

Qualitative Software (CAQDAS)

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Computers allow you to

- **Apply** different codes to varying and overlapping segments
- **Retrieve** all the text coded with the same label
 - Can focus on the theme to see additional patterns
 - Can identify child codes that further exemplify themes
- **See the list** of codes in one place
 - Can arrange them hierarchically
 - Can develop hypotheses about relationships
- **Make changes** as your understanding evolves
 - Rename, rearrange and combine codes
 - Remove codes

Availability

Software	OS	Student Pricing (Feb '21)	Faculty Pricing (Feb '21)	Teaching
Atlas.ti 9 <i>atlasti.com</i>	Mac or PC & Mobile	\$ 99 2 yr \$ 51 6 mos	\$750 5 user 1yr \$960	Trial version 10 docs, 50 quotes
MAXQDA 2020 <i>maxqda.com</i>	Mac/PC	\$ 47 6 mo up to \$110 2 yr Pro	\$520 Standard \$590 Plus \$750 Pro	Free course license (120 days)
NVivo 12 <i>qsrinternational.com</i> <i>/nvivo</i>	Mac or PC	\$85 1 yr Mac \$99 1 yr PC	\$650 Mac \$849 PC	Liberal with 14-day free trial codes
QDA Miner 6 <i>provalisresearch.com</i>	PC	Free Lite \$238+ 1 yr Edu	\$595 \$1,295 Suite	Free Lite Version with limited features

Availability : Web-Based

Software	Student Pricing (Feb '21)	Faculty Pricing (Feb '21)	Teaching
Atlas.ti Cloud <i>atlasti.com</i>	\$10 30 days	\$20 30 days	5 days full functionality. Trial limits: 10 docs, 50 quotes, 25 codes
Dedoose <i>maxqda.com</i>	\$10.95 Month	\$14.95 Month	First 30 days free
Taguette <i>taguette.com</i>	Free	Free	Can install on your own server, or use theirs.

Functionality

Software

Strengths

Other Functions

Atlas.ti

atlasti.com

Memos & Theory Building
Made for Grounded Theory

Network Building

MAXQDA

maxqda.com

Exploration & Focus Groups
Friendly Interface & Emoticons

Suite has Text Mining
& Statistics

NVivo

qsrinternational.com

/nvivo

Flexibility & Organization
Popular & Familiar Interface

Has Networks and basic
Text Mining

QDA Miner

provalisresearch.com

Categorization & Basic Coding

Suite has Text Mining
& Statistics

How it Handles...Coded Text

Software

Code Display

Text Display

Atlas.ti

atlasti.com

Codes listed in margin alongside quotation in one of 13 colors and shown in code list.

No static text highlighting based on codes.

MAXQDA

maxqda.com

Colored Brackets on the left of text can be custom colors, displayed in the code table (but not the list)

Text Highlighting uses code color, overlays semi-transparent background colors.

NVivo

qsrinternational.com
/nvivo

Coding Stripes next to coded text can be one of 7 colors and shown in code list. Auto-colors used by default.

Text Highlighting uses code color (v1.0)

QDA Miner

provalisresearch.com

Colored Brackets on the right of text and horizontal coding stripes can be custom colors, not displayed in the code list.

Text Highlighting using code color uses background then text color, which can make it difficult to read. More than 2 codes is grey background. Other options for coded text include dim and hide.

How it Handles...Special Data

Software

Atlas.ti

atlasti.com

MAXQDA

maxqda.com

NVivo

qsrinternational.com
/nvivo

QDA Miner

provalisresearch.com

Spreadsheets

Rows are Documents in a group alongside other document types with cell contents listed and coded to variable name.

Displayed natively alongside other document types (v2020)

Displayed natively alongside other document types. Can autocode rows as "Cases" and specify variables as text to code or use as categories.

Creates a new project with each row as a case with variables, which can be text to code or other types.

Focus Groups

People are codes. Can use custom regular expression pattern with capturing.

People are "Sub"-documents. Created on import. Must use colon after name.

People are "Cases" (codes with attributes). Use Word Headers, specify each name, or use codes manually.

No special functions, can use codes manually.

How it Handles...Grouping

Software

Document Grouping

Code Grouping

Atlas.ti

atlasti.com

Put documents in any number of groups, including dynamic groups. Display by document or group.

Put codes in any number of groups.

MAXQDA

maxqda.com

Put documents in a single folder ("Groups"). Can specify and import Document Variables.

Use parent and child codes, as well as code sets. Can specify and import Code Variables.

NVivo

qsrinternational.com
/nvivo

Put documents in folders (1) or dynamic or static sets (multiple). Establish multiple classifications (sets of variables).

