

Highlights about Computer Assisted Qualitative Analysis Software at Boston College

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Three of the most popular CAQDAS packages in use at Boston College are HyperResearch, Nvivo and Atlas.ti. Trial versions of all three software packages, along with tutorials, white papers, testimonials and other information may be downloaded free from the developer sites highlighted below. Additional consultation on the use of these three packages is available by contacting ITS Research Services at researchservices@bc.edu or Rani Dalgin, Senior Research Consultant, ITS at dalgin@bc.edu.

There has been an initiative for the past 15 years in the area of CAQDAS/QDAS software called a Project Exchange Standard. There is an interesting chart on this page to see where each of the various packages discussed on this page stands with respect to this standard:

<https://www.qdasoftware.org/products-project-exchange/>

HyperResearch 4.0.3

HyperResearch, was co-developed in 1990 by Boston College sociologist Sharlene Hesse Biber, Boston College E-teaching consultant Scott Kinder and former Boston College Information Technology employee Paul Dupuis to accommodate Dr. Hesse Biber's methodological requirements. A new version of HyperRESEARCH, HyperRESEARCH 4.0.1 was recently released. In addition to accommodating text documents HyperRESEARCH now also accommodates RTF, HTML, and Unicode (international character set) documents as well as text, video, and music data. Many new tools for hierarchical coding, merging multiple studies, and more have been added in version 4.0.1. HyperRESEARCH is very intuitive and easy to learn. In addition to HyperResearch's excellent online tutorials and help resources, an added resource for HyperResearch users at Boston College is Scott Kinder's willingness to meet with Boston College HyperResearch users and if necessary, recommend updates to the software based on researcher needs. The Researchware website features an active user forum.

HyperResearch has been written to work well on either Mac or Windows operating systems. You can exchange your study files and sources with other HyperResearch users on your team, whether they use Mac OS X or Windows.

Perpetual licenses of HyperResearch and HyperTranscribe (a companion software product used for transcribing interviews and video etc) are available to members of the BC community at a discounted price and more information, a trial download of the software and tutorials can be found at :

<http://researchware.com/>

For all members of the Boston College Community - HOW TO BUY HYPERRESEARCH at a substantial discount. Researchware offers HyperResearch at discounted perpetual license student prices to all members of the community:

To receive the Boston College pricing, you do not want to go through their regular ordering process. Go specifically to: <http://www.researchware.com/sales/pricing/student-pricing.html>

Student pricing is their most heavily discounted (80% off retail) pricing.

You can see the details of HyperResearch Licensing at

<http://www.researchware.com/support/faqs/43-faqs/purchasing-faq/221-what-are-your-licensing-terms.html>.

You can put the software on multiple computers so long as you are the only one using it.

If you get a new computer, you just download the installer, install HyperRESEARCH on your new computer and use the same license key to activate it.

Nvivo 12

Boston college administers several consolidated Nvivo licenses for BC own computers. If you are a faculty member or researcher who needs a copy of Nvivo, please contact Mike Spinello at spinellm@bc.edu. Mike can work with your department to purchase and annual license at a discounted rate. A strength of Nvivo has been its logical structure, ability to nest codes and its integration and ability to prepare Microsoft Word documents and spreadsheets to take advantage of Nvivo's autocoding features.

Here is some information on Nvivo 12's newest features:

<https://www.qsrinternational.com/nvivo/enabling-research/nvivo-12-update>

<https://www.qsrinternational.com/nvivo/what-is-nvivo/what-s-new-in-nvivo-12-windows>

The newest release of Nvivo adds more multi-lingual functionality and enhanced coding and team sharing features.

There are a number of different versions of Nvivo 12. Read more about them here:

<https://www.qsrinternational.com/nvivo/nvivo-products>

Nvivo 12 also features an extension called Ncapture that may be used to capture web content (web pages, online PDFs and social media data from Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and YouTube) for analysis in NVivo 11. NVivo can

help you see patterns in your social media datasets with automatic visualization features, and you can also automatically code content to quickly group social media data.

