

# Literature Analysis with MAXQDA

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## MAXQDA as Part of an Ecology of Tools

No matter the type of literature you work with: It is important to recognize that MAXQDA will most likely be one amongst many tools you use to get your literature review done. MAXQDA has its strengths in keeping the generation of ideas, analytic writing and your sources closely together. Reference management software (such as Zotero or Mendeley), on the other hand, has its strengths in managing large amounts of references, and allows for export of references in various citation formats.

You will likely make a variety of products as you conduct your literature analysis, for example:

- Collections of central and peripherally relevant literature
- Summaries of articles, books, chapters
- Thematic summaries that synthesise various pieces of literature
- Finalized overviews over the literature

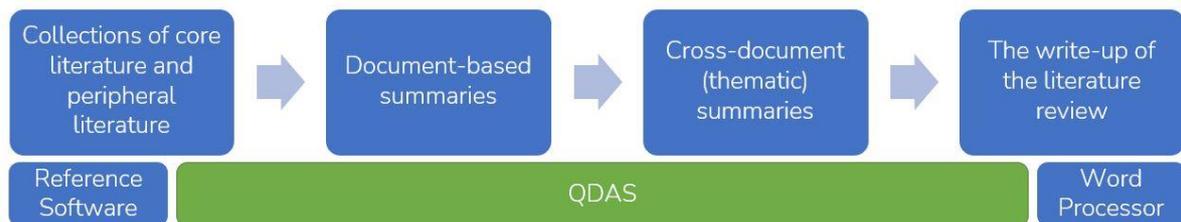
To get the most out of the tools at your disposal, you should plan ahead which products you'll make in which software (or on paper).

You can find additional information in this guide: [https://www.maxqda.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/Guide\\_Literature\\_management\\_with\\_MAXQDA.pdf](https://www.maxqda.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/Guide_Literature_management_with_MAXQDA.pdf)

## Types of Literatur Sources – and how to Import them

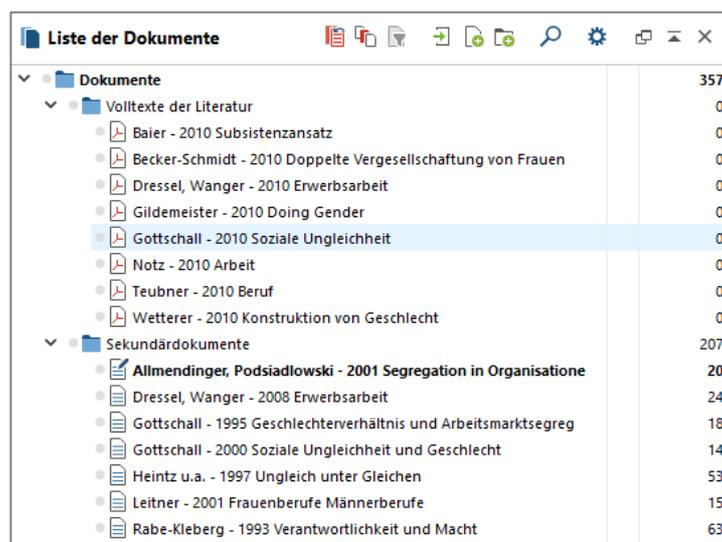
You can use MAXQDA to analyze literature sources that come in a variety of formats. Below is an outline of three scenarios for literature analysis that can be flexibly combined based on your research interest and review strategy.

### Scenario 1: Analysis of literature sources within MAXQDA



In this scenario you use MAXQDA to conduct analysis of literature (such as document-level summaries) within MAXQDA.

