboratively on data. To do this it was necessary to provide a means for non-programmers to make web pages and hyperlink them.
Originally designed for independent use, collaborative options developed later	Designed for collaborative use
First examples appear in the early 1980's	First examples appear in the mid-2000's (about 25 years after QDAS emerged)
Simple interface shifts to more complex interface. One-stop-shopping design.	Very simple and intuitive interfaces, complexity or features gained through Apps.
As a teaching tool, costly to provide all students with access. Sharing projects is possible but requires careful planning and clear rules about organization of projects and sending. <u>Dropboxes</u> may be required for larger projects.	As a teaching tool, inexpensive to provide all students with access. Sharing is very easy and can be done with minimal fuss.
Privacy and securing data is an essential concern in QDAS.	Wiki's are often public affairs. There is capacity for private and public <u>usage</u> .

Differences: QDAS and Wiki's

QDAS	Wiki's
<p>QDAS does not (at this point in time) have dedicated communication tools. You can compare team members' contributions, but communication within the QDAS tool has to be carefully arranged through repurposing other tools such as memos.</p>	<p>Wiki's are communication plus! You can comment, email, and join discussions all within the comfort of the wiki.</p>

Communication: An issue that deserves special attention.

- What tools/capacities do qualitative researchers need now? What tools/capacities will we need in the future?
- Is one-stop shopping going to be important in the QR tools of the future? What are the benefits and losses to moving away from this model?
- How will pricing affect access to the tools qualitative researchers need? How will pricing steer us towards or away from different options?
- Will the problems that hindered broad use of QDAS among qualitative researchers continue to plague the use of new Web 2.0 tools? Will the anti-technology arguments of qualitative researchers move with us into the future?
- What implications do these new tools have for the training of up-and-coming qualitative researchers? What digital expertise should be required of those in our field?
- If everyone can do qualitative research (tagging, interpreting, crowd sourcing)...will there be any need for qualitative researchers in the future?

Questions for Qualitative Researchers



It all comes back to sheep and felt!