The Researcher’s View

On data infrastructure in a diverse environment and the anonymization of qualitative data

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Tasks

Ensure data security

Provide external data

Ensure and assist Anonymization

Data Archiving

Data Discovery

Data Analysis

Data Repurposing

Study Concept

Data Collection

Data Processing

Data Distribution

Ensure and assist documentation
Current status of qualitative social research infrastructure

- Current infrastructure is underdeveloped (e.g. data documentation and exchange)
- Problem: qualitative research is diverse!
- Need for more information about the practices of qualitative researchers to develop workable infrastructure
New Approach: Qualitative Social Research on Empirical Social Research (below Meta-Research)

3 Steps of Meta-Research:
- observing, and
- analyzing everyday research practices (by applying methods of qualitative social research)
- advising and developing (with scientific evidence)
What is anonymization of qualitative data and why is it problematic?

The practices of anonymization of field notes

Three recorded sessions ("naturally-occurring" talks)

Theses:

- concepts of anonymization are indexical and in need of explanation,
- the application of those concepts is contingent, situated and follows different claims,
- therefore, scientists perform accountable so that all group members understand their actions.
Conclusion

- The concept is indexical and in need of explanation.
- The application is contingent, situated, and follows different claims.
- Scientists perform actions accountable.
- If you want to understand anonymized data (e.g. for the purpose of secondary analysis), you have to be in the happy position to reconstruct the process of anonymization.
Recommendation

- Documentation equally to the way the studied social scientists do it for themselves

- In this case: detailed documentation of the application of anonymization
Thank you for your attention!

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For technical details:
*M Managing and Sharing Data within the Collaborative Research Center SFB 882: Concepts and Requirements of a VRE for the Social Sciences*
By Johanna Vompras, and Wolfram Horstmann, University Library Bielefeld
Session-δ, Thu June 07, 13:45-15:15, Location: Betts Theatre