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Introduction

The objective of the scheme to deepen the library professional's understanding of the research process matched with the focus of the University of Southampton Library. It seemed an ideal opportunity to further work in the area of research data management and research support. Two areas emerged

- To enable both these projects to go ahead the decision was to propose that the posts were 0.5 FTE for a period of two months, commencing in May 2014.

The National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) typology was originally developed by Beissel-Durrant (2004). That typology provides a hierarchical classification of research methods used in the Social Sciences and has been used by the NCRM to categorise training events, research activities and other outputs and has become one of the most frequently downloaded items from the NCRM website. The typology underpins the reporting of training and research needs within Social Science research methods to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). As a key resource it is was thought important to review

- how the typology was working,
- whether it required any revisions in light of developments over the last 10 years,
- how it was being applied,
- how effective this was and
- whether there were any new approaches that should be considered to enhance or indeed replace the Research Methods Typology

After consultation with academic users, the NCRM IT and communications group and a university librarian, it was decided that the second option would best meet the requirements of an updated NCRM. The following recommendations were made:

1. Adopt the Major Revision with expended terms option approach to revision of the typology, but consider adding tag cloud feature at a later stage.
2. Reconfigure the current typology so the 'Main and subcategories' are presented as level 1 and level 2 headings only. Develop a 3rd level of headings similar to the descriptor terms as well as developing the connected and related terms.
3. Categories in the typology should be more conceptual in nature, with only the lowest level (Descriptor) having a level of specificity
4. Create practical guidance for use with the Training and E vents database and EPrints. This would be embedded guidance on the input screens, or a link to a suitable resource

Updating the NCRM typology of social science research methods

Rebekah Luff, Dorothy Byatt and David Martin, NCRM, University of Southampton

Back in 2004, soon after the inception of the NCRM, a need was identified to be able to classify research methods in order to support the priorities of the NCRM and other ESRC initiatives.

The initial driver for this was to classify items in the training and events database, but the range of potential applications grew, including classifying research projects, funding research items, identifying areas of need for training and research, defining current trends and prioritising research methods in the original typology.

Over 700 categories following the structure of a research project proposal were identified and grouped into sub-categories which were further refined into a final typology.

The main categories and subcategories of the typology have been used to structure the NCRM online resources and

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categories

- Assessing Librarians
- Archives
- Building Works
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- Exams Feedback
- Exam Library

WE CAN DO FOR YOU YOUR LIBRARIANS CAN WORK AS PART OF YOUR RESEARCH TEAM: WORKING WITH THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESEARCH METHODS

RESEARCH & REFERENCE

By Dorothy Byatt

"The traditional view of the Library and librarians is changing" is a phrase that the digital age we live in and search engines such as Google have opened the way to the discovery of knowledge, previously hidden in dusty tomes such as Abbotting and the early publications. Data and information now flows from many different sources, leading to opportunities to research that were not possible previously. With these benefits come new challenges, how do you find the data you need, how do you manage what you find or wonder, how do you save the information so that you can retrieve them later, where do you find help and support for your research project with these tools? And the answer is, you're librarians integrated into your team!

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Southampton University Librarianship Research, we can do for you your librarians can work as part of your research team

This project was based in the Characterisation and Analytics Research Group within Chemistry.

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- Embedding the typology in the NCRM website (<http://social.ncrm.ac.uk>)
- NCRM website provides major resource for UK social science researchers, covering publications, training and research methods development
- Accurately searchable content by users is therefore of key importance
- Consensus on using typology terms make it a gold standard for annotating content, information retrieval and refining online search results in the NCRM website
- Much better approach to labelling content compared to free text tagging and subsequently search using multi-faceted search application i.e. our new Elasticsearch searching application
- Embedding in the search index on the fly to address inefficiencies in search results
- Multiple filters to refine search results based on main, sub terms and related terms
- Links disparate web content via inter-terms typology relationships at the time of searching
- Exact Match-typology + Keywords-typology based search results

You are here: [Home](#) / [NCRM portal search](#) / [Main typology categories](#) / [ICT and Software](#)

Typology categories

- ICT and Software (16)**
 - Quantitative Software
 - Qualitative Software
- Qualitative Data Handling... (15)
- Data Collection... (9)
- Data Quality and Data Man... (8)
- Quantitative Data Handling... (8)
- Frameworks for Research a... (5)
- Mixed Methods data handli... (2)
- Research Skills, Communica... (2)
- Research Management and L... (1)

Training & Publications

- Training & Events (44)
- Publications (1)

You searched for **analysis software**

Keywords-Typology search

Total results found: **16**

☒ Exact Match ☐

Go to Page:

Display: per page

[Qualitative Software Planning Seminar \(CAQDAS\)](#)

Location: University of Manchester, Oxford Rd, Manchester

End date: 2015-03-25

Summary: 9.30am - 1pm Choosing the appropriate **analysis software** package is an important part of planning any research project. There are a range of options available, but it is not always

[Mixed Methods Software Planning Seminar \(CAQDAS\)](#)

Location: High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddeson, Hertfordshire

End date: 2015-03-11

Summary: 9am - 1pm Choosing the appropriate **analysis software** package is an important part of planning any research project. There are a range of options available, but it is not always

[Master Class in text analysis: mixed methodology with QQA Miner and Wordstat](#)

Location: London School of Economics Houghton Street London

End date: 2015-01-21

Summary: need for putting the canons of all these three approaches in a toolbox. Wordstat and QQA Miner are computer assisted text **analysis software** that combine qualitative and quantitative text analysis tools

1. ITaaU+ (2014) *Embedded librarian secondment scheme*
<http://www.itutility.ac.uk/2014/01/22/embedded-librarian-secondment-scheme/>
2. Beissel-Durrant, G. (2004) *A Typology of Research Methods Within the Social Sciences* NCRM Working Paper. Unpublished. <http://eprints.ncrm.ac.uk/115/>
3. Luff, R., Byatt, D. and Martin, D. (2015) *Review of the Typology of Research Methods within the Social Sciences*. Project Report. National Centre for Research Methods.
<http://eprints.ncrm.ac.uk/3721/>
4. Byatt, D. (2015) We can do more for you! Librarians can work as part of your research team: Working with the National Centre for Research Methods. *University of Southampton library blog*
<http://bit.ly/1ATonyL>
5. Stark, I (2015) My time in Chemistry. *University of Southampton Library blog*
<http://bit.ly/1C8PbC6>

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