

Collaborative Data Services

The Case of Annotation for Transparent Inquiry (ATI)

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Qualitative Data Repository



QUALITATIVE DATA
REPOSITORY

Abstract

Providing effective data services often requires collaboration between different organizations with differing goals and cultures. This presentation provides a narrative account of the development of Annotation for Transparent Inquiry (ATI), a collaboration between the Qualitative Data Repository (QDR), a domain repository; Cambridge University Press (the Press); and Hypothesis, an open source software nonprofit.

ATI uses open web annotations (using Hypothesis software) to annotate academic work (published by the Press or other publishers), to data sources (curated and archived by QDR). By collaborating, the three organizations were able to draw on each others' strengths. For example, by using open-source, open-standard software, QDR was able to steer away from some of the problems that previous in-house tool development posed. These and other synergies illustrate the enormous benefits offered by such collaboration.

However, collaborating with diverse partners also poses significant challenges. For example, partners viewed ATI with different levels of priority within their larger operations, were interested in the project for distinct reasons, and on differing timetables.

The presentation concludes by discussing which components made the collaboration ultimately successful and lessons for similar endeavors.

Project Partners

"Let each organization do what they do best."

Disclaimer: This presentation is not endorsed by Hypothesis or Cambridge University Press



QDR, a social science domain repository, **curates** the annotations and **stores** and **preserves** underlying data sources

Interests: Advancing research transparency; data acquisition; increase visibility of QDR



Hypothesis, a nonprofit software development organization, provides the **open source software** for the integration of annotations into publishing and reading technologies

Interests: Advancing open web annotations; demonstrating use cases; partnership agreements



Cambridge University Press continues its long history as an authoritative **publisher of academic work**, now via its new Cambridge Core platform.

Interests: Establish Press as leading publishing partner in (open) social science; show case technical abilities of Core platform

What Is Annotation for Transparent Inquiry (ATI)?

Any digitally published manuscript can be annotated using Annotation for Transparent Inquiry (ATI), like this example "Making the Real: Rhetorical Abduction and the Bangladesh Liberation War" by Joseph O'Mahoney.

