

26 Jan 2010
Internal seminar

Introduction to CAQDA

Ronggui HUANG

Department of Public and Social Administration
City University of Hong Kong

What is CAQDA?

- * In a nutshell, to use Computer and specific software to Aid Qualitative Data Analysis

What can CAQDA do?

- * Integrated system to handle massive data
 - * One single system
 - * Categorization of files
 - * Basic search functions
 - * Coding and retrieval
 - * Categorization of codes and theory building
 - * Memo and journals writing
 - * And more

Pros and cons

* Pros

* Manageable

- * Focus on some aspects only at a specific stage

* Reusable efforts

- * Category

- * Attributions

- * Relation between code/coding/file etc

* Tractable (and reproducible?)

* Cons

- * Time-consuming

Codes and coding

- * Code-frame
 - * Important concepts
 - * From literature or interviewees
 - * Refined as you proceed
- * Coding
 - * Link text segment with code(s)
- * Retrieval
 - * Get all text segments linked with a code
 - * Simple and complicated retrieval

Theory- and data-driven analysis

- * Strive for balance
- * Armed with theoretical concepts and ready to refine them
 - * Two strategies of generating codes
- * Comparisons
 - * between data and theories
 - * between different cases
 - * between different time-frames or stages
 - *

Category system

- * Direct classification
- * In direct via attributes
 - * E.g. background information about participants
 - * Summary of characteristics of participants
- * Conditional retrieval
 - * E.g. Do interviewees from Shanghai say the same as from Guangzhou?
 - * To use Shanghai data only in this paper
 - * **Helpful tool to aid comparison**

Memo system

- * Memo writing as a driver of thinking
- * A variety of memos
- * Memo writing as a process, write
 - * as you generate/adjust a code-frame
 - * as you categorize the codes
 - * as you do the coding

In-text annotation system

- * Highlight issues such as:
 - * validity of the data
 - * situational information about the interviewing process
 - * attach vital information to data (e.g. your own interpretations as annotation)

Software

- * Commercial

- * Nvivo, Atlas.ti and others

- * Free

- * RQDA, Weft QDA, TAMS Analyzer