

April 4, 2001

To: Students in SOC 613
Fr: Val Burris
Re: Assignment for April 11

Below is some basic information on the course and your assignment for next week.

OVERVIEW

The class will focus on computer-aided techniques for analyzing qualitative data (primarily texts and transcripts). We will discuss general methodological issues regarding the use of computers in qualitative research; read representative studies from several areas of computer-aided qualitative research; and explore the potential applications, strengths, and weaknesses of some of the latest computer software for qualitative data analysis (including CATPAC, NUDIST, and ATLASTi). If you already have your own texts or transcripts that you want to analyze in conjunction with the course, that should be possible but is not essential. Required readings for the course include Nigel Fielding and Raymond Lee, *Computer Analysis and Qualitative Research*; and Carl Roberts, *Text Analysis for the Social Sciences*.

ASSIGNMENT FOR APRIL 11

Nigel Fielding and Raymond Lee, *Computer Analysis and Qualitative Research*, chapters 1-3.

Carl Roberts, *Text Analysis for the Social Sciences*, Introduction and chapters 1 and 16.

Ten copies of these texts were ordered at the bookstore and there is one copy of each in the library. Current enrollment is eleven students, so hopefully everyone will have access to a copy. If they run out at the bookstore you should get on Amazon.com and order yourself a copy immediately.

PURCHASING SOFTWARE

The main software program that we will use in the course will be QSR NUDIST 4.0 (QSR N4). This is probably the most widely used software for qualitative data analysis today and is comparable in most respects to fancier and more expensive programs like QSR NVivo and ATLASTi. It comes in both Mac and IBM versions and can be purchased at a special student price of \$100 (plus a few bucks shipping) from Scolari Software. I encourage everyone in the class to purchase your own copy if you are able. You can place your order by phone, fax, or email giving a credit card number and expiration date, or mail them a letter and tell them you'd like to order NUDIST 4 at the student price. I have emailed Scolari the names of students in the class, so it should not be necessary for you to provide documentation of your student status to get the special student price. Contacts for Scolari are:

Phone: (805) 499-1325 (leave message and wait for return call)

Fax: (805) 375-1726

E-mail: susan.radmiller@scolari.com

Mail: Scolari
Sage Publications Software
2455 Teller Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

Sociology students who choose not to purchase a copy of the software can access NUDIST on one of the work stations in the graduate student computer lab. Without purchasing the software, however, you will not have access to the manuals that come with the program, and backing up any NUDIST projects located on the hard drive of the work station can be a chore. I will also be passing out free demo versions of NUDIST 4, along with several other programs. These demos will provide you with hands-on experience with the program and the ability to work through some of the tutorials, but they do not allow you to save your output, so they cannot be used for your own projects.

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To: Students in Soc 613
Fr: Val Burris
Re: Assignment for April 18

Nigel G. Fielding and Raymond M. Lee, Computer Analysis and Qualitative Research, chapters 4-6.

Alan Reid, Analysing Qualitative Data Using Computer Software. Available in HTML format on the Qualitative Data Analysis CD-ROM (caqdas.htm) or online at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/Departments/Education/caqdas.html>.

Nudist 4 tutorial. Available when you install either Nudist 4 or Nudist 4 Demo. PC version of the Nudist 4 Demo is included in the Qualitative Data Analysis CD-ROM. Mac version can be downloaded from <http://www.qsr-software.com/freedemos/freedemos.html#n4>.

Lyn Richards, Nudist 4: Introductory Handbook. Available in Adobe Acrobat format on the Qualitative Data Analysis CD-ROM (Nudist_4/N4handbk.pdf). Hard copy available on my office door for you to borrow and xerox. Consult as you do the N4 tutorial.

April 18, 2001

To: Students in Soc 613
Fr: Val Burris
Re: Assignment for April 25

REQUIRED READING

K. Buston, "NUD*IST in Action: Its Use and Its Usefulness in a Study of Chronic Illness in Young People," Sociological Research Online, Vol. 2, No. 3, 1997 (<http://www.socresonline.org.uk/socresonline/2/3/6.html>).

Katie MacMillan and Shelley McLachlan, "Theory-Building with Nud.Ist: Using Computer Assisted Qualitative Analysis in a Media Case Study," Sociological Research Online, Vol. 4, No. 2, 1999 (http://www.socresonline.org.uk/socresonline/4/2/macmillan_mclachlan.html).

Jenny Cannon, "Making Sense of the Interview Material: Thematising, NUD*IST, and 10meg of Transcripts," Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Australian Association for Research in Education, Adelaide, 1998 (<http://www.qsrinternational.com/resources/PDFs/cannon.pdf>).

RECOMMENDED READING

Melina Alexa and Cornelia Zuell, "Commonalities, Differences and Limitations of Text Analysis Software: The Results of a Review," (ftp://ftp.zuma-mannheim.de/pub/zuma/working-papers/99_06.pdf).

Nigel G. Fielding and Raymond M. Lee, Computer Analysis and Qualitative Research, chapters 7-8.

April 25, 2001

To: Students in Soc 613
Fr: Val Burris
Re: Assignment for May 2

The topic this week is content analysis. We'll begin with some examples of different approaches.

Wayne A. Danielson and Dominic L. Lasorsa, "Perceptions of Social Change: 100 Years in The New York Times and The Los Angeles Times," chapter 5 in Carl W. Roberts, ed., Text Analysis for the Social Sciences. Example of thematic text analysis.

Roberto Franzosi, "Labor Unrest in the Italian Service Sector: An Application of Semantic Grammars," chapter 7 in Carl W. Roberts, ed., Text Analysis for the Social Sciences. Example of semantic text analysis.

