



Working with Document Variables

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Working with Document Variables

- MAXQDA isn't just a qualitative analysis tool, it provides support for both qualitative and mixed methods research
- You can add “quantitative” variables which supplement your data, can be used in analysis, and for mixed methods research

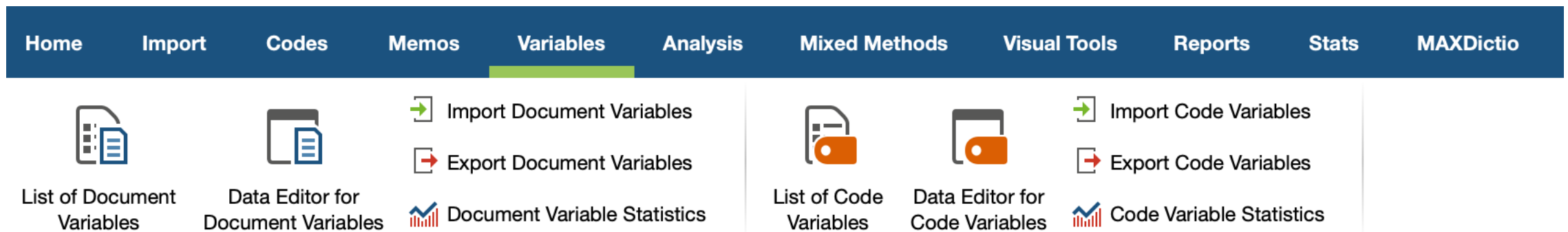


Document Variables

- Document variables are at the heart of mixed-methods work in MAXQDA
- They let you create **quantitative variables** tied to individual documents
- Document variables are like spreadsheet data, or data in a statistics program
- Text, integer, floating point (i.e., decimals), true/false (Boolean).

Document Variable Menu

- You access and work with variables from the **Variables** ribbon in the MAXQDA menu



List of Document Variables

- The list of document variables lets you view and edit three types of variables:
 - System variables
 - User-created variables
 - Transformed variables (created by transforming coded segments into variables)


	Variable	Variable type	To be displayed	Source	Missing value	Categorical	Favorite variable
■	Document group	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	System		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■	Document name	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	System		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■	Created by	Text	<input type="checkbox"/>	System		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■	Created	Date/Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	System		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■	Modified by	Text	<input type="checkbox"/>	System		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■	Modified	Date/Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	System		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■	Coded Segments	Integer	<input type="checkbox"/>	System		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■	Memos	Integer	<input type="checkbox"/>	System		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>




