

1214 Qualitative Data Analysis

March 19, 2013



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Demystifying Data Analysis
http://www.adaptivepath.com/ideas/essays/archives/000839.php

The basic process

Start with project goals and consider the outcomes

Prepare the data

Sorting and coding data

Revisit codes and groups

Make frameworks



CONSIDER PROJECT GOALS



What are we looking for?

Answers to specific questions

Product requirements, user types, common activities, problem areas, needs, opportunities,

Questions that need further investigation

Unexpected problems or opportunities



Answers to specific questions

Questions asked as part of the interview protocol Questions NOT asked: what evidence do we have for answers?



PREPARING YOUR DATA



Make your data manipulatable

Break text into smaller, but still meaningful, units that can be addressed separately

Print out important photos

This is also part of the analysis process What you do not include may well be forgotten



SORTING AND CODING DATA



Coding

"Coding means that we attach labels to segments of data that depict what each segment is about. Coding distills data, sorts them, and gives us a handle for making comparisons"

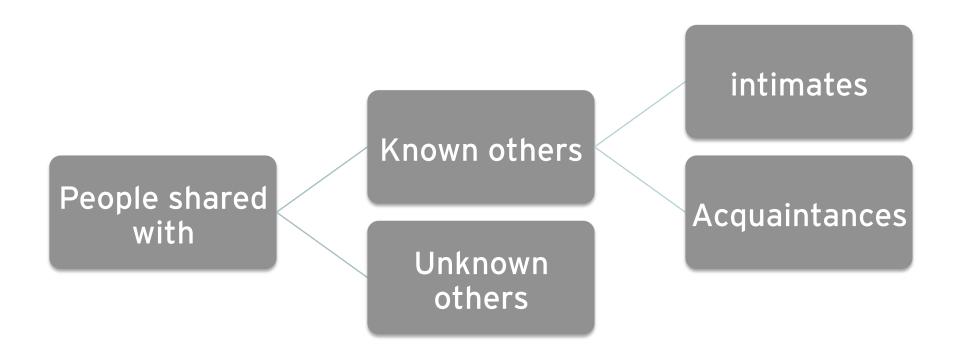
Charmaz, Constructing Grounded Theory, Ch. 1



Codes are constructed and interpretive



Example of categories: photo sharing





s process was extremely enlightening for me.

practice my moderator and interviewer skills. I for

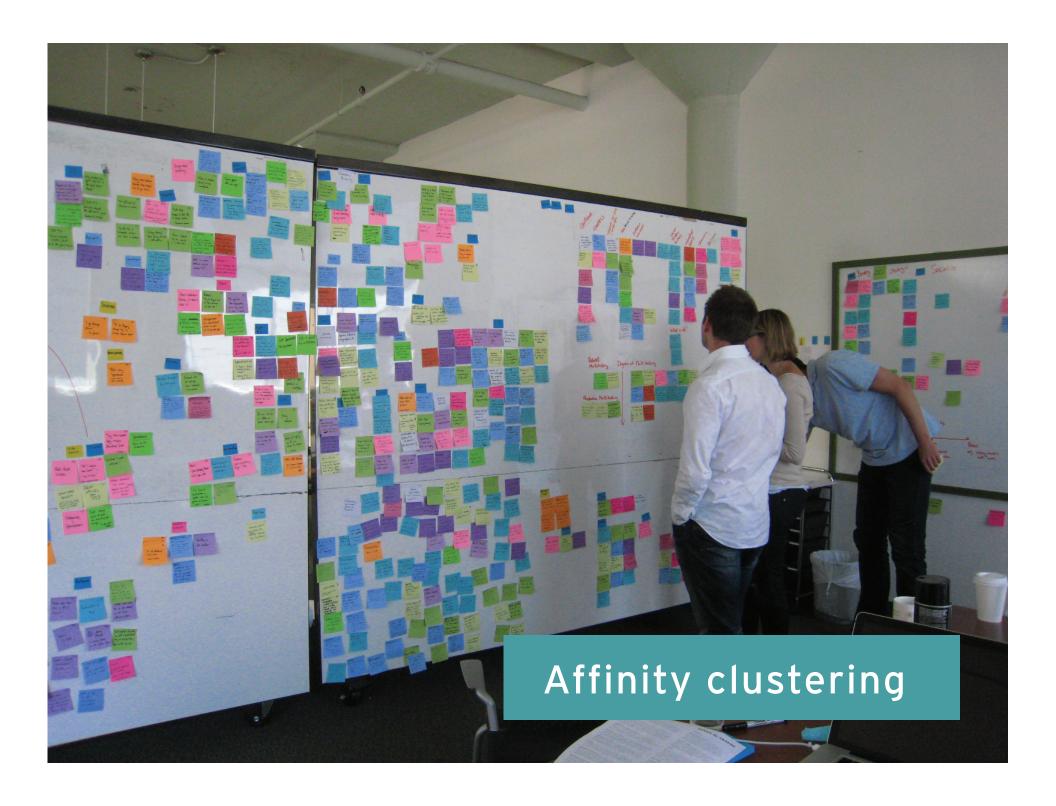
having a well thought out and structured interview

