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Methodological Quandaries: Digital Tools and Qualitative Research

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Methodological Quandaries for Qualitative Researchers Using Digital Tools

- Acceptance Quandary
- Integration Quandary
- Sustainability Quandary

Quandary: (Thank you Wiktionary!)

Etymology

16th century. Origin unknown; perhaps a dialectal corruption (simulating a word of Latin origin with suffix *-ary*) of *wandreth* ("evil, plight, peril, adversity, difficulty"), from Middle English *wandreth*, from Old Norse *vandræði* ("difficulty, trouble"), from *vandr* ("difficult, requiring pains and care").[1][2]

Definition

quandary (*plural* **quandaries**)

A state of not knowing what to decide; a state of difficulty or perplexity; a state of uncertainty, hesitation or puzzlement; a pickle; a predicament. [quotations ▼]

A dilemma, a difficult decision or choice.

The Acceptance Quandary

- Original Sin or Rejecting Digital Tools Out of Hand

- Technology can be dangerous to brain functioning!

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKbDRz2IU_w

The Integration Quandary

A Commitment to Changing our Practices

Manual practices to Digital practices: What does that mean? Why has it been so difficult?

- What is practice? In particular, what is qualitative research practice?
- When did it start?
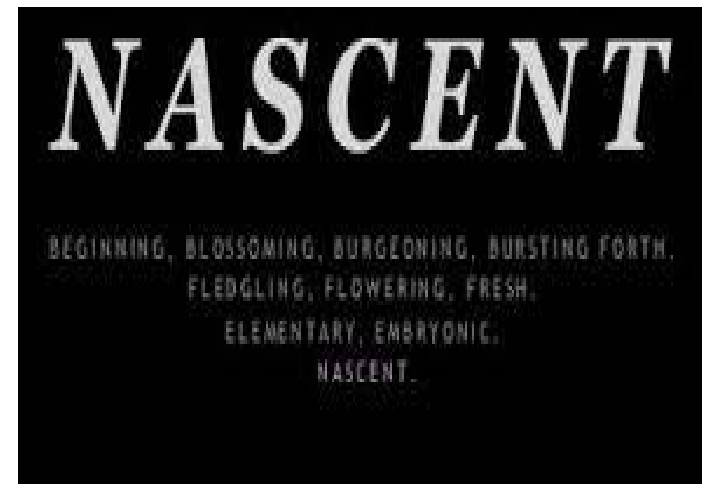- At what point does it become digital?

Take Note Conference, 11/2/12

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University

Nascent Change

- What helps to prepare the way?

- Where does integration begin?

- How does ongoing integration of change blend together?

Where did qualitative research technologies start?

Early Modern Medical text (1500's) annotated by an unknown reader.

Annotated Books Online: http://www.annotatedbooksonline.com/

Or did digital technologies in qualitative research start here?
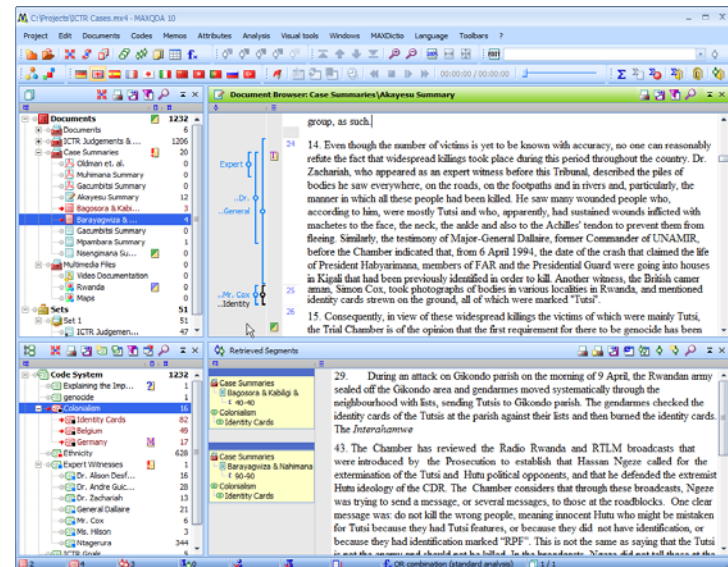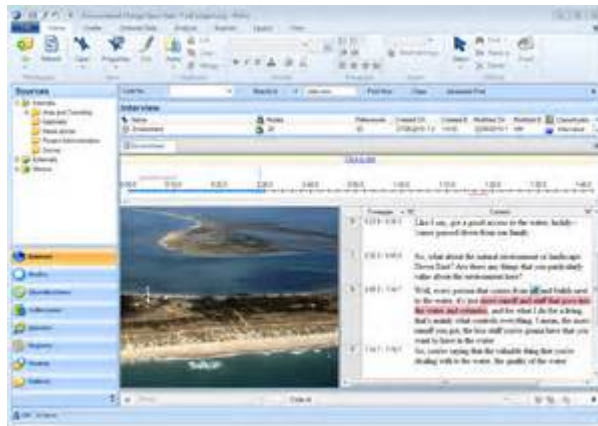
Library Card Catalog

Library Index Cards

QDAS: late 20th-early 21st century

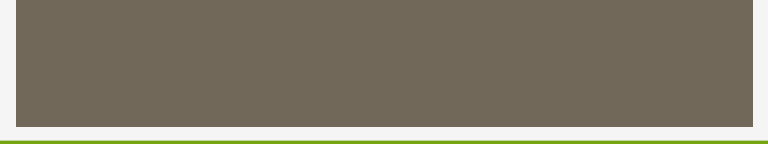## Nvivo Screen Shot

MaxQDA Screen Shot

Technological Movement in Qualitative Research

Stand Alone Software	Transitory Forms	Web 2.0 possibilities
Nvivo	Dedoose	Notobene (NB)
MaxQDA	Wikis	Iannotate
Atlas-ti		Mandolay
Hyper-research		Diigo
QDA Miner...		

