

# Recent trends of collecting, analyzing and sharing Qualitative Research Data

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## *ABSTRACT*

Qualitative research is a research methodology that seeks to understand the meaning of social phenomena through the analysis of text, images, and other forms of qualitative data. It is often used in the social sciences, humanities, and health sciences to explore complex issues that cannot be easily quantified. In recent years, there have been a number of trends in the way that qualitative research data is collected, analyzed, and shared. These trends have been driven by a number of factors, including the increasing availability of technology, the growing importance of data sharing, and the need to be more inclusive and collaborative in research. One of the most significant trends in qualitative data collection is the increasing use of online and mobile platforms. These platforms offer a number of advantages over traditional methods of data collection, such as convenience, flexibility, and accessibility. They can also be used to collect data from a wider range of participants, including those who are geographically dispersed or who have difficulty accessing traditional research settings. Another trend in qualitative data collection is the use of creative and visual methods. These methods can be used to elicit and represent data in a variety of ways, such as through drawing, collage, photography, video, or storytelling. They can be particularly useful for exploring complex or emotional topics, or for capturing the lived experiences of participants.

**Keywords:** Qualitative, Research, Data, Qualitative, flexibility

## **Introduction:**

The analysis of qualitative data is a complex and iterative process that involves identifying patterns, themes, and meanings in the data. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the use of computer-assisted qualitative data analysis (CAQDAS) software to facilitate this process. CAQDAS software can help researchers to organize and manage large amounts of data, code and retrieve data segments, and generate reports.

Another trend in qualitative data analysis is the use of mixed methods approaches. Mixed methods approaches combine qualitative and quantitative data analysis to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the research problem. This can be particularly useful for exploring complex topics or for triangulating findings.

The sharing of qualitative research data is

becoming increasingly important in order to promote transparency and reproducibility in research. In recent years, there have been a number of initiatives to develop and promote data sharing platforms for qualitative research. These platforms make it possible for researchers to share their data with other researchers, as well as with the public. The trends in qualitative data collection, analysis, and sharing discussed in this essay are just a few of the many changes that are taking place in this field. These trends are being driven by a number of factors, including the increasing availability of technology, the growing importance of data sharing, and the need to be more inclusive and collaborative in research. As these trends continue to evolve, they will have a significant impact on the way that qualitative research is conducted.

There are many different ways to collect qualitative research data. Some of the most common

**Methods include:**

**1. Interviews:** Interviews are a one-on-one conversation between the researcher and the participant. The researcher asks the participant questions about their experiences, thoughts, and feelings.

**2. Focus groups:** Focus groups are a group discussion with a small number of participants. The researcher facilitates the discussion and asks questions to get the participants talking about their experiences.

**3. Observations:** Observations involve the researcher watching and recording the behavior of people in their natural settings. This can be done in person or through video recordings.

**4. Document analysis:** Document analysis involves the researcher reading and interpreting documents such as personal journals, letters, or government reports.

**Qualitative research data has a number of strengths, including:**

1. It can be used to understand the experiences, thoughts, and feelings of people in a way that quantitative data cannot.
2. It can be used to explore complex issues in depth.
3. It can be used to generate new insights and theories.

However, qualitative research data also has some weaknesses, including:

- It can be subjective and biased.
- It can be time-consuming and expensive to collect and analyze.
- It can be difficult to generalize the findings to a larger population.

In addition to the trends discussed in this essay, there are a number of other emerging trends in qualitative research. These include the use of big data analytics, the development of new qualitative methods, and the increasing use of qualitative research in policy and practice.

The future of qualitative research is bright. As

the field continues to evolve, it will continue to play an important role in understanding the world around us.

Qualitative research data is best used when the researcher wants to understand the experiences, thoughts, and feelings of people in a deep and nuanced way. It is also a good choice when the researcher is exploring a complex issue or wants to generate new insights and theories.

**Recent trends of collecting, analyzing and sharing Qualitative Research Data**

Qualitative research data is a valuable tool for understanding the world around us. It can be used to understand the experiences, thoughts, and feelings of people, explore complex issues, and generate new insights and theories. However, it is important to be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of qualitative data before using it.

**There are many different types of qualitative data. Some common types include:**

**1. Text data:** This data can be collected from interviews, focus groups, documents, and other sources. It can be in the form of transcripts, field notes, or other written records.

**2. Audio data:** This data can be collected from interviews, focus groups, or other recordings. It can be transcribed or analyzed using audio software.

**3. Visual data:** This data can be collected from photographs, videos, or other images. It can be analyzed using visual analysis software.

**4. Artifact data:** This data can be collected from objects, such as clothing, jewelry, or other personal belongings. It can be analyzed to understand the meaning and significance of these objects to the people who use them.

**Qualitative data can be analyzed in a variety of ways. Some common methods include:**

- Content analysis: This method involves identifying and coding themes or patterns in the data.
- Thematic analysis: This method involves identifying and developing themes in the data.

- Grounded theory: This method involves developing a theory about the data through an iterative process of data collection and analysis.

- Discourse analysis: This method involves analyzing the language used in the data to understand the underlying meanings and power relationships.

**Qualitative data can be used to answer a variety of research questions. Some common questions include:**

- What are the experiences of people in a particular situation?
- How do people make sense of their world?
- What are the underlying motivations for people's behavior?
- How do different cultures or groups of people view the world?

Qualitative research data can be a valuable tool for understanding the complexities of human behavior and experience. It can be used to gain insights that would not be possible with quantitative data. However, it is important to note that qualitative data is not always easy to interpret or analyze. It is also important to be aware of the biases that can be introduced into qualitative research.