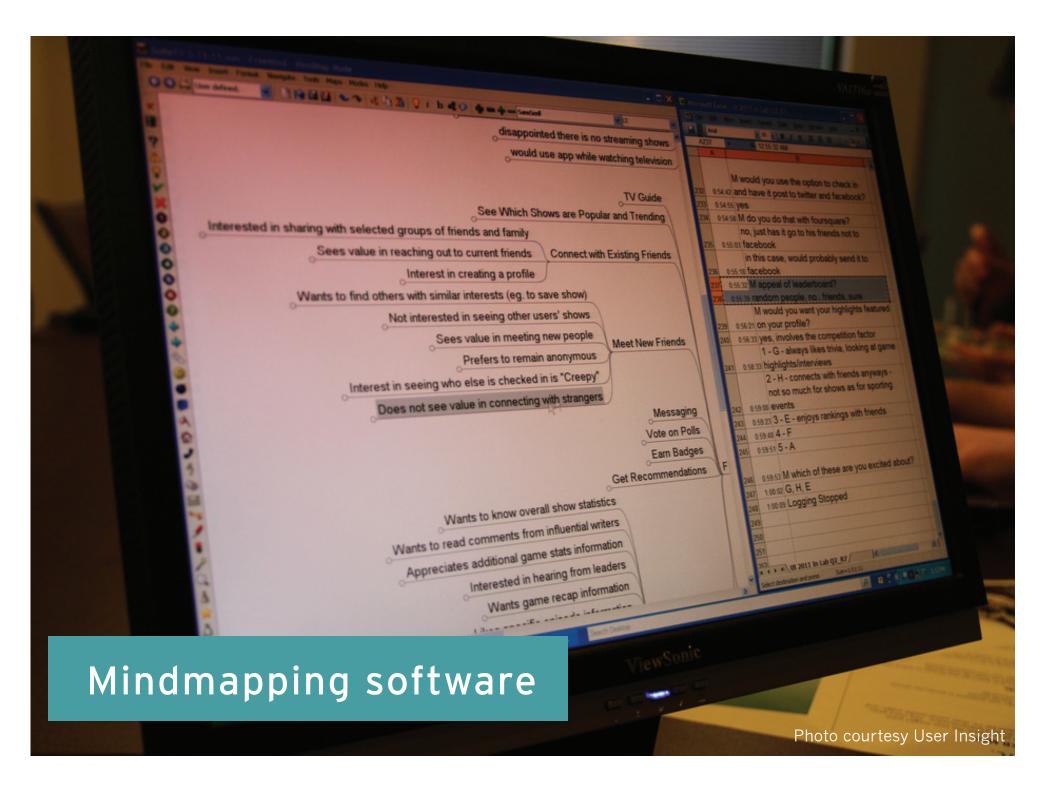
some questions off script or alter from it slightly, i

Quick paper notes

aws a blank.

Additionally, I found it very challenging to stay qui application. Because I am so familiar with the gar





Useful coding vocabulary

In vivo coding

General terms that "everyone knows" (...or do they?)

An striking term or phrase that distills an experience

Insider shorthand

Open coding

Categories

Subcategories

Properties

Qualities/attributes of a category

Dimensions

Ranges along which properties vary



Coding questions

What process is at issue here? How can I define it?

How does the research participant(s) act while involved in this process?

What does the research participant(s) profess to think and feel? What might his behavior indicate?

When, why, and how does the process change?

What are the consequences of the process?

What resources does the process require? Where do those resources come from?