Use folders or parent and child codes. Toggle code aggregation to parent. "Cases" (codes) can have classifications (sets of variables).

QDA Miner

provalisresearch.com

A document is a variable value for a "Case". Assign cases additional variables for grouping and display hierarchically by variable value.

Put codes in a single group.

Pros and Cons

Software

Best Feature

Most Lacking in

Atlas.ti

atlasti.com

Quotations and comments are central, easy to make and view.
Linking

No hierarchies or variables.
Grouping does all.

MAXQDA

maxqda.com

Dynamically see specific codes in specific documents.

"Activation"-based interface is complicated and busy at first.

NVivo

qsrinternational.com
/nvivo

Most flexible in document and code organization. Allows selectable code aggregation.

Views focus on only one thing at a time, most difficult to add comments.

QDA Miner

provalisresearch.com

Coding table enables quick coding of paragraphs or snippets. Free lite-version.

Neither flexible nor intuitive. PC only.

Money tight?

- **NVivo** is available on Data Services' Computers
One is at the Arlington Campus
- **QDA Miner** has a free Lite version
For advanced features, visit Data Services in Fairfax
- **Dedoose** charges only for months used
Like most, also has 30 day free trial
- **Atlas.ti** and **MAXQDA** have 6 month licenses
- Use **OnTheHub** to get additional student discounts

Conceptualizing Coding

- **Assign** *codes to segments*
 - also: Attach, Associate, Apply
- **Assign** *segments to codes* (MAXQDA)
- **Gather** content at a node (NVivo)

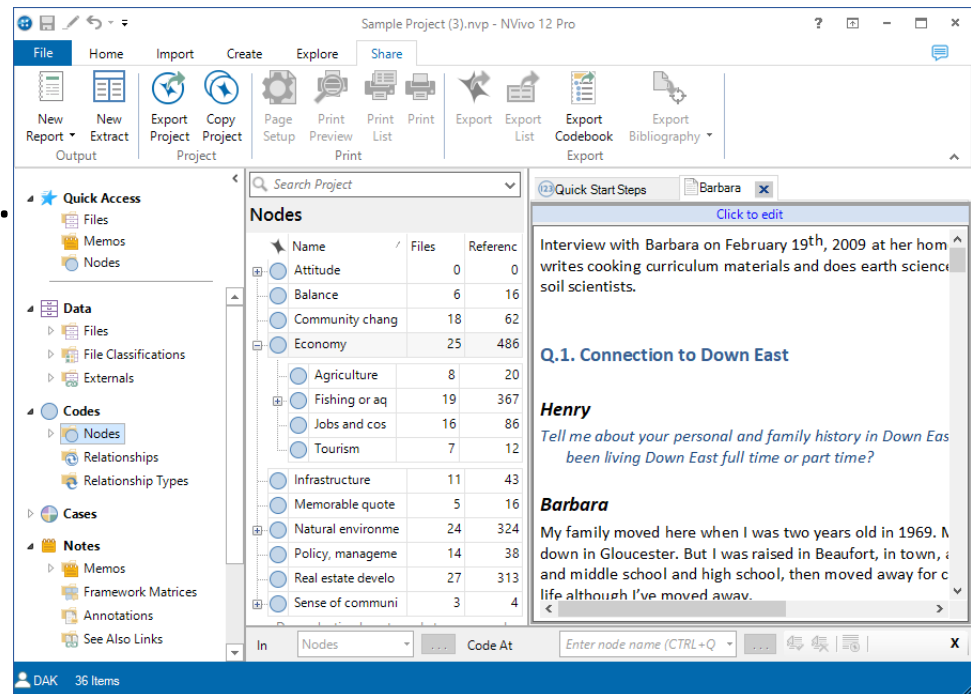
Terminology

Source	<i>aka</i> Document, Media, Source, Unit
Code	<i>aka</i> Tag, Node
Segment	<i>aka</i> Excerpt, Reference, Quotation
Memo	<i>aka</i> Note
Comment	<i>aka</i> Annotation
Case	<i>aka</i> Participant, Contribution
Variable	<i>aka</i> Descriptor, Attribute, Field
Query	<i>aka</i> Retrieval, Filtered Exerpts, Analysis
Visualization	<i>aka</i> Network, Model, Concept Map
User	<i>aka</i> Author, Coder

