Rotterdam Exchange Format Initiative

• Result of KWALON Conference:
  Reflecting on the Future of QDA Software

• Participating software packages:
  ATLAS.ti, Dedoose, f4analyse, MAXQDA, Nvivo, QDA Miner, Quirkos, Transana

• Coordination group:
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Goal and products

• Data exchange between software packages for qualitative analysis

• Codebook Exchange (.qdc)
  Released at the end of March 2018; downloadable at our website: www.qdasoftware.org

• Project Exchange (.qdpx)
  Released March 2019

• Several other software packages showed an interest in adapting to the standard
Reasons

• Switch to other software packages
• Exchange with colleagues
• Prevent lock-in
• Use package with specific features
• Result verification
• Archiving (?)
Codebook Exchange model
Project Exchange
Project Exchange

- ZIP file with QDPX extension
- XML file in ZIP with QDE extension
- Folder in ZIP with source files
- Each source file has GUID name
Project Exchange schema

```xml
<xsd:schema xmlns="urn:QDA-XML:project:1.0" xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"

targetNamespace="urn:QDA-XML:project:1.0" elementFormDefault="qualified"
attributeFormDefault="unqualified" version="1.0">
    <!-- ===== Element Declarations ===== -->
    <xsd:element name="Project" type="ProjectType">
        <xsd:annotation>
            <xsd:documentation>This element MUST be conveyed as the root element in any instance document based on this Schema expression</xsd:documentation>
        </xsd:annotation>
    </xsd:element>

    <!-- ===== Type Definitions ===== -->
    <xsd:complexType name="ProjectType">
        <xsd:sequence>
            <xsd:element name="Users" type="UsersType" minOccurs="0"/>
            <xsd:element name="CodeBook" type="CodeBookType" minOccurs="0"/>
            <xsd:element name="Variables" type="VariablesType" minOccurs="0"/>
            <xsd:element name="Cases" type="CasesType" minOccurs="0"/>
        </xsd:sequence>
    </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:schema>
```
Project Exchange instance

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<Project
   name="project.qde"
   xmlns="urn:QDA-XML:project:0:10"
   xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
   xsi:schemaLocation="urn:QDA-XML:project:0:10 Project.xsd"
   basePath="E:/Data/David/Video/Transana/QDA-XML/"
   origin="Transana 3.22b2-QDE-Win">
   <Users>
   <User
guid="00b35ef9-0097-4f31-96ef-80fc7f246969"
   name="Apostrophe's Test Clip Note NoteTaker 1" />
   <User
guid="eb30882c-ffbb-4aa5-baf0-799b050a5503"
   name="Apostrophe's Test Collection Note NoteTaker 1" />
   <User
guid="e98337b3-e8f0-46d2-8b5f-fd0893e4cb50"
   name="Apostrophe's Test Collection Owner 1" />
   <User
guid="2b7963b6-aa9e-491a-b001-0ded2d35620f"
   name="Apostrophe's Test Document Author 1" />
   <User
guid="c738ce01-40d3-4585-b1e2-e95f6a06a3cf"
   name="Apostrophe's Test Document Note NoteTaker 1" />
   <User
guid="f36a2957-22ce-4e78-89a0-621f756388d8"
   name="Apostrophe's Test Episode Note NoteTaker 1"/>
   </Users>
</Project>
Sources

- Text, PDF, DOCX and multimedia
- Text can be plain or formatted
- Formatted text is represented by plain text
- Multimedia can be transcribed with text
- Transcriptions and multimedia are synchronized by syncpoints
Selections

- Audio/video: from – to (ms)
- Text: from – to (characters)
- Only plain text selections
- Pictures: x – y
- Transcripts: from – to (syncpoints)
Metadata

- Bare minimum needed for project exchange
- Not sufficient for archiving
Coding

• Sources and selections can be coded
• Codes can be linked to each other, also hierarchically
• Codes can be part of sets
• Codebooks can be exchanged separately
Cases

- Sources and selections can belong to a case (e.g. person interviewed)
- A case may have variable values
Graphs

- A project may contain graphs or maps
- A graph consists of vertexes (boxes) and edges (lines)
Archiving

- Is QDA-XML suited for archiving projects?
- What metadata needs to be added?
- Are elements or structures missing?
- Is the model too rich for archiving?
- What else needs to be changed?

Archiving with a press of a button?