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# Using Software in Qualitative Research: A Step-by-Step Guide

*By Christina Silver, Ann Lewins*

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Using Software in Qualitative Research is an essential introduction to the practice and principles of Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis (CAQDAS). The book will help you to choose the most appropriate package for your needs and get the most out of the software once you are using it.

This book considers a wide range of tasks and processes in the data management and analysis process, and shows how software can help you at each stage. In the new edition, the authors present three case studies with different forms of data (text, video and mixed data) and show how each step in the analysis process for each project could be supported by software.

The new edition is accompanied by an extensive companion website with step-by-step instructions produced by the software developers themselves. Software programmes covered in second edition include the latest versions of:

- ATLAS.ti
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Ann Lewins and Christina Silver are leading experts in the field of CAQDAS and have trained thousands of students and researchers in using software. Reading this book is like having Ann and Christina at your shoulder as you analyse your data!

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

This book is essential reading for anyone navigating the complex and exciting terrain of qualitative data analysis software. Silver and Lewins emphasize the importance of data preparation; being familiar with one's software program before starting analysis; and being reflective, methodologically purposeful, and fluid in how one uses the available features of a given program.

(Áine M. Humble *Áine M. Humble, Mount Saint Vincent University, Fada Research Consulting, Canada.* 2014-04-02)

This is a timely update to the best volume of its kind. Christina Silver and Anne Lewins have brought their detailed and uniquely balanced account of the landscape of qualitative research, and the functions of software therein, into sharp contemporary focus. This is not only an invaluable practical guidebook for newcomers to CAQDAS, but also an essential reference text for the more seasoned qualitative researcher. (Paul K. Miller *Paul K. Miller, Senior Lecturer in Social Psychology, Department of Medical and Sport Sciences, University of Cumbria, UK.* 2014-04-02)

The new edition is extraordinarily authoritative and seriously useful, detailed yet unfailingly interesting. It brings methodological goals and software possibilities together in a more accessible and lively way. With thorough and practical website resources it will be an essential reference for anyone wondering about software use - and that of course is everyone doing qualitative research.! It confronts the reader firmly with the challenges and complexities of qualitative work and the power, mixed offerings and sometimes considerable limitations of existing software. It's so carefully written, and the authors' voices are so clear, that it encourages, steadily explains and assists. The authors' enthusiasm and unique experience and knowledge of the field shine through, so against all odds for such a technical work, this book is a bloody good read!

(Lyn Richards, Centre for Applied Social Research, RMIT University)

This book is recommendable for all researchers and practitioners in different scientific fields – psychology, sociology, literature, etc. – for all who deal with qualitative and mixed methods for data processing, interpretation and presentation. (Stanislava Yordanova Stoyanova)

This publication is an impressive and exhaustive undertaking (with a book, three data sets consisting of many different types of data, and detailed instructions for seven CAQDAS programs), particularly given the depth, breadth, and ever changing nature of this field. The authors are to be commended for tackling this very challenging topic... Researchers who choose to both immerse themselves in the book and take advantage of the online resources and related exercises will be richly rewarded. (Áine M. Humble, Mount Saint Vincent University, Canada)

## About the Author

Christina graduated from Essex University in 1997 in Politics and Sociology, after which she came to Surrey and completed the Social Research Methods M.Sc. with distinction and she obtained her ESRC funded PhD comparing the development of school-based sex education in England and Wales and the Netherlands in 2002. Christina has been working with the CAQDAS Networking Project on an ad hoc basis since 1998 and joined the Project formally in 2002 as part-time Resource Officer and Course Tutor. She is now the CAQDAS Networking Project Manager. The Project provides platforms of debate concerning the use of Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis (CAQDAS). We train students and researchers in a number of CAQDAS packages, run an advisory telephone help-line, website, the 'qualitative software' electronic discussion list and develop and teach new courses. Christina also advises and trains research teams on their use of CAQDAS software. The CAQDAS Networking Project is currently working on a new project funded by the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM). Qualitative Innovations in CAQDAS (QUIC) explores three new breaking developments in the use of CAQDAS alongside our training and capacity building activities. The first concerns the support that software provides for integrating qualitative and quantitative data, the second the analysis of multi-stream visual data and the third the convergence of GIS and CAQDAS technology. We are developing exemplars and self-learning materials. As well as working with the CAQDAS Networking Project, Christina has been commissioned to carry out research projects for a number of independent organisations including a collaborative Action Research Project between East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust, the Centre for the Development of Health Care Policy and Practice (CDNPP) at Leeds University and the Facilities Management Graduate Centre (FMGC) at Sheffield Hallam University. Christina is also an Associate Consultant for the Centre for the Development of Nursing Policy and Practice (CDNPP) at Leeds University.

Visit Christina's Qualitative Data Analysis Services site [here](#)

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