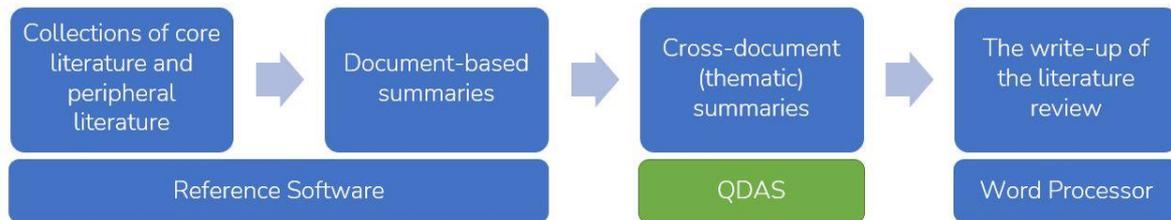
- **What?** Digital books, articles (typically PDFs)
- **How?** Import your documents via drag&drop into the List of Documents in the Document Browser. You can then rename the files. With literature it makes sense to use the authors' names and the year.



Category	Document Name	Count
<b>Dokumente</b> (Total: 357)		
<b>Volltexte der Literatur</b>		
	Baier - 2010 Subsistenzansatz	0
	Becker-Schmidt - 2010 Doppelte Vergesellschaftung von Frauen	0
	Dressel, Wanger - 2010 Erwerbsarbeit	0
	Gildemeister - 2010 Doing Gender	0
	Gottschall - 2010 Soziale Ungleichheit	0
	Notz - 2010 Arbeit	0
	Teubner - 2010 Beruf	0
	Wetterer - 2010 Konstruktion von Geschlecht	0
<b>Sekundärdokumente</b> (Total: 207)		
	Allmendinger, Podsiadlowski - 2001 Segregation in Organisationen	20
	Dressel, Wanger - 2008 Erwerbsarbeit	24
	Gottschall - 1995 Geschlechterverhältnis und Arbeitsmarktsegreg	18
	Gottschall - 2000 Soziale Ungleichheit und Geschlecht	14
	Heintz u.a. - 1997 Ungleich unter Gleichen	53
	Leitner - 2001 Frauenberufe Männerberufe	15
	Rabe-Kleberg - 1993 Verantwortlichkeit und Macht	63

*Imported literature sources in MAXQDA*

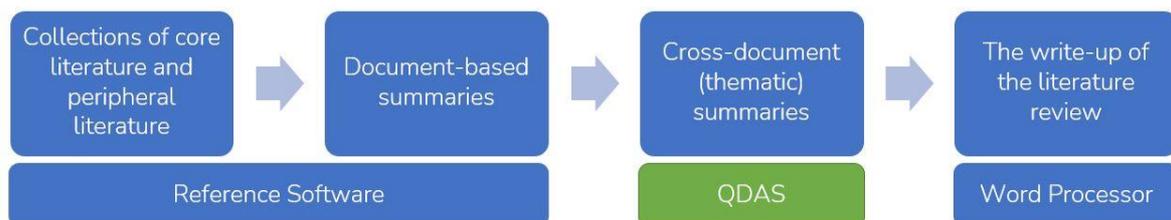
## Scenario 2: Analysis of Literature Summaries



In this scenario you'll use MAXQDA to analyze already written summaries and syntheses of the data.

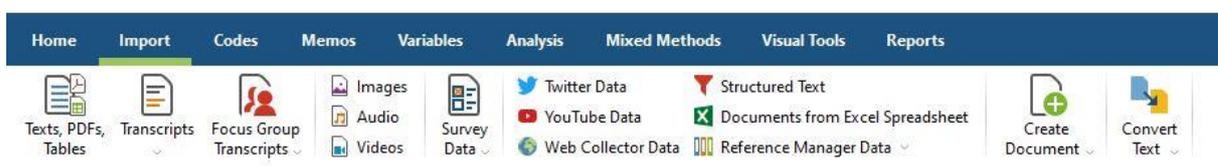
- **What?** Summaries of literature; typically in docX (MS-word) format or RTF format.
- **How?** Import your documents via drag&drop into the List of Documents in the Document Browser.

## Scenario 3: Analysis of Abstracts and work on Broad-Scale Literature Overviews



In this scenario you use MAXQDA to import bibliographical reference information into MAXQDA, alongside with abstracts.