A code for coding

Remain open

Stay close to the data

Keep your codes simple and precise

Construct short codes

Preserve actions

Compare data with data

Move quickly through the data



MAKING FRAMEWORKS



We are looking for patterns in the data

Typologies

Users

Uses/activities

Correlations

(vs causality)

Group differences

Temporal patterns

Recurring issues/themes

Higher-order abstractions

Needs

Opportunities



Tools

Taxonomies

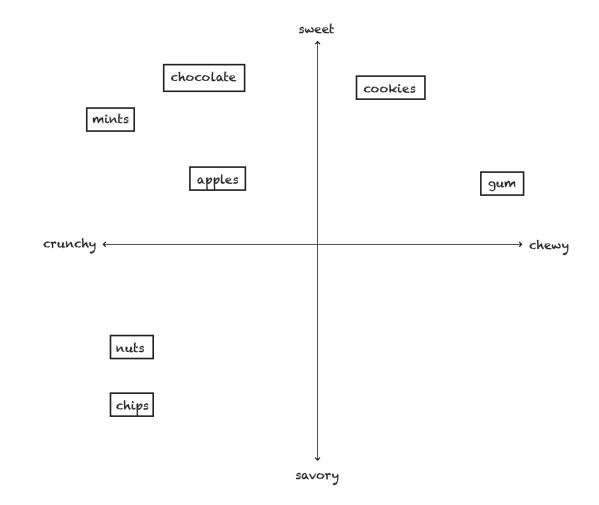
Maps

Timelines

Flowcharts

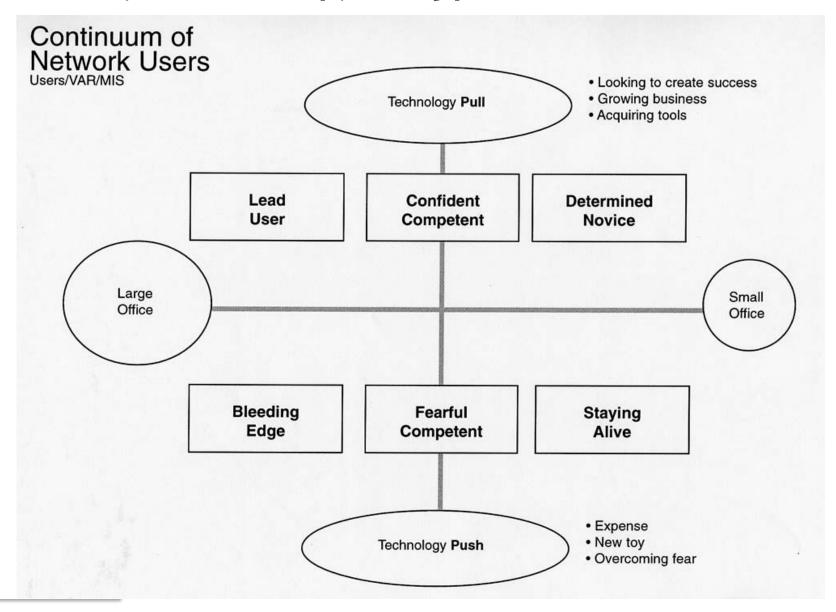
Spectrums

Matrices





Example user typology: networks



Correlations

May be either

A priori questions

those that emerge from the data

Usually not causes

Kinds of correlations of interest

Inter- and intra-group differences



Example of group differences: Parents and shopping study

Parents with babies and toddlers often shopped online

... The Internet is open 24 hours, just when you're up with a baby

...Pleasure/achievement of getting "the right thing"

