### Presentation at the 2015 International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry

Davidson, J. (2015). Methodological Quandaries: Digital Tools and Qualitative Research. Paper presentation at the International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry, May 2015, University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois.

Methodological
Quandaries: Digital
Tools and
Qualitative
Research

Judith Davidson
Graduate School of
Education, UMass-Lowell

# 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 <u>dilemma</u>, a difficult <u>decision</u> or <u>choice</u>.

### 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=IKbD Rz2IU\_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?



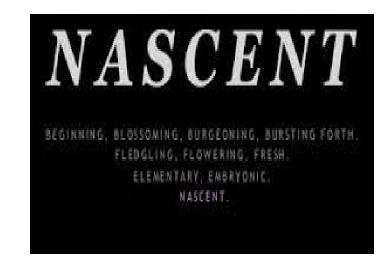


### Take Note Conference, 11/2/12

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University



- What helps to prepare the way?
- Where does integration begin?
- How does ongoing integration of change blend together?





i i leo liberalicaté edicatións mant ad finé felicitatio moum pura et admirabili ciue oue eft abundantia bom? visipes, non th abundantia formica no referiit ve organ ar ad fine friicituste ciutie leri's facta. Excedit stany benocipacii regule manie cui se opposité obserchée. Et thi Ex pre preres corp! bo è no Albertevi be ainlibuatory. auritendeuren ad eelum ero pres office officement core \* et pfectius ent coep\* q6 gameter ät lögitudin men dem eit furfu qo eft furfus ...... ndt. Odirer eft be Lutipadi latum baber corpus fcóm naea, Siuna quidd vermeo ni peanonară, Lengitudo muinty til det if Seichung qua di lara. Ito enias felina peametrio. Didinant cui bout quotama fenius. Fin fm latinating Sensoritur n fenfuü membro babet. 6. ium. Et piccioco et plura dalibuo.c.i. Er eo or come og animation er paruit. virtuse rome organi anime. ser organi corporia of cit L. Er rome frome with apfir andram care ji vitimam co and hundles allered, a land Eöptemenen antenstium quem cues natura potoir virture speculatinam er co eno folias quaf i mucicii po peforio accomodata renue pimo officion de Zhomo. a comit caules reră videc

earum p perellas et qua parat Rebuisp páribas à vitre curium vides, ad ea vitre curium vides, ad ea bene ètaif ab Brifto.cp b potre in carne et officum puties in carne et officum Eum rône pieceista que traqu. Cant becès eft ve i finnas, et qui ve mi fir m un be poirreale peludinum fir viusculfinus ira que pratione las pundante et cipio bus' capit' greffin

The state of the s

#### Denatur

Himma bolisis be ainlife "III generie con in media copiectius Z sterreibrio corpe celeibia Esch bimo fotamit bed b terreftri që i materia oi boier Etaplo be Terri puluere revertimur. Ex peruniae, fed perrefbribe plean terreibria q ad cas lipis en into crentie, et po ra peerea mostace à oli cahine hatú č terrefe utuo ėmų terra ofculaba Serben per ée co quipie celeftio ve phat alber er space & vaposoff\_terrous aŭi mirabili er vetribo cer leftia, ipo nia coop" et mel oftra v toni celii. Per ain or binits one pficit, 'flan Lethium of billinguary, ve turam tripler corporie vi Eripler bomina genus

## Where did qualitative research technologies start?

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

Annotated Books Online: <a href="http://www.annotatedbooksonline.com/">http://www.annotatedbooksonline.com/</a>

## Or did digital technologies in qualitative research start here?

**Library Card Catalog** 

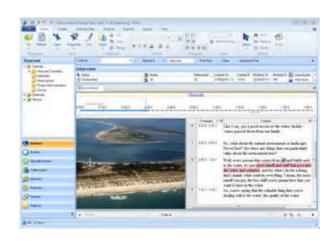


**Library Index Cards** 

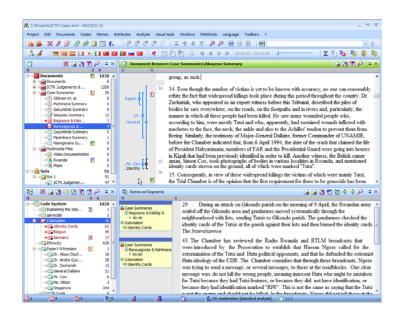


## QDAS: late 20<sup>th</sup>-early 21<sup>st</sup> century

#### **Nvivo Screen Shot**



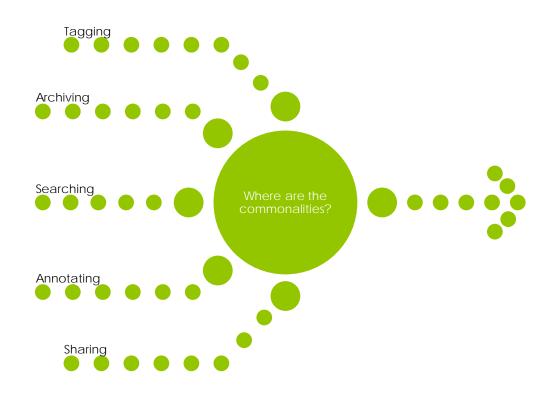
### MaxQDA Screen Shot



## Technological Movement in Qualitative Research

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

## What digital forms will we ultimately choose?



### 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

Web 2.0

tools:

QDAS: 1999 2015

Wikis:

2006



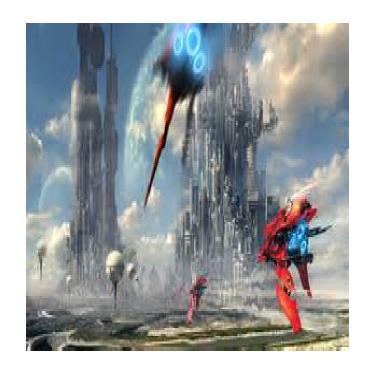
- How should we orient students of research toward the digital?
- How do we prepare them to be prepared for constant change?
- What principles will hold firm over time?

### 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

Jackson, K. (2014). Qualitative Data Analysis Software, Visualizations, and Transparency: Toward an Understanding of Transparency in Motion. Paper presented at the Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis conference, May 3, 2014. Surrey, England

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. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKbDRz2IU\_w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKbDRz2IU\_w</a>

### 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: <a href="http://qrfrag.blogspot.com/2012/11/take-note-to-make-note.html">http://qrfrag.blogspot.com/2012/11/take-note-to-make-note.html</a>

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

## 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. <u>Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research</u>, 627-643. Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA.

See also: <a href="https://qrfrag.blogspot.com">https://qrfrag.blogspot.com</a>