

Fondren Fellows

Project Title: Teaching Qualitative Data Analysis
Research Tools



Brief Summary:

Are you interested in how people understand their world, express their beliefs, or explain their desires? Qualitative data analysis can be used to explore these topics through coding and extracting meaning from individuals' words. During this fellowship, you'll explore software tools for qualitative data analysis, determine their relative strengths, and teach others how to conduct research with a chosen tool.

Project Description:

Teaching Qualitative Research Tools aims to expand support for qualitative and mixed-methods research on campus by helping Fondren Library's Research Data Services (RDS) team decide which tool to support (candidates include NVivo, ATLAS.ti, and MAXQDA) and by creating training materials (a LibGuide and workshop) for that tool. This project will help fill a void in the training provided by RDS that has been requested by multiple professors.

The project is feasible because the selection criteria will include some experience with qualitative methods and experience in a discipline that uses them. This background will encourage the fellow to explore methodologies interesting to them and to develop teaching skills. Additionally, the project will be staged with the fellow exploring tools to help RDS decide which to support before creating a workshop and guide.

Outline the key tasks that the Fondren Fellow(s) would work on.

During the fellowship, the fellow will:

- Try out and compare software tools for qualitative data analysis (including NVivo, ATLAS.ti, and MAXQDA) to help RDS decide which tool to support with workshops and training.
- Design and teach a workshop on how to use the selected qualitative research tool.
- Create a high-quality, user-friendly, and accessible LibGuide about qualitative research and using the tool, based on the workshop and tailored to the needs of Rice students and faculty.
- Learn and practice qualitative methods, as well as effective workshop, presentation, and project management skills.

Fall:

- Read examples of scholarly projects that have used qualitative data methods

- Conduct a mini research project using qualitative data methods to get familiar with the methods and tools
- Conduct an analysis of faculty and student needs and wants around qualitative data analysis tools
- Compare qualitative data tools' capabilities and their costs and decide which Rice should support in consultation with the project mentor

Spring:

- Create a Libguide to support the Rice community in learning qualitative data research methods, including tools, methods, and examples
- Develop and teach one (possibly two) qualitative data analysis workshops using the selected tool

What qualifications would you expect from students working on this project?

- A background in an academic field that uses qualitative data analysis methods, such as anthropology, sociology, or psychology
- An interest in and experience with qualitative or mix-methods research
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Project and time management skills
- Desire to develop or improve teaching skills

What would students learn through their participation in this project?

The fellow would:

- Expand qualitative data analysis research skills.
- Learn about evaluating research tools.
- Develop teaching and presentation skills.
- Learn how to evaluate a workshop and use feedback to improve future workshops.