Parents with school-age kids often went to stores

...Going out to stores can be a fun outing

...Solving problems fast for school deadlines

...Limited choices simplify deliberations



Example correlation question

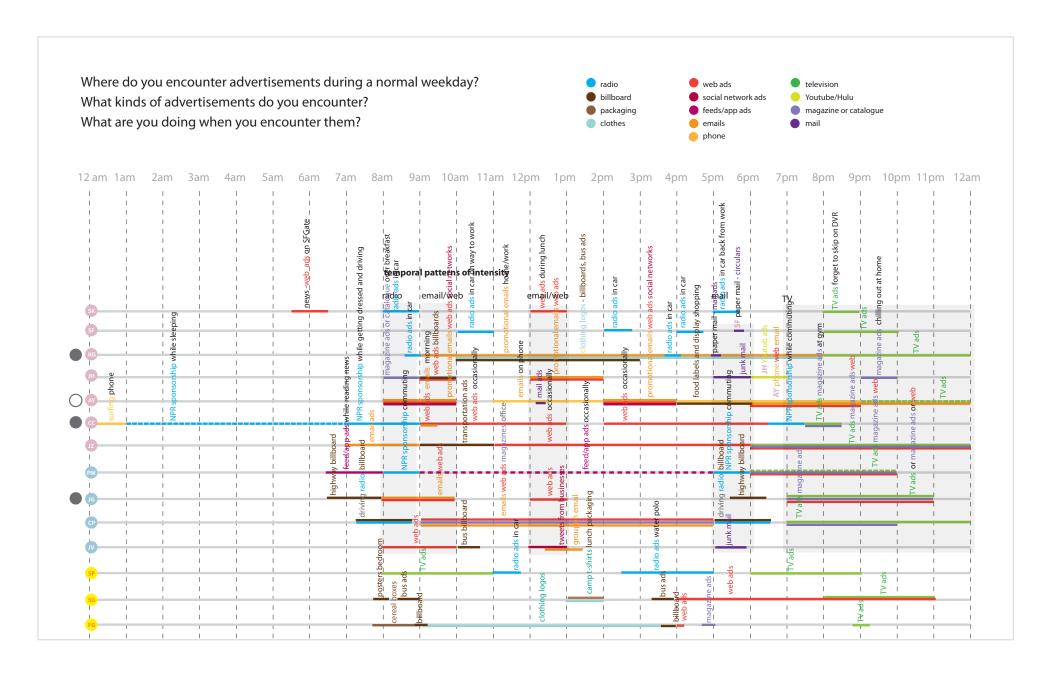
Almost everyone who was serious about photography started young:

high school or (more often) before Many took classes in high school

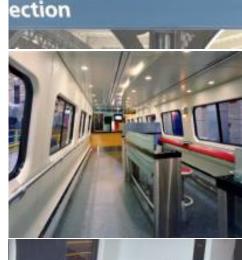
→ Does serious engagement with photography correlate with early introduction?



Temporal patterns: frequency







Common stages in activities or processes

Example: Designing Acela

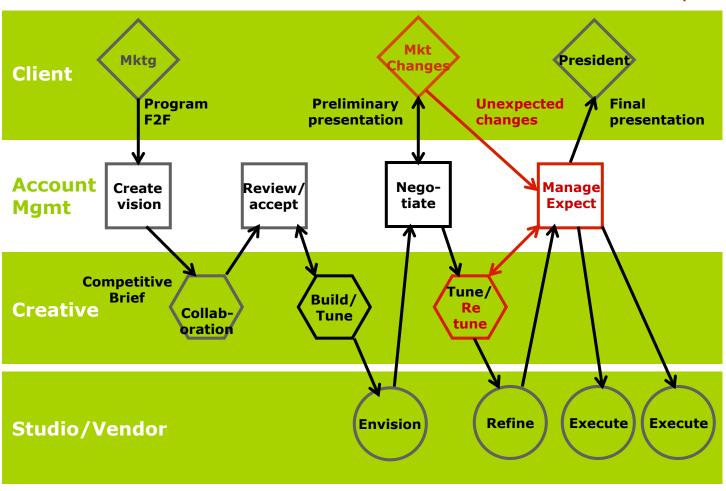
Creating [a comfortable] environment began by studying how travelers use their time. Building on Amtrak's market research, the design team used human factors experts to **shadow a broad range of travelers disabled, young, old**. Those experts also **toured stations and interviewed Amtrak constituents** ranging from senior managers to station operators.

Their findings helped define a vision that outlined the 10 steps in a typical passenger trip: 1. learning (about routes, timetables, etc.), 2. planning, 3. starting, 4. entering, 5. ticketing, 6. waiting, 7. boarding, 8. riding, 9. arriving and 10. continuing (their journey). Those points of customer contact identified design opportunities.

"We wanted to create a seamless journey. Riding on the train was actually the eighth step," says Richard Eisermann, who was IDEO's project leader on Acela. "Everything prior to the ride was something that Amtrak never connected with the experience."

Flowcharts: Swimlane diagrams

Red is most disruptive





Example themes: shopping

Finding the right thing
Outings and rituals
Solving the problem efficiently



Framing needs

Needs	Needs Characterization	Means of Learning about Need	Solution Characterization
Common	Cultural value shared by many	Generally implicit. Found through eliciting stories and literature reviews	Making things better
Context	Situational trigger mediating consumer action	Often found by watching and listening in many places, including diary studies	
Activity	Directed solution : fixing a problem or replacing what is missing	Found through observation of customer executing activity	
Interaction	Specific product requirement satisfying usability requirements	Interviews, usability tests, observation	Making better things



Needs

Common

Context

Activity

Interaction

A ladder of needs

Ladder up by asking why?

Ladder *down* by asking how or what?



Another way to look at needs

