
Curating Qualitative Data

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Introduction-- Hi I'm Mikala, and I was a part of the three-person team tackling curating qualitative data. Our primer, for those who may not be familiar with it, is available HERE (drop link in chat):

<https://github.com/DataCurationNetwork/data-primers/blob/master/Qualitative%20Data%20Curation%20Primer/qualitative-data-curation-primer.md>

. We focused on the unifying traits of curating qualitative data: in other words, beyond specific tools and types of qualitative data, what are the critical steps that apply to most iterations of qualitative data?

In that endeavor, we highlight different types of files that should be included in just about any qualitative data project, including the raw data, the processed data, a read me, that sort of thing; as well as questions that curators should ask when selecting a repository:

Our process

Iterative

DIANA- Originally started as a supplemental primer to the NVivo primer in development, then considered a deep dive into 3 commonly used tools (Atlas.ti, Dedoose, NVivo) but we realized there were broader issues that would be more useful to address, such as validity and transparency in qualitative research.

Challenges

- Scoping the primer
- Remaining system and data-type agnostic
- Accepting that our primer would age quickly
- Balancing usefulness with specificity
- Clarifying terminology and expectations particular to qualitative research

Mikala

>defining the scope of the primer was initially challenging since it is not supporting a particular data/file format

>we realized we had to get a better understanding of what well-curated qualitative data looks like, so we explored lots of examples and learned more about data quality and reproducibility in qualitative research

Next Steps

- Different types of qualitative data (e.g., surveys, interviews, etc.)

-Keeping this up to date, especially connecting this with other, tool or discipline specific primers

-Create primers specific for different types of qualitative data-- for example, surveys, interviews, or even twitter and the textual component therein.

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