



Digital Tools for Qualitative Research

By Trena Paulus, Jessica N. (Nina) Lester, Paul Dempster

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Digital Tools for Qualitative Research shows how the research process in its entirety can be supported by technology tools in ways that can save time and add robustness and depth to qualitative work. It addresses the use of a variety of tools (many of which may already be familiar to you) to support every phase of the research process, providing practical case studies taken from real world research.

The text shows you how to select and use technology tools to:

- engage in reflexivity
- collaborate with other researchers and stakeholders
- manage your project
- do your literature review
- generate and manage your data
- transcribe and analyse textual, audio and visual data
- and represent and share your findings.

The book also considers important ethical issues surrounding the use of various technologies in each chapter. On the companion website, you'll find lots of additional resources including video tutorials and activities.

Whether you're a novice or expert social researcher, this book will inspire you to think creatively about how to approach your research project and get the most out of the huge range of tools available to you.

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Editorial Review

Review

This is an authoritative, thoughtful and consistently useful treatment of digital resources for qualitative researchers. It is grounded in the authors' wealth of practical experience and unlike other texts in this field, it guides the reader right through the whole range of ways in which digital tools can support the contemporary researcher across the qualitative research process in its entirety.

(Professor Nigel Fielding 2013-10-15)

This book is both thought-provoking and challenging as it constantly invites you to reflect on your actions by providing exercises, reflective questions, and an accompanying website with information, references, examples and links. I found a lot of recognition in the text - I consider myself to be an early adopter of digital tools - and yet, lots of new and inspiring examples of the use of digital tools were available to me in Digital tools. As technology is rapidly changing our research possibilities, opportunities and procedures, this book is both interesting and worthwhile to students in all phases of their education as well as junior and senior researchers. (Jeanine Evers 2013-10-15)

Digital Tools for Qualitative Research" is the first book on the digital technologies of qualitative research to go beyond the limits of the earlier era of stand-alone qualitative data analysis software packages. This book acknowledges those earlier tools as it goes on to explore the potential of the internet and other digital tools, filling a critical gap in the universe of qualitative research methodology texts. Strengths of this volume include its focus on all components of the research process and ways digital tools can be brought to bear to improve the robustness of qualitative research. Just as in many other fields, where contained software packages had to make way for the wide open spaces of the Internet, here, too, the authors demonstrate the opportunities and challenges that come with the next generation of digital tools—a place where there is possibility, fragmentation, and remixing. What I found particularly helpful was the ongoing consideration of ethical issues across the volume and the probing end-of-chapter questions. The authors have opened up new space for qualitative researchers. I will definitely use this text to work through my own challenges regarding conducting qualitative research in a digital world and will recommend it to students who are developing their own methodological paths. (Judith Davidson 2013-10-15)

This is a comprehensive introduction to digital tools relevant for both novice and more experienced qualitative researchers and a valuable contribution to the field.

It is refreshing to see discussion of the role of digital tools across the entirety of the qualitative research process; from tools to engage in and foster reflexive practice and collaboration, tools to review literature, generate, transcribe and analyse data, through to the writing about and representation of findings. The book is well laid out and clearly written, with repeated sections across chapters helping the reader navigate the content.

The use of affordances theory to contextualise tools is particularly helpful. This book is much more than a summary of available tools; designed to foster reflexive engagement in the implications of using digital tools as well as raising awareness of their scope.

The explicit encouragement of the reader to consider the affordances and constraints of specific digital tools and their role in the research process is particularly valuable. This book will be a welcome addition to the researchers' tool chest and the teacher's resources. (Christina Silver)

A pleasure to read, encouraging a reflexive and ethical approach to research without sounding restrictive or judgmental... What is enduring about this text is that it deals with the theory and execution of projects that utilise digital tools, encouraging good research management using these tools without too much emphasis on the technical nature of the specific tools themselves. In this respect, whatever new digital tools emerge, this book will remain a useful and relevant text. (Victoria Pagan, Newcastle University)

About the Author

Trena M Paulus holds a Ph.D. in Education/Instructional Systems Technology and currently teaches qualitative research methods, discourse analysis and instructional technology courses at the University of Tennessee, USA, where she is an associate professor. She has published articles in the areas of qualitative research methods, instructional technology and computer-mediated communication. She teaches a doctoral level course on Digital Tools for Qualitative Research.

Jessica Nina Lester is an Assistant Professor in the Inquiry Methodology program in the School of Education at Indiana University where she teaches courses focused on introductory research methods and qualitative research methodologies, with a particular focus on discourse and conversation analysis. Dr. Lester received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology and Research, along with a graduate certificate in Qualitative Research Methods in Education, from the University of Tennessee in 2011. She received her Master's of Education in 2005 from the University of Mary. Her research activities lie at the intersection of disability studies, discourse studies, and critical/social theory. Dr. Lester recently co-edited a book focused on performance ethnographies and co-authored a book focused on the use of digital tools across the qualitative research process. She is currently the co-editor of *The Palgrave handbook of child mental health: Discourse and conversation studies* and *The Palgrave handbook of adult mental health: Discourse and conversation studies*. She most recently published in journals such as *Qualitative Inquiry*, *Discourse Studies*, and *The International Journal of Qualitative Studies*.

Paul Dempster is an applied health researcher who specialises in qualitative research. He is particularly interested in CAQDAS methods and has taught internationally on their use. He is a consultant methodologist for Transana at the University of Wisconsin and works for the NHS in Newcastle.

Users Review

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