You can capture:

-Web pages and online PDFs

-Facebook wall posts and comments

-Twitter content

-LinkedIn group discussions

Here is more information about Ncapture:

<http://help-ncapture.qsrinternational.com/desktop/welcome/welcome.htm>

QSR International also recently introduced transcription services. You may learn more about them and experiment with a free trial of the services here:

<https://www.qsrinternational.com/nvivo/nvivo-products/transcription>

Support for Nvivo is based at QSR International headquarters in Australia but they are fairly responsive to e-mail queries and, as it the case with HyperResearch and Atlas.ti, their online tutorials and online help facilities are extensive. Nvivo 12 features a very active user forum which can be accessed from the QSRInternational website. QSR International also has established a local sales office in Cambridge, MA and if you call the local office, they can transfer you to the support team in Australia.

Nvivo 12 was designed to operate on Microsoft Windows natively.

They have a Mac version available as well but it is not fully compatible with the Windows version.

Atlas.ti 8

Atlas.ti has completely revised the look and feel of their software with the recent release of Atlas.ti 8. As with other software, once you import a project from a previous version, it is no longer backward compatible. That said, this new release includes many new features for analyzing social media.

<http://www.atlasti.com/index.html>

Atlas.ti 8 features the ability to import results from online surveys developed with such tools as Qualtrics or Survey Monkey. Atlas.ti 8 also features increased integration with geographic data such as Google Earth Geodata.

In June 2018 Atlas.ti announced an entire cloud based version. This new version is currently in beta testing and

downloads are still free during beta testing:

<https://atlasti.com/cloud/>

Atlas.ti also has versions for iPad and Android operating systems although compatibility with the other versions should be tested.

Support for Atlas.ti is based at Scientific Software's headquarters Germany but they are fairly responsive to e-mail queries and, as is the case with HyperResearch and Nvivo, their online tutorials and online help facilities are extensive. They also feature a very active user forum which can be accessed from their website.

A particular strength of Atlas.ti has been its support for and ability to track and integrate large multi-user projects where qualitative coding is being conducted at a number of different sites by a number of different coders.

In March 2019, Atlas.ti announced their new QDPX standard which allows them to transfer projects in full between different QDA software packages. This is extremely powerful:

<https://atlasti.com/?s=data+exchange>

Atlas.ti came out with a MAC version in 2014.

https://atlasti.cleverbridge.com/74/purl-order?_ga=1.11782708.1801360587.1453761112

This adds more flexibility and platform independence.

Atlas.ti also offers discounted pricing to students. At this time there is no Atlas.ti discount offered specifically to the Boston College community.

A trial download of Atlas.ti 8, tutorials and more information can be found at:

<http://atlasti.com/free-trial-version/>

Dedoose

<http://www.dedoose.com/>

Dedoose is a cross-platform app for analyzing text, video, and spreadsheet data (analyzing qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research). Our intuitive software interface allows users or teams to effectively analyze qualitative and mixed methods research data from various research approaches when conducting surveys and interviews in market research, psychology research, social science research, ethnographic research, anthropology research and much more from anywhere in the world, simultaneously, always protected by our industry leading security for about \$10 per month (only for months you login). You can even import from a MAXQDA, NVivo, SurveyMonkey, Atlas.ti, or any other software! Free for one month with nothing to install and setup is instantaneous!

Dedoose was conceived, designed, and developed by Eli Lieber, Ph.D, a research psychologist, and Thomas S. Weisner, Ph.D, a professor of anthropology. Drs. Lieber and Weisner have years of experience working together as co-directors of the Fieldwork and Qualitative Data Research Laboratory in the Semel Institute, Center for Culture and Health, UCLA and are the co-founders of SocioCultural Research Consultants, LLC. Beyond developing and delivering Dedoose, SCRC supports investigators engaged in qualitative and integrated qualitative/quantitative research.

Because of Dr. Lieber's and Dr. Weisner's backgrounds and commitment to this new cloud based CAQDAS tool, Dedoose is receiving a lot of good press in the Qualitative research community and market penetration is growing. The low price point is very appealing and it also good for collaboration between researchers.