- **What?** Data in RIS format. This format is a common import and export format in reference management software (such as Endnote, Mendeley and Zotero).
- **How?** Export your literature's metadata from your reference manager in RIS format. Import those data via the „Import“ main menu in MAXQDA. There you can select „Reference Manager Data“ to import the entire database of literature you exported earlier. More details regarding import can be found in



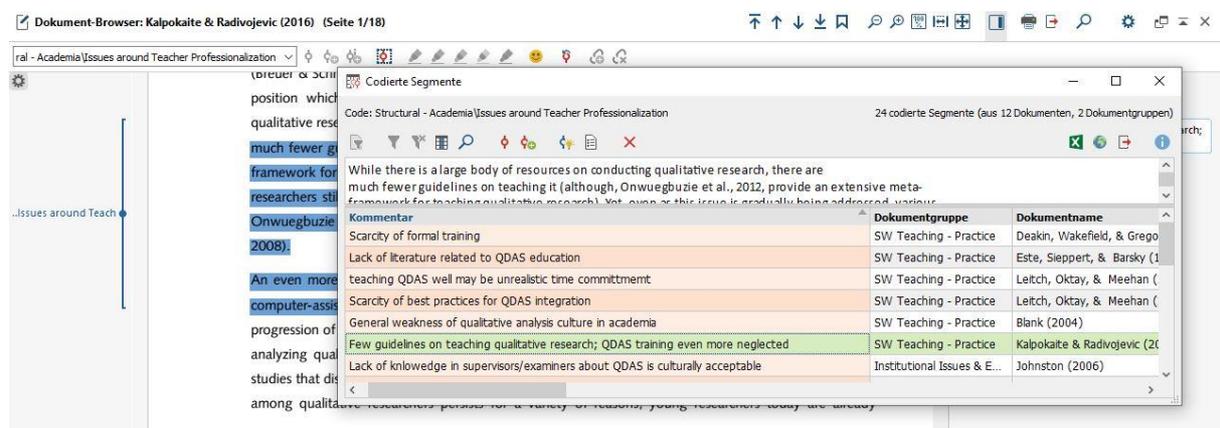
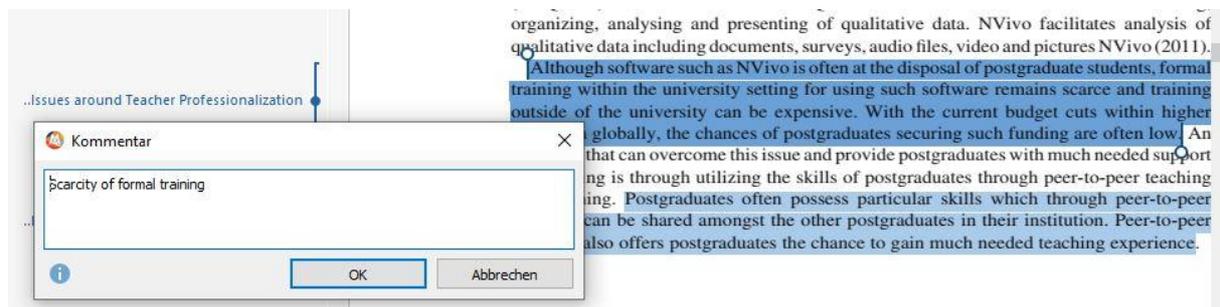
MAXQDA's documentation: <https://www.maxqda.com/help-mx20/import/importing-bibliographical-data-from-endnote-etc>

Location of the import function for RIS data in MAXQDA's „Import“ ribbon

## Developing and Maintaining Code Systems

MAXQDA's coding functions are a great tool to structure your data based on your analytic interests. You might start with a coding tree that broadly outlines some themes that you know are important for you. Alternatively, you can start with a more bottom-up strategy and develop new codes as you go – or you employ a combination of both.

To help you keep track of details, decisions or ideas it is helpful to attach a comment to each segment that you code. You can create code comments by double-left clicking on a coding strip in the Document Browser.



