The Process of Establishing Codes for Qualitative Data

Donald Callaway

Independent Consultant

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Abstract

Based on the project's personnel, who have had considerable experience in writing the social, cultural and economic sections of EIS's, a number of major topics with several sub-topics were suggested. Innumerable test runs were conducted in MAXQDA applying these codes to a variety of secondary literature. After a gradual process of expansion and refinement about 155 codes (including major headings and subcodes) were finally decided upon. In addition, a seventeen-page coding guide was developed that provided additional detail and guidance on the domain of each code. This presentation will provide:

- A brief overview of the topic coverage.
- A more in-depth discussion of selected codes and how they illustrate some of the themes of this overall panel – e.g., community involvement, subsistence, and environmental justice.
- A brief discussion of the metrics that MAXDA provides such as inter-rater reliability, the relationship of secondary sources to each other based on the distribution of codes, a small-space analysis of the density of codes.
- A brief discussion of coding qualitative data for analysis by SPSS.
- Finally, a brief overview of the role of qualitative data in the EIS process.