Online and phone support is excellent. There is a bit of a learning curve but the videos and tutorials are also excellent.

Dedoose had a notorious crash in May 2014. This is a cautionary tale about cloud based systems and backing up one's data. They seem to have recovered from this:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/05/16/dedoose-crash-shows-dangers-handing-data-cloud-services>

However, since this occurred, we do not have many Dedoose users at Boston College (that I am aware of)

Transana

<http://www.transana.org/>

Transana was developed at the University of Wisconsin to analyze digital video or audio data. Transana lets you analyze and manage your data in very sophisticated ways. Transcribe it, identify analytically interesting clips, assign keywords to clips, arrange and rearrange clips, create complex collections of interrelated clips, explore relationships between applied keywords, and share your analysis with colleagues. The result is a new way to focus on your data, and a new way to manage large collections of video and audio files and clips.

Transana allows researchers to:

- Transcribe their video or audio files in as much or as little detail as desired. (Please note that transcription in Transana is a facilitated manual process. Voice recognition technology has not yet developed to the point where it is useful with most research video or audio files.)
- Identify and easily access the analytically significant portions of their video data.
- Manage large video collections containing hundreds (and potentially thousands) of hours of video.
- Organize video clips (from the same or from different video files) into meaningful categories, as a mechanism for developing and expanding the theoretical understanding of what the video shows.
- Apply searchable analytic keywords to these video clips.
- View graphical and text-based reports about your analytic coding.
- Engage in complex data mining and hypothesis testing across large video collections.
- Share analytic markup with distant colleagues to facilitate collaborative analysis.

With this set of features, Transana supports several distinct but compatible modes of analysis.

- First, there's transcript-based analysis, such as Conversation Analysis. There are people using Transana to create elaborate, detailed transcripts that encapsulate their entire analysis. Transana explicitly supports Jeffersonian Notation, but many other transcript-based annotation systems can also be used.
- Second, there's the creation and manipulation of Clips. This is the video/electronic equivalent of cutting text documents into analytically meaningful strips, pasted onto note cards, which are then sorted into thematic piles all over the living room. Transana allows the researcher to easily re-situate the clips in their original context of the larger video.

- Third, Transana supports applying coding to clips, which can then be searched. This enables such tasks as data mining and hypothesis testing, as well as enabling researchers to look at their coding patterns graphically and through other reports. This is the video equivalent of what Nudist and N*Vivo does so well with text, but with the added benefit of allowing one to display coding across time.

Education researchers often turn to video when they want to document interaction in the classroom. Video is an important tool for analyzing educational practices and tracking student outcomes. From the graduate student, who collects 80 hours of video for her dissertation, to the NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development, a project which has collected approximately 25,000 hours of video data over the course of over 15 years, researchers clearly regard video as central to the analytic process. These researchers need tools that allow them to process and analyze the huge amount of data this represents. Transana is unique among video research tools for a number of reasons:

- Transana fills a gap in the world of analytic software. It enables types of analysis that cannot be performed with other existing software packages. Transana pioneered multiple simultaneous users (2002), multiple simultaneous transcripts (2008), and multiple simultaneous media files (2009), allowing for the analysis of extremely complex video data.
- Transana is cross-platform, allowing researchers to work with their preferred hardware. Most qualitative analysis packages are Windows-based.
- Transana is Open Source. Researchers can adapt the software to their own special needs if necessary.
- Transana can be used by researchers in many diverse disciplines. Current areas of research include educational practices, the analysis and preservation of rare languages, and the analysis of animal behavior, to name a few.

Transana was originally created by Chris Fassnacht. It is now developed and maintained by [David K. Woods](#) at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

MAXQDA

MAXQDA is another popular CAQDAS package.

You can learn more about MAXQDA here:

<http://www.maxqda.com/what-is-maxqda>

You can compare the features of the different versions here. Like HyperResearch it offers seamless Mac/PC compatibility.

<http://www.maxqda.com/products/maxqda-features>

Download a 14 day trial version of MAXQDA:

<http://www.maxqda.com/demo>

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