

Making Qualitative Analysis Easy With Basic Content Analysis

by Antoni Casasempere

Antoni Casasempere is a qualitative data research consultant with CualSoft who teaches ATLAS.ti to Latin American social researchers. For his own sociological research he works with immigrant children. ATLAS.ti is an important resource for Antoni, as it gives him and the researchers he consults the global control of the analysis steps that they need.

I. Memos And Bibliographies

atlas.ti

Many research projects involve a huge textual corpus--hundreds, or even thousands of words waiting to be read by the researcher. Help!

STEP 01

Maybe your research started with a look at what others have done in that specific area. But this can be a big headache.

Solution: use ATLAS.ti to handle your bibliography!

The memo system will get the job done.

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Debate sobre la Ley de Calidad de la Educación TERCER EJE DE LA LOCE O CREACIÓN DE UN SISTEM A GROUNDED THEORY FOR PATIENTS' SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF hospital care El problema a investigar: una aproximación empírica	and a second	
Evolución de la población extranjera en la Comunidad Valenciana. 1998-2005. DEMOCRACIA Y EDUCACIÓN, UNA MIRADA DESDE EL DISCURSO TEÓRICO INVESTIGACIÓN Dictamen del comité de las regiones, 1997, sobre la educación intercultural	Bibliografía Bibliografía Bibliografía	Set Typology
Observatorio de la inmigración en Alicante. Evolución de la población extranjera en Alicante y Elche. TEMA 2º El proceso de identificación y valoración de las Necesidades Educativas Especiales y su relac Tema 3º El Centro Educativo ante la Diversidad. Referentes básicos para la elaboración de Proyecto.	Bibliografía Bibliografía	
SAGE - A Mutual Catalytic Model of Formative Evaluation SAGE - Acculturation Attitudes and Adaptation among Portuguese Immigrants in Germany	Bibliografía Bibliografía	
TEMA 4° Los recursos personales y materiales para la atención a alumnos/as con necesidades educ. Work-Based Learning in Occupational Education and Training Youth of Maghrebian Origin Between Municipal Politics and the Life-World	Bibliografía Bibliografía Bibliografía	

Be sure to define a "bibliography" memo type.

STEP 02

Search in your bibliography database for the topic you are researching and save the paper files in a computer folder.

2	SAGE papers on migration + spanish
	author +children education

STEP 03

Copy the text from one paper and paste it into a new memo. Save the memo with the paper title. (Be sure to look over the text. Does it need some editing?)

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Title: A GROUNDED THE	EORY FOR PATIENTS' SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF hospital care

ICUS NURS WEB J | ISSUE 22 | APRIL - JUNE 2005 (NURSING.GR) Page 1 - of 15 A GROUNDED THEORY FOR PATIENTS' SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY (Now you can read the bibliography article in ATLAS.ti 5. But...Why not use ATLAS.ti to search or code into this text?

STEP 05

Transfer the memo to the primary document pane via MISCELLANEOUS | USE AS PRIMARY DOC as shown below.

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Debate sobre la	Ley de Calidad d	de la Educación TERCER EJE DE
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The memo has been converted to a primary document. You can perform any ATLAS.ti function for primary docs, such as

- Text segmentation
- Coding
- Autocoding
- Hypertext rhetoric network
- Text searches and so on. But...



How do I use basic content analysis to discover frequencies of the author terms used in this bibliographical paper?

II. Word-Crunching Data In Open Office Calc Tool

The goal: compile a short list with the most-used terms of the author of the article in order to know the main lines of his/her work.

STEP 01

Save and backup your hermeneutic unit.

STEP 02

Click DOCUMENTS | MISCELLANEOUS | WORD CRUNCHER.

STEP 03

Now you are in the dialog of this tool. We will set it as follows:

🗿 Word Cruncher - Settings	
✓ Include Selected PD only	Uncheck to include ALL current textual PDs. Disabled, if no PD is currently selected.
Use Built-In Tool	Uncheck to create an Excel file.
Use Stoplist: stoplist englis	h.txt
Clean text before counting - ign	pre: []0(}=:),,'#+*~\/&"^<>!?`
🔽 Ignore case	
	Dk Cancel Help

This way, the Word Cruncher output will be sent to Excel.

STEP 04

Save the file in a folder related to your research project.

STEP 05

Tell ATLAS.ti what to do with the output.

WordCruncher Word by PD Matrix	×
Matrix of 1880 Words by 1 PDs exported. (1880 cells)	
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ORun file	
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OK Cancel	

We will select first option: "Do nothing."

STEP 06

As we have installed Open Office, we are going to use the Calc tool to handle this output. Open it from the START icon.

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STEP 07

In the FILE menu, select open browsing to the file where we have stored the data.



STEP 08

You might have to set some parameters for the opening dialog.

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Don't touch anything from this dialog; just click on OK button, (ACEPTAR in Spanish, of course.)

STEP 09

Now the matrix is nearly ready. Take a look at the headers--recognize anything?

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Let's clean this place up!

STEP 10

Click on EDIT | SEARCH AND REPLACE

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Search and replace '-' and '«'. Now we have a nice, clean matrix.

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STEP 11

It's time to "order" the elements so we can easily search the most important terms of the matrix counted from the bibliographical abstract. Click on DATA | ORDER | COLUMN TOTAL | DESCENDENT ORDER. We will have the TOTAL column ordered with biggest frequencies at the top.

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STEP 12

Select only the relevant words and copy them to another spreadsheet. Now that our attention is centered on the main themes from the author discourse, we're ready to print.