

NCRM Collaborative Project

Shaping Next Generation CAQDAS Tools

Co-Investigators

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Dr Mike Fraser, MiMeG (NCeSS Node), Department of Computer Science, University of Bristol

Aims & Objectives

- To foster a working relationship with DReSS and MiMeG.
- To explore the mapping of the intellectual processes involved in bringing together disparate sources of data, drawing on psychology, micro-sociology and cognitive perspectives in education.
- To develop our expertise where the development of technology and methods for handling diverse data types outpaces our mainstream provision of training and awareness raising events.
- To expand our expertise in the different potentials of team research projects and how they are managed.
- To begin the process of extending and expanding relevant and enduring QUIC node TCB resources.

Background information on collaboration partners

Since 1994 the CAQDAS Networking Project has sought to advise and support the research community concerning the use of software for qualitative data analysis. The support and resource offered will be enlarged and enhanced with NCRM funding of the QUIC node. To prepare for this the chance to spend time expanding the knowledge and experience base of the CAQDAS researchers in a particular direction was a valuable opportunity. Funding covered fte .4 for Lewins over 3 months and contributions to the expenses or consultancy fees of collaborating researchers.

DRS and MiMeG are two software developments under ESRC NCeSS funding. Both software packages offer groundbreaking methods for handling multimedia data in the individual and team research context. DRS is an ongoing software project of the DReSS node. The package has been developed to handle and analyse multiple types of digital data which may have a temporal relationship with each other. The separate data can therefore be synchronized if appropriate and in this way, different recordings and logs of the same event can be compared and analysed, e.g. medical data such as a patient's

heartbeat during an experienced event alongside a video of his actions and chat. Data being analysed together might include audiovisual or graphical data, mobile phone or GPS data, system logs, etc. The second collaboration partner was the developer of MiMeG - a software project providing cutting edge video-handling for teams. The software allows the real-time annotation of video by team members viewing the same video synchronized from diverse locations. The MiMeG project is in need of continuation funding to continue its development and to be able to support users properly whilst DRS is in receipt of a second tranche of NCESS funding. Both software packages are freely available.

Collaboration Activities

Activities were totally commensurate with the proposed process of the collaboration itemized in the bid proposal. A series of meetings and events between collaboration partners were designed to achieve progress on several fronts. Firstly Lewins and Silver (CAQDAS/QUIC researchers) needed time and input from collaborators to be able to update their own skills in order to expand the advisory service offered to the research community. Two 1-day meetings with DRS (see participation details below) and one meeting with MiMeg, together with several phone consultations, provided that input. A good working relationship has resulted with further co-operation planned. During the funding period an open event was planned to feature the software developers and researchers demonstrating the software and how both packages have been designed and used for different contexts of research. This event was held on 9 June 2009. A mix of experienced methodologists and researchers attended from a wide cross-section of disciplines. Detailed information re delegates to this event is attached. The event was useful in raising the profile of both software projects and announced them as software projects now included in the support provided to researchers by CAQDAS/QUIC researchers.

Outputs resulting from the collaboration in the short term include a working paper "DRS, distinguishing features and functions", which catalogues and reviews the functionality of DRS. This has been published on the QUIC web site, and has also been submitted to the NCRM BSCW. A similar paper on MiMeG will be forthcoming shortly. These join the series of papers on leading commercial software already updated and published during QUIC funding.

Output in preparation which will be directly affected by the collaboration will be working papers as follows:

1. "Team and collaborative qualitative research: the extra dimensions of project management"
2. "Tools to Aid Teamwork with Qualitative Data: Comparisons of CAQDAS Packages"
3. "Qualitative research with multimedia: handling multimedia, choices and comparative information"

All papers will build towards the overall TCB resource planned by the QUIC node.

Schedule of activities

1st event: 13 November 2008 – Collaboration with DRS

Initial collaborative event organized by CAQDAS Networking Project with DReSS II (NCeSS) researchers – held at Surrey. Dr Andy Crabtree and Paul Tennent (University of Nottingham), Ann Lewins and Dr Christina Silver (University of Surrey) were the main participants of the all-day event. It also included a 1 hour overview of DRS which all other members of the QUIC node attended (Nigel Fielding, Jane Fielding, Thomas Koenig) together with interested members of the Sociology Department at Surrey.

2nd Event: 13 January 2009 Collaboration with MiMeG

Initial 1 day event organized by CAQDAS Networking Project at Surrey, with the NCeSS node, MiMeG's Dr Mike Fraser (University of Bristol), Ann Lewins and Christina Silver (University of Surrey). As above there was also a one hour overview included at which other members of the QUIC node attended.

3rd Event: 28 January 2009 Collaboration with DRS

A second meeting designed for collaboration staff to enable CAQDAS/QUIC researchers to fine-tune understanding of DRS. Paul Tennent and Dr Patrick Brundell (University of Nottingham), Ann Lewins, Dr Christina Silver, and Dr Thomas Koenig, of the QUIC node, University of Surrey, took part in the day long meeting.

Open Seminar: 9 June 2009

Dr Andy Crabtree, Paul Tennent, and Dr Mike Fraser discussed the intellectual origins of each software package, and research projects associated with their development. They demonstrated the practical functioning of the software and how teamwork with multimedia types is enabled. List of delegates attached.

Benefits and ongoing.

Informal co-operation will continue between collaboration partners as the QUIC node researchers and CAQDAS Networking Project resources require input as the software packages develop further. The collaboration funding whilst enabling the CAQDAS/QUIC team to keep pace with these particular technological developments has provided a sound basis on which the ESRC investment in the two NCeSS software projects can be optimized with the extra exposure and information now available to the research community via the CAQDAS Networking Project.