What to Pick

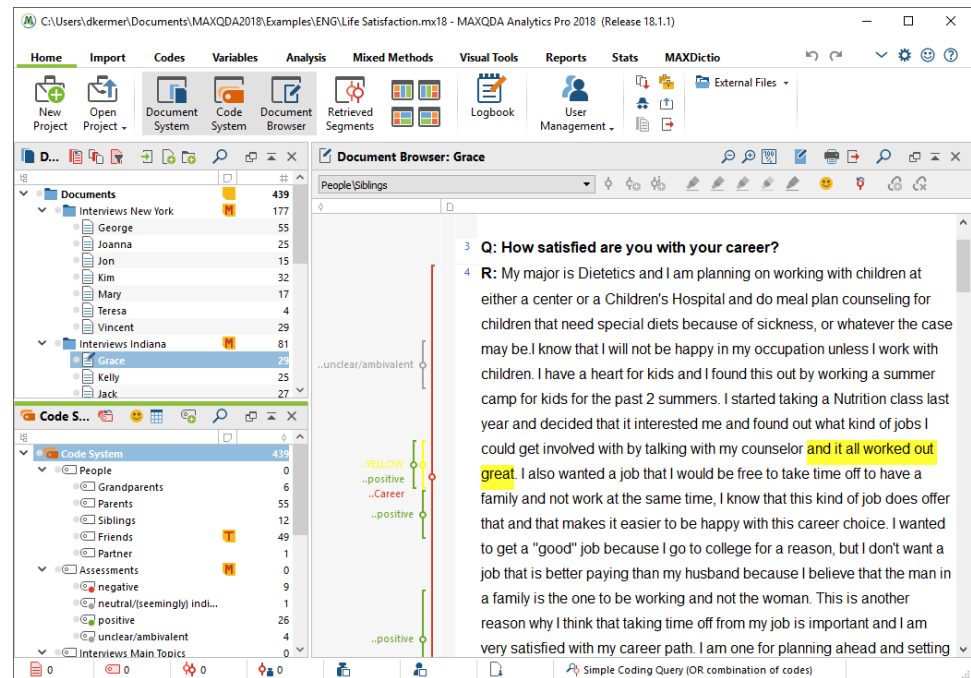
NVivo

- The most flexible for organization, basic project management, and literature reviews
- Easy to get started, somewhat harder to master
- All documents/data in native form.
- Displays one thing at a time.
- Promotes code overlap and hierarchical organization.
- Allows code attributes, useful when a person may have multiple files.



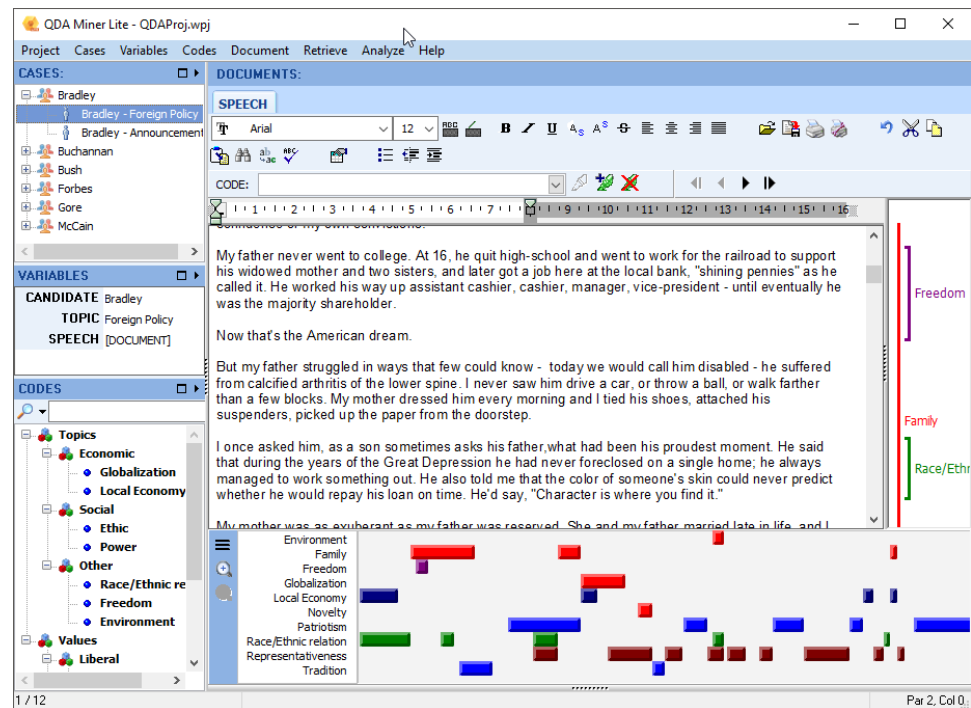
MAXQDA

- Identical on Mac and PC
- Visually oriented with colored highlighting, icons, and emoji's
- Uses "activation" to find codes within documents
- Good with Mixed Methods, code weighting and statistical functions
- Useful tools like code mapping and paraphrasing
- Not as popular [at Mason]
- Harder to learn, but more intuitive once mastered
- Mobile app & free reader