Variable list

Document Variables


List of Document Variables 21 Variables

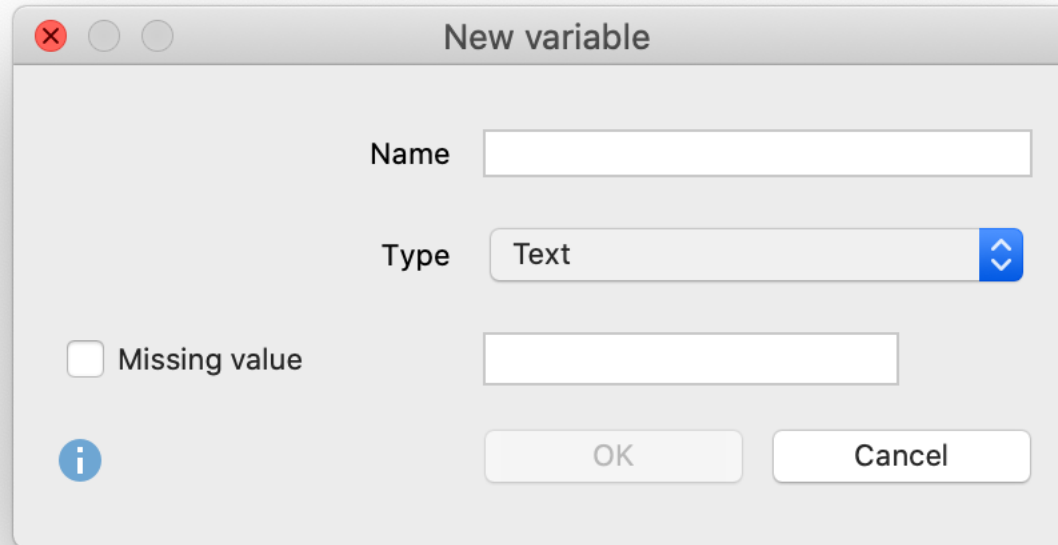


Variable	Variable type	To be displayed	Source	Missing value	Categorical	Favorite varia...
Year	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	User		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Type of Court	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	User		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Name	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	User		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State	Text	<input type="checkbox"/>	User		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepards	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	User		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal	Text	<input type="checkbox"/>	User		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Court	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	User		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modified by	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	System		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modified	Date/Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	System		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Memos	Integer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	System		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Document name	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	System		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Document group	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	System		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Created by	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	System		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Created	Date/Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	System		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coded Segments	Integer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	System		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TPD groups	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Code		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Use the new variable icon to add variables

Creating new variables

- User variables are created by the user with the  icon OR import from a spreadsheet
- Variables can be strings (text) numeric (integers or decimals), date, or Boolean (true/false)
- You can specify Missing values
- And set variables as categorical

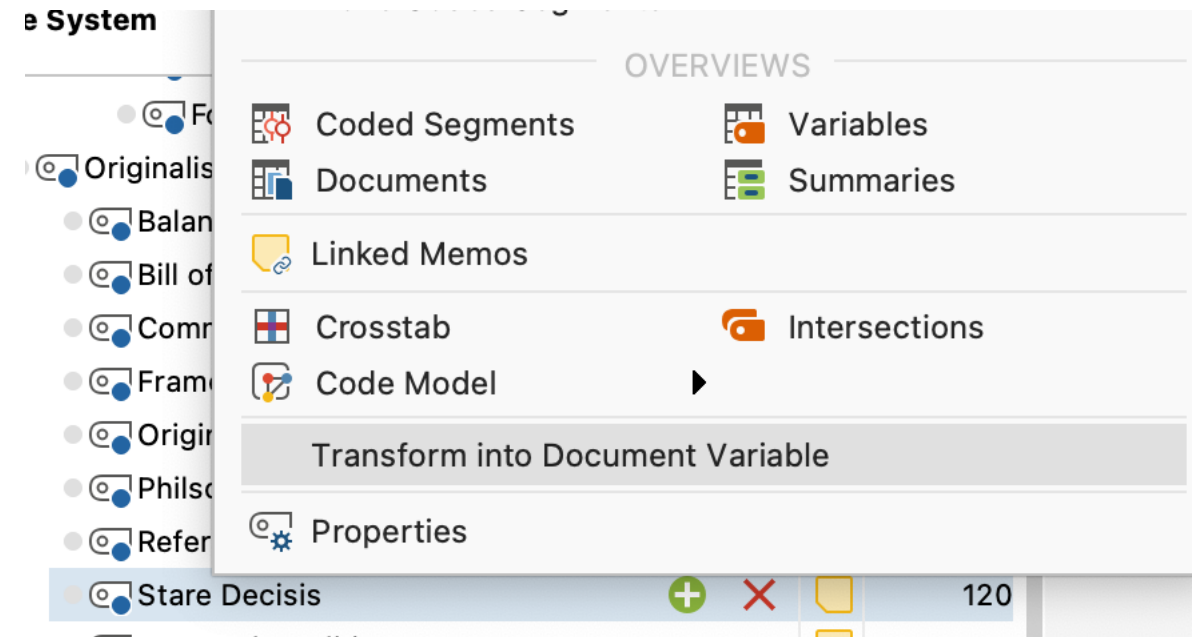


The screenshot shows a 'New variable' dialog box with the following elements:

- Name:** A text input field.
- Type:** A dropdown menu currently set to 'Text'.
- Missing value:** A checkbox labeled 'Missing value' followed by an empty text input field.
- Buttons:** 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons at the bottom right.
- Information:** An information icon (i) at the bottom left.

