

Table 1: Pros and Cons of Five Qualitative Data Analysis Software Packages*

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Software	Pros	Cons
<p>ATLAS.ti for Windows http://www.atlasti.com/index.html</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -sophisticated QDA program -support text, PDF, survey, audio, video and graphical files -lots of built-in functions for coding, retrieving, analyzing, visualizing and exporting -very responsive to enquiries and suggestions -lots of online and face-to-face training opportunities -growing in popularity -allow for team work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -use a unique coding system that is not visually hierarchical, although achieving the same purposes -many data sources are not stored inside the ATLAS.ti hermeneutic unit; need to use caution to keep track of the locations of original files
<p>NVivo for Windows http://www.qsrinternational.com/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -sophisticated QDA program -support text, PDF, survey, audio, video and graphical files -lots of built-in functions for coding, retrieving, analyzing, visualizing and exporting -responsive to enquiries and suggestions -face-to-face training workshops are regularly scheduled -allow for team work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -some functions are not intuitive and therefore take time to learn by reading the manual or by viewing the online tutorials -some query functions are not intuitive therefore take time to learn
<p>MAXQDA for Windows http://www.maxqda.com/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -sophisticated QDA program -support text, PDF, survey, audio, video and graphical files -lots of built-in functions for coding, retrieving, analyzing, visualizing and exporting -program is very easy to learn and intuitive -the built-in query tools, mixed methods tabs and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -not many users in Canada or the United States at the moment compared to ATLAS.ti and NVivo; therefore lack a community of users

	<p>MAXDictio tab (at an extra cost) are very easy to learn and well-suited for qualitative and mixed methods research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -MAXReader is available FREE of charge for people who do not have the software to view the documents -lots of free online tutorials available on website -allow for team work 	
<p>QDA Miner http://provalisresearch.com/products/qualitative-data-analysis-software/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -sophisticated QDA program -support text, PDF, survey, audio, video and graphical files -lots of built-in functions for coding, retrieving, analyzing, visualizing and exporting -online automated training tutorials are available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -lack of training opportunities; looks like users have to learn this product on their own -may not be as quick in product development as other QDA products
<p>Dedoose http://www.dedoose.com/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -a well-built, easy to use QDA program -easy storage e.g. on a cloud -does not take up a large space on the computer if at all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -fewer users in Canada or the United States at the moment compared to ATLAS.ti and NVivo; therefore lack a community of users

Software	Characteristics
ATLAS.ti for Mac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Visibly different layout than Windows version -Intuitive placement of icons and functions for easier analysis -Some features are even better than the Windows version – those improvements will appear in ATLAS.ti version 8 coming out in 2015
MAXQDA for Mac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The only software that has the same functions as its Windows version -The company, even though based in Germany, is very responsive to provide feedback for questions about different versions
NVivo for Mac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Different layout than Windows version -Some functions not yet available for Mac version

*The contents in this table are the opinions solely of the author. For any corrections or suggestions, please email me at nevilleli09@gmail.com or refer to my research website nevilleliresearch.weebly.com Thanks. – Neville Li

**I am strictly a Windows user and trainer/consultant, therefore my evaluation of the Mac version for ATLAS.ti, MAXQDA and NVivo is limited and to the best of my ability. Mac users are encouraged to check out the respective company websites for more information on the latest products and updates.

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