

Spotlight Session: How to Write Your Thesis with MAXQDA

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In this spotlight session, we will look at the functions MAXQDA offers to support the writing of a thesis or research paper. We will go through six steps to see how the software can help you tackle a qualitative research project. This includes the following:

1. Collect & Import Data
2. Connect to Research Question or Hypothesis
3. Explore Data
4. Analyze Data
5. Interpretation
6. Report your findings


1. Collect & Import Data

- Create a MAXQDA project and import all documents that you are planning to analyze. MAXQDA allows you to work with all your data at one place.
- Your codes can be applied to all your data in your project. You can even import a code system from a previous project.
- Import features: you can import various data types, texts, multimedia data, social media, surveys, focus groups, secondary literature and much more
- **Tip: you can drag and drop simple files. For more complex data types, use the dedicated import features!**

2. Connect to Research Question or Hypothesis

- Use the memo features to develop ideas
- Collect data realited to your research question in the QTT-Tool
- **Tip: break your research question down and work with multiple worksheets**

3. Explore Data

- Manually: comments, paraphrases, inductive coding
 - Automatically: create auto-codes from word cloud und text search
 - AI Assist can provide help in the discovery phase by suggesting codes, chatting with documents and creating summeries. Be aware: you have to know your data well to be able to judge the AI suggestions and decide how it fits your research agenda.
 - **Tip: use the comment and memo features intensively!**
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4. Analyze Data

- Use the retrieved segments window to find coded segments based on your coding or variables
- Visualize connections in your data using tools like the document portrait, code matrix browser or interactive quote matrix
- **Tip: use the interactivity of the visual features to retrieve segments**

5. Interpretation

- Collect the results of your analysis and your visualisations in your QTT worksheets
- Use the QTT to develop interpretations and summarize them, you can use the QTT worksheet for interpretive writing
- Refine and reorganize your code system. You can use the Smart Coding Tool, Creative Coding or AI Assist (Summaries, Sub-code Suggestions, Chat with Coded segments)
- **Tip: the Smart Coding Tool is great to re-organise your code system**

6. Report Findings

- QTT is a good basis for your reporting, export the worksheet as a document
- Using the Smart Publisher you can export the results of your coding and your code system
- **Tip: you can also export all visualizations to insert them directly in your thesis**

Suggested Readings

This blog article gives you an excellent example of how to write your thesis with MAXQDA following these 6 steps: <https://www.maxqda.com/blogpost/how-to-write-a-thesis-with-maxqda-in-6-steps>

Kuckartz, U., & Rädiker, S. (2019). Analyzing qualitative data with MAXQDA. Springer International Publishing.

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