Transformed Variables

- Coded segments can be easily used to create variables counting the number of segments in a document for each code
- Right click the code in the code system
- Select **Transform into Document Variable**



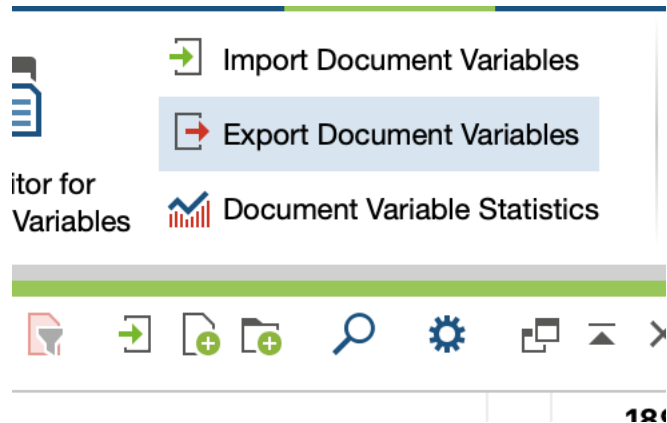
Document Variables

Data editor - All documents62 Documents

Document name	Stare Decisis	Text and Tradition	Exclusionary Rule	Originalism
Document (9)	0	0	0	
Document	0	0	0	
Common Knowledge with Justice Antonin Scalia - 0:05:16.6	0	0	0	
Common Knowledge with Justice Antonin Scalia	0	1	0	Text and Tradition
Justice and Ours	0	4	0	Text and Tradition
Document	0	0	0	Original Intent
ace	0	4	0	Text and Tradition
ogue on Statutory and Constitutional Interpretation	0	5	0	Text and Tradition
on Scalia - Hoover Digest	0	10	0	Text and Tradition
alism_ The Lesser Evil	0	6	0	Text and Tradition
alism debates from Murphy text	0	0	0	
a-v-Hicks-1987	0	1	0	Reference of C...
y v.Washington_ 542 U.S.296	2	0	0	Framers
r v County of Inyo 1989	0	0	0	Reference of C...
am v.Superior Court of Cal._ 495 U.S.604	9	1	0	Traditional Sta...
nia v Hodari D 1991	0	3	0	Reference of C...

Importing variables from a spreadsheet

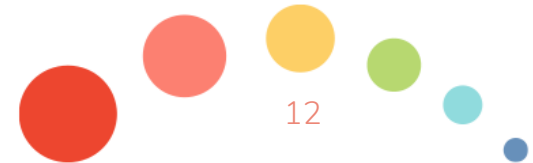
- You must first export the current document variables to a spreadsheet, to provide the structure for the import



- Then open the spreadsheet and add in additional columns

Importing Variables

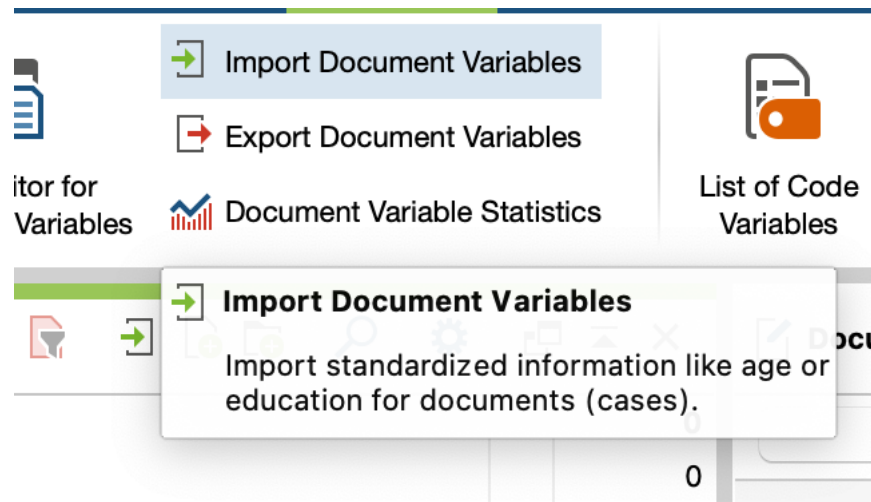
- If there are no user variables, **Delete** all of the columns except for Document Group and Document name
- Add in new columns with variable names and add in the data you want to import