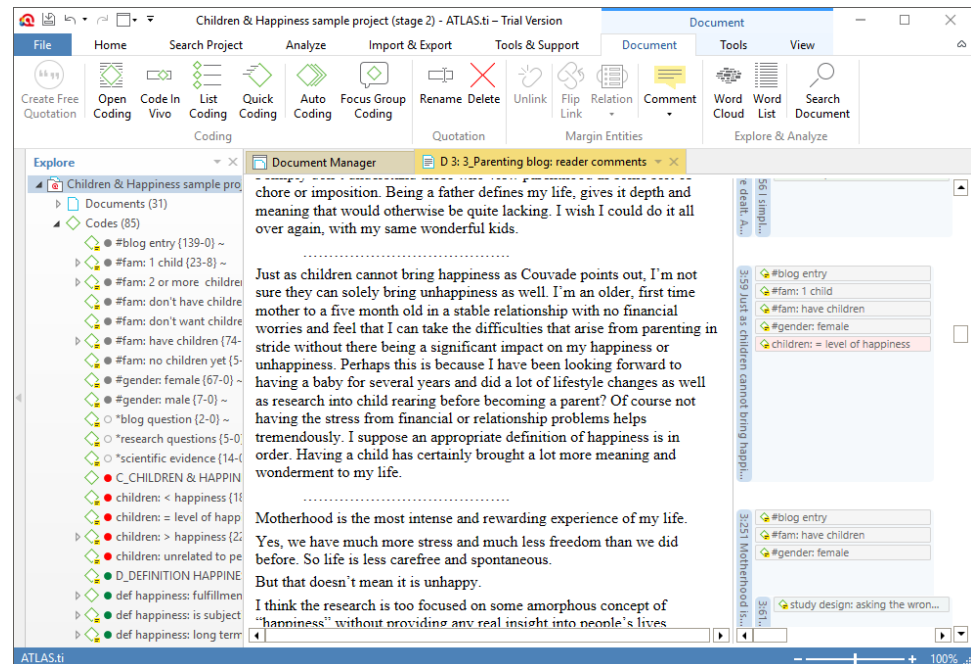
QDA Miner

- Only on Windows
- Easy to code by "chunks"
- Basic coding is simple and straightforward
- Tools are powerful, but the interface is not as modern or intuitive as alternatives
- Has occasional bugs
- Lite version is free and has complete code/retrieve.



Atlas.ti

- Originally designed for Grounded Theory and optimized for it
- The first, but now has competition
- v8 fixes previous difficult vocabulary
- Uses grouping for codes and documents, but does not have folders, variables, or hierarchies
- Widely used among experienced researchers
- Demo version has limits to save, but allows viewing. (10 documents, 50 codes, 100 quotes)



Dedoose

- The only web-based option
- For non-overlapping coding (coded text always colored)
- Allows weighted codes
- Easy to create basic Mixed-Methods Stats and Graphs

The screenshot displays the Dedoose web application interface, which is used for qualitative data analysis. The interface is divided into several main sections:

- Project Management (Top Left):** Shows the project name "Emergent Library Dedoose Demo" and various statistics such as Users (7), Media (20), Descriptors (50), Examples (59), Codes (11), and Code Applications (60). It includes buttons for "Import Data" and "Export Data".
- Codes (Middle Left):** A tree view showing a hierarchy of codes. The "Reading by Mother" category is expanded, showing sub-codes like "Duration", "Routine", "Bedtime Routine", "Frequency", and "Reading by Others".
- Media (Top Middle):** A table listing media items with columns for Title, Address, User, # Ex, and Length. The table contains 10 rows of data.
- Code x Descriptor (Middle Right):** A table showing the relationship between codes and descriptors. It includes columns for Field, Frequency, and Weight. The "Population Density" field is selected.
- Document Coding (Bottom):** A large text area showing a document titled "INV-004-ENG-M-16.rtf". The text is color-coded according to the applied codes. A "Quick Code" dialog box is open, showing a list of codes and their weights. The "SEMI-STRUCTURED DISCUSSIONS" code is selected.
- Selection Info (Bottom Right):** A panel showing the selected codes and their weights. The "SEMI-STRUCTURED DISCUSSIONS" code is selected with a weight of 1.