Spotlight: Literature Reviews with MAXQDA

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Three online MAXQDA workshops coming up...
https://www.qdaservices.co.uk/events

9th -12th May – Qualitative Text Analysis using Digital Tools (MAXQDA)
10th June – Thematic Analysis using MAXQDA
11th & 12th July – Undertaking Evidence Reviews using MAXQDA

Literature review methodologies

A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies
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Abstract

Background and objectives: The expansion of evidence-based practice across sectors has led to an increasing variety of review types. However, the diversity of terminology used means that the full potential of these review types may be lost amongst a confusion of indistinct and unsupplied terms. The objective of this study is to provide descriptive insight into the most common types of reviews, with illustrative examples from health and health information domains.

Methods: Following scoping searches, an examination was made of the vocabulary associated with the literature of review and synthesis (literary warrant). A simple analytical framework—Search, Appraisal−, Synthesis and Analysis (SASA)—was used to examine the main review types.

Results: Fourteen review types and associated methodologies were analysed against the SASA framework, illustrating the inputs and processes of each review type. A description of the key characteristics is given, together with perceived strengths and weaknesses. A limited number of review types are currently utilised within the health information domain.

Conclusions: Few review types possess pre-scribed and explicit methodologies and many fall short of being mutually exclusive. Nevertheless, with limitations, this typology provides a valuable reference point for those commissioning, conducting, supporting or interpreting reviews, both within health information and the wider health care domain.
High-level process

1. Specifying objectives & research questions
2. Identifying relevant materials
3. Capturing evidence
4. Synthesizing evidence
5. Appraising evidence
6. Communicating findings

Spectrum of review types

- More "systematic"
- More "in-depth"
- More strict
- More flexible
- More quantitative
- More qualitative
Using MAXQDA throughout the research cycle - coding across materials

MAXQDA features for literature reviews

- Importing and working with PDF files directly
- Importing references and metadata from bibliographic tools (Endnote, Mendeley, Zotero)
- Using documents to create your own critical appraisals that can be analysed
- Searching for salient issues in literature using keywords, text search and MAXDictio tools
- Coding to systematise thinking about literature and integrate with other data
- Using Sets to create sub-groups of Literature
- Using Paraphrases to capture initial thoughts about literature
- Using Memos to write high-level appraisals of common themes
- Using Summaries to précis and compare
- Using internal links to integrate your writing with the literature & establish connections across references
- Using Document Variables to capture analytic features about literature files
- Using queries and matrix browsers to identify and interrogate patterns
- Using Maps and Models to visually interrogate and display connections
- Outputting to facilitate a rounded write up

Last year

Today...

- Narrowing the pool: analysis of abstracts
  - Identifying relevant materials (screening)

- Assessing quality: quantification & interpretation
  - Capturing and appraising

Literature review example

Topic: green marketing
(drawn from SLR by Katarzyna Rozenkowska, PhD student at University of Warsaw, Poland)

Research question: How has research into green behaviours in workplace settings developed over the past decade (2012 - 2021)

MAXQDA project set-up

- Studies identified and managed in Zotero
- RIS import (no full-texts)
  - < 1600 articles < 4500 keywords coded

Substantive:
- Types of green behaviours
- Different workplace settings

Methodological:
- Types of research
- Disciplinary contexts

Timespan:
- 2012-2021
Narrowing the pool: screening for inclusion/exclusion

- Screen abstracts based on pre-determined criteria
- Create codes for screening criteria
- Code abstracts based on presence/absence
  - Justify reason for rejection using comment
  - Create sub-codes for dimension of presence
- Colour document based on inclusion/exclusion

- Remove rejected articles
  - Activate excluded documents -> Set -> remove

Assessing quality: capturing & appraising evidence

Quality criteria differ

- by study type – qualitative/quantitative/mixed ...?
- in relation to review focus – quantification and/or interpretive assessment ...?

- At the article level
  - Document Variables -> Sets
- At the segment level
  - Evaluative codes -> categorical variables
- At the interpretive level
  - Auto-code structured appraisals -> summary tables
Initial considerations in deciding how to work

- What literature review methodology are you using?
- To what extent do you need to integrate the analysis of the literature with other data?
- Do you want to work directly with the literature, in-directly, or both?
- What outputs do you need to generate from the literature?

More information on structuring appraisals

https://www.qdaservices.co.uk/post/the-crux-of-literature-reviewing-structuring-critical-appraisals-and-using-caqdas-packages
References

- **Literature Reviews with MAXQDA.** Extended extract from Kuckartz U & Rädiker S (2019) Analyzing Qualitative Data with MAXQDA. Springer


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Thank you for your questions, comments, reflections...

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