



Call for papers for the Conference:

Is Qualitative Analysis Software *really* comparable?

Conference at KWALON, the Dutch Working Group for Qualitative Research, Utrecht, the Netherlands, April 22 and 23, 2010

Organisers

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Main Theme

One of the ever-returning questions by (novice) qualitative researchers is, how to analyze their data and which software to use best. Although both questions are often seen as one, they are indeed separate questions. Another often heard remark on qualitative data analysis is, that it is definitely a function of the person analyzing. This conference seeks to open up discussion on these issues, paying particular attention to researchers' evaluation of qualitative software in terms of how it facilitated, or hindered, analysis.

An experiment with participation of software developers

To this end we've designed an experiment, in which we have invited software developers to analyze a given dataset with a prescribed research question. They will elaborate on how the software facilitated or hindered them to deal with these data and relate this to their personal/theoretical preferences. As every developer has received exactly the same dataset with exactly the same research question, we can now *really* compare software tools in a way not done before. Several leading software developers (Atlas.ti, Cassandre, CAT-QDAP, Digital Replay System, Hyperresearch, MaxQDA, NVivo, QUALRUS, Transana) will participate in the experiment.

Paper submission for software users

Besides the developers' experiment, we would like to have users of any CAQDAS to reflect on how the software (tools) helped or hindered them with their analysis, and how their own preferences, theoretical, professional, and/or cultural background, experiences and personality shaped the analysis.

Therefore, we would like to invite you to send us a proposal for a paper in English for this conference **by November 15, 2009**. Abstracts can be sent to j.evers@uvh.nl.

Please enter “**Abstract KWALON Conference**” in the topic line of your e-mail!

We would like this paper to be organized around the following topics:

- What software did you use?
- What made you decide to use this particular software?
- How did you use it? What analysis strategies did you use and how did the tools in the software enable that?
- How did the software enable you in keeping track of the way your data analysis was influenced by your background, personality, and/or theoretical framework ?
- On which type of data did you use it?
- How did the software help you in your project? What were down sides, what were good aspects of the software?
- Did the software alter your way of analyzing and if so, how?

The proposal should be minimum 2 and maximum 5 pp, dealing with the above questions.

Publication of papers

Papers presented at this Conference will be published in a special issue of the open access Journal Forum: Qualitative Social Research (11.000 subscribers!) in 2011.

Registration

The Conference registration fee for early birds is € 165 (till November 30,2009), after that date registration costs are € 225. The registration form is available at: www.kwalon.nl