◀ ▶ Sheet1 +

Importing Variables

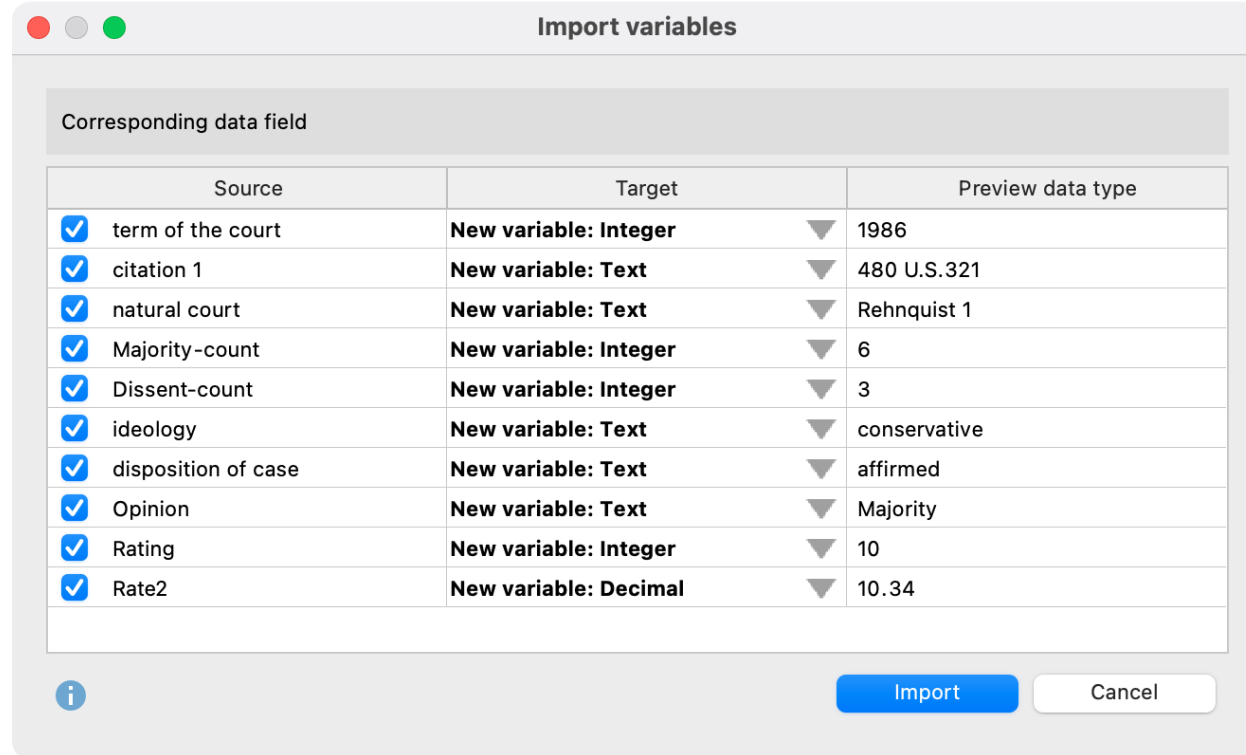
- Save the spreadsheet and return to MAXQDA and select import Document Variables



Importing Variables

- Once you select the spreadsheet, you can review and change the new variable names, and set the type of the variable