Overall, qualitative research data is a powerful tool that can be used to gain a deeper understanding of the world around us. It is a valuable complement to quantitative data and can be used to answer a variety of research questions.

**Here are some of the key steps involved in qualitative data analysis:**

1. Define your research question. What are you trying to learn from your data? What are the key themes or concepts that you are interested in exploring?
2. Prepare the data. This may involve transcribing interviews, coding documents, or organizing photographs. It is important to make sure that your data is organized and accessible so that you can easily analyze it.
3. Choose a method of qualitative analysis. There are many different methods of qualitative data

analysis, such as content analysis, thematic analysis, and narrative analysis. The best method for you will depend on the nature of your data and your research question.

4. Code the data. Coding is the process of assigning labels to segments of data. This helps you to identify patterns and themes in your data.
5. Identify themes, patterns, and relationships. Once you have coded your data, you can begin to identify the key themes, patterns, and relationships that emerge. This is the heart of qualitative data analysis.
6. Make hypotheses and act. As you analyze your data, you may begin to develop hypotheses about the meaning of your findings. You can then test these hypotheses by collecting additional data or by conducting further analysis.

The process of qualitative data analysis is iterative, meaning that you will likely need to go back and forth between the different steps as you develop your understanding of your data. It is also important to be flexible and adaptable, as the best approach to analysis may vary depending on the specific situation.

There are a number of challenges associated with qualitative data analysis. Some of the most common challenges include:

- The data can be large and time-consuming to analyze.
- The data can be difficult to interpret.
- The researcher's own biases can influence the analysis.

The scope of qualitative research data is not limited to these specific types. Researchers may collect other types of data that are relevant to their research question. For example, a researcher studying the experiences of refugees might collect data in the form of photographs, videos, and music.

The scope of qualitative research data is also not limited to the present. Researchers may collect data about past events or about future possibilities. For example, a researcher studying the history of a

particular community might collect data in the form of historical documents, oral histories, and photographs.

The scope of qualitative research data is broad and flexible. This allows researchers to collect the data that is most relevant to their research question. It also allows researchers to explore new and innovative ways to collect data.

The scope of qualitative research data is vast and can be applied to a wide range of research questions. Some of the most common areas of application include:

- **Social sciences:** Qualitative research is often used in the social sciences to understand human behavior and society. For example, it can be used to study the experiences of marginalized groups, the impact of social policies, or the dynamics of social interaction.
- **Health sciences:** Qualitative research is also used in the health sciences to understand the patient experience, the impact of health care interventions, or the development of new treatments. For example, it can be used to interview patients about their experiences with a particular disease or to observe how patients interact with their doctors.
- **Business:** Qualitative research is also used in business to understand customer needs, the competitive landscape, or the impact of new products or services. For example, it can be used to conduct focus groups with customers to get their feedback on a new product or to interview employees to understand their satisfaction with their jobs.
- **Education:** Qualitative research is also used in education to understand student learning, the impact of educational interventions, or the dynamics of the classroom. For example, it can be used to interview teachers about their teaching practices or to observe students in the classroom.

These are just a few of the many areas where qualitative research data can be used. The specific scope of the research will depend on the research question being asked and the methods being used.

## Discussion:

Qualitative research data is information that is collected in a non-numerical format. This can include text, images, audio, and video recordings. Qualitative data is often used to understand the human experience, such as people's thoughts, feelings, and motivations.

There are many reasons why qualitative research data is important. First, it can help researchers to understand the context of a problem or issue. For example, if a researcher is interested in understanding why people are not using a new medical treatment, they could collect qualitative data by interviewing patients and doctors. This would help the researcher to understand the patient's experience with the treatment, as well as the doctor's perspective on why the treatment is not being used.

Second, qualitative data can help researchers to identify patterns and themes. This can be done by analyzing the data for common themes or by looking for patterns in the data. For example, a researcher who is interested in understanding the factors that contribute to school dropout could collect qualitative data by interviewing students who have dropped out of school. By analyzing the data, the researcher could identify common themes, such as a lack of motivation or a lack of support from parents.

Third, qualitative data can help researchers to develop new theories. This is because qualitative data can provide insights into the human experience that are not possible to obtain through quantitative data. For example, a researcher who is interested in understanding the factors that contribute to happiness could collect qualitative data by interviewing people who are happy. By analyzing the data, the researcher could develop new theories about what makes people happy.

There are many reasons why qualitative research data is important. First, it can help researchers to understand the nuances of human behavior. Quantitative data can tell us what people do, but qualitative data can tell us why they do it. This can be essential for understanding the underlying causes of problems and developing effective solutions.

Second, qualitative data can help researchers to explore complex issues. Quantitative data can be used to measure the frequency of different behaviors, but it can be difficult to use it to understand the relationships between different factors. Qualitative data can be used to explore these relationships in more depth.

Third, qualitative data can help researchers to capture the voices of those who are often marginalized or overlooked. Quantitative data can be used to represent the views of the majority, but qualitative data can be used to give voice to those who are not typically heard. This can be essential for ensuring that all voices are represented in decision- making processes.

### Conclusion:

In conclusion, qualitative research data is an important tool for understanding the human experience. It can be used to understand the context of a problem or issue, identify patterns and themes, develop new theories, and generate hypotheses.

Finally, qualitative data can be used to generate hypotheses that can be tested through quantitative research. For example, a researcher who has collected qualitative data on the factors that contribute to school dropout could develop a hypothesis that students who are more likely to drop out are those who have a lack of motivation. This hypothesis could then be tested through a quantitative study, such as a survey.

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