Introduction to the two datasets provided for viewing and practising analytic and integrative strategies.

These datasets will support readers of *Integrating Analyses in Mixed Methods Research* in practicing their data analysis skills. Reproduction for other purposes is not permitted. Publication of results from them is also not permitted.

The Research Performance Project

This project is available in NVivo (Pro or Plus version needed for MM functions), MAXQDA (Standard or higher needed), Dedoose, and QDA Miner formats. Files are in compressed format (apart from QDA Miner) for downloading. The software indicated in each filename will need to have been installed in order to open the relevant files. A coding manual to supplement the project files accompanies the files on this website. The password for the Dedoose version of the project is bazeleyrpproject (i.e., the filename). There is no password on the other versions.

Background

The Research Performance project was conceived at a time when university systems in Australia (and in other countries) were in the process of introducing performance evaluation metrics as a way of determining the distribution of base-level institution-wide funding for research activities, as a component of government funding for higher education more generally. Initial attempts to measure performance, in Australia at least, were very quantitatively oriented and relied on simple counting of items of output (such as the raw number of refereed publications) and totalling the value of research grants. No consideration was given, for example, to disciplinary differences in volume, size, or style of inputs or outputs (see Bazeley, 2006, for a further discussion of this issue and its consequences within one university).

The data

Academics across all disciplines in three varied Australian universities were asked to respond to a brief paper-based questionnaire which contained three types of items.

1. Demographic data (university affiliation, gender, level of qualification, level of appointment, level of interest in research, and level of involvement in research).

2. Eight open ended questions, each asking for a description of a researcher who demonstrated one of the following eight attributes in relation to research: ability, quality, satisfaction, active, approachable, productive, bringing benefit, achieving recognition. For example: "Think of someone you regard as having a lot of *ability* when it comes to research. Why do you consider that person to have ability as a researcher? How do they differ from others you might have considered?" Responses to each question are mostly brief, as is typical for "pencil and paper" questionnaires – this is not rich data in qualitative terms!

3. The eight characteristics were then listed twice, with the respondent asked to share 100 points between them firstly to indicate which are more or less important when it comes to actually doing research, and then again to indicate which are more or less important in assessing research performance.

Respondents also had the opportunity to add general comments.

Data management

Data were prepared in Word, originally in a format suitable for NUD*IDT 3 (N3), a predecessor of NVivo – hence the use of asterisks to indicate section headings on what were plain text documents, to allow for auto coding of responses to each question. It was then further developed in NVivo. The story of the development of this project and the management of its data, as the software developed, is told in Bazeley (2002). Further development since 2002 focused on dimensionalising the concept of research performance, initially using statistical strategies, which resulted in extensive learning about transformational strategies and what they could achieve, but not a model that could be used as a basis for assessing performance. Then, inspired by the work of Goertz (2006), more qualitatively oriented strategies were used, building on the experience with, and by now close knowledge of, the data, to result in a published concept model (Bazeley, 2010).

Mixed methods data analysis – what can you do with the data?

The NVivo version and the "translated" versions in MAXQDA, QDA Miner, and Dedoose each hold all the original data files, variable data, and attached coding (variable data is grouped for convenience in Dedoose; high and low ratings are collected in Sets in NVivo). Definitions for each of the descriptor codes, set up as part of properties for each code in NVivo, are provided as a supplementary document (Codebook-Research Performance) for those using the alternative programs.

These data are useful for exploring methods of combining and comparing linked qualitative and quantitative data, as outlined in Chapter 6 of this corresponding book, for transforming qualitative coding to quantitative variables as a case by variable table for use in statistical analyses, as outlined in Chapter 8, and for generating profile matrices or similarity matrices to export for statistical analysis, as described in Chapter 9. Note that if data are being exported, it is advisable to export first to Excel, in order to "clean up" any formatting issues and requirements before importing into statistical software (including adding a label for the first ID column). MAXQDA additionally offers some statistical analyses within the software as an add-on module, while coding data generated from QDA Miner can be read by SimStat for statistical analysis. QDA Miner and NVivo additionally offer a range of options within the software for multidimensional visual displays based on profile or similarity matrices.

Keywords to use in searching help files or manuals for guidance on how to set up these analyses are *matrix* (especially for NVivo) and/or *crosstab*. The MAXQDA manual (accessed via Help) has a section on *Mixed Methods Functions*; in Dedoose, check under *Analysis and Filtering*; the most relevant sections in the QDA Miner manual (also accessed via Help) are *Coding Analysis Features* (for analyses) and *Miscellaneous Features* (for exporting). Matrix queries and mixed methods functions for NVivo are covered in detail in Chapters 6 and 9 (respectively) of Bazeley and Jackson (2013). Explore also the range of charting and visualisation options available in each of these programs.

Users who explore the project in all three programs will have the opportunity of comparing the strengths and weaknesses of each, as all handle the more advanced functions associated with mixed methods analysis in slightly different ways.

The Wellbeing Project

This project is available as an NVivo project, and has been converted also to MAXQDA.

Background

The Wellness Centres, which are the focus of this study, were established by the Older Women's Network in New South Wales to enhance the health and wellbeing of older women, as a complement to their other advocacy work on behalf of older women. There are currently six Centres, with plans to develop more. With the exception of one that has a paid part time coordinator, the Centres are run by volunteers.

The project and its data

This project was initially prompted by the need to provide evaluation data to two funding bodies (one focused on one Centre, the other on the organisation as a whole), but has then extended to also ask more theoretical questions about what wellbeing means for older women, and in particular how wellbeing intersects with health. The project is still very much in a development phase, with more extensive data collections currently being carried out.

The available data are drawn from a wide range of source types, including a group discussion, interviews, literature and website materials, video, and cultural domain (e.g., free listing) data. Thus far, they can be best described as preliminary, exploratory, and of variable quality. Additionally, some content has been removed from each interview as part of the process of de-identification of the data, and most literature (anything that is not open access) has necessarily been removed.

What this project offers to those discovering mixed methods integration and analysis is the opportunity (a) to explore how different types of data can be brought together within a common framework using the coding and data management tools (attributes/variables, cases, sets) available in qualitative software, and (b) to think through how diverse data can be used in a complementary way to generate an integrated report – processes described in Chapter 5. A preliminary report from the data is included within the project files (at the top level within Documents/Sources) to illustrate this style of writing up for complementary data.

References

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