Select import



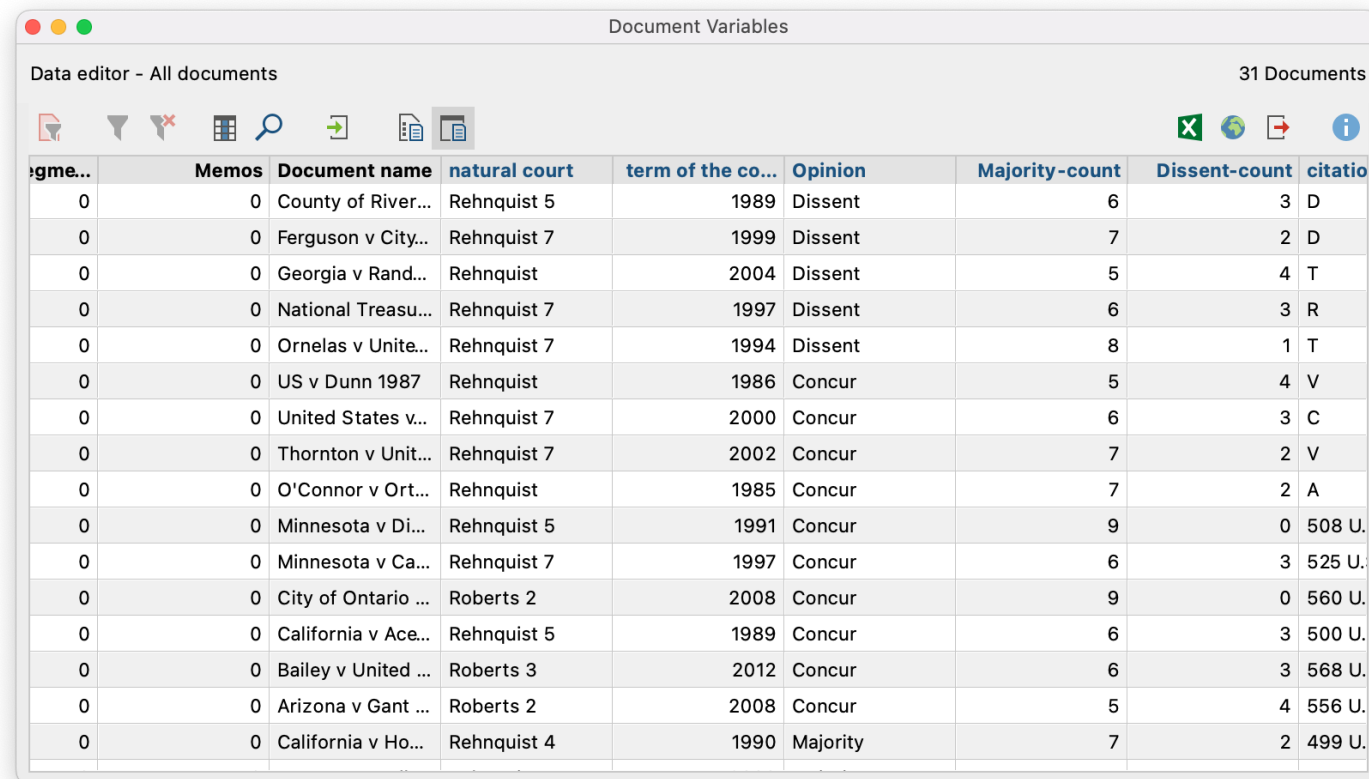
The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Import variables" with a table of data fields. The table has three columns: "Source", "Target", and "Preview data type". Each row in the "Source" column has a blue checkmark in a box to its left. The "Target" column shows the variable name and type, with a dropdown arrow to its right. The "Preview data type" column shows a sample value for each variable.

Source	Target	Preview data type
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> term of the court	New variable: Integer ▼	1986
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> citation 1	New variable: Text ▼	480 U.S.321
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> natural court	New variable: Text ▼	Rehnquist 1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Majority-count	New variable: Integer ▼	6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dissent-count	New variable: Integer ▼	3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ideology	New variable: Text ▼	conservative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> disposition of case	New variable: Text ▼	affirmed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Opinion	New variable: Text ▼	Majority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rating	New variable: Integer ▼	10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rate2	New variable: Decimal ▼	10.34

At the bottom of the dialog, there is an information icon (i) on the left, and "Import" and "Cancel" buttons on the right.

