Atlas.ti Training Manual

Part 4: Data Analysis - Families

PART 4: FAMILIES

- What is a Family?

- A Family is a way of grouping Codes to reveal links between Codes, as in a Coding Frame.

- Families can also be used to group Primary Documents together according to their shared characteristics.

Organising Codes into Families

- A Family of Codes is an arrangement of smaller Codes into larger Themes.

- Codes relate to the Themes in various ways, e.g. by being 'examples of…', 'causes of…', or 'settings for…'

  Questions for your project Coding Frame:

- Does the Coding Frame work?

- What's missing from the Coding Frame?

How to create Families in ATLAS.ti

1. From the main menu, select CODES*, EDIT FAMILIES, OPEN FAMILY MANAGER

2. Select the menu option FAMILIES and NEW FAMILY

3. Enter a name when prompted and click OK

* NB to create Families of PDs, follow the same process via the DOCUMENT menu

Family Manager

- The top pane displays all Families created by the user
- The list on the left in middle pane displays all Codes* that are included in the family
- The list to right in red shows all Codes* that are not (yet) included
- The bottom pane is a text editor

* NB or Documents

How to add Codes/PDs to Families

- Select one or more Codes* in the list pane on the right and click the button with the arrow pointing to the left

- Or double click on a Code* to move it from right to left (or from left to right to remove it from the Family)

* NB or a Document

Example of Families of Codes

- Security, Safety, Protection (from disease, violence, rape, pregnancy, bullying, hunger, etc.)

- Enterprise, Work, Confidence (in context of state work disappearing so people turn to entrepreneurial work)

- Agency, Personal Confidence, Sense of Self, Civic Participation, Community, Disillusionment Rights & Responsibilities, Leadership, NGOs, Churches, Young Citizens, Belonging, Capacity

Families of Codes (Fertility)

- Context (affinal / natal); Attitudes to interview (interference / support)
- Education
- Marriage process; Life after Marriage
- Child bearing; Fertility; Child rearing
- Healthcare
- Role models and aspirations
- Extra activities
- Gender
- Inter and intra household relations
- Autonomy (Decision making /Mobility / Power dynamics)

Families of Primary Documents

You can also group Primary Documents together by type, such as by variables of RECOUP projects:

- GENDER: Male or Female
- GENERATION: Youth or Parent
- LOCATION: North or South
- ENVIRONMENT: Urban or Rural
- EDUCATION: nonschooled, basic, advanced
- HOUSEHOLD EMPLOYMENT: no work, unskilled work, or regular income
- TYPE OF DOCUMENT: Interview Transcript, Fieldnotes, Observations, Community Profile, Community Entry Note, Focus Group

Implications of your File-Naming Strategy

- Putting PDs into families will be much quicker and more efficient if the name of the file includes an indication of which families it will go into:

- E.g. RECOUP_EFAProject_John_Nzuma_M_ Class_6_Urban_Natal_Unemployed_Inter view_23June08

Activity: Families of PDs

- Question: What features might be the basis for Families of Documents in your Project? Clue: think back to how you decided to name your PDs
- NB: PDs will be assigned to more than one Family according to all their characteristics

How to create Super Families

- Super Families group together Families of Codes or Families of Primary Documents
- In the Family Manager, click on FAMILY and select OPEN SUPER FAMILY TOOL
- Families appear in the column on the left
- Double-click on Families to move them into the column on the right
- Click CREATE SUPER FAMILY to save

How to filter Families

- To analyse according to specific characteristics, you can filter to show results from Primary Documents with specific characteristics:
- If you go to the DOCUMENTS menu and pull down, it normally reads FILTER:ALL
- But if you pull down the FILTER menu you can select to filter according to any of your Families or Super Families
- If you go back to the DOCUMENTS menu, the FILTER will now contain the name of this Family or Super Family
- NB once you have completed analysis on this Family or Super Family, remember to return to the DOCUMENTS menu and tick FILTER:ALL to bring back the other PDs

Missing PDs, Quotes or Codes?

- If you have been working with Families and you seem to have lost PDs, Quotes and/or Codes, this is probably because a Filter has been applied:

1. Go to DOCUMENTS, FILTER, click ALL

2. Or go to CODES, FILTER, click ALL

- The missing PDs, Quotes and/or Codes should reappear…

What is the Query Tool?

The Query Tool can be used to search for common Quotations across Codes, or across Families of Codes, or a combination of the two.

Activity: Open the Query Tool with a click on the binoculars button.

- Code Families are listed on the top left box
- Codes are listed in the box below
- The boxes on the right are filled when clicking a query…

How to use the Query Tool

1. Double click on one of the Codes or Code Families

• The upper right box displays the current Query

• The lower right box displays the quotations coded with the selected Code

2. Double click on another Code or Code Family

• You now see two terms in the upper right list

How to run a Query

- Click the upward arrow to run OR
- Click this to run AND/OR
- Click the downward arrow to run AND
- The bottom symbol is NEITHER

- Quotations that apply appear in the box on the bottom right

- Click the printer icon to sent Output to the Editor and Save