What digital forms will we ultimately choose?

Tagging

Archiving

Searching

Where are the commonalities?

Annotating

Sharing

Sticky Places between Stand Alone and Web 2.0 alternatives

Coding vs. Tagging
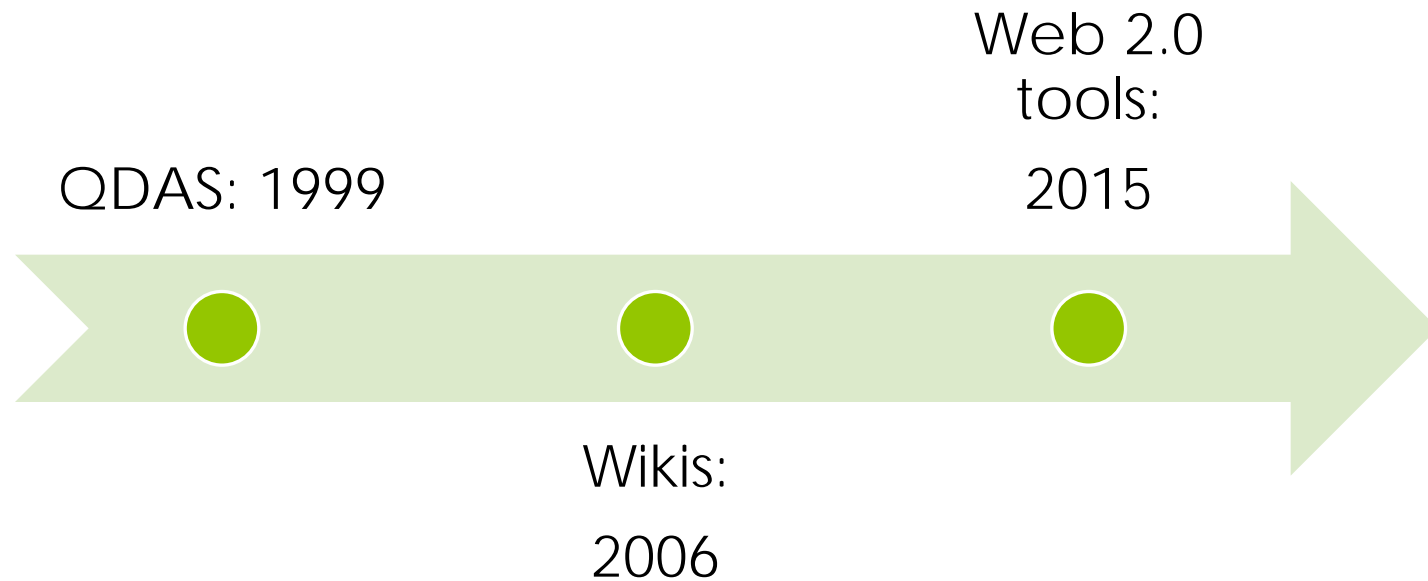
Security vs. Sharing

Searching within vs. searching across

The Sustainability Quandary

Acceptance + Integration = Teaching to the Next Generation

My Personal Trajectory Teaching with Digital Tools

QDAS: 1999

Web 2.0 tools:

2015

Wikis:

2006

- How should we orient students of research toward the digital?
- How do we prepare them to be prepared for constant change?
- What principles will hold firm over time?

Qualitative Researchers of the Future

Standards for the profession: What should be expected of future graduates?

What is nascent in our current practice?

- How do today's digital qualitative research practices foreshadow tomorrow's new practices?
- How will new quandaries of acceptance, integration, and sustainability emerge as our practices evolve?

References:
People I am Thinking With

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Paulus, T. and Bennett, A. (unpublished manuscript, under review) *"I have a love-hate relationship with ATLAS.ti": Integrating qualitative data analysis software into a graduate research methods course."*

Sessa, R., (June 21, 2012). ISTE 2012—A Tempting Trio: Using Twitter, YouTube, and Diigo in the Classroom.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKbDRz2IU_w

References: Take Note

Take Note Conference, 11/2/12, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University

http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/event/2012-take-note-conference

From Theater to Laboratory

Moderator - **Alex Csiszar**, Assistant Professor of the History of Science, Harvard University

Markus Krajewski, Associate Professor of Media History, Bauhaus University, Weimar

Tiffany Stern, Professor of English, University College, Oxford University

Davidson, J. (November 23, 2012). Take note to make note. A blog entry on qrfrag at: http://qrfrag.blogspot.com/2012/11/take-note-to-make-note.html

Davidson, J. (November 23, 2012). Take Note at Radcliffe Institute. A blog entry on qrfrag at: http://qrfrag.blogspot.com/2012/11/take-note-at-radcliffe-institute.html

Some references to my work on these topics

diGregorio, S. & Davidson, J. (2008). Design for Software Users. Open University Press: UK.

Davidson, J. & diGregorio (2011). Qualitative research and technology: In the midst of a revolution. In Denzin, N. & Lincoln, Y. Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research, 627-643. Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA.

See also: https://qrfrag.blogspot.com