Importing Variables

- The variable editor will then be viewed showing the new variables



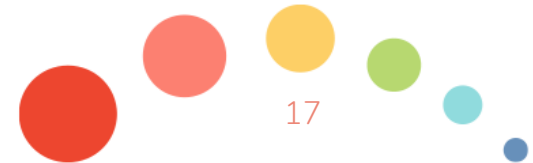
Document Variables

Data editor - All documents 31 Documents

Document name	natural court	term of the co...	Opinion	Majority-count	Dissent-count	citatio
County of River...	Rehnquist 5	1989	Dissent	6	3	D
Ferguson v City...	Rehnquist 7	1999	Dissent	7	2	D
Georgia v Rand...	Rehnquist	2004	Dissent	5	4	T
National Treasu...	Rehnquist 7	1997	Dissent	6	3	R
Ornelas v Unite...	Rehnquist 7	1994	Dissent	8	1	T
US v Dunn 1987	Rehnquist	1986	Concur	5	4	V
United States v...	Rehnquist 7	2000	Concur	6	3	C
Thornton v Unit...	Rehnquist 7	2002	Concur	7	2	V
O'Connor v Ort...	Rehnquist	1985	Concur	7	2	A
Minnesota v Di...	Rehnquist 5	1991	Concur	9	0	508 U.
Minnesota v Ca...	Rehnquist 7	1997	Concur	6	3	525 U.
City of Ontario ...	Roberts 2	2008	Concur	9	0	560 U.
California v Ace...	Rehnquist 5	1989	Concur	6	3	500 U.
Bailey v United ...	Roberts 3	2012	Concur	6	3	568 U.
Arizona v Gant ...	Roberts 2	2008	Concur	5	4	556 U.
California v Ho...	Rehnquist 4	1990	Majority	7	2	499 U.

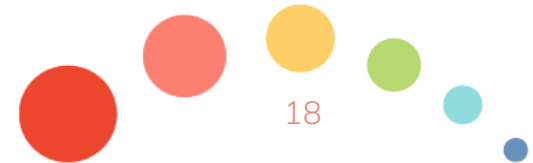
Updating variables

- You can update data in the variable editor directly, by clicking on an individual cell
- Or you can update the spreadsheet and reupdate the data
- MAXQDA will write over existing data and will provide a dialog box with the variables that will be updated