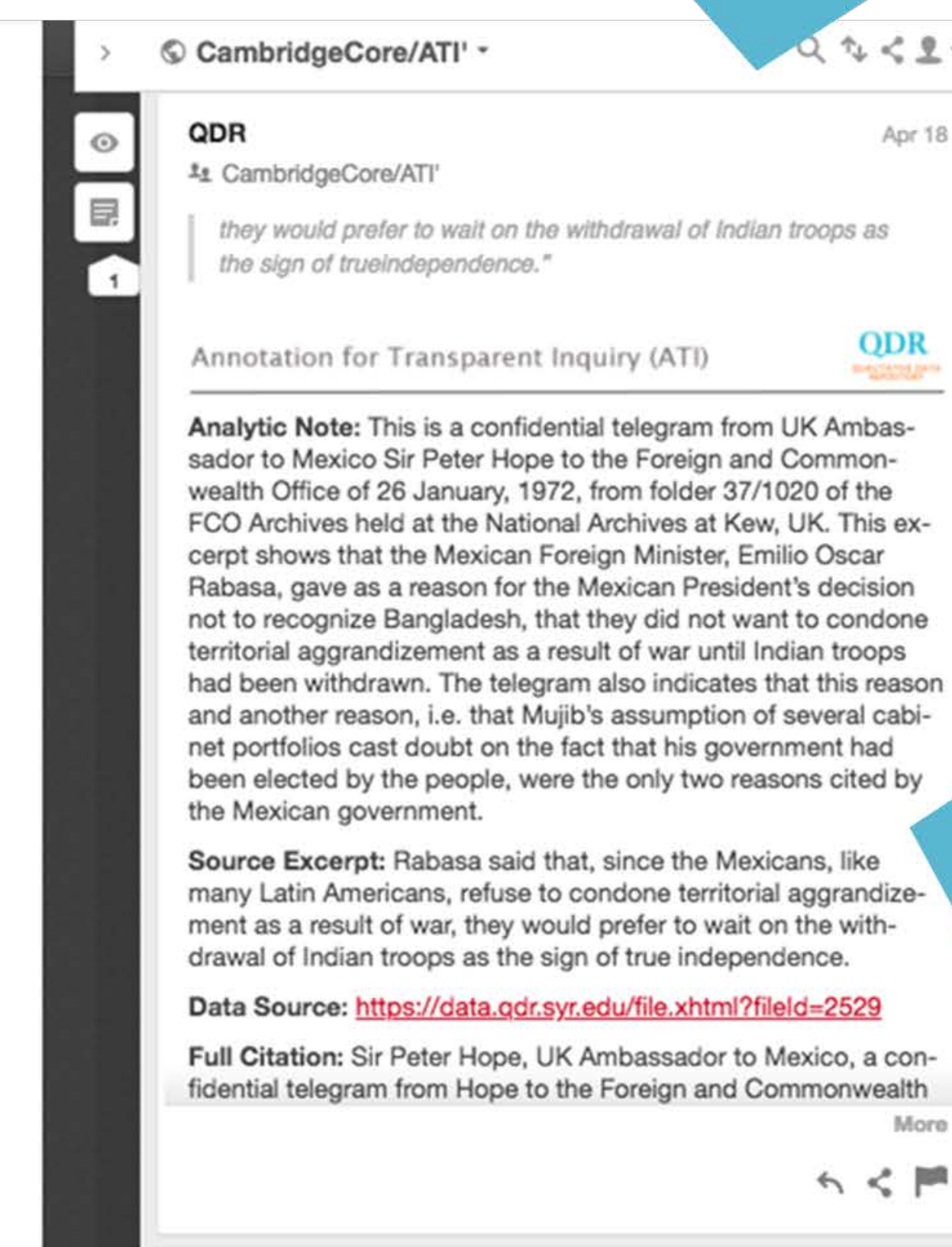
ATI Annotations

- Displayed alongside publisher's digital manuscript
- Created by authors
- Curated by QDR
- Hosted and served by Hypothesis

Conditioning of Policy Decision on Action

Prior to the Mujib-Heath meeting on 8 January 1972, only two states, India and Bhutan, had recognized the state of Bangladesh, and no states had done so since the end of the fighting and the ceasefire declaration on 17 December 1971.⁸⁸ There were four categories of reasons given to British officials for why recognition of Bangladesh might be a problem.⁸⁹ One was that recognition might negatively affect the state's relations with Pakistan, and for some states, like Portugal and Hungary, this was their only stated concern. However, many states conditioned their recognition decision on an action related to Indian troop withdrawal and gave three different types of reasons for doing so. States also differed in the extent of troop withdrawal they required before recognition. See Table 2 for a full list of states, their stated reason for conditioning recognition on withdrawal (if any can be identified), and the actual withdrawal or a label for the action. For example, the Mexican Foreign Minister, Emilio Oscar Rabasa, decided not to recognize Bangladesh because, "since the Mexicans, like many Latin Americans, refuse to condone territorial aggrandizement as a result of war, they would prefer to wait on the withdrawal of Indian troops as the sign of true independence."⁹⁰ This statement also appeals to "true independence." Self-determination is another important value expressed by the Mexican representative and is the second type of reason commonly appealed to as justifying recognition as Bangladesh. For

⁸⁸ See Figure 2.
⁸⁹ A frequent concern was that states had to recognize in a group, or on the same day as multiple other states. However, most officials for major nation-states, like the UK and US, stated explicitly that



ATI Annotation Elements

One or more of the following:

- Analytic note
- Source excerpt
- Source excerpt translation
- Link to data source hosted by QDR
- Full citation

Successes

- Successful grant application (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)
- Partners have different networks: increases reach
- Division of labor
 - Little technical debt for Cambridge and QDR
 - Rich use-case information for Hypothesis
 - Connection to authors via Cambridge
- Information sharing
 - QDR learned about publishing and details of web annotation
 - Hypothesis learned about open science/data and further engaged with publishers
 - Cambridge learned about open science/data, gathered initial experience with web annotations

Recognition



Challenges

- Different cultures: Academic research group, large publisher, non-profit tech company:
 - How decisions are made
 - Accountability to stakeholders
 - Different time horizons
- Interests broadly aligned but:
 - Different revenue models
 - Different priority of ATI for larger mission
 - Different overarching mission

Lessons

- ATI would not have been successful without partnership
- Knowledge exchange, division of labor, and network extension are main benefits
- Clear communication about respective expectations imperative
- Having 1-2 "champions" for each partner helps. Champions move the project internally, but also build relationships to other organizations and facilitate communication
- Timelines for software features are often tentative
- Funders and other organizations believe that heterogeneous partnerships can produce innovation and powerful collaboration

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Project Activities

ATI Workshops:

- 2 Workshops 40-50 participants each
- Workshop 1: Commissioned *retrospective* annotation of recently published articles with qualitative data in social & health science
 - Drawn heavily from Cambridge-published journals
- Workshop 2: Commissioned annotation of articles *during writing process*
- For both workshops, commissioned reviews of the annotations. Reviewers first read papers without, then with annotations and commented
- Authors and reviewers provided detailed written feedback
- Joint notes during all workshop sessions
- Presentations from all three project partners during workshops



Participant's comment

Wider impact

ATI Challenge

- Papers for Workshop 2 were solicited with "ATI. Challenge," a paper competition with multi-disciplinary selection committee
- Received 80 submissions – international and multi-disciplinary

Publishing ATI

- Most projects from Workshop 1 published
- Cambridge integrated Hypothesis functionality into Core platform and provided open access to papers
- <https://qdr.syr.edu/ati/ati-models>

See ATI in action

Historical sources: <http://bit.ly/ati-omahoney>



Linguistics (audio): <http://bit.ly/ati-audio>

