Software – some practical examples

[This session should be tailored towards participants' needs and knowledge, allowing for the sharing of practical information on different tools and techniques for the capture, storage, analysis and preservation of data]

Possible examples:

- Wikis: good for sharing; open-source; hypertextual (either online or offline); easy to use.[1]
- Scrivener/Page Four: for Mac[2] and Windows[3] respectively, to create a database to store data (in audio, image and text formats) and write, it allows to organize, tag, link, search, backlink, code and transcribe. It connects with reference managers.
- NVivo:[4] proprietary (and rather expensive), Windows-only software to store, analyze and modify data in various formats (including Word documents, PDFs, audio files, database tables, spreadsheets, videos and pictures). See also Atlas.ti.[5] (proprietary) and Weft QDA[6] (free).
- EndNote/Bookends/Zotero/Mendeley/other reference managers: to store, annotate and index bibliographic references, and format bibliographies – a great time saver. Whilst EndNote has been the most popular so far, users seem to be moving increasingly towards Zotero and Mendeley.[7]
- Online databases: these include academic databases where publications are stored and catalogued.[8] Digital repositories also come under this umbrella – we will return to these as tools for sharing data.
- Spreadsheets for tabular data, such as Excel; more sophisticated tools, allowing for some statistical or other kinds of analysis, are SPSS[9] (proprietary, but might be provided by institutions)
- Photoshop,[10] iPhoto[11] or free equivalents such as Irfanview[12] for inserting metadata into images;

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[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki_software;
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_wiki_software
[2] Scrivener for Windows is currently in public beta; see
http://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.php. On their website, you also have advice on other writing software for both operating systems: http://www.literatureandlatte.com/links.php.
[3] http://www.softwareforwriting.com/pagefour.html
[4] http://www.qsrinternational.com/products_nvivo.aspx. For further guidance on using NVivo, see http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/media/262066/ukda-datamanagement-nvivo.pdf.
[5] http://www.atlasti.com/
[6] http://www.pressure.to/qda/
[7] Many institutions provide specialised training on reference managers *[insert specific information on courses available]*. For a comparison of different reference management software, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_reference_management_software
[8] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_academic_databases_and_search_engines. Many library catalogues also connect to those databases. For a comprehensive online catalogue of UK libraries, see http://copac.ac.uk/.
[9] http://www-01.ibm.com/software/analytics/spss/; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SPSS
[10]
http://success.adobe.com/en/uk/sem/products/photoshopfamily.html?sdid=IBFIW&skwcid=TC|22762|photoshop||S|e|5974630103

- Livescribe Smartpen:[13] records what you write and what is being said and links them together. After an interview you can tap the pen anywhere on your notes and it will play back the audio from the moment you made that particular pen stroke. All of your notes and audio recordings are transferred to your computer automatically when you charge the pen via USB, and your notes are then searchable as well.
- Evernote:[14] allows to sort and tag notes. If you have a smartphone, Evernote also allows you to take pictures and upload them directly to Evernote. Any text in the picture is read by Evernote and can be searched later - great for grabbing pictures of rare documents you come across during fieldwork or archival research. Evernote also allows you to encrypt your notes. Not recommended for highly sensitive data, given that the data lives online, but that decision would be up to each researcher given the parameters and risks of their own research.
- Speech recognition/transcription software such as Dragon Naturally Speaking[15]
- Mind mapping tools,[16] e.g. Prezi[17]
- …

[List can be extended if some participants have previously agreed to give more extensive presentations on their documentation techniques and tools]

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[11] http://www.apple.com/ilife/iphoto/

[12] http://www.irfanview.com/

[13] http://www.livescribe.com/en-gb/smartpen/

[14] http://www.evernote.com/

[15] http://www.nuance.co.uk/naturallyspeaking/; for a comparison of different tools, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_speech_recognition_software; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transcription_%28software%29

[16] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mind_mapping_software;

[17] http://prezi.com/index/