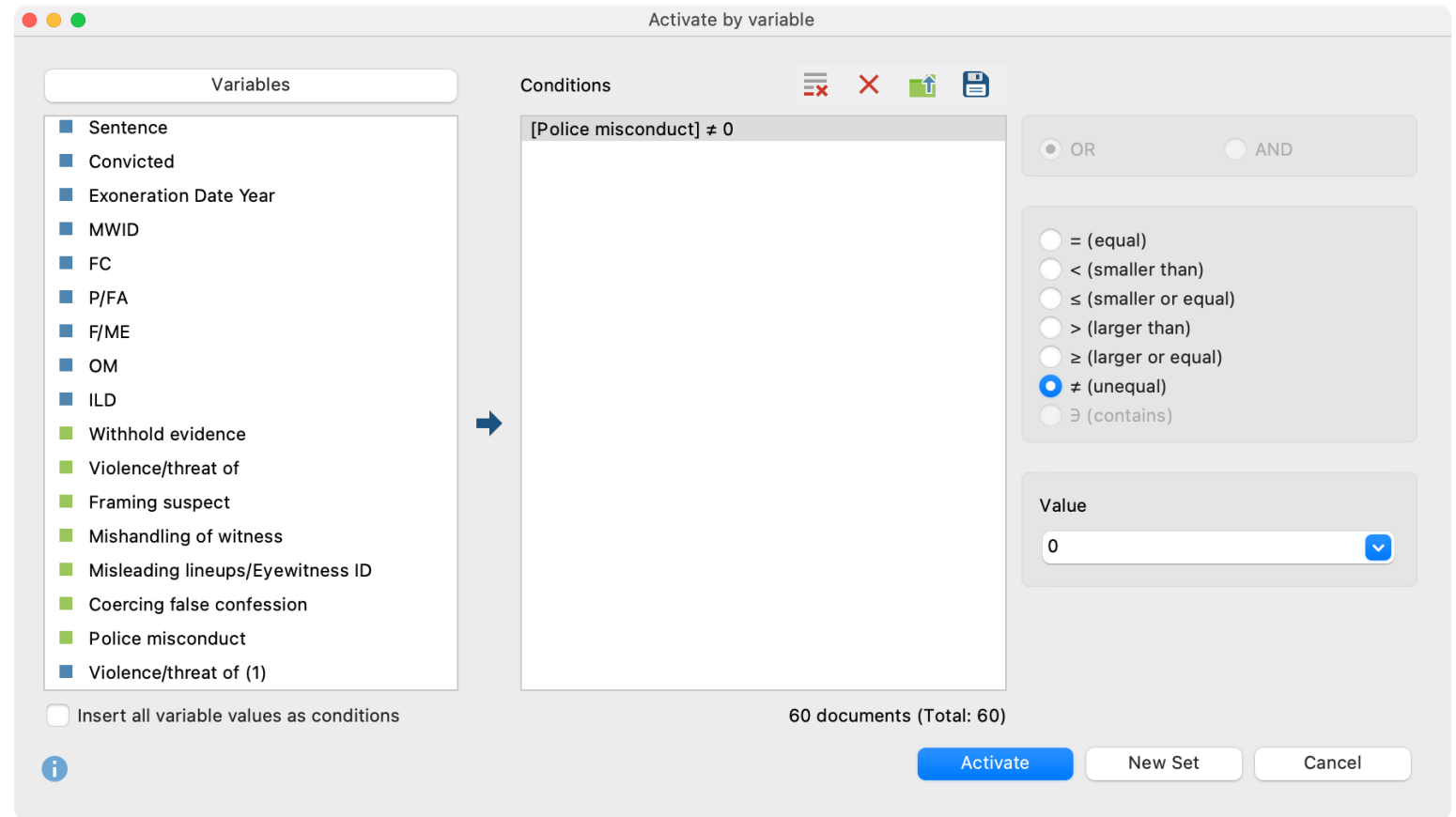
What to do with Document variables

- MAXQDA offers many ways to use variables
- There isn't time to demonstrate or explain all of them here, but here are a few



Activating documents using variables

- Use a variable to identify specific documents to activate



Crosstabs

The screenshot shows a 'Crosstab' dialog box with the following components:

- Variables:** A list of variables on the left, including 'Document group', 'Document name', 'Created by', 'Created', 'Modified by', 'Modified', 'Coded Segments', 'Memos', 'Age', 'Race', 'Sex', 'ST', 'County of Conviction', 'Crime', 'Sentence', 'Convicted', and 'Expiration Date Year'. A blue arrow points from this list to the 'Columns' section.
- Columns:** A list of columns on the right, containing '[Coercing false confession] ≠ <empty>' and '[Violence/threat of] ≠ <empty>'. Above this list are icons for clearing, deleting, adding, and saving.
- Comparison Operators:** A group of radio buttons for comparison operators: '= (equal)', '< (smaller than)', '≤ (smaller or equal)', '> (larger than)', '≥ (larger or equal)', '≠ (unequal)' (which is selected), and '∃ (contains)'.
- Value:** A dropdown menu showing '<empty>'.
- Filters:** Two checkboxes: 'Only for activated documents' (checked) and 'Only for activated codes' (unchecked).
- Buttons:** 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons at the bottom right.
- Info:** An information icon (i) at the bottom left.
- Checkbox:** An unchecked checkbox labeled 'Insert all variable values as conditions' at the bottom left.

Crosstabs

Crosstab			
			Total
Police misconduct	27	24	51
Violence/threat of	18	24	42
Mishandling of witness	4	2	6
History of misconduct	1	1	2
Dirty cop coverup	1	1	2
Misleading lineups/Eyewitness ID	3	3	6
Withhold evidence	3	3	6
Coercing false confession	27	18	45
Nonviolence+Defendent	3		3
Violence+Defendent	16	15	31
Nonviolence+ Witness	5		5
Violence+ Witness	5	5	10
Framing suspect	6	7	13
SUM	119	103	222
N = Documents	27 (81.8%)	24 (72.7%)	33 (100.0%)

Thank you

- For more detailed exploration of document variables, consider taking my webinar **Managing your data: Document Groups, Sets, and Variables**