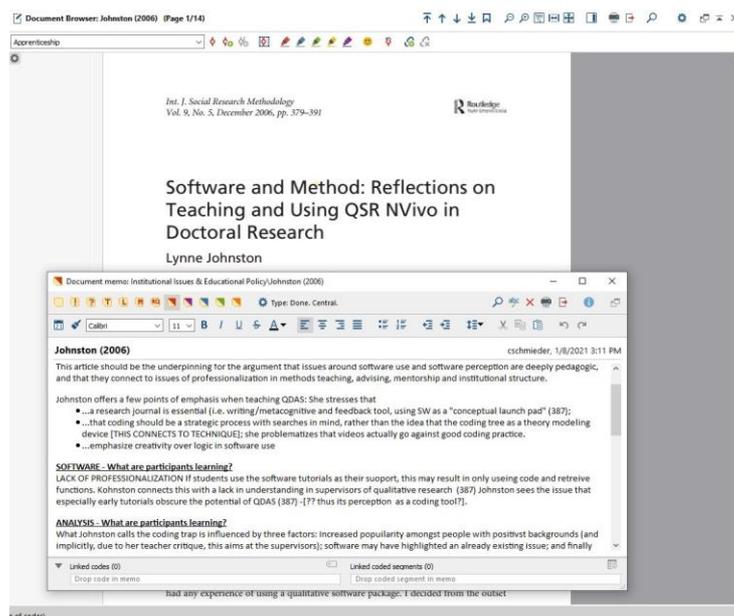
You can use comments later to develop first summaries, or to investigate connections between different literature sources. To create an easy overview of your code comments, simply double-click on a code in the Code System window. Now a list with coded segments, including your comments pops up. With this view, you can

quickly browse through your literature based on the comments you've left for yourself.

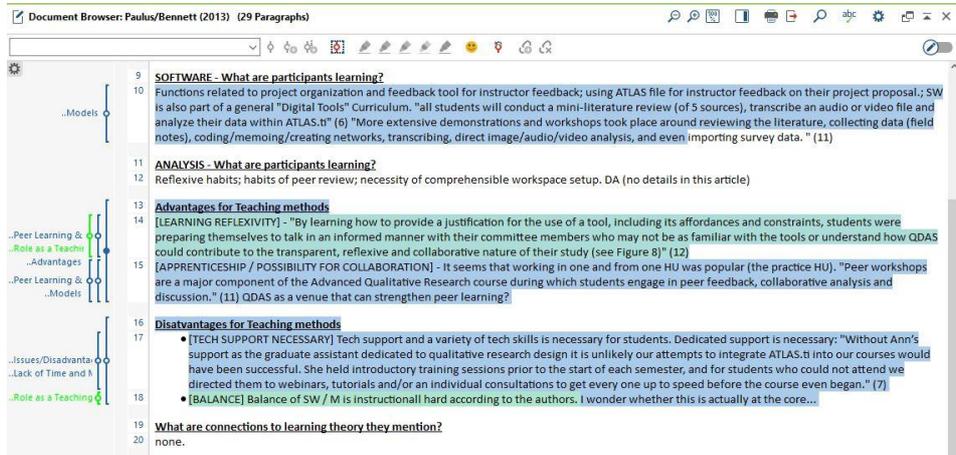
After your literature is initially coded, you can also use retrieval functions to pull summaries or literature quotes. For this, activate all (or some) of your documents in the Document Browser, then activate the code(s) you're interested in. You can also use the Code Matrix Browser in the Visual Tools ribbon to visualize how themes appear in different literature sources. The Code Relations Browser (also in the Visual Tools ribbon) is a great function to investigate thematic overlaps based on your coding.

## Using Memos

Document Memos are a great tool for writing summaries of key literature (20-40 articles).



Using the word processing functions in Memos, you can structure your summaries. You can also link existing thematic codes, or coded segments (for example key quotes) to these memos.



Later on, you can convert your Memos into Documents in MAXQDA (right-click on a memo -> Convert Memo into Document). By doing this, you can code existing summaries in a more detailed fashion.