Michael Schnegg and H. Russell Bernard, "Words as Actors: A Method for Doing Semantic Network Analysis," Cultural Anthropology Methods, <<http://www.uni-koeln.de/~alv29/CAM-Paper.html>>. Simple example of network text analysis.

Jan Kleinnijenhuis, Jan A de Ridder, and Ewald M. Rietberg, "Reasoning in Economic Discourse: An Application of the

Network Approach to the Dutch Press," chapter 11 in Carl W. Roberts, ed., Text Analysis for the Social Sciences. More sophisticated example of network text analysis.

I'm in the process of reviewing some on-line publications on content analysis, so it is possible that I might be adding an additional reading later this week.

I also encourage you to take a look at two very basic collections of software for content analysis. These are both on the QDA CD-ROM or can be found at the following addresses:

1. WORDS by Eric Johnson <<http://www.dsu.edu/~johnsone/sno.html>>. Used in Schnegg and Bernard article above.
2. VBPro by Mark Miller <<http://excellent.com.utk.edu/~mmiller/vbpro.html>>.

May 2, 2001

To: Students in Soc 613
Fr: Val Burris
Re: Assignment for May 9

More readings on this week on methods of content analysis.

"Overview: Content Analysis." A general introduction to content analysis with annotated bibliography, prepared by students at Colorado State University. On-line at <http://writing.colostate.edu/references/research/content/index.htm>, or you can find a copy of the entire file (Content.rtf) on the diskette in the envelope on my office door.

Philip J. Stone, "Thematic Text Analysis: New Agendas for Analyzing Text Content," chapter 2 in Carl Roberts, ed., Text Analysis for the Social Sciences. Methods of thematic content analysis.

Carl W. Roberts, "Semantic Text Analysis: On the Structure of Linguistic Ambiguity in Ordinary Discourse," chapter 3 in Carl Roberts, ed., Text Analysis for the Social Sciences. Methods of semantic content analysis.

Roberto Franzosi, From Words to Numbers: A Journey in Science, chapters 1-2. Pre-publication draft of forthcoming book from Cambridge University Press. A more detailed discussion of one approach to semantic content analysis. Hard copy is available for you to xerox in the envelope on my office door.

May 9, 2001

To: Students in Soc 613
Fr: Val Burris

Re: Assignment for May 16 and 23

The next two weeks will be spent mainly discussing your practical experience with using the NUDIST program. In addition to any personal data sets you may be working with, everyone will be expected to code and analyze two common textual databases. The first is a collection of sociology dissertation abstracts. The second is a collection of movie reviews. Copies of these datasets will be made available online. There will be no additional readings for these two weeks.

May 24, 2001

To: Students in Soc 613
Fr: Val Burris
Re: Assignment for May 30

The topic for this week is event structure analysis. Most of the relevant materials can be found at the ESA website <http://www.indiana.edu/~socpsy/ESA/>. Required readings are:

1. Abbott, Andrew. 1995. "Sequence Analysis: New Methods for Old Ideas." Annual Review of Sociology 21:93-113 (xerox copy will be available on my office door by 3 p.m. Friday or you find it in the Reference Room of the library HM1.A78).
2. Heise, David and Elsa Lewis. 1988. "A Short Ethno Tutorial" (on the ESA website).
3. Heise, David. 1988. "Computer Analysis of Cultural Structures." Social Science Computer Review 6: 183-196 (on the ESA website under References)
4. Heise, David. 1989. "Modeling Event Structures." Journal of Mathematical Sociology 14: 139-169 (on the ESA website under References).

You can run the ESA program (Ethno 2) on-line from the ESA website or download a copy for use off-line. Most of you will find that the "Run Ethno with Old Java" option will work best with your browser. Consult the Help page on the ESA website as needed.

June 4, 2001

To: Students in Soc 613
Fr: Val Burris
Re: General Inquirer

I've been working with General Inquirer over the weekend. I'll make a brief report on Wednesday. If any of you want to explore the program yourself, here's what I recommend.

On the General Inquirer website (<http://www.wjh.harvard.edu/>)

~inquirer/) read the following two online documents. These will give you a basic idea of what the program does.

- 2) a comparison of the General Inquirer with other approaches and illustrations of how it is used, and
- 3) information about the General Inquirer merged Harvard-IV-4 and Lasswell dictionaries.

I've not been very lucky getting the online version of General Inquirer to work. I'm not sure whether the problem is in their server or my browser. In any case, the stand-alone version is not hard to install. Here's how:

First, you'll need to download and install the software for creating a Java Virtual Machine. The necessary file is called j2sdk-1_3_1-win.exe and can be downloaded from the Sun website at <http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.3/download-windows.html>. This is a VERY large file, so I've put a copy on a CD-ROM on my office door if you want to borrow it.

After downloading, double-click the icon and the software will install automatically. When that's done, you'll need to add the following subdirectory to the path statement of your autoexec.bat file: c:\jdk1.3.1\bin. This is all explained in the online document <http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.3/install-windows.html>. Then reboot.

The stand-alone version of the General Inquirer program is called GeneralInquirer_j1_0.zip and is contained on the CD-ROM I passed out at the beginning of the term. Unzip this file into your root directory (C:\) and it will create the necessary subdirectories and files.

Instructions for using the program can be found on the CD-ROM in manual.pdf. Basically, all you do is double-click on clickme.bat in the General Inquirer subdirectory, define the necessary input and output file names, and click RUN.

Output from the program is in tab-delimited format, which can easily be imported into Excel or SPSS for viewing. Be prepared for LOTS of output!